

Bentley to Farnham		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
Current status	Document last updated Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	
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This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.		

## Bentley to Farnham

**Start:** Bentley (Hampshire) Station

**Finish:** Farnham Station

Bentley (Hampshire) Station, map reference SU 792 430, is 63 km south west of Charing Cross, 89m above sea level and in **East Hampshire**. Farnham Station, map reference SU 844 465, is 6 km north east of Bentley, 76m above sea level and in **Surrey**.

**Length:** 26.0 km (16.2 mi).

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 416/429m.

For options to shorten the walk or for circular walks of various length, see *below* **Walk options**.

**Toughness:** 7 out of 10

**Time:** 6 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.

**Transport:** Bentley station is on the Alton Line from Woking via Aldershot, a branch of the South Western Main Line that used to continue to Winchester. Bentley has an hourly service (journey time from Waterloo 62 mins Monday to Saturday, if changing at Woking, and from 73 mins Sunday). Farnham is one stop closer to Woking, with a half-hourly service (journey time from 56 minutes, if changing at Woking). Buy a Bentley return.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take the train closest to 9.00 hours.

**OS Landranger Map:** 186 (Aldershot & Guildford)

**OS Explorer Map:** 144 (Basingstoke, Alton & Whitchurch) and 145 (Guildford & Farnham)

### Walk Notes:

This is a varied walk on the Hampshire/Surrey border, incorporating ancient forests (Alice Holt Forest, Farnham Heath and Bourne Wood), some large and popular heathlands on Frensham Common (with several large ponds, one of which has dedicated swimming areas, and the Devil's Jumps) and the more remote Hankley Common, a large Scots Pine and heather-covered area including the heathland ridges of Kettlebury Hill and Yagden Hill, which make for some very scenic views. On Hankley Common you have an opportunity to explore a D-Day training site with a replica section of The Atlantic Wall and assorted other defensive structures. From the picturesque village of Tilford, north of Hankley Common, with its pub and cricket pitch on the green you follow quiet woodland paths and lanes (with the occasional steep ascent) to Farnham. A Shortcut from Frensham Little Pond to Tilford cuts out the Flashes area of Frensham Common with the fascinating Devil's Jumps and all of Hankley Common. An Alternative Ending from Tilford cuts some steep ascents. A bus stop and a car park at Frensham Great Pond enable Circular or Lasso-style routes.

Before embarking on this walk, please read below section on Managed Access on Hankley Common.

**Dog Owners:** On the Commons, dogs must be kept on a lead during ground nesting season (01 March to 31 July) and under close control at all other times.

## Managed Access on Hankley Common

The current status of access rights on the MOD land of Hankley Common should be checked at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-access-to-military-areas#contents> [under 'Locations in South East England – Hankley and Elstead Commons']. *At time of writing the relevant rules are as follows:* "The training area is used for logistics and minor infantry manoeuvre exercises." ... "Public access is permitted along public rights of way across both Commons at all times. [...] In addition, open access on foot is available in those areas delineated by the managed access symbol on [OS] Explorer maps. When walking in the training area you are requested not to interrupt military training and to observe the Byelaws."

## Walk options:

**Bus 19** (Haslemere to Aldershot via Farnham, hourly Mon-Sat) to/from Great Pond Car Park (after 9.1 km of walking) enables a very short walk or a late start or a circular or a 'Lasso'-style route (see below).

**A Shortcut from Frensham Common to Tilford** cuts 6.8 km/4.2 mi and 136m ascent, **rated 4/10**.

**An Alternative Ending from Tilford** leads along the Greensand Way and the River Wey. This adds 600m but cuts some steep ascents (although the total ascent saved is only 23m). Waverley Abbey can be reached via an optional 1.5 km out-and-back. Bus 46 (Guildford to Farnham, roughly hourly Mon-Sat) from Waverley Abbey cuts the last 4 km of this Alternative Ending.

**Circular Walks or 'Lasso'-style routes** are possible by following the main walk route either from Bentley or from Alice Holt Forest or from Frensham Great Pond Car Park/Bus Stop to Tilford and reverse-walking a slight variation of the shortcut route back to Frensham Great Pond (16.5 km/10.2 mi for the Frensham Great Pond Circular, fully written up) or on to Alice Holt Forest (add 5.3 km each way, map-led to Alice Holt) or Bentley (add 8.3 km each way, map-led to Bentley).

## Lunch (details last updated 26/11/19)

**Café on the Green** Bucks Horn Oak, Alice Holt Forest, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LS (01420 23540, <https://www.aliceholtcafe.co.uk/>)*. The Café on the Green is located 3.0 km (1.9 mi) into the walk. Open 08.30-17.00 daily except Christmas Day.

**The Bluebell Inn** Batt's Corner, Dockenfield, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LS (01252 792 801, <http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com/>)*. The Bluebell Inn is located 4.8 km (3.0 mi) into the walk. Open 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-late Mon-Fri, 12.00-23.00 Sat and 12.00-20.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

**Frensham Pond Hotel & Spa** Bacon Lane, Frensham Great Pond, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2QD (01252 795 161, <https://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk/>)*. The Frensham Pond Hotel is located 130m off route, 8.0 km (5.0 mi) into the walk. Food is served in the Watermark Restaurant (12.30-14.30) and the Indigo Bar.

**Snack Bar at Frensham Great Pond** Bacon Lane, Frensham Great Pond, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2QB*. The Snack Bar is located 8.7 km (5.4 mi) into the walk.

