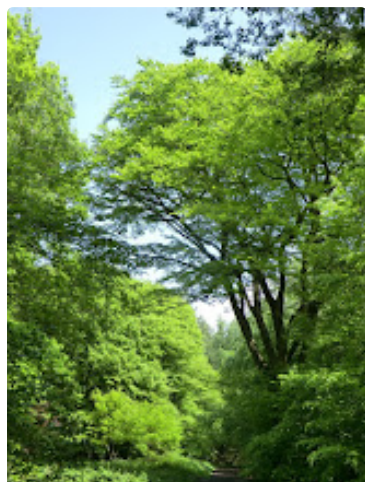




Chipstead to Kingswood Walk

Ancient woodland, open downs and farmland in London's Green Belt.



Length	<p>Main Walk: 15¼ km (9.5 miles). Three hours 50 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 7½ hours.</p> <p>Circular Walk, returning to Chipstead: 13½ km (8.4 miles). Three hours 25 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Short Walk, omitting loop to Mugswell: 11 km (6.8 miles). Two hours 45 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Short Circular Walk, omitting Mugswell: 9¼ km (5.7 miles). Two hours 20 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Alternative Circular Walk, from Kingswood: 9¾ km (6.0 miles). Two hours 20 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Alternative Walk, finishing at Chipstead: 8 km (5.0 miles). One hour 55 minutes walking time.</p>
OS Map	<p>Explorer 146. Chipstead, map reference TQ276583, is in Surrey, 6 km S of Sutton.</p>
Toughness	<p>5 out of 10 (4 for the Circular Walk, 2–3 for the Short and Alternative Walks).</p>
Features	<p>Just outside the London boundary, this undulating walk takes in a varied landscape of ancient woodland, open downs and farmland. You will have plenty of company in the popular recreational areas of Banstead Wood and Chipstead Downs, but few dog-walkers venture across the railway into the network of footpaths, horse rides and quiet lanes which make up the walk's middle section.</p> <p>Near the start the main route follows a substantial part of the Banstead Woods Nature Trail, with panels along the trail highlighting the diversity</p>

of species. This ancient woodland was an important source of **compass timber** until the mid-19thC: large curved or crooked pieces of oak artificially shaped to make specialised sections for the wooden naval ships of that era. More recently the trunks of felled trees have been utilised by a local tree artist to create a series of sculptures illustrating the CS Lewis **Narnia** books. On the other side of the railway a stretch along an open valley in **Shabden Park** and across a golf course takes you to an out-of-the-way pub for lunch.

The return route starts along a remote area of quiet country lanes and narrow paths (which can be overgrown in summer), followed by a woodland path through Shabden Park's **Long Plantation**. After going back across the railway the final section is around the southern edge of Banstead Wood and across farmland, with the unexpected sight of an abandoned head office building on the way to Kingswood station.

Walk Options

The walk route crosses over itself twice so there are several ways of shortening the walk. Towards the end you could complete a **Circular Walk** by heading north along Chipstead Downs after going back across the railway tracks. Two designated **Short Walks** omit the outer loop to Mugswell, and the directions also point out where you could curtail the walk before reaching the railway crossing. The **Alternative Walks** omit the morning section through Banstead Wood by using a short link route from Kingswood station to join the main route 1 km before the lunch pub. *Some of these short options are obviously more suitable as half-day or summer evening walks.*

If you started late and wanted to catch up an earlier group the directions include a short cut through Banstead Wood (saving 2 km). More drastically you could carry on to Kingswood station and do the much shorter Alternative Walk (saving 5½ km).

Additional Notes

In §I there is a short but awkward stretch along a narrow and fairly busy country lane. There used to be a permissive horse ride alongside the lane but it has become overgrown and potentially impassable; it is not a public right of way so there is no legal obligation to maintain it. Although it appears to be all-but-abandoned, this slightly longer alternative route is still worth checking and using if possible.




