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Dorking Circular walk

Out along the North Downs escarpment and back through the Greensand Hills.

Length	**Main Walk, via Wotton & Friday Street:** 18½ km† (11.5 miles). Four hours 40 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9½ hours. **Short Walk, omitting Friday Street:** 16 km† (9.9 miles). Three hours 55 minutes walking time. **Long Walk, via Abinger Common:** 22¾ km† (14.1 miles). Five hours 50 minutes walking time. **Alternative Walk, starting from Gomshall:** 15 km (9.3 miles). Three hours 45 minutes walking time. † Subtract 1¾ km (1.1 miles; 25 minutes) if starting from Dorking West and finishing at Dorking Deepdene. See Transport below.
OS Maps	Explorer 146 & (for the first 1½ km of the Alternative Walk) 145. Dorking, map reference TQ171504, is in Surrey, 11 km **W** of Redhill.
Toughness	6 out of 10 (4 for the Short & Alternative Walks, 8 for the Long Walk).
Features	The small market town of **Dorking** sits on the edge of the Greensand Hills, guarding a gap in the North Downs carved out by the River Mole. Many walks take in the famous Box Hill to the north-east, but this one covers the area on the opposite side of the town. The walk starts with a long stretch along the lower chalk slopes of the National Trust's **Denbies Hillside**, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) rich with wildflowers in spring and summer. It then heads south across a valley to the suggested lunch pub on the A25 at Wotton.

The Main Walk continues southwards into the wooded Greensand Hills, going through the extensive **Wotton Estate** to the picturesque hamlet of **Friday Street** with its large Hammer Pond, familiar from the Holmwood to Gomshall walk (1–42). As it heads back towards Dorking on open access land managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission the route crosses a number of ridges, the highest of which is a watershed separating the Tillingbourne and its tributaries (which turn westwards to the River Wey at Guildford) from those which flow into the River Mole at Dorking.

After passing the large ponds of **Bury Hill Fisheries** a final climb takes you along the top of **The Nower**, a semi-natural woodland reserve with splendid views. There are plenty of opportunities for refreshment in Dorking before the journey back.

The many rivers and streams which tumble down the Greensand Hills are fed by natural springs and you can expect to encounter muddy or even waterlogged paths at almost any time of the year (some otherwise pleasant routes in the area had to be rejected for this reason). Wet weather will also make the chalk paths on the first part of the walk quite slippery.

Walk Options

The **Short Walk** takes a less hilly return route after the lunch pub in Wotton, but cuts out the attractive woodland stretches around Friday Street.

The **Long Walk** extends the morning route with a longer loop out to the west through **Abinger Roughs**, taking a different route through this attractive area from Walk 1–42. The suggested lunch pub on this route is in Abinger Common.

In 2018 directions were added for a short link route from **Gomshall** (the next station along the Guildford–Redhill line) to the second half of the Long Walk. The Abinger Common pub comes quite soon on this **Alternative Walk**, so it can be done with a late start.

Using this link route in the other direction would make an equally nice Dorking–Gomshall walk, but this variation has not been included as it has no convenient refreshment places.

Transport

Unless you are doing the Alternative Walk, buy a ***return to Dorking Stations***. This is valid to all three of the town's stations, direct or via Redhill. Slightly cheaper “Southern Only” tickets are available from Victoria to Dorking (Main) on the direct route.

Starting from **Dorking West** (on the Guildford–Redhill line) has the advantage of taking you straight onto the North Downs, but its off-peak GWR service is only two-hourly and you need to change at Redhill when travelling from London. All the trains on this line stop at **Dorking Deepdene**, which has two trains an hour.

Deepdene and the town's main station are on the ‘wrong’ side of the town for this walk, but they have much more frequent services and the link route is through a pleasant open space, Meadowbank. **Dorking (Main)** is served by Southern trains from Victoria (half-hourly) and South Western trains from Waterloo (hourly), both taking just under an hour.

