



Ludshott Common & Waggoners Wells

An undulating walk over heathland, woodland & pasture, returning via a picturesque wooded valley and its ponds

Essential Facts

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Route distance: | 12.1 km (7.6 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time: | 3 hours 45 min |
| ▪ Optional shorter route: | 7.9 km (4.9 miles) |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 155 metres |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SU 873 353 |
| ▪ GPS Ref: | SU 87371 35374 |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer 133 |
| ▪ Toughness Rating | Hampshire 1 |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

Up For A
CHALLENGE ?

Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with

A Donation

An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

Park in the centre of Grayshott. There are two car parks signed from the main road (Headley Road). Walk back to Headley Road and turn right. Continue past St Lukes Church, also on your right.

Turn right down Beech Hanger Road, **S**. Follow the road as it bends to the right, then turn left up a track between two properties. Follow this track as it bends to the left and take the right fork when it splits. When the track bends to the left, carry straight on, walking between a fenced field and a steep bank of holly trees.

Continue straight on at the first cross-tracks and, just after the track enters trees, turn left at cross-tracks, **A**, and follow that track to its end. Turn left on to the minor road and walk back to Headley Road.

Turn right and walk along the grass verge for approximately 100 metres before crossing carefully to a bridleway on the opposite side. Follow this track to the edge of the open country of Ludshott Common. Turn left on to the bridleway which borders the common, ascend a small rise and turn right. This junction is identifiable by a bench on the right.

Follow this pleasant track enjoying the views for about 1 km to **B**, a cross-tracks again identifiable by a bench on the right.

For the shorter walk, turn left at **B**, following the track as it descends and rises again. Then, as the main track swings to the left, continue in the original direction by taking a narrower track on the right. Go straight on at the first cross-tracks and you will reach the cross-tracks, **D**. Go straight on at and you are back on the main route.

For the longer walk, turn right at **B** and then fork left a few metres later. As the track descends through woodland, ignore the track joining from the left. At the bottom of the hill, turn left and follow this track as it bends to the left and ascends a rise. At the top, continue alongside the telegraph lines. Turn right at the cross-tracks at the corner of the field boundary.

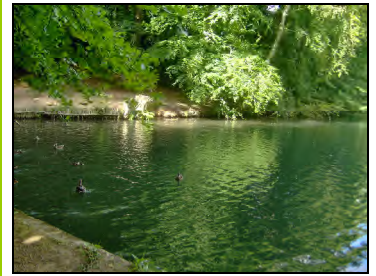
When the track forks after about 800 metres, take the left fork and then turn left again on to a minor road. After about a further 150 metres, turn left over a stile, walk along the boundaries of two consecutive fields, through a narrow strip of woodland and out on to a lane. Go straight over the lane into the field opposite and then over a stile in the far right hand corner.

Continue with the field boundary now on your left hand side. On reaching the third and final field, you lose the field boundary and any semblance of a path. Continue in the same direction, striking out into the centre of the field. Ludshott Manor comes into view on your left.

Go over the stile on the far side of the field and down a wooded bank. Turn left through the gateposts and go up what was the Manor's driveway, passing the turnings for the Manor and its farm buildings on your left.

After a further 500 metres, immediately after a solitary building on your left hand side, turn right. (This track skirts the edge of the woodland and is obscured on the map by the access land boundary). When you reach the cross-tracks, **D**, turn right.

From **D** continue along the woodland edge, over a field and into more woodland. Take care down the steep hill. Go over the stile at the bottom and then turn right. The track descends steadily through woodland to a stream. Keep to the left hand bank, past a property called Summerden and its wishing well.



The Pond



Ludshott Common



The Wooded Path

The route continues on the left bank of the ponds of Waggoners Wells. After about 600 metres turn right on a minor road, cross the stream and then a few metres later as the road bends round to the right, turn left and almost immediately left again. This track ascends initially and then levels out. The route proceeds on the right hand side of the stream but some way above it. You will be able to see further smaller ponds in the bottom.

Keep to the left when the track splits and again when the track meets another coming in from the right, and then turn right by an electricity substation.

Continue straight on through the first cross-tracks and turn left at the second, following a bridleway sign up a steep earth bank. Continue uphill. When you reach a property called Hill House on your right, turn left and you will emerge on Headley Road in the centre of Grayshott, and thence return to **S**.

Refreshment

The Fox & Pelican
Public House
Headley Rd. Grayshott
Tel: 01428-604757
Ales & bar food



The Fox & Pelican

LOCAL INFO

Ludshott Common has belonged to the National Trust since 1908 and is one of the largest remaining areas of heathland in east Hampshire. It is a site of Special Scientific Interest on account of its wildlife like Dartford Warbler, woodlark, nightjar.

During both world wars the common was used as a military training ground.

Canadian troops were stationed in the area during World War I. Having survived the war a number of them succumbed to the 1918 influenza epidemic and are buried locally in the churchyards of St. Marys, Bramshott & St Josephs, Grayshott.

In World War II the common was used for tank training and eye witnesses recall it being 'a sea of mud'.

Ludshott Manor has, since 1954, been a Carmelite monastery and a care home. It has now been converted into luxury apartments.

The wishing well was also mentioned by Flora Thompson in *Heatherley*, the sequel to *Lark Rise to Candleford*, which she wrote about her time in Grayshott when she worked at the Post Office there.

