

The Merry Harriers Walk and Cycle guide



www.merryharriers.com
enquiries@merryharriers.com
01428 682883

CONTENT

We are lucky enough to be surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty with hundreds upon thousands of acres of some of the most beautiful countryside you are likely to find. If you want to explore we've put together 10 walks and cycle routes with amazing views and ways to get well off the beaten track – plus when you want to get back on it to fuel up for the next leg or stop for a well-earned pint, we might just be able to help out there too.

THE MERRY BIKATION

We have teamed up with Surrey Hills Cycles, offering independent and guided experiences with a selection of bikes to suit all interests and fitness levels. Details on how to book and prices can be found on our website or ask a member of the team.



'Life is like riding a bicycle.

To keep your balance you must keep moving'

Albert Einstein

Walk Number		Page (s)
	Area Map	4, 5
1	Signature Llama Trek Experience	6, 7
2	Circular Walk Around Hambledon 2.7 miles	8, 9
3	Octavia Hill Walk, Hydon's Ball and Heath 1.5 miles	10, 11
4	Hidden Hindhead Trail Hindhead Commons and The Devils Punchbowl 3.1 miles	12, 13
5	Thursley, Hankley Common, Kettlebury Hill Walk 5 miles	14, 15
6	Surrey Hills Godalming 14 miles	16, 17
7	Surrey Hills - Inspiring Views 6 miles	18- 21
8	Box Hill Hike or Cycle 8 miles	22, 23
9	Weavers Down and Holly Hills 6 miles	24, 25
10	Chawton to Farringdon 4.5 miles	26, 27

All walks can also be found on our website www.merryharriers.com

Dog friendly 

Cycle friendly 



- 1 Signature Llama Trek Experience
- 2 Circular Walk Around Hambledon
- 3 Octavia Hill Walk, Hydon's Ball and Heath
- 4 Hidden Hindhead Trail
- 5 Thursley, Hankley Common, Kettlebury Hill Walk

- 6 Surrey Hills - Godalming
- 7 Surrey Hills - Inspiring Views
- 8 Box Hill Hike or Cycle
- 9 Weavers Down and Holly Hills
- 10 Chawton to Farringdon



Signature Llama Trek Experience

2.4 miles



TOUGHNESS: 2 out of 10 - you are spending a few hours with Llamas so all calm!

START AND FINISH:

Our Llama Love Stay Experience:
Not just a day with llamas! Enjoy a night in the and comfort of The Merry Harriers with a three-course dinner or Spring & Summer Picnic, full hearty cooked breakfast and of course a guided Llama trek. Find out more on our website or ask a member of the team.

DIRECTIONS:
Meeting at the pub your guide will take you to the start of the Llama trek and introduce you to your paired furry trekking partner.

Heading onto the bridleway through a tunnel of trees and after a couple of bends you will come to a railway sleeper bridge over a small stream. Here it can get very muddy so appropriate shoes/boots are suggested.

Continuing straight you reach Buss's common on your right where you can stop for a picnic and head on to the crossroads. This is where you can choose a shorter or longer trek.

The longer trek directions are to take the left-hand side of the house coming to 5 ways crossroads. Up a hill to Hambledon Common.

There are 2 houses and right of the houses is a garage with a pathway. Take this pathway up a hill to a viewpoint. This is where you can have a picnic and take a break. Once taking up the trek again you pass a sand pit that the Llamas love to roll around in which is fun to watch!

Following the path round this takes you to where you have walks before and then back to the pub. If wanting the shorter trek take the right side of the house onto Sweetwater Lane. Continue straight and through a carpark.

A Silver Birch is on its side to your left, continuing straight until a fork in the path where the middle pathway is taken. Continue straight back across the common and follow the path back to the tree tunnel and back to the pub for a well-deserved drink!



*'Carry as little as possible,
but choose that little with care.
Earl Shaffer*

A Circular Walk Around Hambledon

2.7 miles



Walk
2

TOUGHNESS: 4 out of 10

START AND **FINISH:** at The Merry Harriers, GU8 4DR

DIRECTIONS:

Cross the road to the footpath immediately opposite the pub. The path climbs steeply up to Church Lane. On your left as you reach Church Lane is Court Farm and next to that St Peter's Church. In the churchyard are two ancient yew trees, one of which has a hollow trunk large enough to hide a whole family in.

From the Church head back down Church Lane and on your left is a gate into a field.

Follow the path across the field, then through two more gates until you reach the road. At the road turn left and then take the path on your left after about 25 metres, just after the house.

Take the gravel lane to your right and cross Woodlands Road onto another gravel lane.

About 100 metres on your left take the bridleway down the hill until you reach the road. Turn right and follow the road to the bridleway on your left.

Follow the bridleway for 250 metres and then turn right onto a path that emerges at the bottom of the cricket green. Head to the cricket green and follow the track on your left around the bottom of the Green, passing the pavilion on your left. Ahead of you, over the road, you will see Hambledon Village Shop.

To the left of the Shop is a paved footpath (on which cycling is "strictly" prohibited). Follow this foot path a short distance until it emerges on a gravel track, take the track to your right until you get to the road, on the opposite side of the road is a bridleway.

Head left on this bridleway into the woods. Follow the path up the hill. After a few hundred metres you will see a bench on your right and next to it a viewpoint. From this point you are rewarded by a panoramic view across the Weald to the South Downs, from Chichester to the west to the Shoreham Gap to the east.