In 2019 the direction of the loops around Shabden Park and Mugswell was reversed, partly for aesthetic reasons and also to make the walk slightly more balanced. If following the route on a map you could of course do these loops in either direction.

Transport

Chipstead and Kingswood are adjacent stations on the Tattenham Corner line, which has a half-hourly service from London Bridge (hourly Sun, when you need to change at Purley), with journey times of around 45 minutes. All the stations on this branch line are in TfL Zone 6.

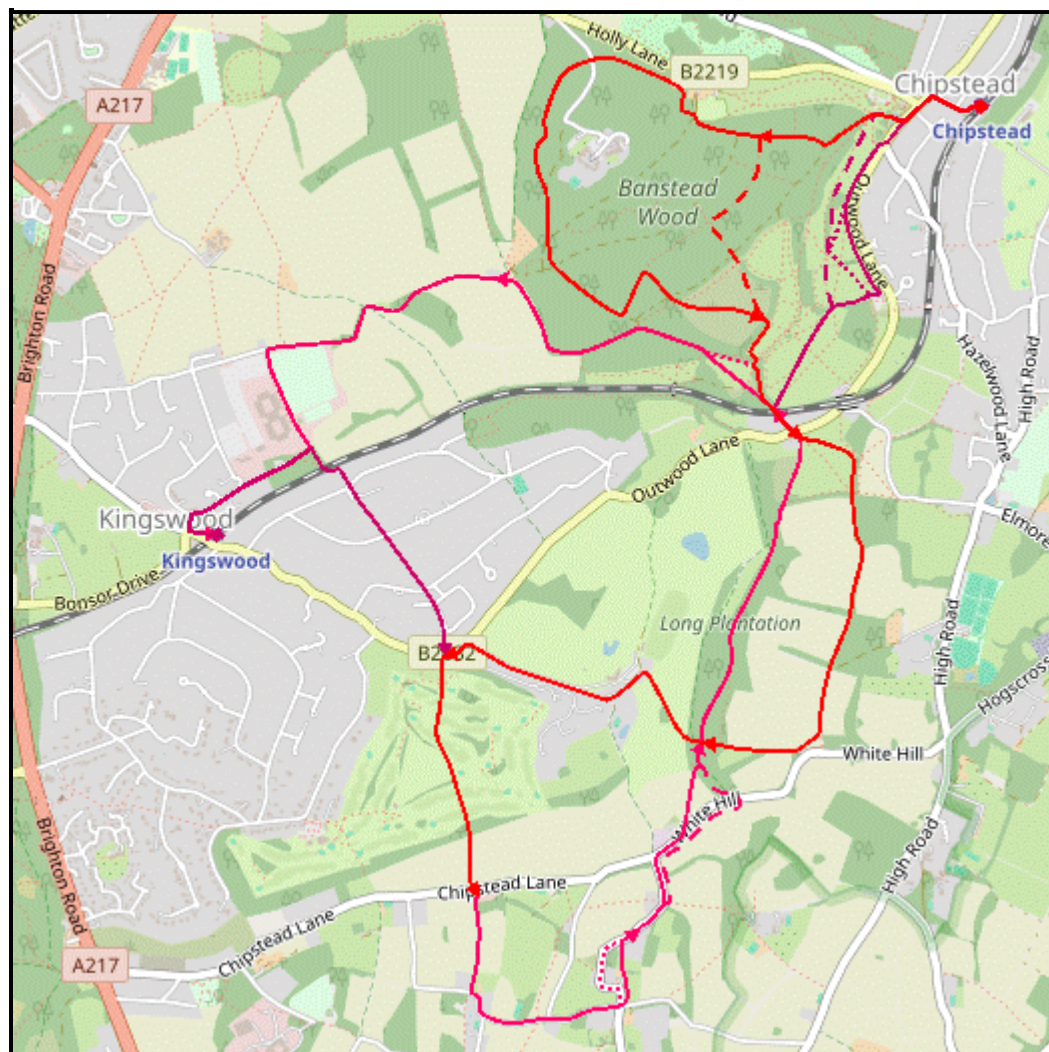
There are no bus routes in the area but you are never too far from one of these stations if you want to abandon the walk.