**The Tern Café** Priory Lane, Frensham Little Pond, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 3BT (01428 681 050, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/frensham-little-pond/features/refreshments-at-frensham-little-pond>)*. The NT-run Tern Café on Frensham Little Pond is passed on the shortcut (after 10.8 km/6.7 mi of walking) and on the return loop of the Circular Walk (2.5 km from the end at Frensham Great Pond). Open 10.00-17.00 - daily end of March to October and 10.00-15.00 else (but closed Mon-Tue November to January).

**Bel and the Dragon Churt** Jumps Road, Churt, *Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2LD (01428 605 799, <https://belandthedragon-churt.co.uk/>)*. The Bel and the Dragon is one of six Country Inns in the south of England under the same name and is located 13.7 km (8.5 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-22.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-21.00 Sun.

**The Barley Mow** Tilford Green, *Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2BU (01252 792 205, <http://www.thebarleymowtilford.com/>)*. The Barley Mow is located 19.4 km (12.0 mi) into the full walk and 12.6 km (7.8 mi) into the short walk. Open 09.00-23.00 Mon-Fri and 11.00-23.00 Sat-Sun. Food served 12.00-15.00 Mon-Fri and 18.00-21.00 Tue-Fri, 12.00-16.00 and 18.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-15.00 Sun. A quintessential English Country Pub with a large riverside garden with views.

## Tea (details last updated 26/11/19)

**The Tern Café** As above. A tea option on the circular walks.

**The Barley Mow** As above. The Barley Mow is located 5.8 km (3.6 mi) from the end of the walk.

**Tilford Village Shop** Tilford Street, *Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2BL (01252 792 258, <http://tilfordvillageshop.co.uk/>)*. The Village Shop is located 150m off route, 6.0 km (3.7 mi) from the end of the walk. Open 08.00-19.00 Mon-Sat and 08.00-18.00 Sun, it serves hot and cold drinks, cakes, sandwiches and snacks.

**The Mulberry** Station Hill, *Farnham, Surrey GU9 8AD (01252 726 673, <http://www.mulberryfarnham.co.uk/>)*. Open all day every day.

**The Lamb** Abbey Street, *Farnham, Surrey GU9 7RJ (01252 714 133, <http://www.lambfarnham.co.uk/>)*. Open all day every day. A Shepherd Neame pub.

**The William Cobbet** Bridge Square, *Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QR (01252 726 281)*. Open all day every day.

## Notes:

### Shipwrights Way

The Shipwrights Way is an 80 km (50 mi) waymarked Long-Distance Footpath through East Hampshire, leading from Bentley Station to Portsmouth. The route and name reflect the use of oak grown at Alice Holt Forest (east of Bentley Station) for shipbuilding in Tudor times. It passes through Bordon, Liphook, Liss, Petersfield, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Staunton Country Park, Havant, Hayling Island and (via ferry) to Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/walking/shipwrightsway>

### Alice Holt Forest

Alice Holt Forest is a royal forest in the western Weald in Hampshire, situated some 6 km south of Farnham. 'Alice' is believed to be a corruption of 'Ælfsige', the Bishop of Winchester in AD 984, whose diocese had rights over the forest. Old English 'holt' = a wood or thicket, usually a managed wood of a single species. Once predominantly an ancient oak forest, it was particularly noted in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries for the timber it supplied for the Royal Navy. It is now though planted mainly with conifers and the Forestry Commission (FC) took over the management of the forest in 1924 and established one of only two British forestry research institutes here in 1946. Since 2010 it is part of the South Downs National Park and forms the most northerly gateway to the park. Alice Holt is one of the FC's most popular destinations, attracting over 290,000 visitors a year, with facilities including a café, play structures and outdoor spaces for children, a cycle hire, and over 15 km of waymarked trails for walking and cycling. <https://www.forestryengland.uk/alice-holt-forest>

### The River Wey

The River Wey is very unusual in that it has several sources feeding two separate rivers that share the same name. The northern branch rises near Alton in Hampshire, while the south branch has two sources: one rises just over the West Sussex border on the western flank of Blackdown near Haslemere, the other at Inval, below Gibbet Hill, Hindhead. Both arms of the river join south of Farnham at Tilford in Surrey. From there the Wey as a single river flows east to Godalming and then northwards towards the Thames. The name 'Wey' may be derived from the Old English word *Éa* meaning "river". The main sub-tributary is the Tilling Bourne flowing from the slopes of Leith Hill.

### Frensham Ponds/Frensham Common

Frensham Common is an SSSI heathland of 3.7 km<sup>2</sup>, owned by the National Trust which includes two large lakes and is managed by Waverley Borough Council. The terrain is elevated and undulating with some high points in ridges to the south-east but it has few streams due to the permeability of the soil. Four prehistoric bowl barrows are situated in a line along a ridge in the centre-east of the common. They are passed on the walk route. Frensham Great Pond and Frensham Little Pond were built during the Middle Ages to provide fish for the Bishop of Winchester's estate, and the former was the largest lake in Surrey until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when larger reservoirs and lakes from ex-quarries were constructed.

### Devil's Jumps

The Devil's Jumps are a series of three conical shaped hilly outcrops of an ironstone variety of sandstone set among acidic heathland on Frensham Common. They are linked to a variety of local landmarks by folklore, including Mother Ludlam's Cave near the ruins of Waverley Abbey, the Devil's Punch Bowl at Hindhead, the village of Thursley and the parish church at Frensham. There are no public access rights to the two jumps not covered in this walk.

### Greensand Way

The Greensand Way is a 174 km (108 mi) waymarked Long-Distance Path through Surrey and Kent, from Haslemere to Ham Street, running broadly parallel to and south of the North Downs ridge. It follows the ridge of greensand rock, to the edges of Romney Marsh and almost to the Kent coast. The Greensand Way takes its name from layers of sandstone, in each of which is found the green coloured mineral glauconite.

### The Atlantic Wall

During World War II, D-Day training sites were created in Britain in order to practise for Operation Overlord, the invasion of northern France by the Allies in 1944.

In 1943, in an area of Hankley Common known as the Lion's Mouth, Canadian troops constructed a replica of a section of the Atlantic Wall from reinforced concrete. It is around 100m long, 3m high, and 3.5m wide. It is divided into two sections, between which there were originally huge steel gates.

Nearby are other obstacles (mostly types of tank traps) such as dragon's teeth, huge reinforced concrete blocks and lengths of railway track set in concrete, and wire entanglements. The main wall has two large breaches caused by a variety of demolition devices. Over the years, the wall has become colonised by alkaline-loving lichens, mosses, ferns and other plants which are found nowhere else locally.

<http://www.shepherd.plus.com/atlanticwall/>

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Bentley** on either platform and walk back along the platform.

- If arriving on platform 1: at the very end of the platform go down for a few steps and *turn right* to cross the tracks on a level pedestrian crossing and *turn left* along a tarmac path towards a white wooden gate;
- If arriving on platform 2: ignore a first wooden gate on your right into a field and at the very end of the platform continue along a tarmac path past a level pedestrian crossing from the left and towards a white wooden gate.

In 20m go through the gate with a signpost ('**To Alice Holt**') and follow a tarmac path (70° initially). This is a public footpath as per the OS map, but – confusingly – also Route 224 of the National Cycle Network, so expect some bikes despite it.

It is also the start of the **Shipwrights Way**, which you will now follow for 3.8 km.

**In more detail:** in 100m by a four-way footpath signpost continue in the same direction, passing **Bentley Station Meadow Reserve** on the right, part of a **Butterfly Conservation Area**. In a further 120m ignore a faint left fork as it curves to the right and ascends gently (120°). You have entered **Access Land**. In 420m at the top of the rise, cross a track and continue with a pond on your right. In 360m a car wide gravel track joins from the left and in another 80m, where the tarmac path curves left past a row of houses, you *fork right* along a wide gravel track, in 20m passing a wooden car barrier. You have a field on the left and **Alice Holt Research Station** beyond it. In 450m where the main track curves right, you *fork left* with a Shipwrights Way marker post along a minor track – in 40m narrowing to a path between fences (110°).

In 280m you cross the **A325** and in 60m follow the track around to the left. In 130m at a wide forest cycle-way with a bench on the left, you *turn sharp right* (200° initially), still on the Shipwrights Way. Follow the cycle track for 500m to a five-way junction where you *turn half left* along the second-left track (120°). In 180m pass the **Alice Holt Forest Education Centre** on your left, in 20m cross a tarmac drive to a car park on the left and then *bear left* between trees with the Shipwrights Way along an earthen path. In 100m *turn right* and go through the archway of the **Visitors' Centre**. You pass the **Café on the Green** on the right and in 40m at a T-junction with a tarmac path, *turn left* (due E) along a wide track with a children's play area on the left. In 360m, at a T-junction with a marker post with a white-red '2/B' marker on the side, *turn right* downhill (due E) and in another 100m *turn right* further downhill (170°). Remain on this broad gravel cycle track going straight on at cross-paths in 150m and ignore a right fork in a further 50m by a wooden post with a white-red '3/W' marker post.

You cross a stream and **[!]** in another 30m *turn left* off the broad track (and the **Shipwrights Way**), along a narrow unmarked and potentially muddy path (75° initially). Follow this narrow path as it curves gently round to the right for 450m to a T-junction. [**In more detail:** in 120m ignore a left turn; in 160m pass a white-red '30/XX' marker post on the right; in 170m you reach a T-junction of faint forest paths.] *Turn left* to cross a streamlet (140° initially) and follow the narrow path bending to the right and gently ascending with it. In 150m you pass a white-red '18/P' marker post on the right and in another 160m at a faint four-way junction (there are some houses visible away on the left, and 40m *before the path turns right*) *turn left*, in 10m passing a bridleway marker post (white horseshoe on green). In another 30m you emerge from the woods (and the Access Land) and *turn left* along a road, **having also left Hampshire and entered Surrey**.

In 170m *fork right* to cross a small green and *turn right* along a lane past **The Bluebell Inn**, a possible very early lunch stop. In 100m ignore a signposted footpath on the right and follow the lane (a public bridleway). In another 100m *veer right* with the gravel bridleway to the right of the last house on the lane, with a green on the right. In 100m

the bridleway continues as a tarmac lane and in a further 220m, where the lane curves right, you carry straight on along a gravel track past some houses on the left. In 100m ignore a footpath joining from the left over a fence out of a pasture and continue with the fence on the left and trees on the right for 900m as the track curves to the right to meet **Pitt Lane**. *Turn left* along a raised narrow grass path to the left of the lane and in 100m *fork right* into **Mill Lane**, signposted 'Frensham Church', and cross the mill leat and then the **River Wey**'s south branch on the lane. Just after the bridge where the lane curves to the left you *turn right* along the gravel driveway of **The Mill House**, an unmarked public bridleway. In 60m the track continues through trees along a potentially muddy path and in 100m you pass **Frensham Manor** on your left above.

Remain on the bridleway for 1.1 km with the river on your right, ignoring a couple of footpaths off to the right, until you reach **Bacon Lane** at the western end of **Frensham Great Pond** at a T-junction. **Frensham Pond Hotel & Spa** with its formal restaurant and less formal bar is 130m away to the right along the lane, [!] but the route *turns left*. In 110m *turn right* off the lane along a public bridleway with the pond on your right into **Access Land**. In 150m ignore an uphill left turning bridleway and continue through a horse barrier and in another 300m (latterly with a wooden fence on your right) you come to a public car park. *Turn right* through the car park for 120m to a signboard at the far end that indicates where along the beach you can swim. A toilet block with the **Snack Bar at Frensham Great Pond** on the far side of it is 40m away to the left. If wishing to swim, *turn right* at the signboard to go down to the beach.

Else *veer right a little* (70°) to head to the right of three distinct trees 35m away and in another 30m continue along a deep sandy track between low wooden fences (past a low marker post with a green arrow, still 70°) for 100m then *veer slightly right* over open ground along the left of two clear tracks (due E initially). In 200m you reach a fenced-in area and continue along the left of two fenced sandy paths through it (100°). In 90m *turn left* to in 30m cross the busy **A287** Farnham Road by the **Great Pond Car Park bus stop for services to Farnham** (this side) or **Haslemere** (opposite) [Mon-Sat only, hourly]. Continue through the open heathland of **Frensham Common** and in 260m ignore a minor right forking path to continue in the same direction along the main path straight on towards the top of the ridge.

In 130m the path levels out with three fenced-in bowl barrows (pre-historic burial mounds) on your right. In 30m *turn left* at a T-junction along a broad sandy track to in 70m pass another fenced-in bowl barrow on your left. In a further 160m *fork right*, while staying on the ridge (i.e. ignore right turns downhill) and in another 170m, by a wooden bench and a low tree stump, [!] *turn right* downhill (40°) on a broad path towards **Frensham Little Pond**. In 260m you reach the bottom of the descent at a four-way junction of broad sandy tracks with a low metal pole barrier in front of you.

### **Here you have a choice:**

**For the Shortcut**, continue in the same direction past the barrier and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

**For the Main Walk**, *turn right* along a broad sandy byway (140°) and in 170m – 25m **after** passing a yellow National Trust Path marker post away on the left – ignore a right fork and 15m further along *turn left* off the byway (30°) and follow a footpath round to the left, *to the right of the pond* – which is hidden by trees for the first 100m. In 230m by a NT Path marker post, *fork right*, away from the pond (110°) and in 140m by a bench inscribed 'Strength and Courage' on this side, you *turn right* with the path along mixed woods on your left and open ground on your right, ignoring left forks into the trees in 20m and again in 30m. In 120m ignore a right fork and in 70m [!] ignore the right bearing main path, to continue in the same direction along a narrow path through

heather. In 130m *turn left* at a T-junction of sandy paths and in 50m *turn right* along an earthen path. In 170m you reach **Sandy Lane** by a house called **Grey Walls** (but Gray Walls on the OS map) and *turn left* along it to in 40m ford the stream that feeds Frensham Little Pond (there is a footbridge to the right), **leaving the Access Land**.

In another 380m, just after the driveway to **Lowicks House**, *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and follow a public footpath through a plantation (220°). Follow the broad track for 160m and go through a wooden kissing gate in a fence line into the **Access Land of The Flashes**, a part of Frensham Common. *Veer left* (165°) along a clear wide gravel/sand track, ignoring an unmarked public footpath along the fence on the left. In 40m you have a drainage ditch on the right, as you continue towards **The Devil's Jumps**. In 70m you pass a pond away to the right and in 530m at the far end of the Access Land *turn left* along a car wide track with a fence on the right. In 160m **!** continue along the fence, ignoring a fork off to the left and in 40m cross a car wide bridleway and then go over a plank bridge over a ditch.

You continue through some trees into heathland and in 40m *turn right* on a clear sandy path (150°) rising ever more steeply up the most easterly of **The Devil's Jumps**. In 220m you reach the top plateau by a couple of memorial benches. From the top you have fine views in all directions, especially from the edge of the ironstone outcrop on the far side (towards Hindhead by Haslemere). From the benches *turn left* from the previous direction (70° initially) to descend from the top along a clear path. In 75m at a T-junction *turn right* for an out-and-back to the recommended lunch stop **Bel and the Dragon** in **Churt**. In 30m – by a bench away on the right – you start to descend on a clear path through the heathery hillside and in 30m continue through trees. In 80m *fork left* to in 20m continue between high wooden fences (leaving the Access Land). In 110m *turn left* along **Tilford Road** and in 80m find the **Bel and the Dragon** on your right, opposite the entrance to **The Sculpture Park**.

From the pub, retrace your steps to the left along Tilford Road, then *turn right* between wooden fences and follow the path into Access Land back up the hill (i.e.: in 20m *bear right* and in another 30m *fork right*). Over the brow of the rise at the three-way path junction passed earlier, continue in the same direction, slowly descending (25°) with wide views on your left across the common. In 230m ignore a left fork to continue in the same direction with a fenced-in plantation on the right and then pass some large houses on the right. At the end of the garden fence at a four-way path junction *turn right* past a low red and white vehicle barrier along a public footpath (70°). In 100m at **Tilford Road** *turn left* along its pavement, immediately ignoring a left fork: **Sandy Lane** (again). In 90m *turn right* to cross the road and continue along an unsigned path 10m to the left of the entrance to **Rushmoor Lakes** (No Walkers, No Dogs, No Fires). Follow the path downhill, pass a vehicle barrier and cross a stream and in 130m reach the boundary of **Hankley Common**, part of the Surrey Commons Military Lands Area. [*This is MOD Managed Access Land, and you have to check that the tracks are good to use on the day and follow any orders if encountering soldiers, especially if off rights-of-way.*]

*Turn right* along a permissive bridleway and in 70m where the heath opens up in front of you, *turn hard left* off the permissive bridleway (130°) to take the left of three tracks, the one closest to the plantation, and follow the track as it curves round to the left. Stay close to the edge of the trees for 130m and then ascend through open heath (85°) and in 50m descend gently for a further 80m. Cross a broad track and **!** in 20m *fork left* along a path curving left (55°). In 130m *bear left* with the path (due N) and in 100m at a broad track T-junction *turn right* and skirt to the left of a usually wet and muddy area. *Bear left* uphill with a sandy path (40°), ignoring right turns into trees and in 130m go over a brow. In 80m cross a track to continue in deep sand up **Kettlebury Hill**. In 150m at a T-junction *turn right* in an eroded gully to the top of the ridge and in 40m *turn sharp left* by a bridleway marker post along a broad path between trees.

Stay on the ridge for 1.1 km. **But in more detail:** in 100m notice a WWII gun emplacement on your right and after another 330m ignore a bridleway forking to the left by a **Cycle Surrey Hills** marker post on the right. You have occasional fine views to the right into the plain and in 350m ignore a wide track on the right going steeply downhill to stay on the main track close to the plantation on your left, now with unrestricted views on the right. In 70m **[!]** *fork right* along a narrow path along the drop. In 100m and in another 30m cross paths descending steeply on the right. You now have some military barracks down on the right. Ignore one more faint right turn and after another 30m by a more major path to the right, you *bear left* to re-join the main track just where the ridge path is blocked to vehicles by five short wooden posts.

*Fork left* here (10°) with a Cycle Surrey Hills marker on one of the posts to descend from the ridge with trees on the left. In 150m at the bottom of a dip, you come to a staggered six-way junction (**Lion's Mouth** on the OS map, so called because that's what it looks like from the air). **The Greensand Way** and SWC Walk 144 Haslemere to Farnham cross here.

### Here you have a choice:

**For a short out-and-back exploration of The Atlantic Wall** and associated defensive structures, *turn left* at the junction along the first car wide sandy track (285°) and in 40m *fork left* off it to reach the corner of the wall in 20m. Continue along it (identifiable on the OS map as an interrupted linear structure) past a few breaches (there is a short explanatory plaque on the wall) to the end of the wall and veer *left* a little to pass some cubic steel structure in 20m and in 25m (by a dead tree with some beautiful bracket fungi) *bear left* to in 35m reach a line of concrete stumps on the right ('Dragon's Teeth'). There are many more scattered concrete structures amongst the trees (squares, cubes and blocks), all are types of tank traps, but eventually return to the wall and walk back along it to the other end (there are more concrete structures about 50m on the right here) to *turn left* at the end of the wall and re-gain the sandy track and *turn right* back to the Lion's Mouth junction.

**For the continuation of the walk**, continue straight on (10°) up a steep path, in 40m going through some low wooden bollards to a plateaued ridge in 60m and continue along the ridge with (near-) **surround views over the heathland**. After 130m ignore a right fork and a left turn and continue in the same direction, now with **Hankley Common Golf Club** down to your left. In 210m descend from the ridge to in 160m cross a sandy track (350°). In another 120m cross another track, in 50m ignore a left turn and start a gentle 200m long ascent of **Yagden Hill**. On the top ignore a left turn in 60m and in another 20m descend steeply down a gully back to the plain (there is a narrow footpath to the left). In 90m cross a track and continue for 200m to a five-way junction. A bridleway joins from the left behind by a marker post and the two tracks meet another bridleway at a T-junction with a footpath continuing in the same direction. *Turn left* (305°) and in 230m the bridleway enters a wood. In 30m ignore a track joining from the left, and in a further 100m you *bear left* along a wide sandy bridleway (300°).

In 100m the track descends and curves slightly to the left, and in 50m at the bottom of the dip you ignore two paths joining from the left and *turn right* with the track by a bridleway marker post. In 40m pass a metal barrier to continue along a broad byway. You have left the **Managed Access Land** of Hankley Common and in 50m pass **Stockbridge Pond** on your left-hand side. Soon you have a fence and some fields on the right and in 270m pass the entrance to **Hankley Edge** (a house). In a further 300m reach **Tilford Road** where you *turn right* along **Mollie's Ride**, a permissive footpath to the right of the roadside hedge [this may be locked every January according to a note at the far end]. In 270m you cross a road to reach the village green in **Tilford** and walk past the **Tilford Oak** (see the plaque near it for more detail) across the green (evading

a cricket game if one is on) to the suggested late lunch stop **The Barley Mow**, en route noticing the part timber-framed building on the left: this is the former **Tilford Institute, one of Lutyens' earliest commissions** (he grew up in nearby Thursley). The **Tilford Village Shop** (hot and cold drinks, cakes, sandwiches and snacks) can be found 150m across Tilford East Bridge over the **River Wey on the right**.

**At the Barley Mow you have a choice:**

**For the Alternative Ending along the Greensand Way**, coming out of the Barley Mow, *turn left* towards Tilford East Bridge and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Alternative Ending along Greensand Way**.

**For the Main Walk's Finish in Farnham or the Circular Walks**, coming out of the Barley Mow, *turn right* and in 100m at a T-junction with Tilford Road the Shortcut joins down a signposted public footpath along a gravel drive across the road.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For the Circular Route** back to Frensham Great Pond (or even to Alice Holt Forest or Bentley), cross the road and continue in the same direction along the gravel drive and pick up the directions below under **Circular Route**.

**For the Finish in Farnham**, cross the road and *turn right* to cross the River Wey's South Branch on the old road bridge, now a pedestrian bridge and scheduled 13<sup>th</sup> century ancient monument, to the left of the new Tilford West Bridge.

\*) Once over the bridge stay on the left-hand side of the road (to be seen by traffic coming around the bends ahead). In 50m on your right you pass a mysterious brick storage shelter in the wall and earth bank around the 18<sup>th</sup> century **Tilford House**. In 250m at a T-junction *turn left* along **The Reeds Road**, signposted Frensham and Rural Life Centre. Continue on this narrow road – without a pavement or walkable verge – for 440m where you *turn right* on an initially unsigned bridleway and RSPB reserve path, opposite the entrance to **Tilford Reeds**. In 20m you pass a bridleway (and Cycle Surrey Hills) marker post and continue in the same direction at a bend. In 250m ignore a first left turn and continue through a dip with fine views on the right of the wooded **Crooksbury Hill** and in 120m *turn left* along a forest track by a fenced enclosure's corner (240°). Follow the fence on your right, ignoring two gates in the fence (with corresponding paths on the left) and after 250m go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate. In a further 40m *turn right* (300°) along to a broad gravel track.

You gradually ascend towards a wooded ridge through an open area (**Farnham Heath Nature Reserve**) and in 400m *turn right* at a T junction along a broad sandy track. In 120m *fork left* with a low bridleway marker post along a narrow path through trees, your direction north. The path soon begins to descend and in 110m you go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate. Stay on the bridleway with a fence on your right ignoring ways off for 170m, then *fork left* towards a footpath and bridleway marker post clearly visible 20m away, your direction north again. Continue in the same direction up a stepped sandy path and in 40m cross over a wide grass fire-break to enter **Bourne Wood** (Access Land) and in a further 30m continue in the same direction by a four-way bridleway signpost (340°). In 150m you cross a tarmac driveway (with a car park visible away on the right) and in a further 230m **[!]** *fork left* (290°) with the main path uphill, in 30m with a fence and a newly planted area on your right.

In 100m you reach the top of the rise and in another 50m by the last of the tall conifers on the right, **[!]** you *fork left* along a broad unmarked path (245°), initially on the level, ignoring the descending continuation of the main track. Remain on the path for 180m as



it curves to the left to come to an oblique cross-paths where you cross a broad forest track and *turn half-right* uphill (315°) on a narrower path with evergreen shrubs on the left and bracken on the right. The path levels out and in 100m at a three-way marker post, go straight on downhill along the bridleway. In 140m at the bottom of the hill by some houses on the left, cross over an unmade road with a footpath signpost on the right, towards a wooden car gate 40m away. Just before the gate, *fork left* uphill with a narrow path ('**Dene Walk – Public Footpath**') and in 50m *fork right* by a signpost for **Old Man's Hill** and follow the footpath steeply up Old Man's Hill between fences. In 320m you *turn right* along a tarmac road (Lodge Hill Road) and in 50m *turn left* along an un-signed track between garden fences. In 160m continue along tarmac past some houses on the left and in 80m ignore Bourne Grove (road) turning right to go straight on across **The Bourne** (originating in Alice Holt Forest) and up **Vicarage Hill** (road).

In 150m where the road bends left, you *turn right* along **Packway** (the sign is buried in the hedge), a cul-de-sac and signposted public footpath. Ignore ways off and in 180m, by the last house on the right, continue in the same direction downhill along a gravel car wide track. In 50m, where the track turns right, you *turn left* along the signposted **Stan Cockett's Path**, in 50m passing a memorial bench for him, and *bearing left* with the path. In 50m you have a wire mesh fence on your right and in 100m at **Greenhill Road** *turn left* and in 30m *turn right* into **Little Austins Road**. In 330m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Great Austins** and in 160m *turn left* at a road junction to continue downhill along **Tilford Road** and reach **Farnham station** in 500m. London bound trains depart from the far platform.

Beyond the station, over the level-crossing or the overbridge, there is a **service station** on the right and **The Mulberry** bar, pub and hostel on the left. **For more tea options** continue downhill and across the A31 and *bear left* along a path, soon continuing as **Abbey Street**, to find **The Lamb** and **The William Cobbet** along it.

### **Shortcut (cut 6.8 km/4.2 mi and 136m ascent)**

Continue straight on (50°) and in 150m at a six-way junction *veer a little to the right* on the level (65°) and in 140m you have **Frensham Little Pond** on your right. In 275m the path curves up to the left as you pass **The Tern Café** (NT) on your right and in another 70m you *veer right* over a grassy area towards a road and in 70m cross it to a pipeline marker post and take the unmarked footpath into trees (300°). In 50m ignore a narrow path joining from the right and *turn right* (65°) along a broad sandy track, a Byway Open to All Traffic ('unsuitable for motor vehicles'). In 280m the path skirts to the right around an often-flooded area (the outflow of Frensham Little Pond), as you leave the Access Land, and in 400m you ignore a signposted bridleway turning right.