	For the **Alternative Walk** buy a ***return to Gomshall***, on the same line as Dorking West with a similarly infrequent service. You can travel out via either Redhill/Dorking or Guildford, but you will need a more expensive "Any Permitted" ticket for the latter. With a railcard discount, a Zones 1-6 Travelcard plus an extension to Gomshall (which is valid on both routes) is good value if travelling via Guildford. If driving, Dorking (Main) station car park costs about £8 Mon–Fri, £4 Sat, £2.50 Sun & BH (2024). For the Alternative Walk you could take a bus out to Gomshall or a train from Deepdene (most trains from Dorking West do not call at Gomshall, and vice versa). There is a regular bus service along the A25 between Guildford, Gomshall, Wotton, Dorking and Redhill: Compass 32 runs to around 6pm (hourly Mon–Sat and two-hourly Sun & BH, when operated by Metrobus). There is also a two-hourly service between Dorking and Abinger Common (Mon–Fri only), Metrobus 22. If the trains were disrupted you could take London bus 465 from Dorking to Kingston.
Suggested Train	If convenient, take a train via Redhill connecting with a service arriving at **Dorking West** between 10:30 & 11am. Otherwise, take the train nearest to **09:30** from **Victoria** or **Waterloo** direct to **Dorking (Main)**, or the train nearest to **10:00** for the Short Walk. For the Alternative Walk, aim to start from **Gomshall** at around 11.30am.
Lunch	The suggested place on the **Main & Short Walks** is the **Wotton Hatch** (01306-887694) on the A25 at Wotton, after 7½ km‡. This country pub & restaurant serves food all day and has a large beer garden with views of the North Downs, but inevitably has some traffic noise from the main road. The suggested place on the **Long & Alternative Walks** is the **Abinger Hatch** (01306-730737) in Abinger Common, after 12¼ km‡ (4¾ km on the Alternative Walk). This "quintessential independent country pub" serves freshly-cooked food all day and has a large beer garden and picnic tables. *There used to be more choice for a pub lunch but the **Stephan Langton** at Friday Street is being converted into residential accommodation. **The Volunteer** in Sutton Abinger (an earlier alternative on the Long & Alternative Walks) closed in 2022 but directions to it have been retained in case it reopens.* ‡ Subtract 1½ km if starting from Dorking West.
Tea	In **Dorking** the walk route comes out on South Street, near its junction with the High Street and West Street. Some places nearby are **Two Many Cooks** (01306-882200; open to 5pm Mon, Fri & Sat, 4pm Sun & Tue–Thu) at 32 South Street; **Mullins Coffee Shop** (01306-889967; open to 4pm Tue–Sat, closed Sun & Mon) at 58 West Street; **Cosy Moose** (open daily to 4pm), an artisan coffee shop at 1 High Street; and **Harts at the Courtyard** (07804-297475; open to 4pm Tue–Sat, closed Sun & Mon) in Old Kings Head Court. If these are closed the town has most of the usual suspects (Costa, Starbucks, etc) and plenty of pubs. In the station itself **Colairo's** coffee shop is only open to 4pm Mon–Fri, 2pm Sat (closed Sun).
Help Us!	After the walk, please leave a comment, it really helps. Thanks!

You can also upload photos to the SWC Group on Flickr (upload your photos) and videos to Youtube. This walk's tags are:

By Car	**Start** RH4 1TF
Help	National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234
Version	Mar-24 **Sean**
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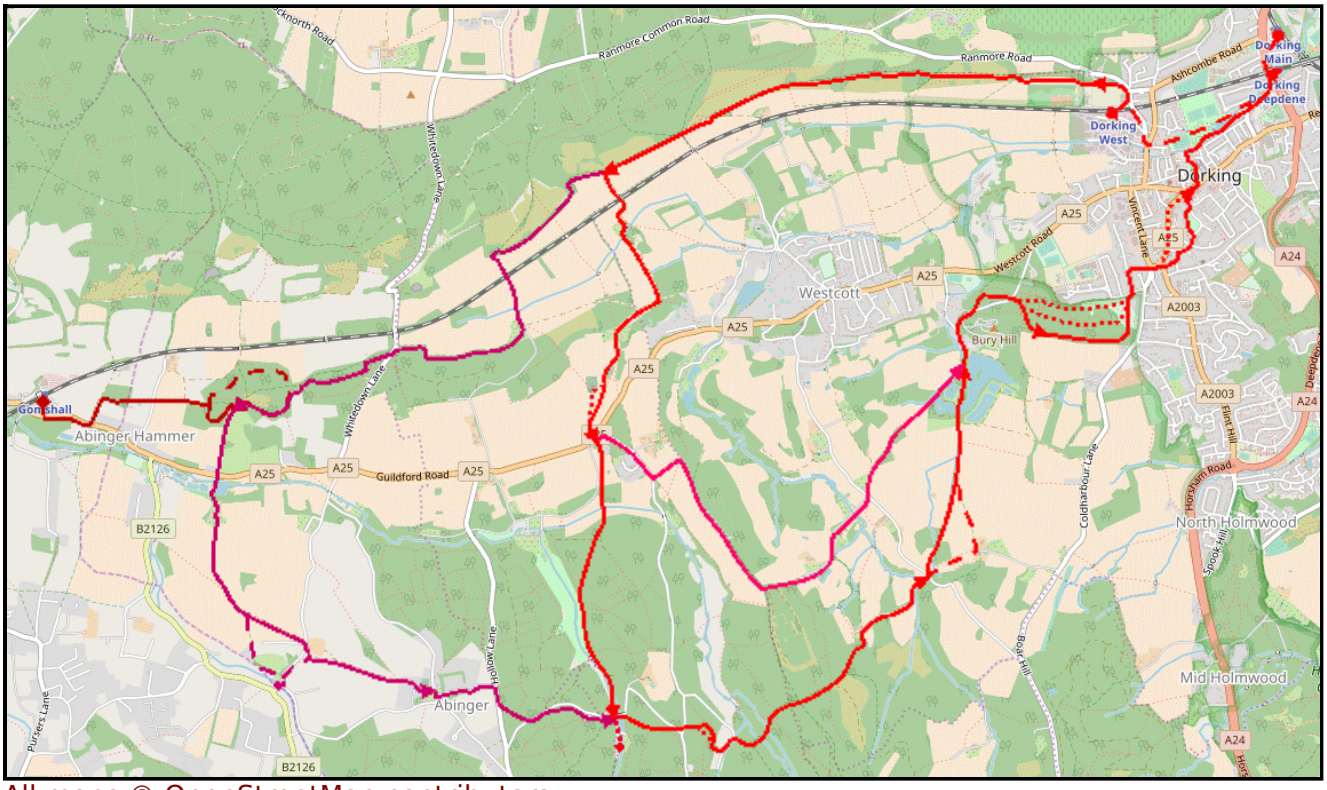
Walk Directions