Continue along the Greensand Way, down the hill until on your right you will see an isolated house, Moor Cottage. Go straight ahead across the track and take the right fork in the path onto the bridleway. Keep following this bridleway, after a few hundred metres you will reach an intersection of many paths. Take the path straight ahead into the woods and when this path divides, take the left-hand fork into the clearing.

Follow the path across the open common, until you reach the fir trees, then take the path on your right following the electricity supply lines. The path bends slightly to the right and then after crossing a small wooden bridge joins a bridleway, turn left on this bridleway and immediately across a small stream.

Keep going on this bridleway (which can get very muddy) until you reach the road. Finish at The Merry Harriers which you will find on your right.



Octavia Hill Walk, Hydon's Ball and Heath

1.5 miles



TOUGHNESS: 2 out of 10

START AND **FINISH:** Hydon's Ball and Heath Car Park, Salt Lane, Godalming, GU8 4BB

This short and relaxing circular walk winds through cool shady woodland and across open heathland. The sandy soil makes it a perfect walk for families in all seasons. Hydon's Ball is within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a memorial to one of our co-founders, Octavia Hill, who died in 1912.

DIRECTIONS:

From the car park, near the notice board, follow the Octavia Hill sign down a narrow wooded path.

Continue walking through the woods lined with pine and sweet chestnut trees. Look up to enjoy the glorious tree cover!

Wander along the path and enjoy the peace and quiet of the woods.

Listen out for the creatures that live here...If you're quick you may see and hear grey squirrels scampering to and fro with the odd chestnut or two. There're many sweet chestnuts husks on the woodland floor and pine cones too.

The trees begin to thin out and on your left there are open fields

Turn right and begin climbing up the hill which is fairly steep.

Once at the top, one of the highest points in Surrey, and can now enjoy the wonderful views looking south towards Black Down and the South Downs.

At the top too is a stone seat memorial to one of The National Trusts co-four. Octavia Hill, who died in 1912.

Following the waymarkers and head downhill until you reach the Robertson Memorial.

Continue down the marked path, along the fence (uneven path), and then turn right back through the woods and onto the car park.



*'A bicycle ride around the world
begins with a single pedal stroke'
Scott Stoll*

Hidden Hindhead Trail

Hindhead Commons and The Devils Punchbowl

3.1 miles



TOUGHNESS: 4 out of 10

START AND FINISH: Devil's Punch Bowl café car park

A well sign-posted but not too demanding a walk taking in both Gibbet Hill and The Temple of the Four Winds, each with superb views - on a clear day you'll glimpse the London skyline.

DIRECTIONS:

From the car park proceed north towards the white trig-point
- Look out for the pink disc which denotes the Hidden Hindhead trail.

Follow the pink signs, crossing the old A3 (now grassed over), to reach a paved road where you turn left and follow this in an easterly direction. En route discover the Sailor's Stone and admire the views north across the Punch Bowl.

Continue along the paved road ignoring the gateway on your right hand side. On your left look out for the recently recovered old milestone (London 39 miles), and after 30 metres bear right up an ill-defined path that emerges onto Gibbet Hill.

Take a rest here and enjoy the views.

The Celtic cross at Gibbet Hill marks the spot where three rogues were hanged for the murder of a sailor on the Old Portsmouth Road. Gibbet Hill, which stands at 272m, is located above the Devil's Punch Bowl and is the second highest point in Surrey (Leith Hill being the highest).

Looking north from the trig-point, head down the ill-defined, but signed path on the right.

Take care - when wet this may be muddy and slippery. At the bottom continue straight ahead on a tree-lined track, eventually emerging at The Temple of the Four Winds.

From the Temple identify the signage which will lead onto a well-defined downhill track through coppiced beech woodland, eventually arriving at a T junction, with a small lake on the right.

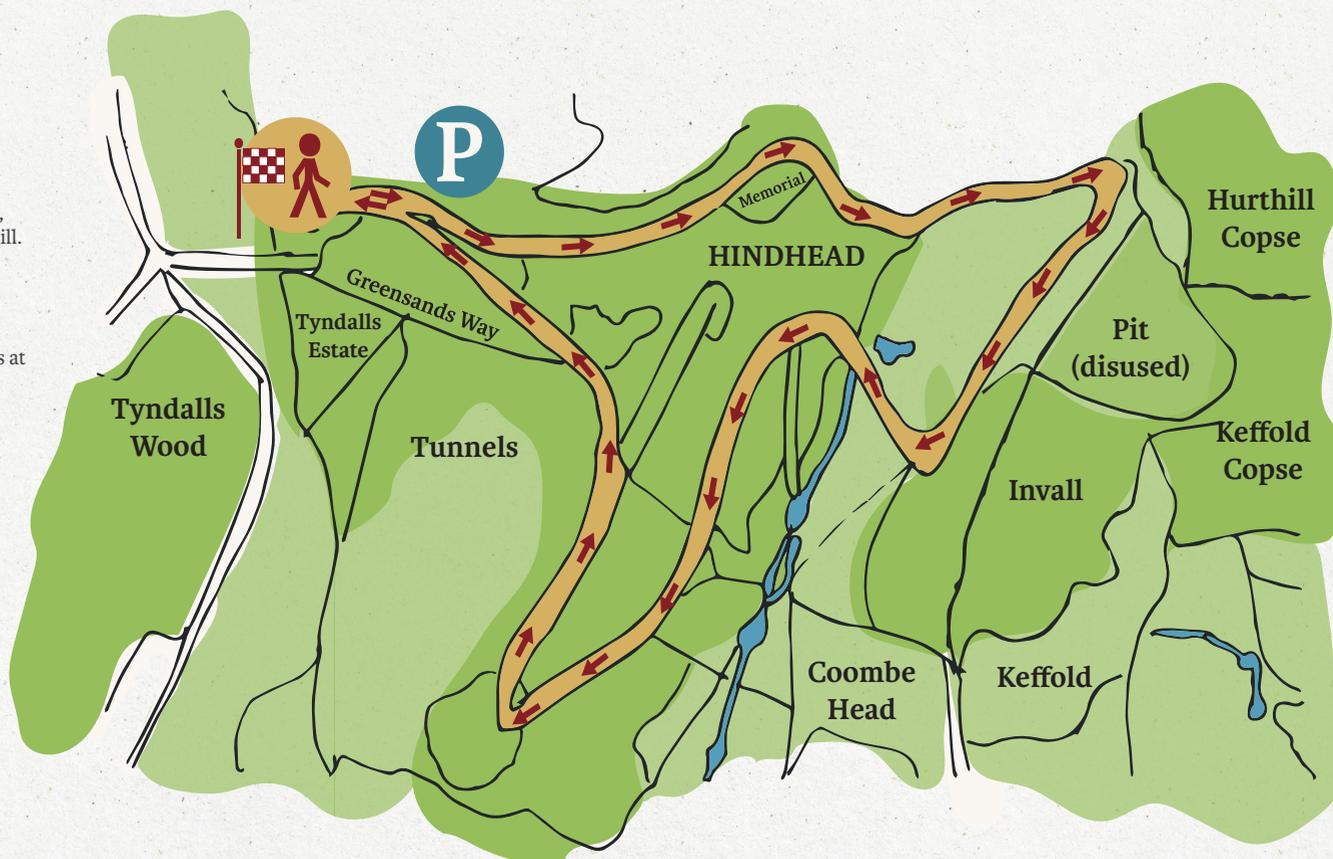
Turn right following the often muddy pathway through the gateway onto some open ground. Continue uphill meeting a trail, here bear left and proceed downhill to a galvanised gateway and onto an un-paved roadway.

Turn right following the often muddy pathway through the gateway onto some open ground. Continue uphill meeting a trail, here bear left and proceed downhill to a galvanised gateway and onto an un-paved roadway.

Again following the signs proceed uphill, ignoring, at the top of the climb, the first gateway on the right, but entering Hindhead Common at the second gateway. Proceed up the rough track (the Greensand Way). Look out for grazing Exmoor ponies (please keep your dog on a lead near to them).

Towards the top of the incline and to the right, there are excellent views to the east with the South Downs clearly visible, and, on a good day, Gatwick Airport can even be seen. The trail is well marked, and you'll eventually leave Hindhead Common via a galvanised gate, emerging onto the paved road of your outward journey; cross this and what was the old A3, retracing your steps back to the Punch Bowl car park.

The café is a great spot to relax after your walk, and serves a range of light lunches, snacks, hot drinks and cakes - well deserved after your walk!



'It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.'

Sir Edmund Hillary

Thursley, Hankley Common, Kettlebury Hill Walk

5 miles



TOUGHNESS: 3 out of 10

START AND FINISH: Thursley car park next to playground, postcode GU8 6QA

The village of Thursley is a little Surrey jewel situated on the edge of the vast area of common land comprising Thursley and Hankley Commons, stretching as far as Elstead in the east and nearly to Frensham in the west. Kettlebury Hill is an arc-shaped ridge shaded with pines and offering fantastic views of seeming wilderness. This walk is perfect for any season, even the bleakest winter.

DIRECTIONS:

Starting in the Thursley car park, walk parallel to the road on your right towards a children's playground and take a narrow path between the playground and an oak tree with a circular bench. You pass a welcome notice board for the Thursley Nature Reserve and, in 60m, reach a marker post with blue arrows and a crossing path. Turn left at the crossing path which takes a rather narrow sunken course through bracken. In nearly 200m, you arrive at a junction with a diagonal crossing path, offering you a choice of two paths ahead. Take the right fork, slightly uphill. Follow the path through a pleasant birch wood for nearly ½km where you meet a fork in the path. Take the left fork, leading down in 20m to another post with a blue arrow. Keep right, joining the bridleway, leading in 20m to a post with blue arrows. Fork left, staying on the horse path. In 150m or so, you reach a T-junction with a farm track. Turn left on the road and, in 100m, turn right on a tarmac track, passing Truxford Cottage and October Farm. In 350m, at a 4-way crossing, keep straight ahead. In 300m you pass a car park on your left and go past a heavy metal barrier. The tarmac goes gently downhill for another 250m and curves left. Just after the curve, you will see on your right a post with blue arrows and a sandy track going uphill.

Turn right at the post with blue arrows and follow the sandy track uphill. In 300m or so, you reach a sandy space with many tracks leading away in all directions, including a steep track on your right going up between stumps. This is the Lion's Mouth, a yawning gap in the ridge. Ignore a steep irregular sandy path immediately on your left, but take the second path on your left, a wide straight track going gradually uphill. Just out of sight on your right is a thick stone wall. This is the Atlantic Wall used in WWII for training for the D Day landings, worth a visit. At the top of the slope, in 150m or so, veer right on the wide ridge path. At once you have great views left across the valley. You will be following this excellent wide path for 2 km, gradually curving left. After 650m, at a large marker post, another wide path joins from your right. Soon your views are obscured by pine forests. In about 350m suddenly you have open views right. In a further 400m, at a marker post, the wide valley path joins you from the left crossing via a steep drop on your right. Keep straight on.

Your path immediately comes into the open with great views on all sides. This walk will take you about ½ km further along this excellent high path up to a promontory which you can see ahead to the left. Avoid all minor side paths until you reach a major fork: take the left fork, slightly narrower, going up to the promontory. This is the highest point on the ridge and here you have the best views with perhaps a chance for a breather and a photo. Care! This section is tricky and you may need to concentrate more than usual. Veer right to descend to the original main path and immediately turn left on it. In 20m you reach a junction of many tracks with a small marker post on your left bearing various light-coloured arrows. Avoid the first wide track on your left which goes steeply down into the open plain and instead take the second wide sandy track on your left. This track goes downhill through pine trees.

In 250m you approach power lines running down on your right. Just before the first pylon, turn right, go straight over a sandy path, crossing under the power lines, onto a narrower forest path on the other side. This path is relatively grassy and rooty and is usually marked by vehicle tracks. It runs straight for 200m, gradually descending at the end. You can now see a small white house in the bottom of the valley, together with a horse path and a dirt driveway. Just before your path curves away left, take a narrower right fork, crossing over the horse path and meeting the dirt drive near the entrance to the garden of the house, Howndown. Turn right on the drive and follow it for 150m to be faced with the large garden gate of Hounmere House. Wheel left with the drive and, immediately after a second large gate, turn right by an electricity pole onto a signed bridleway running up beside the fence of the property on your right. At the end, in 100m, you meet the Thursley Road. Turn left on the road and follow it for 100m till, just over a crest and next to a SLOW mark in the road, you see a small fingerpost. Turn right here on a narrow footpath running beside a pasture on your right. This path, overgrown with tree roots, leads down over a lively stream via a sturdy bridge with rails. This path can be slippery so take care! Your path takes a pleasant curving course by a low timber fence and takes you past a large wooden gate into a very pretty water meadow with the meandering stream winding its way through. Go over a flat bridge passing a duck pond on your left. The large house up on your left is Dye House, built in the mid-1700s. Go through a gap by a large wooden gate onto a narrow tarmac lane.

Turn right on the lane, soon going past Little Shavings on the left. The garden on the right has a bank which, in spring, is covered in snowdrops. Note the small stone-backed alcove in the bank on the left with a metal cockerel. Just past Smallbrook Farm on the right and a black wooden barn on the left is a fingerpost. Turn left here, joining part of the Greensand Way. Go up the concrete ramp and through a small wooden gate on the right. Follow the fenced path between pastures, then trees, until you reach Thursley churchyard. Walk through the churchyard keeping to the left of the church, thus leaving the Greensand Way. Go left with the path down some wooden steps to reach a drive. Follow the drive to the road, called The Street, and turn left on it. Continue, passing several historic houses, until you arrive at the little green in the centre of Thursley. Fork left here and continue left to reach the car park where the walk began.



Surrey Hills Godalming

14 miles



TOUGHNESS: 7 out of 10

START AND FINISH: Minster Road, GU7

DIRECTIONS:

Starting from Minster Road in Busbridge, turn right into Tuesley Lane then right into Quartermile Road. Follow Quartermile road until it leads into Home Farm Road, then bear right into Hambledon Road.

At the junction turn right into Munstead Lane, follow into Munstead Heath Road. At crossroads take the right into Alldens Lane. Follow Alldens Lane until it merges into Thorncombe Street. Continue along Thorncombe Street, crossing A281 with care.

Pass Whitley Manor Farm and Manor Saddlery, at the end of the road follow the brideway slightly left. Continue to follow the brideway, crossing over Run Common Road and Hazel Wood. Following the brideway, crossing the river four times.

Turn left at Station Road to reach Bramley Village and refreshment stops of The Jolly Farmer and Bramley Cafe. Return to route and continue along the brideway, crossing the river and Tannery Lane until reaching A281 (cross with care).

Follow the brideway, crossing the River Wey and turn left, following the river. Cross Tilthams Corner Road, continue to follow the river, passing Farncombe Boat House and crossing Catteshall Road.

Continue to follow the towpath until you reach a roundabout and Bridge Road, turn left into Wharf Street, then right into Brighton Road. Follow Brighton Road until junction of The Drive and Hambledon Road, follow Hambledon Road.

Pass Busbridge Church, at the junction turn right into Home Farm Road, follow Home Farm Road until it leads into Quartermile Road, then left into Tuesley Lane and left into Minster Road where you started.



*'Everywhere is walking distance
if you have the time.'
Steven Wright*

Surrey Hills

- Inspiring Views

6 miles



TOUGHNESS: 4 out of 10

START AND FINISH: Winterfold Donkins Car Park 5, GU5 9EN

A circular walk within the Surrey Hills which celebrates the Inspiring Views art project, visiting a number of beautiful viewpoints and discovering the sculptural benches and poetry inspired by these.

You will be taken on a peaceful journey through the densely wooded rolling hills, interspersed with breath-taking viewpoints and artwork.

DIRECTIONS:

Standing at the back of Car Park 5 (the Winterfold Donkins Car Park, which is accessed from Winterfold Heath Road). Facing the beautiful view, turn left along the sandy path. Just a few metres along, you will see the first of the Inspiring Views sculptural benches on Winterfold Hill, just through the trees to your right. Fork right to reach this shelter and viewpoint and take time to pause and enjoy the surroundings.

This shelter and bench is called Perspectives, created for the Inspiring Views project by sculptor Giles Miller. When you have finished at Perspectives, retrace your steps back to the main path and turn right to continue your journey along this. Follow this main path ahead, ignoring any small side turns. The path is part of the Greensand Way and is waymarked with yellow and black GW arrows.

Eventually you will come to a triangular junction, bear left here (following the GW waymarker). Stay with this path which leads you straight over a tarmac access drive and then winds through the trees, leading you steadily downhill to reach the road. Turn right along the road edge (ignoring the sunken track bridleway on your right), continue past the informal parking area and, just as the road begins to rise, fork right to join the path running parallel with the road (signed with the GW waymarker).

This path climbs steadily and, further along, you will meet a small crossroads (with the road just a few paces to your left). Turn right for a few paces and then turn left (continuing to follow the GW waymarkers). Follow this path winding through the trees, later meeting a small T-junction.

Turn right (signed GW) and keep ahead on this main path (ignoring any small side turns). 120 metres along (just after passing a large sweet chestnut tree on your right), fork right to reach the next bench and viewpoint, on Reynards Hill.

This bench is called Contour, created for the Inspiring Views project by sculptor Russell Jakubowski. When you have finished at Contour, return to the main path and turn right to continue along this. This next stretch of the Greensand Way is a compacted stone path, allowing easy access to the Reynards Hill view from the nearest car park. Pass alongside the vehicle barrier and walk down the slope into the car park (Hurtwood Car Park 4). Leave via the vehicle entrance (taking care of traffic) and turn right for a few paces along Winterfold Heath Road to reach the T-junction.



Cross over and go straight ahead to join the signed footpath, still the Greensand Way. Follow this main path ahead (passing a cottage on your right and then crossing straight over a tarmac driveway). As you emerge from the trees, bear left to join a stone access track and just a short way along look up to your right where you will see Ewhurst Windmill.

Just a few paces beyond the mill, you will come to a junction with a tarmac track. Turn right along this and, just before the entrance gate for Four Winds, fork left onto the narrow sunken path leading you downhill with a fence running on your right.

NOTE: Take care as this stretch is fairly steep and rutted. At the bottom of the slope, pass through the gateway and continue on the short stretch of driveway to reach a junction with the road.

Cross over the road and walk ahead through the double metal gateway to enter the Pitch Hill parking area. Immediately after these entrance gates, turn right to join the public footpath (still the Greensand Way). Stay with this path which climbs gently and then more steeply, passing a bench (with a fenced quarry behind this) on your left. Continue on this main path ahead and it will lead you directly to the summit of Pitch Hill, with a trig point and donation box.

Your path down from Pitch Hill is the narrow one on your right, in between the trig point and donation box cairn. But first, it is worth walking ahead across the open plateau to reach the simple bench on your right to take in the expansive views. When you are ready to continue, head back to the trig point and take the path (now on your left) after the trig point but before the donation cairn.

Follow this path as it immediately bears right (probably soon crossing the branches of a fallen tree). Continue down this narrow path (taking extreme care as it is very steep and has loose scree in places). Towards the bottom, the path bears right to reach a sunken bike route. Turn left along this for a few paces to emerge out to a junction with the road (alongside a bridleway fingerpost). You will see The Windmill pub across to your right. Cross over the road and turn left along the road edge.

Join the raised right-hand pavement which leads you past Pitch Hill House. After passing a further handful of properties on your right, you will come to a fork in the road. Take the right-hand branch (signed as a public footpath and access for Stable House). Soon, just after passing a metal gate on your right, fork left onto the branch of driveway heading for a red brick property. Pass just to the right of this property on the narrow footpath and continue this as it enters a tunnel of trees.

Towards the bottom of the slope, the path bears right and then swings steadily left, around a circular wooden copse on your left (once the site of a Roman Villa). The path then leads you past the beautiful old buildings of Rapsley Cottage and Farm on your left.

Just beyond the farm, ignore the footpath signed off to the right, instead continue ahead on the tarmac access drive. At the T-junction, turn right onto the tarmac drive heading for Wykehurst Farm. Continue as this becomes a stone track, passing a horse paddock on your right and then continuing into trees. At the end of this short stretch of trees, you will come to a choice of tracks and paths ahead.

Take the second path on the left passing through a wide metal gate. Follow this path with a tree line on your right and a fenced paddock on your left. At the bottom, pass a disused stile and walk ahead into the centre of the grass clearing (with a willow tree across to your right). You will see a small waymarker post up the slope. Walk towards this to reach a small crossroads. Go straight ahead (uphill) to join the grass path with fenced pastures and more great views across to your left.

Continue ahead on this same grass path, later with trees to your left and horse paddocks behind a wire fence to your right. Beyond these paddocks you will see the wooded hills of the Greensand Ridge, from where you walked earlier. Stay alongside the tall fence on your right all the way to its end and then follow the path as it swings left into woodland. At the first small junction, bear left and then turn right to cross the stream via the wooden footbridge.