The small car park “for railway users only” at Chipstead station costs around £7 Mon-Fri but is free after 5pm and at weekends (2025). A good alternative is the large free car park off Holly Lane, near where the walk route enters Banstead Wood.

Suggested Train	Take the train nearest to 10:00 from London Bridge to Chipstead , or an hour later if doing an Alternative Walk from Kingswood .	
Lunch	The suggested lunch stop on the longer walks (8¼ km from Chipstead, but only 2¾ km if starting from Kingswood) is the Well House Inn (01737-830640; closed Mon & Tue) in Mugswell , a refurbished 16 th C country pub with a pleasant back garden on a grassy slope. On days when it is closed the only alternative would be to have a late lunch at one of the tea stops (see below), and these are also the only choices on the short walks which bypass Mugswell.	
Tea	<p>The suggested tea place in Kingswood is the Kingswood Arms (01737-354053), a country pub/restaurant with a large garden and patio area; it is directly opposite the station entrance and is normally open all day.</p> <p><i>There used to be an alternative place nearby but the Waterhouse Café closed at the end of 2023.</i></p> <p>If you are finishing at Chipstead there are a couple of small places in Station Parade: The Grape Variety wine bar (01737-559556; closed Mon & Tue) and a coffee shop, FILTR (07530-978654; open Thu-Sun to 3pm, closed Mon-Wed). Alternatively you could stop 1 km (15-20 minutes) before the station at the Ramblers Rest (01737-552661) pub on Outwood Lane.</p>	
Help Us!	<p>After the walk, please leave a comment, it really helps. Thanks!</p> <p>You can also upload photos to the   SWC Group on Flickr (upload your photos) and videos to  Youtube. This walk's tags are:</p>	
By Car	Start	Finish
Help	National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234	
Version	Mar-25 Sean	
Copyright	© Saturday Walkers Club. All Rights Reserved. No commercial use. No copying. No derivatives. Free with attribution for one time non-commercial use only. www.walkingclub.org.uk/site/license.shtml	

Walk Directions

Walk Map



All maps © OpenStreetMap contributors

Walk Options (Main | Short | Alt.)

M. Main Walk (15¼ km)

- Circular Walk, returning to Chipstead (13½ km)
- Short Walk, omitting loop to Mugswell (11 km)
- Short Circular Walk, omitting Mugswell (9¼ km)
- Alternative Circ. Walk, from Kingswood (9¾ km)
- Alternative Walk, finishing at Chipstead (8 km)

Walk Directions

If you are doing an Alternative Walk (from Kingswood), start at 5F.

A. Chipstead Station to “The Wardrobe” in Banstead Wood (1 km)

- Arriving from London on Platform 2, cross the footbridge and bear left out of the station. Go downhill past a parade of shops on Station Approach and turn left at the bottom onto the B2032 (Outwood Lane), going past a mini-roundabout at its junction with the B2219.
- Immediately after a side street on the left, cross Outwood Lane carefully and go through a wooden side gate onto a permissive path. Shortly before reaching a corner of Holly Lane car park **veer left** through a wooden gate onto a path slanting uphill past a hollow containing a group of information panels about **Chipstead Downs SSSI**¹.

3. Keep ahead at a path crossing (signposted to Perrotts Farm), going through a short yew avenue into **Banstead Wood**. At the next path junction **fork right** onto a broad path going uphill past two of the **Narnia** sculptures², **Aslan the Lion** and (just off to the right) **Lucy Pevensie by the lamppost**.

*Banstead Wood has many paths and to help with navigation both the main route and short cut follow part of a **Nature Trail**, marked with numbered posts starting here at ① (although a few are missing).*

4. After climbing for 200m **turn right** at a junction ② in front of a plantation of larch. The path swings left to head **W**. In 250m you reach the other two Narnia sculptures: **The Wardrobe** is beside the path but **The White Witch** is less obvious, about 75m away in the trees back on your right.

B. "The Wardrobe" to Stagbury Downs (2¾ • ¾ km)

The main route continues to follow the Nature Trail on its loop around Banstead Wood. For a more direct route, follow the directions in [6].

5. Main route (2¾ km)

- a. Continue along the main path for a further 250m, still following the Nature Trail and soon passing a hornbeam coppice stool ③.
- b. Stay on the main path as it veers right and then left through a slight dip, passing a large old hornbeam ④.
- c. Ignore a wide track off to a yard on the right but shortly afterwards **turn right** as indicated at a path crossing. Follow the path round to the left in front of an orchard ⑤.
- d. Later you pass a line of horse chestnuts ⑥ and some beeches ⑦ felled by the 1987 Great Storm.
- e. The path crosses a driveway flanked by horse barriers and gradually curves round to the left to head **S**, passing a large beech ⑧.
- f. Continue past areas with invasive (but colourful) rhododendron ⑨ and a Scots pine ⑩ with an owl nesting box.
- g. Eventually the path merges with a wider path from the left by an ash □, then in 200m another path joins from the left. In a further 100m you come to a major path junction.
- h. **Keep ahead** on a broad path heading **SE**, passing a rowan □ and a large sweet chestnut coppice stool □, to reach a fenced pond on the left by a sessile oak □.
- i. **Turn left** at the pond onto a side path heading roughly **NE** for 200m. At the first path junction **turn right**.
- j. In 125m go straight across the wood's wide perimeter path and through a belt of trees, including an ancient sweet chestnut with a latticed bark pattern.
- k. Bear left into a semi-open area, **Stagbury Downs**³. Continue on a broad grassy path between shrubs and small trees.
- l. In 300m **bear right** at a path junction, joining the short cut from the left and leaving the Nature Trail at □.



6. Short cut (¾ km)

- a. Immediately after The Wardrobe **turn left** onto a path going steadily uphill, heading **S** and following (in reverse) the end of the Nature Trail.
- b. In 125m bear slightly right at a path crossing □. In 200m you pass a collapsed stub oak coppice stool⁴ □ on the left-hand side of the path.

- c. In 75m **turn left** at the next path crossing. In 150m go straight across across the wood's wide perimeter path onto a grassy path through a semi-open area, **Stagbury Downs**³.
- d. In 200m **keep ahead** at a path junction, joining the main route from the right and leaving the Nature Trail at □.

C. Stagbury Downs to Shabden Park (½ km)

7. Go through a wide gap in the trees to emerge into the top of a field, with a fine view across Chipstead valley. Do not take the broad grassy path ahead down the slope, but **turn right** to go along the top of the field and then down its right-hand side.
8. Leave through a gap in the bottom corner on a path which merges with another from the left. In 25m you come to a staggered path junction with public footpaths off to both sides.
 - If you want to curtail the walk and head directly for [Kingswood](#), take the long straight fenced footpath off to the right. In 200m you can pick up the directions at [39] in §K, where the Main Walk joins from a path slanting up the semi-open area of downland on the left.
9. To continue the walk, **turn left** onto the other footpath. This immediately swings right and goes downhill through the trees, later merging with another path from the right. Just before reaching a wooden gate in front of a railway crossing, there is a side path leading back onto Chipstead Downs.
 - If you want to curtail the walk and head straight back to [Chipstead](#), turn left onto this side path and complete the directions at §M.
10. To continue the walk, cross the railway tracks and go down a fenced path between houses. Veer left across a side road and the B2032 (Outwood Lane again), aiming to the left of the **Old School House**⁵ garden opposite. Go through a wooden gate into the bottom corner of a large field, where there is an information panel about **Shabden Park**⁶.

D. Shabden Park to the Long Plantation (1¾ km)

11. Take the left-hand of the two signposted footpaths, a grassy path going diagonally up across the field. At the top ignore a path into the trees and **veer right** to go along its top edge. In the next corner go through a gate onto a farm track, heading **S** with a belt of trees on the left and views across a large open field in the valley on the right.
12. In 200m the track veers left and right. In a further 300m ignore an opening into the field behind the trees on the left, but 200m later (where the track swings sharply left uphill) **go through a small wooden gate** next to a metal fieldgate. Continue in the same direction on a broad grassy path along the side of the valley.
13. The right of way goes up to the field corner where a signposted permissive footpath points downhill, but most walkers veer right down a faint grassy path shortly before reaching the corner, a tiny short cut. At the bottom the path merges with a public footpath (on the RBBC's **Shabden & Upper Gatton Walk**⁷) and goes up the other side of the valley.
14. Follow the grassy path past a copse and up to the wood at the top of the valley. Go through a wooden kissing gate into the **Long Plantation** and follow the main path through the trees, ignoring some side paths off to the right. In 100m you come to a footpath crossing, just before a neglected horse ride.
If you are doing a Short Walk (omitting Mugswell), turn right at the footpath crossing and continue the directions at §J.

E. The Long Plantation to Eyhurst Park (1¼ km)

15. For the full walk go straight across both the footpath and the horse ride. Follow the path up to the right and out of the woodland onto a broad grassy strip along the edge of Surrey Downs golf course. At the end of the line of trees on your left keep ahead across a fairway, looking out for golfers driving across your path from a nearby tee on the right.
16. Leave the golf course on a short grassy track between fences. At a T-junction with a bridleway by Ganton House **turn left** onto the house's driveway. Ignore turnings into the golf club's car park on the right to continue on a tarmac drive lined with shaped holly trees, passing some converted farm buildings.
17. Keep to the right of a pond and continue on a long straight driveway sandwiched between the grounds of the Eyhurst Park development and the golf course. At the far end ignore a signposted footpath opposite and **turn left** onto the broad grass verge of the B2032 (Outwood Lane again). Shortly after passing a lodge at the gated entrance to Eyhurst Park **turn left** again onto another footpath.
 - If you want to abandon the walk, continuing along the road for 1 km would bring you to Kingswood station.

Continue the directions at §G.

F. Kingswood Station to Eyhurst Park (1¾ km)

18. Arriving from London on Platform 2, cross the footbridge and go out along the short approach road to a junction, with the **Kingswood Arms** opposite. Turn right to go up Furze Hill, then **fork right** into St Monica's Road. In 200m, where the road swings left, **keep ahead** on a private road (Homedale, which is also a public footpath).
19. At the end of this cul-de-sac continue on a woodland path to the right of a vehicle barrier, passing an abandoned car park. In 200m **turn right** at a footpath T-junction to go downhill. At the bottom cross the railway tracks and continue on a fenced path, briefly alongside the railway and then turning away from them.
20. You now follow this waymarked footpath gently uphill for 650m, mostly between high wooden fences but with a few short stretches on driveways. Along the way you cross several wide streets with large secluded houses and the path eventually ends at a road junction. Go straight across to continue on the footway on the right-hand side of the street ahead (Lilley Drive).
21. In 75m **bear right** to go alongside a tall garden hedge on a triangular strip of grass. After crossing a driveway keep ahead on a narrow path going gently downhill between high hedges to the B2032 (Outwood Lane). **Cross the road carefully** onto the continuation of the footpath, joining the main route from Chipstead.

G. Eyhurst Park to the Well House Inn (1 km)

22. The footpath goes past metal barriers and a waymarker shows that you have joined the RBBC's **Millennium Trail**⁷. In 100m the path emerges onto Kingswood golf course. *A line of marker posts every 50-100m indicates the onward route, and also the direction from which golfers are playing before you cross each fairway.*
23. Go straight ahead across three fairways and into a plantation of young trees. The right of way turns slightly left here (a marker post might be missing) and after crossing another fairway continues alongside some mature trees with a driving range off to the right.
24. Keep ahead through a belt of trees and across two more fairways. On the far side an inconspicuous gap in the trees leads you onto a short woodland path through Smugglers Pit Plantation to the top corner of a large field.

25. Go down the left-hand edge of this rough grassland to a stile at the bottom, leading directly onto Chipstead Lane. **Cross this road carefully** to the **Well House Inn**⁸ opposite, the suggested lunch stop.

H. The Well House Inn to Southernns Lane (1¼ km)

26. Take the continuation of the footpath you arrived on, a tree-lined path climbing away from the road at the side of the pub. At the top of the valley the narrow path continues beside paddocks, along the edge of a small field and past a few houses onto a lane in the hamlet of **Mugswell**.
27. Turn left onto the lane (leaving the two RBBC walks) and follow it round a right-hand bend. At a junction **fork left** into Rectory Road and follow this narrow lane for 600m, ignoring a couple of footpaths and Pigeonhouse Lane at the bottom of a shallow valley. You eventually reach a crossroads with a footpath signpost opposite.
- If the field opposite is too muddy you could turn left onto Southernns Lane and follow it down the hill, continuing the directions at §I.
28. For the suggested route go over the stile by the signpost and turn left as indicated. Follow the footpath across two paddocks to the right of Southernns Farm, going through a wooden gate in the fence between them.
29. In the corner bear left onto a grassy strip, then go over a couple of stiles onto a rather gloomy path leading back to Southernns Lane. Turn right onto this quiet lane, soon passing the attractive Bakehouse Cottage on your right.

I. Southernns Lane to the Long Plantation (¾ • 1 km)

30. Follow Southernns Lane downhill, making a couple of slight turns to the left. At the second of these bends (200m beyond Bakehouse Cottage) there is a footpath signpost pointing to a large field on the right. This is not the walk route, but in front of the fieldgate there is a permissive horse ride going down through the belt of trees alongside the lane.

If it is not too overgrown this alternative route in [32] avoids a short but awkward stretch on the much busier Chipstead Lane at the bottom of the valley. If it does become impassable there are places where you can revert to the main route.

31. Main route (¾ km)

- Stay on Southernns Lane to come to a T-junction at the bottom of the hill. Ignore the signposted bridleway opposite and **turn right** onto Chipstead Lane.
- For the next 150m you need to **take great care as there is no pavement** and the traffic can be quite fast. The turning off Chipstead Lane is the second of two footpaths close together on the left: not the first one pointing towards some derelict farm buildings after 125m.
- In a further 25m **bear left** off the road at the second footpath signpost, going alongside some new wooden fencing. Follow the grassy path out into a large field.
- Carry on in the same direction, slanting uphill. On the far side go over a stile into the **Long Plantation**. The footpath soon merges with a permissive horse ride coming up from the right (the alternative route).
- In 50m **fork right** to stay on the public footpath, ignoring a blue waymarker pointing left for the horse ride. In a further 50m keep ahead at a path crossing, going over your outward route.

32. Alternative route (1 km)

- a. Take the horse ride down to the bottom of the hill and follow it round to the right to continue alongside Chipstead Lane. If the next part of the ride is impassable, go out onto this fairly busy road and switch to the main route at [31·b] above.
- b. After 125m along the horse ride there are a couple of footpath signposts 25m apart on the other side of Chipstead Lane. If the ride has become impassable make your way carefully onto the road and switch to the main route at [31·c] above.
- c. In a further 275m the horse ride swings left and drops down to the road. The traffic is quite fast so **cross over with great care** to enter the southern end of the **Long Plantation**, with an information panel about **Shabden Park**.
- d. Take the track to the left of the information panel (the continuation of the horse ride), which soon curves up to the right. It merges with another track coming up from the road and shortly afterwards a public footpath joins from the left (the main route).
- e. In 50m **fork right** to stay on the public footpath, ignoring a blue waymarker pointing left for the horse ride. In a further 50m keep ahead at a path crossing, going over your outward route.