In 160m *fork left* through a wooden kissing gate and continue along a fenced path. In 250m continue along a car wide track past some houses on the left. In 270m you can see the Wey River away on the left and in another 30m fork left off the (by now) tarmac drive with a footpath marker post. In 40m go through a wooden gate and follow the path for 700m with the Wey mostly close-by on the left to Tilford. You emerge on a road opposite **Tilford Village Green**. The walk route will continue by *turning left* to cross the River Wey on the old road bridge, now a pedestrian bridge and scheduled 13<sup>th</sup> century ancient monument, to the left of Tilford West Bridge. **The Barley Mow** pub and the **Tilford Village Store** are straight ahead though on the left-hand side of the green, and across Tilford East Bridge respectively.

Pick up the directions in the main text above at the asterisk \*).

## **Alternative Ending along Greensand Way (add 600m but cut some steep ascents)**

Coming out of the pub, *turn left* and cross the road bridge over **The River Wey** (the confluence of North and South branch of the river is to the left, just around a corner). In 20m from the bridge, *turn left* along a signposted bridleway with a fence on the left and a hedge on the right (the **Tilford Village Shop**, serving hot and cold drinks, with outside seating, is just 20m ahead and open until 18.00 every day). You pass a couple of pillboxes on the left, after the second of which you can now see the confluence of the river arms across a field on the left. In 250m ignore a path joining from the right down some steps and in 200m *turn left* at a three-way junction of bridleways. In 120m you pass **Tilhill House** on your right. In 50m you pass a **hexagonal dovecote** on the left and then a byway signpost on the left and in 110m **[!]** *fork right* with the byway ignoring the bridleway continuation in the same direction.

In 150m cross a farm track and continue gently uphill (the path levels out in another 50m) and in 140m you pass **Sheephatch Farm** on your right (on the OS map) and *veer right*, where a driveway joins from the left. In 40m you cross a lane (Sheep-hatch Lane) to *veer left* along a car wide gravel byway with a signpost on the left. In 400m (the last bit of which is in a very deep sunken lane with mature trees high above on the banks) *turn left* at a T-junction along a bridleway by a metal field gate leading into a fenced part of the wood (the route to the right is a footpath). After about 75m you have the **Wey River (North Branch)** below on the left (but it isn't always visible) with a grassy field behind and (foliage permitting) can glimpse some of the ruins of **Waverley Abbey** as well as **Waverley Abbey House** through the trees across the meadow. In 375m you *turn left* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane along a left hand earthen margin and in 220m, get to a three-way junction of roads.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For a recommended out-and-back to the ruins of Waverley Abbey** (adds 1.5 km), as well as for a **bus service to Farnham**, *turn left* along **Waverley Lane** and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Waverley Abbey Extension**.

**For the main walk** *turn right* along **Camp Hill** (signed Guildford) and in 20m *turn left* along a signposted footpath along a gravel driveway belonging to the house on the right (**Stella Lodge**), soon with a brick wall on your left. You go through a metal kissing gate in 65m and follow a wide clear path through a hanging wood (the **Moor Park Heritage Trail**). In 80m pass **Mother Ludlam's Cave** on the right, formed by the spring feeding the streamlet running out of it. You pass more pillboxes and yet more info panels on Moor Park's role in WWII, the park and the house itself and eventually (in 1.4 km) go through a metal kissing gate to the right of the main gate into **Moor Park** to emerge on a road by an info panel (the **North Downs Way** (NDW) joins from the right).

*Turn left* along the road and in 110m cross **The River Wey** for a last time. In 100m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Moor Park Way** and in 130m *fork right* off the road through a wooden kissing gate along a fenced path by a two-way NDW-signpost. In 350m you have an elaborate wooden bench on the right, marking the start proper of the NDW, just before a wooden kissing gate after which you *turn left* at a T-junction with a footpath. In 70m *turn right* with the North Downs Way. In 250m ignore a footpath turning up left into the hanging wood. [This path **avoids** the coming stretch along **the noisy A 31 Farnham-bypass**, but is mostly tarmac: in 120m the path levels out and in 20m you *turn right* along a residential road. In 900m *turn right* along **Waverley Lane** to in 100m reach the station, with **The Mulberry** on the other side.]

In 80m you go under an arched bridge carrying the railway line. *Turn left* on the other side along a gravel driveway (Snailslynch), now with **The Wey** on the right and in 600m cross a footpath at a signposted four-way junction. In 100m there is a service station on the right, as the drive turns to tarmac, and in another 100m you *turn right* with the drive towards the long audible **A31 Farnham-Bypass**. In 20m *turn left* with the North Downs Way along **Darvills Lane**, *before* reaching the main road. In 180m this curves up right to join the pedestrian path beside the A road. In 130m you pass a sculpture marking the official start of the North Downs Way at a main four-way road junction:

- For two of the recommended pubs cross the road in the same direction then *turn right* to cross the **A31** and *bear left* along a path, soon continuing as **Abbey Street**, to find **The Lamb** and **The William Cobbet** along it.
- Else *turn left* up to **Farnham Station** and in 50m pass **The Mulberry** on the right and in another 60m reach the station.

London bound trains depart from the near platform.

### **Waverley Abbey Extension (add 1.5 km)**

In 70m cross the river and *turn left* by the drive to **Waverley Abbey House** (and by a **bus stop for services to Farnham**) to follow a sign for Waverley Abbey in 10m to the left and in 40m walk through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate past a ruined pillbox and then along an artificial pond with **Waverley Abbey House** on the other side to reach the **Waverley Abbey** ruins in 400m. A tour around all the buildings and past all info panels is recommended. You will find **Dragon's Teeth** tank defenses in the far-left corner, either side of a (now disappeared) bridge over the Wey. Re-trace your steps to the three-way junction of roads and continue in the same direction uphill along **Camp Hill** to pick up the directions where you left them in the text above.

### **Circular Route**

In 25m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate (often open) and *bear left* to the left of the grounds of **The Malt House**, in 20m passing a public footpath marker post. You continue along a fenced path between hedges and in 120m get views on the right towards the meandering **Wey River** (South Branch) and follow it for about 600m, sometimes closer, at other times further away. Eventually you walk through a wooden gate and in another 40m *bear right* along a car wide track, immediately ignoring a right fork off it to a house. You pass some more houses on the right and after 300m, by some farm buildings on either side, you continue in the same direction through a metal gate (may be temporary) and along a fenced path, with a footpath marker on the left. In 60m there is a short, raised boardwalk and in another 200m you go through a wooden kissing gate and *bear right* along a car wide rutted byway.

In 170m ignore a signposted bridleway on the left and continue with **Chuter's Firs** on the right. In 130m you have an open grassy area on the left behind tree and fence and in another 260m you skirt to the left of an often-flooded area along a raised path and across a bridge (over the outflow of Frensham Little Pond). The woods to the left and right are now part of **Frensham Common Access Land** according to the OS map, despite several 'Private Land' signs on trees on the right. In 280m you reach a staggered five-way junction: two minor paths turn left and a public bridleway joins from the right 10m further along. *Turn left* into the trees and in 5m *fork right* (due S) and in 20m *bear right* with the path. In 30m cross **Priory Lane** and ignore a left bearing drive

to a car park to enter a grassy area. *Bear left* to the left of an oak tree across the grass and in 50m reach a T-junction with a path and a wood ahead, and a trig point-lookalike 'Donation Cairn' (National Trust) away on the right.

The recommended tea stop, **The Tern Café**, is 70m away down the left. You could also follow the path on the left to continue along the banks of Frensham Little Pond and re-join the route further along (map-led) *but the described route leads through the trees*. Continue into the wood (185°), gently rising initially, and in 35m go over a brow and through a dip. **Frensham Little Pond** is visible on the left through the trees and in 200m you emerge from the wood at a four-way path junction by a low marker post and *turn right* uphill along the fringe of the wood. The path curves to the left in 35m and in 160m you *fork left*, ignoring a path uphill to the right into the trees. In 50m you cross a path and in 75m at a five-way sandy track junction you *veer a little to the right* (235° initially), gently uphill (i.e. do not *turn right*). In 60m cross a broad sandy track (a restricted byway) and continue past a couple of low red-white metal pole barriers.

You head uphill along the broad sandy track and in 90m *turn right* with it, ignoring a narrower path heading up to the ridge ahead. In 70m ignore a right turn and curve to the left with the sandy track, gently uphill. In 90m ignore a right turn and turn up to the left with the track. In 80m at a four-way junction, *bear left* and in another 65m at the top of the ridge, *turn left* with the track. In 60m ignore a path leading to a bench away on the left and in 90m **[!]** *fork right* (that's 40m before reaching the bench and tree stump passed early in the walk). In 30m you reach another broad sandy track by a bridleway marker post and a bench facing down the ridge **towards Frensham Great Pond** (and the audible A287). Descend (initially steeply) down the ridge along a grassy then sandy path and in 250m at a T-junction with a broad sandy track (a public bridleway), *turn right* along it. In 25m another bridleway joins from the right and in 20m you ignore the continuation of that bridleway, as it turns left (although this is **the fastest route to the bus stop at Frensham Great Pond**).

In 130m you carefully cross the A road and continue in the same direction on the other side past a low metal red-white pole barrier and along a broad sandy track up the heathland to an obvious top in 230m. At a bridleway marker post continue in the same direction and in 20m by another marker post at a four-way path junction at the fringe of the wood on the top, you *turn left* with the bridleway. In 110m *fork right* with the main track, ignoring a narrow continuation ahead. In 80m cross a path and in 90m *curve left* with the track, where another path joins down from the right. In 25m you pass a bridleway marker post and cross a track and in 110m by another bridleway marker post, you **[!]** *fork left* off the broad bridleway along an indistinct path which in 50m leads you to the tarmac approach to **Frensham Great Pond Car Park** by a metal field gate. *Turn left* parallel to the drive and in 50m you reach the toilet block with the **Snack Bar at Frensham Great Pond** on its left-hand end. **The Main Walk Route** is reached in another 50m at the sign denoting the areas open for swimmers.

### **Here you have a choice:**

**For the bus stop** for services to Farnham or Haslemere, *turn left* and repeat part of the outbound route to the A287.

**For walking** back to Alice Holt Forest (5.6 km away) or even Bentley Station (8.6 km away), *turn right* through the car park and re-trace the morning route (map-led).