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# Royal Romances at Polesden Lacey

A woodland circuit around a great country house that was once a favourite with high society.

**Distance** 4.2 miles (6.8km)

**Minimum time** 2hrs 15min

**Ascent/gradient** 607ft (185m)

**Level of difficulty** Easy

**Paths** Woodland and farm tracks

**Landscape** Remote wooded valleys around Polesden Lacey estate

**Suggested map** aqua3 OS Explorer 146 Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate

**Start/finish** TQ 141503







**Dog friendliness** The kind of walk that dogs dream about

**Parking** National Trust car park on Ranmore Common Road

**Public toilets** Toilets at Polesden Lacey for visitors only

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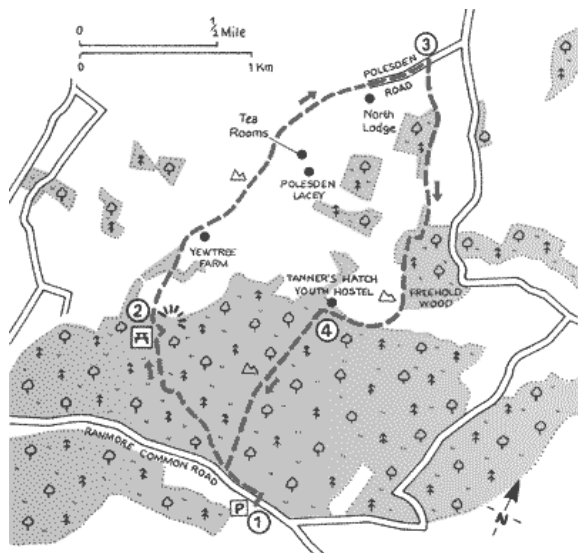
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Directions

Background

Information



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1 Cross the road from the car park, turn left, and walk for 200yds (183m) along the broad roadside verge. Turn right just beyond the tile-hung Fox Cottages, where two public footpaths meet the road. Take the left-hand path through the woods and, ignoring all turnings, follow it through a little combe. At length it draws alongside a post and rail fence, and veers sharp left. Turn right here, through the gap in the fence, and continue through the woodland glade. Just beyond a

wooden gate, turn left onto the signposted Yewtree Farm Walk. Continue to the gravelled forest track 100yds (91m) further on, and turn right.

A little further on you'll come to a bench seat on your right. There's a great view of Polesden Lacey from here, and it's a good spot for a picnic. Notice the massive estate water tower sticking up through the trees, just to the left of the main house.

**2** Follow the gravelled track as it winds past Yewtree Farm; then, 150yds (137m) beyond the farm, fork left. Follow the signposted bridleway across a low causeway until it climbs to meet an estate road. Keep straight on, under a little thatched timber footbridge. As you pass the entrance to Home Farm House, look half left across the open field. On the far horizon, you'll see a long, low white building – and, on a clear day, you'll be able to pick out the jets landing in front of it at Heathrow. Bear gently right past the entrance drive to Polesden Lacey, and continue onto Polesden Road. Walk right to the end of the broad, grass verge on the right hand side of the road; then, 60yds (55m) further on, turn right down a waymarked bridleway towards the youth hostel.

**3** The track is relatively easy to follow. It zig-zags right and left into Freehold Wood, then dives under a stone-arched bridge. Continue down the sunken way, then bear right at the blue waymarker post at the bottom of the hill and climb up gently through the woods to Tanner's Hatch.

**4** Bear left at the youth hostel and follow the yellow waymarked gravel track as it climbs up gently but steadily all the way back to Ranmore Common Road. Turn left for the last 200yds (183m) back to the car park.

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