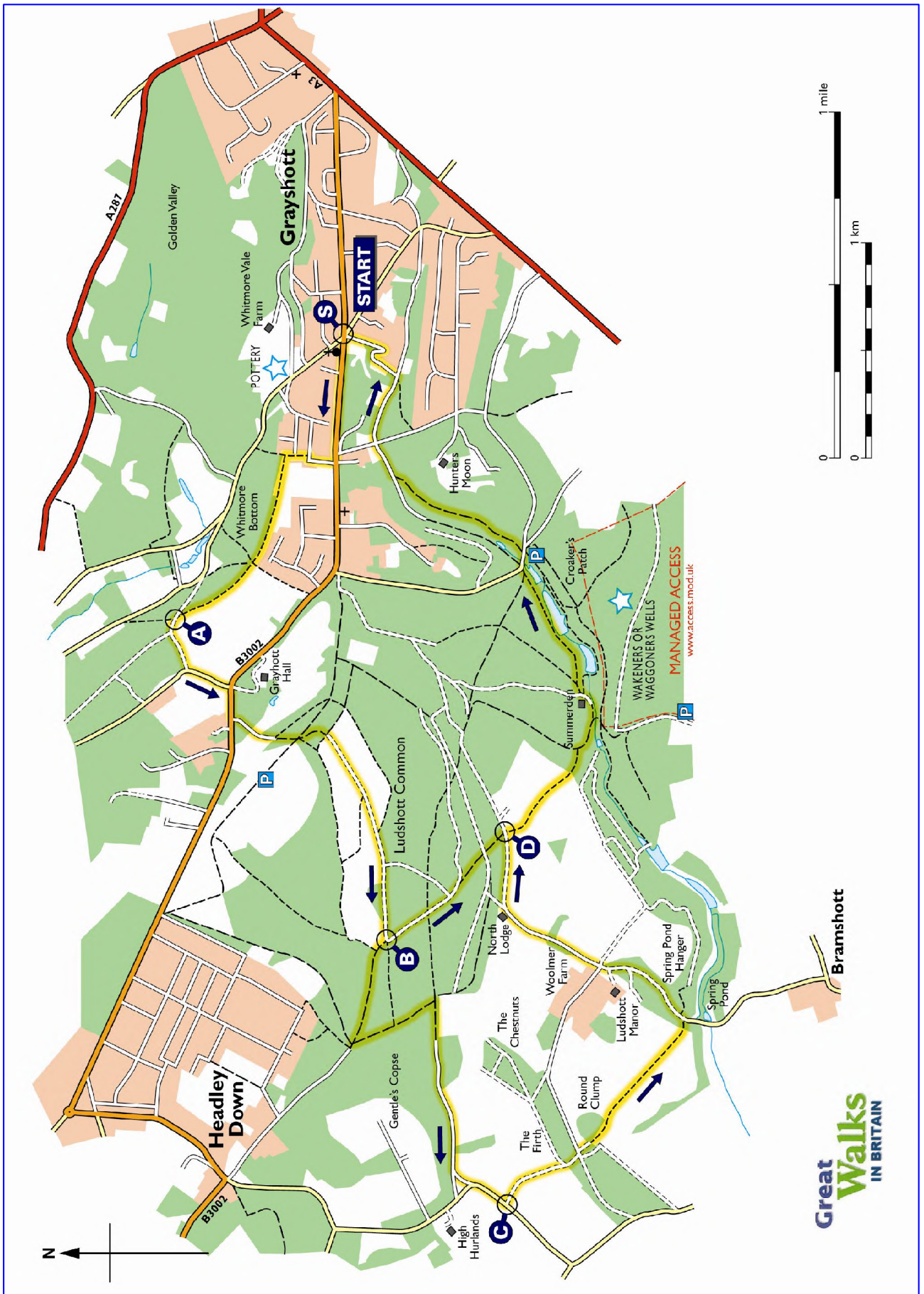
Waggoners Wells was originally called Wakeners Wells (there is still a property on Headley Road with this name).

They are a series of man-made ponds connected by a stream residing in a steep sided wooded valley.

Originally they were thought to be hammer ponds connected to the local 17th century iron industry but there is no evidence that they were used for this purpose. An alternative theory is that they were fish ponds. They remain popular with anglers today. They were acquired by the National Trust in 1919 and were dedicated to the Trust's founder, Sir Robert Hunter, who lived in nearby Haslemere.

**LUDSHOTT COMMON
& WAGGONERS WELLS
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

| WAYPOINT NAME | MAP REF | CO-ORDINATES | | ELEVATION: Metres |
|------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| LUD S | S | SU | 87371 35374 | 200 |
| LUD A | A | SU | 85980 36121 | 185 |
| LUD B | B | SU | 84632 35127 | 149 |
| LUD C | C | SU | 83280 34571 | 115 |
| LUD D | D | SU | 85098 34554 | 147 |



| MAP LEGEND | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Great Walks route | | Church with tower | | Spot height - metres |
| | M6 Motorway | | Church with spire | | Information centre |
| | A23 Main road | | Other place of worship | | Parking |
| | B2116 Secondary road | | Cathedral / Abbey | | Public convenience |
| | Minor road | | Building | | Public house |
| | Other road | | Built up area | | Picnic site |
| | Track | | Woodland | | Camp site |
| | Footpath | | Sand, shingle or mud | | Major tourist feature |
| | Bridleway | | Water feature | | Other tourist feature |
| | National trail | | | | |
| | Railway | | | | |

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Hampshire & New Forest** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Hampshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons..