Independent Hostel Guide

INTER-HOSTEL WALKING ROUTE

Tanners Hatch Hostel to Hurtwood Hideout

Over the Surrey Hills, from Ranmore Common to Holmbury St Mary

By Simon Gibbs for Independent Hostels UK · independenthostels.co.uk







TANNERS HATCH HOSTEL



HURTWOOD HIDEOUT

10.1 KM · 6.3 MILES

ABOUT 240 M · 780 FT ASCENT

APPROX 2½ HOURS

Ten kilometres from a ridge-top hostel to a woodland café, with the one real climb saved for the end.

From the woods of Ranmore Common the route drops about a hundred metres into the Wotton valley, passes the Wotton Hatch at 4.9 km, then climbs south through woodland to Holmbury St Mary. Hurtwood Hideout stands on the edge of the Surrey Hills woodland, with a café on site. After the long ridge day from Puttenham, this is the short walk of the weekend.

History · Wotton

The valley below Ranmore is Wotton, where the diarist John Evelyn was born in 1620 at Wotton House. The parish church of St John the Evangelist is his burial place, and Evelyn and his wife lie in the Evelyn Chapel.

START
Tanners Hatch Hostel

FINISH
Hurtwood Hideout

DISTANCE
10.1 km, 6.3 miles

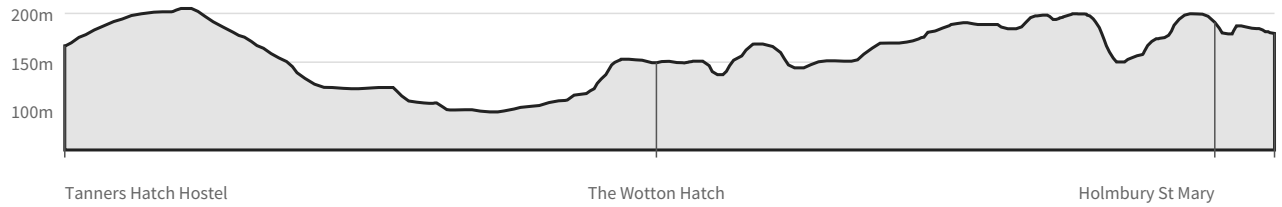
ASCENT
about 240 m, 780 ft

TIME
approx 2½ hours without stops

HIGHEST POINT
about 205 m, near the start

LOWEST POINT
about 100 m, in the Wotton valley

THE PROFILE

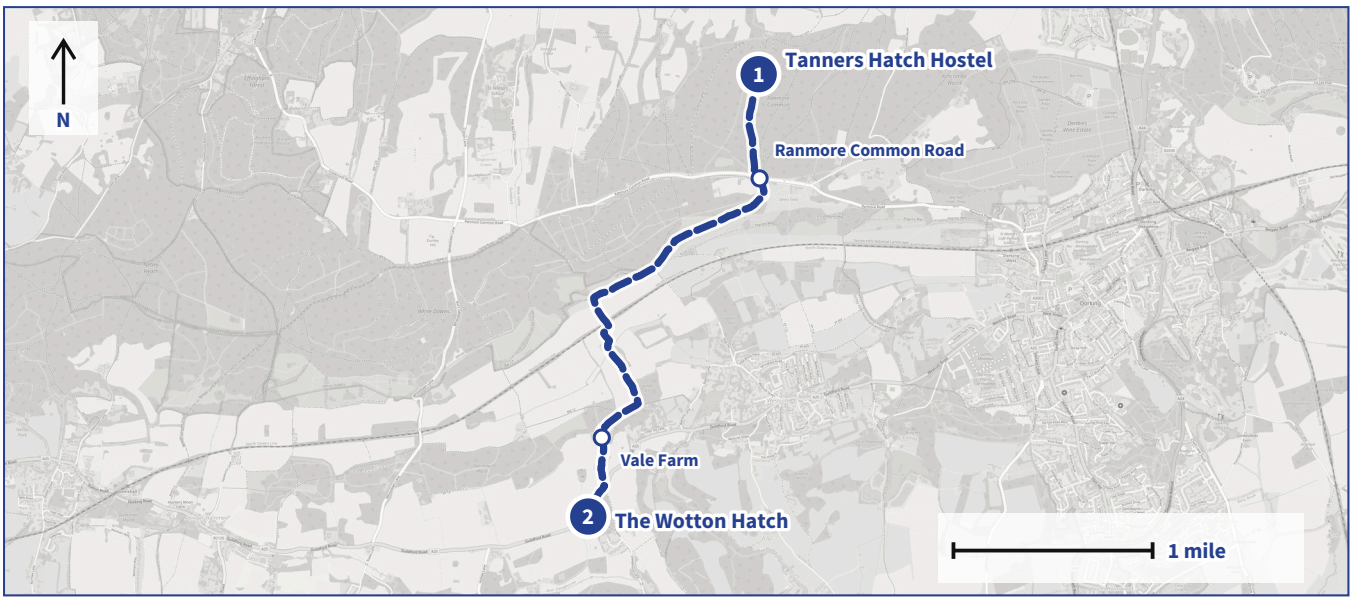


ON THE WAY

1	Tanners Hatch Hostel	start
2	The Wotton Hatch	km 4.9
3	Holmbury St Mary	km 9.6
4	Hurtwood Hideout	km 10.1

STAGE 1 · KILOMETRES 0 TO 4.9 · DOWN OFF THE RIDGE

Tanners Hatch Hostel to the Wotton Hatch



Map: © OpenStreetMap contributors. Route from the GPS track recorded on 18 October 2026.

The track drops from the ridge into the Wotton valley, losing about a hundred metres in under three kilometres. Gates punctuate the bridleway, and from about 3.2 km the way follows a concrete and sett lane towards Vale Farm.



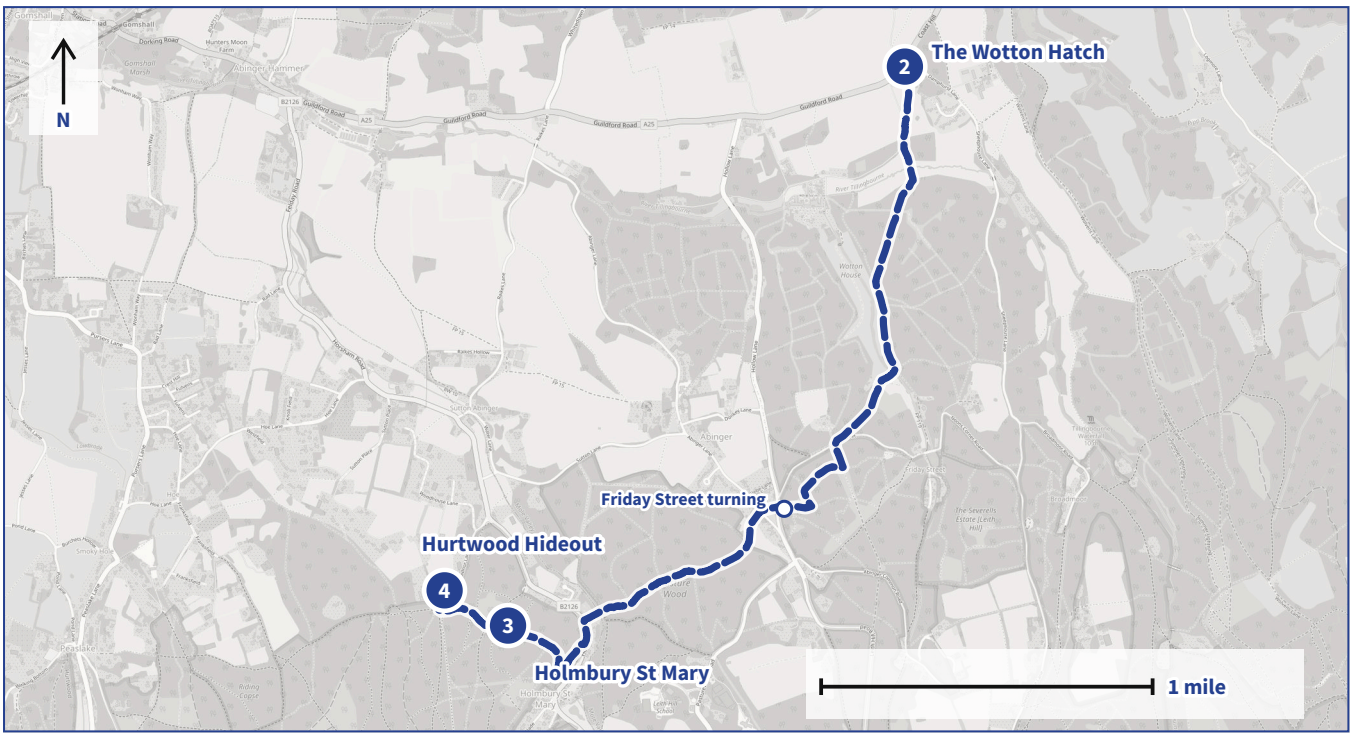
The garden at Tanners Hatch Hostel.