J. The Long Plantation to the Railway Crossing (1½ km)

33. Follow the footpath for around 1 km as it heads **N** through this long strip of woodland, ignoring a few link paths to the parallel horse ride on the left.
34. The path eventually veers right down an awkward little slope to the edge of the wood. Follow a narrow fenced path as it briefly zig-zags along the side of the valley and into a belt of trees.
35. Go through a gate and keep ahead along the left-hand side of a large field, gently downhill to the bottom corner. Leave through the gate where the outward route from Chipstead entered Shabden Park.
36. Veer left across the B2032 and go up the fenced path to the left of Rosemere Cottage. On the other side of the railway the main path climbs gently through a strip of woodland, with a side path branching up to the right.

If you are doing a version of the walk finishing at Chipstead, go to §M.

K. The Railway Crossing to Perrotts Farm (1½ km)

37. To head for Kingswood continue along the main path. In 75m **keep left** where it splits, leaving your outward route. At the next path crossing go straight ahead through a wooden gate into a field.
 - If this gate is locked there is a public footpath 75m off to the right, running alongside the top of the field. If you have to take this alternative route, resume the directions at [39].
38. For the main route simply follow a chalky path slanting up this patch of downland, dotted with shrubs and small trees. In the top corner go through another kissing gate and climb a short slope to merge with a public footpath from the right.
39. Continue along a clear woodland path above **Fames Rough**, now heading **WNW** on the **Banstead Countryside Walk**⁹ (BCW). In 250m you come to a T-junction with a three-way signpost and **turn left**, still following the BCW.
40. Continue on the woodland path for 400m, along the way leaving the BCW which drops down a side path into Fames Rough. The path eventually goes up a short slope to emerge into the corner of a large field.
41. Keep ahead near the right-hand field edge, alongside Banstead Wood. Up ahead you can see the buildings of Perrotts Farm and just before reaching them, **veer left** on a grassy path to pass to the left of a barn. Go through a wooden kissing gate and turn left onto the farm drive, a public bridleway.

L. Perrotts Farm to Kingswood Station (2 km)

42. Follow the farm drive for 600m, initially heading **W** and later curving left and right as it winds its way downhill. At the bottom of the slope a bridleway joins from the left. Almost immediately afterwards **turn left** through a metal gate onto another signposted bridleway.
43. Go up the right-hand edge of a field and follow the path round to the right at the top. Go through more gates as you head **W** along another field edge and then a fenced path, soon with what used to be a sports ground behind trees on your left. Ignore a track on the right and continue to a surfaced area by a couple of cottages.
44. **Turn left** off the track onto a signposted footpath, which goes through a belt of trees and comes out into a semi-open area, with a large car park off to the right. Carry straight on, passing to the left of a large abandoned office building, **Legal & General House**¹⁰.
At the time of writing the official right of way was not clear; there used to be some waymarker posts along the edge of the old sports ground.
45. Towards the far end of the building cross a tarmac path and take the signposted footpath going downhill through trees. In 100m **turn right** at a three-way footpath junction and follow this path through woodland and then alongside another car park.
46. Continue along a residential street and keep ahead where it joins St Monica's Road. In 200m the road swings left at its junction with Furze Hill and goes downhill to a crossroads. Refreshments are available at the mock-Tudor **Kingswood Arms** on the right and the station is 75m away along its short approach road on the left. Trains to London leave from Platform 1, on the near side.

M. The Railway Crossing to Chipstead Station (1¾ km)

47. To head for Chipstead **turn right** up this short side path and go through a wooden kissing gate onto **Chipstead Downs**¹. Keep ahead briefly on a grassy path with a fence on your right, then in 40m **fork left** onto a path gradually diverging from the fence.
48. In 400m several paths merge and you go through a wooden kissing gate into the next meadow.

The main route goes down to the bottom of the valley, but if you are not stopping at the Ramblers Rest (the only pub before the station) you can take the more scenic alternative route in [50].