At the far side of the bridge, turn immediately left on a path which leads you through a stretch of coppiced trees and then bears right, emerging out to the edge of a golf course. Keep straight ahead, staying close to the line of trees on your left. Cross the stone parking area and walk straight ahead on the wide grass verge, with the fenced driving range to your right (and the clubhouse buildings down to your left). Pass to the left of the driving range building, then pass alongside a disused stile to reach a junction with the road, Barhatch Lane. Cross over the road and walk ahead into the entrance for Wyphurst Home Farm (signed as a bridleway).

Pass a couple of properties on your right and then a pretty pond on your left to reach a junction marked with a fingerpost. Turn right here, continuing on the public bridleway. Walk straight ahead, passing through a wide wooden gateway ahead and continue on between the various old brick and wooden barns. Beyond the buildings, keep ahead on the stone and grass track, with a grass field to your right. You will come to a waymarker post, sitting underneath the wooden pylons.

The main route back to the car park continues on the bridleway ahead, but first we take a short detour to visit the next Inspiring Views bench. Turn left and follow the grass track between fences and hedgerows. Follow the path down into some trees and cross the stile ahead to enter a grass meadow. Cross straight over and go through the kissing gate to enter a second meadow. Keep ahead, following the fence on your left, and cross the next stile ahead to join an enclosed grass track. You may be able to see the metal pyramid roof structure of Alderbrook House over to your right (more about that later). Cross over the access drive and continue ahead on the fenced track between trees. As you emerge from the trees, you will reach the next Inspiring Views bench at the Alderbrook viewpoint.

This bench was commissioned by the Alderbrook Estate and is called Xylem Voices, created for the Inspiring Views project by sculptor Walter Bailey.

When you have finished, retrace your steps back along the track and across the two meadows, passing through the kissing gate and crossing the two stiles along the way. When you get back to the waymarker post under the wooden pylons, turn left to join the bridleway leading you between tall hedgerows. Follow this bridleway through the tunnel of trees and ignore the first side track on the left. Keep ahead on the main woodland bridleway and, further along, the track crosses a stream. 300 metres further along, you will come to a junction with a side track on your right. Do NOT take this, instead keep ahead along the main stone track, passing the entrance for Colmans Farmhouse on your right.

A few metres further ahead, you will come to a fork in the woodland bridleway. Keep left at this fork and follow this bridleway winding through the trees. Further along it follows a stretch of tall wire fencing on your left, the boundary for the grounds of Alderbrook Park. Alderbrook Park was created in the 1880s and comprises parkland, woodland and agricultural land, along with a range of estate houses and farm buildings. At its heart was a grand country house designed by eminent Victorian architect Norman Shaw. The original house was demolished in the mid-1950s.

In 2013, a ground-breaking mansion was built here (with the two tall metal roof structures that you glanced earlier). These give the mansion the appearance of a pair of modern oast houses but are actually designed to cater for all the ecological and energy-saving measures incorporated into the building. Thanks to this redesign, the entire 340-acre estate is now carbon negative.

As you enter a small clearing, follow the main track as it bears left, staying alongside the tall wire fence on your left. The track descends gently alongside this fence. At the bottom of the slope, keep ahead (uphill) for just a few paces and, where the track swings hard left, fork right to join the narrow woodland footpath (signed with a yellow arrow).

The path leads you past a fenced covered reservoir on your left. Simply continue straight ahead passing two more waymarker posts. At the next subtle fork, take the left-hand branch (NOT the sunken path which soon turns right) and a few paces later you will approach the third waymarker post. Do NOT keep ahead here (despite the slightly misleading direction of the yellow arrow), instead fork left just before the post, onto a path leading you through the bracken and scrub (heading away from the main tree belt across to your right).

If you miss this path (or find it too overgrown) then you could take the 'straight-on' branch for the climb. This winds more, but simply keep heading uphill and you will eventually reach the Greensand Way that you can follow (left) back to the car park.

Visit inspiringviews.org to find out more about the art project, the location of the other benches and more information about each sculpture.

Box Hill Hike or Cycle

8 miles



TOUGHNESS: 9 out of 10

START AND FINISH: Box Hill Shepherd's Hut KT20 7LB

This walk is a circular walk, with steep climbs, descents into deep valleys and many steps. It covers much of the Box Hill estate and passes some wonderful viewpoints and pubs to enjoy a refreshing drink or lunch. Please do not start this walk without suitable footwear, clothing or provisions.

DIRECTIONS:

From the shepherd's hut at the top of Box Hill, walk straight across the car park. Head to the woods on the left of the Donkey Green (directly opposite the viewpoint). Take the left fork at the edge of the woods. Continue through the woods along this track. Eventually you'll reach Lodge Hill and a view opens up on your left.

Continue to the tower, otherwise known as Broadwood's Folly and take the path on your right. When the path clearly forks, take the right fork. Follow the path as it turns to the left and heads downhill. Walk down the steps to the track at the valley bottom. Turn left onto the track and continue along it to Whitehill car park.

Cross the car park and road. Climb the steps up to Mickleham Down. Continue as the track curves to the right, and then to the left. As the path forks, head left. Go straight across the crossroads, heading steeply downhill. At the T-junction, turn left and continue downhill. Cross the stile and continue along this surfaced path. The churchyard is on your right. At this point you can explore Mickleham church and village, or stop for a rest at the Running Horses pub. When you are ready, return to the churchyard to continue your walk.