Late-afternoon light across the valley.

STAGE 2 · KILOMETRES 4.9 TO 10.1 · THE CLIMB TO HOLMBURY

The Wotton Hatch to Hurtwood Hideout



Map: © OpenStreetMap contributors. Route from the GPS track recorded on 18 October 2026.



The Wotton Hatch.



Still water in the woods, late in the afternoon.

After the Wotton Hatch the way crosses fields by stiles and kissing gates, then turns south-west on footpath 124 at 6.5 km. It passes the Friday Street turning at 7.6 km and crosses Horsham Road. The last climb into Holmbury St Mary is the day's one real effort; Radnor Lane then leads to the Hurtwood Cycle Hub and the café.

History · Hurtwood Hideout

Hurtwood Hideout, formerly YHA Holmbury St Mary, opened in 1935 and is England's first purpose-built youth hostel. It has hosted an estimated half a million guests, and took its new name around its 90th anniversary in late 2025. It stands in some 4,000 acres of woodland in the Surrey Hills National Landscape.

KILOMETRES 0 TO 10.1

Tanners Hatch Hostel to Hurtwood Hideout

0.0 km — **Tanners Hatch Hostel**

Leave the hostel by the footpath through the woods of Ranmore Common.

0.9 km — **Ranmore Common Road**

Cross Ranmore Common Road. There is a bench just beyond.

1.4 km — **Kissing gate**

Go through the kissing gate by the bench and carry on along the footway, which is part of the Denbies Hillside Nature Walk.

2.2 km — **Down the bridleway**

Pass through a series of gates and follow the bridleway down along the Carriage Way.

2.7 km — **Left, right, left**

The path doglegs, left, then right, then left again. Keep to the bridleway, following the gates.

3.2 km — **Concrete track**

The way becomes a concrete track, then a sett and concrete lane, descending towards Vale Farm.

4.2 km — **Vale Farm**

Pass Vale Farm and take the footpath beyond, over two stiles.

4.9 km — **The Wotton Hatch**

Reach Coast Hill and pass the Wotton Hatch. Take the footpath beside it and go through the kissing gate.

5.2 km — **Fields**

Cross a series of stiles and kissing gates on footpath 120, through the fields.

6.5 km — **Turn right**

Turn right at the gate and stiles to follow footpath 124 south-west. The track becomes paved.

7.6 km — **Friday Street turning**

Pass the Friday Street turning and follow footpath 23.

8.8 km — **Kissing gate and Horsham Road**

Go through the kissing gate onto the bridleway, then cross Horsham Road.

9.1 km — **Turn right**

Take the footpath, turning right to head north.

9.9 km — **Radnor Lane**

Join Radnor Lane. The Hurtwood Cycle Hub and toilets are here, and Hurtwood Hideout and its café are just beyond at 10.1 km.

Directions are drawn from OpenStreetMap and the GPS track recorded on 18 October 2026. Distances are from the start. Check signs and conditions on the day.

Planning the day

Getting there and away

Box Hill & Westhumble is 3 km from Tanners Hatch Hostel; Gomshall is 4 km from Hurtwood Hideout.

Light

In October it is dark by about 6.15 pm. Carry a head torch.

Food and water

The Wotton Hatch is on the route, about halfway, and Hurtwood Hideout has a café on site.

Paths

Check for diversions before you go.

THE HOSTELS

Tanners Hatch Hostel

Ranmore Common, Dorking RH5 6BE

Twenty-six beds, self-catering, camping pods.

Hurtwood Hideout

Holmbury St Mary, Dorking RH5 6NW

Forty-nine beds, family rooms, café. Open all year.

Hurtwood Hideout is the next welcome.



Fly agaric, near the end of the day.



Woodland near Hurtwood Hideout.



The gable end, Tanners Hatch Hostel.

Route length 10.1 km (6.3 miles), with about 240 m of ascent, measured from a GPS track recorded on 18 October 2026. Times follow Naismith's rule without stops.

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