49. Main route

- a. To go via the pub **turn right** onto a grassy path going downhill, with a belt of trees on your right. The path becomes a rough track which leads to a wooden gate into the **Ramblers Rest** car park. Bear right to come to its back entrance.
After visiting the pub any northwards route along the side of the downs will lead to the car park on Holly Lane or back onto Outwood Lane; for example, another grassy path leading away from the pub's car park intercepts the alternative route after 250m, in front of a hedge.
- b. For a straightforward route take the raised tarmac path running alongside Outwood Lane, with the road (later screened by a hedge) on your right. The path gradually curves round to the right and in 600m there is a gate leading out onto the road by a mini-roundabout.
- c. Unless you want to return to the car park by staying on the downs, the simplest route is to continue along the pavement on the right-hand side of Outwood Lane, eventually passing the gate onto Chipstead Downs near the start of the walk.
- d. Go past the mini-roundabout with the B2219 and turn right up Station Approach, with **The Grape Variety** (a wine bar) and **FILTR** (a coffee shop) in the parade of shops. At the top veer left to come to the station. Trains to London leave from Platform 1, on the near side.

50. Alternative route

- a. To bypass the pub take the left-hand of the two grassy paths ahead. Unless you want to switch to the lower route, keep left where the path splits. The higher path briefly goes through a copse and then slants up to continue alongside the bottom edge of Banstead Wood.
- b. Eventually you come to a surfaced path sloping down to the right in front of a hollow containing a group of information panels. Bear right onto this path and follow it down to Outwood Lane, retracing the outward route from Chipstead. Cross the road carefully and turn left.
- c. Go past the mini-roundabout with the B2219 and turn right up Station Approach, with **The Grape Variety** (a wine bar) and **FILTR** (a coffee shop) in the parade of shops. At the top veer left to come to the station. Trains to London leave from Platform 1, on the near side.

Walk Notes

1. **Chipstead Downs** is an important area of chalk downland which (with Banstead Wood) has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The information panels at Holly Lane car park describe its natural history and the impact of human settlement.
2. The four **Narnia** sculptures depicting *Lucy Pevensie, the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* were carved from standing deadwood by a local artist, Ella Fielding of The Tree Pirates. The Lucy sculpture is a 2024 replacement as the original was badly damaged in a storm.
3. **Stagbury Downs** was originally wooded but the area was cleared to grow crops in WWI. It has been replanted with trees so that it can revert to woodland.
4. A **stub coppice** is halfway between a coppice (cut at ground level) and a pollard (cut above head height). A strip of oak trees down the centre of Banstead Wood was cut like this to produce **compass timber**, artificially bending and staking the new shoots at 45°, 90° & 135° angles to make strong joining pieces for wooden ships.
5. The 17thC **Old School House** was acquired by a trust foundation to teach six poor boys and girls of the parish. It continued as a school until 1874 and the charitable trust still provides assistance to local parents.
6. **Shabden Park Estate** is managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. In the 1960s and 70s its rich wildflower grassland was severely damaged by intensive agriculture, but these farming methods were stopped in the 1980s and it is gradually returning to a wildlife-friendly habitat.
7. The **Shabden & Upper Gatton Walk** is one of six circular walks linked to a 28 km **Millennium Trail** between Banstead Downs and Horley, all created by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to mark the new century.
8. The **Well House Inn** claims to have in its garden the medieval **St Margaret's Well**, from which the village name **Mugswell** is derived.
9. The **Banstead Countryside Walk** skirts around Banstead Wood on a 5-mile circular route through the downs and farmland. It is an initiative of the Downlands Countryside Management Project.
10. **Legal & General House** was the financial services company's head office until it relocated back to the City of London in 2017. There is a proposal to redevelop the building as a Continuing Care Retirement Community.

» Last updated: March 4, 2025

© Saturday Walkers Club. All Rights Reserved. No commercial use. No copying. No derivatives. Free with attribution for one time non-commercial use only.
www.walkingclub.org.uk/site/license.shtml

saturdaywalkers@walkingclub.org.uk

No warranty, use at your own risk!

[Saturday Walkers Club © 2025](#)