Go through the waymarked double gate and cross the churchyard. Follow the track with the wooden fence on your left. Cross the road and take the path straight in front of you. At the corner of the field, turn right. Carry on, you will see the park on your right. Follow the surfaced path, passing St Michael's School on your right. At the T-junction (with the white wall in front of you) turn right, heading uphill.

Immediately after the pub, climb up the steps. Go straight across the crossroads and continue steeply uphill. At the fork, take the right-hand path. Go straight across the old Roman road of Stane Street. You will emerge onto a grassy open area known as Mickleham Gallops. Continue the path and turn left onto the gallops, passing the information board. When you come to the end of the grassy track continue the chalky path past the information board. Take the right hand turn, off the main path, heading downhill. It is steep as it descends into the valley below.

At the bottom of the valley, cross the road. Take the track to the left of the cottage, heading uphill. Continue straight up. You'll see an old wall to your right. Continue straight on, ignoring gate 27 on your left. Enter Headley Heath through gate 26 and follow the track. Turn left at the T-junction, continue along this track. Climb up the steps on your right, just before the cross-roads. Follow this grassy track uphill. The track forks at the big trees, take the left fork and continue along the wide grassy track.

At the five-way crossroads, take the second exit on your right. Carry straight on at the next crossroads. You will emerge onto a crossroads, continue straight on, heading downhill. The track dips into the valley, then curves uphill. Ignore the path joining on your left. The path forks take the left and follow the track to the gate. Go through gate 23 onto the surfaced road and turn left. Almost immediately the road forks, take the right-hand fork (Headley Heath Approach). Continue to the road.

Cross Box Hill Road and take the footpath in front of you. Continue as the path takes you downhill, ignoring paths on your left to Brockham Lime Works. Turn right up the set of steps with a handrail. At the top of the steps take the left fork. Continue along this path. Cross the stile into Dukes Meadow and follow the track (known as Brodies Drive) along the bottom of the meadow.

Pass through the gate and continue along the track. The path takes a left just before the metal gate; follow it between the hedge and fence. Turn left at the crossroads of surfaced roads. Almost immediately, take the path on your right, heading uphill. At the fork, take the left and go through the gate. Just through the gate, the path forks again, take the right heading uphill. Pass through the gate and continue up the path. On your right is a grassy path, follow if straight up the hill. As the path curves to the left, you start to see the stone viewpoint. Head up to it. A surfaced track runs above the viewpoint. Follow it uphill to return to where you began.



South Downs National Park

Weavers Down and Holly Hills

6 miles



TOUGHNESS: 5 out of 10

START AND FINISH: The starting point is off the A3 at Griggs Green junction, between Liphook and Longmoor Camp. (Or, from the centre of Liphook, take the Longmoor Road.) At the entrance to the section of the Longmoor Road (a cul-de-sac), turn in and bear left, to park at dead-end opposite Pines Road. GU30 7PL.

A Literary walk in The South Downs – Flora Thompson, English Novelist and Poet. Best known for 'Lark Rise to Candleford'. Lived in Liphook (1916-1928) and was a keen walker.

DIRECTIONS:

Proceed east along the footway for about 250 metres towards Griggs Green. At the signs on right-hand verge advertising The Deers Hut and Old Thorns, turn right and follow the road, with The Deers Hut on your left. Look out for the sculpture of a deer in a book on Griggs Green. Continue to Old Thorns driveway entrance and at this point take track to the left, following Shipwrights Way signage. Follow this track over Holly Hills, with several houses on your right, until you reach the last one, Weavers Down House.

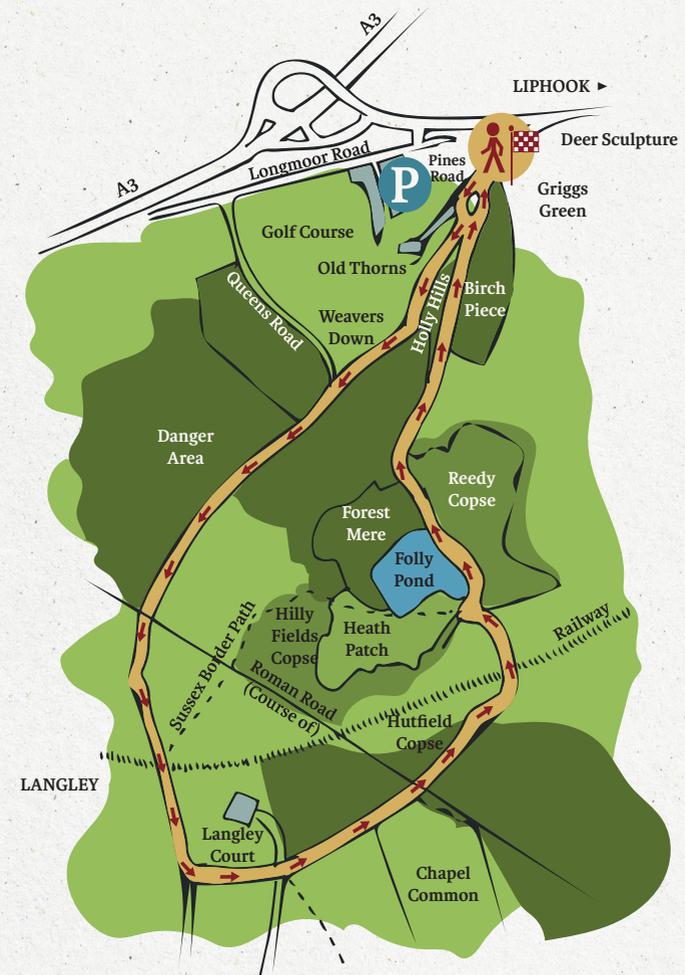
Continue straight on, which now becomes a sandy bridleway over Weavers Down between pine trees, silver birch, gorse and heather. Old Thorns Golf course lies off on the right, with fine views west. At a point further on there is a clearing on the left from which fine views of the surrounding countryside may be enjoyed, including glimpses of the South Downs. Military land lies on your right. Red flags warn of any danger. Metal gates are on the path.

Continue along the bridleway until you drop downhill to the railway bridge at Langley. Continue along the Shipwrights Way and through the metal gate. Over the bridge continue past the electricity sub-station, turning left opposite entrance to Little Langley Farm, onto bridleway. Continue along lane; at the junction, take path left of the Chapel Common pathway.

Proceed on bridleway between banks, through woods, until the railway line is reached again. Take the track under the bridge and continue straight on. (The equestrian centre, Stocklands, can be seen on your right.) At this point you join the Sussex Border Path, which skirts round the field boundary on your left, until you reach the driveway to Home Park. Turn right at this point and, with Folly Pond on your left, continue until a bridleway left leads you to the driveway to Forest Mere, alongside Folly Pond.

Proceed until the private entrance to Forest Mere is reached and at this point take the bridleway off to the right, passing under a magnificent, but damaged, beech tree. Continue until the field ends on your left and at this point take the bridleway half right and so on to the common land again. Proceed on this bridleway towards the white house ahead of you. Keep to this path, which runs parallel to the private road serving the dwellings on your right. At a point where the private road takes a sharp turn, continue ahead on the bridleway.

After a short distance there is a slight fork left leading on to the wide track, along the valley. Continue on this bridleway, passing soon under a splendid old oak tree, until you reach a meeting of bridleways. Continue straight on, uphill, and so back over Holly Hills to the junction of the Old Thorns and Weavers Down driveways. Proceed right towards The Deers Hut and return to the Longmoor Road. Flora Thompson lived in the house on the left as you walk back towards Longmoor Road from the Library. Note the plaque on the wall. Turn left and follow the footway back to your starting point.



Chawton to Farringdon

4.5 miles



Walk
10

TOUGHNESS: 3 out of 10

START AND FINISH: The walk starts from the centre of Chawton (Jane Austen's village) on the outskirts of Alton; to the south of the A31. GU34 1SD.

A Literary walk in The South Downs – Jane Austen, English Novelist. Best known for 'Pride & Prejudice' & 'Emma' to name just two. Lived in Chawton, from 1809 until 1817. The 17th century house, now Jane Austen's House Museum, is open to the public.

DIRECTIONS:

Jane Austen's house is situated in the village and there is a public car park opposite. The Greyfriar is nearby. From the car park, turn left and follow the old road, towards St. Nicholas' Church which lies along the valley on your left. On the higher ground, behind the church, the Elizabethan Chawton House can be seen. In the churchyard, the graves of Jane Austen's mother and sister, Cassandra, can be found round the back of the church.

The building is Victorian, for the church was rebuilt in 1871 after a disastrous fire. Continue along the old road to its end and along a path through trees. Cross a stile and follow a permissive path, parallel to the busy road – a far cry from the days when this was the Gosport turnpike road in Jane Austen's time.

Cross a stile and turn away from the road. Cut diagonally across the field and through Noar Copse, leading to higher ground beyond. Keep straight on to the Berryhill Plantation. Here, at the highest point, you can look away, left, over the countryside – and a line of pylons – to Gilbert White's village of Selborne, which Jane Austen knew.

Continue along the track bordered by tall Wellingtonia trees, which give way to yew trees as you descend into Upper Farringdon. Turn left as you reach houses. Go through the farmyard with Manor Farm House on your left. Turn right to the Church of All Saints'. Enter the churchyard via the lychgate.

From the church porch, walk across the churchyard into the lane. Turn left then right into Crows Lane; you will soon reach the Rose and Crown. Turn right and continue straight on between attractive cottages on either side. Turn right into Church Road and take the footpath on the right at the entrance to Parsonage Close. On passing the playground, turn left along the track to the A32.

Cross this road with care and follow the road opposite for a short distance. A footpath leads off to the right just before the bridge. Take this path down onto the disused Meon Valley railway line which ran between Alton and Fareham. This part of the route follows the St. Swithun's Way. Follow the track as far as it goes. Away on your left, the wooded countryside rises to where Wood Barn once stood.

At the end of the old railway track, follow the field edge towards a clump of trees. Carry straight on, then bear right and follow the hedgerow back to the A32. Cross the road with care, mount the steps and take the stile opposite. Keep straight on with the belt of trees on your right. Continue over the stile and into Ferney Close. On reaching the old road again, turn left and retrace your steps to the village.





The Merry Harriers

Hambleton Road, Hambleton, Surrey GU8 4DR

Telephone: 01428 682 883 enquiries@merryharriers.com

A de Savary Property

 merryharriershambleton

 merryhambleton

 merryharriershambleton