Walk Map



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Walk Options (Circ.)

M. Main Walk, via Wotton & Friday Street (18½ • 16¾ km)

a. Short Walk, omitting Friday Street (16 • 14¼ km)

b. Long Walk, via Abinger Common (22¾ • 21 km)

c. Alternative Walk, starting from Gomshall (15 km)

The shorter distances are when starting from Dorking West and finishing at Dorking Deepdene.

Walk Directions

If you are doing the Alternative Walk (from Gomshall), start at §G.

A. Dorking Stations to Denbies Hillside (2 • 1¾ • ½ km)

Directions are given from each of Dorking's three stations.

1. Starting from Dorking (Main) (2 km)

> Leave the station through the booking hall. Go out along Station Approach and turn left onto the A24. In 125m you go under the Guildford–Redhill railway line by the exit from Dorking Deepdene.

2. Starting from Dorking Deepdene (1¾ km)

> Go down steps at the Guildford end of the platform to the A24, joining the route from Dorking (Main).

3. Cross the main road at the pedestrian lights, turn left on the far side and then ***turn right*** at the junction into London Road. In 200m do not be tempted by a public footpath sign ahead (the return route), but shortly before reaching it ***turn right*** into the driveway to **Pippbrook Mill**[1].
4. Pass to the left of the old building, crossing over Pipp Brook. At the end turn left onto a residential street (Fairfield Drive) and then immediately bear left onto a tarmac path. Follow the path alongside the stream and into Meadowbank Recreation Ground, now with the old millpond on your left.
5. At the end of the lake ignore a path to the left and continue on either of two tarmac paths ahead, which skirt around a narrow play area. After these paths rejoin keep ahead on an alleyway, signposted to Chalkpit Lane and Dorking West station.
6. In 250m go straight across the A2003 (Chalkpit Lane) and keep ahead past a small parade of shops. At the far end ***turn right*** onto Ranmore Road, crossing over to the left-hand side after passing Station Road. The road climbs gently, crosses over the Guildford–Redhill line and passes another exit from Dorking West station.

7. Starting from Dorking West (½ km)

> If arriving by train from Redhill, go through the underpass to exit from Platform 1. Bear right onto either of the two lanes and turn left at the top onto Ranmore Road, joining the route from the other Dorking stations.

8. Follow the road past a primary school and round to the left. The pavement leads onto an unsurfaced path, with the school's chainlink fence on the left and trees on the right. In 200m, shortly after a driveway has appeared on the right, ***fork left*** onto a permissive path with a yellow NT waymarker, entering the National Trust's **Denbies Hillside**.

B. Denbies Hillside to White Down Lease (3¼ km)

9. In 75m ***fork left*** at another yellow NT waymarker, staying on the attractive woodland path; there is a parallel chalky track off to the right (the **Old Carriage Road**[2]) which you will be joining later. In 400m the woodland path swings right and comes to a T-junction.
10. Do not take the track down to the left (which leads into a meadow), but ***veer right*** to join the Old Carriage Road: either by scrambling up a small bank or via a gentle slope up to the right followed by a sharp left turn.
    The rest of this section follows the NT's "Walk the Chalk" from Dorking to Gomshall, with its green waymarkers.

11. The chalky track climbs steadily across the side of the downs, soon with increasingly fine views of the wooded Greensand Hills away to the left (with **Leith Hill Tower** visible in a gap in the trees on the horizon, 7 km away). After going into a copse keep ahead at an oblique crossing with a public bridleway.
12. In a further 400m the track swings right and comes to a three-way junction where you ***fork left*** onto the Westcott branch of the Old Carriage Road. The track now descends steadily for over 1 km, partly through copses but mostly with open downland on your left. It eventually swings left and comes to a T-junction where you ***turn right***.
13. Follow this permissive bridleway uphill, through a wooden gate and then along the hillside. In 200m keep ahead at a junction of tracks, now on a public bridleway through a wooded area. Ignore a fork up to the right and continue on a level path through the trees.
14. The bridleway emerges into the open hillside of the National Trust's **White Down Lease**. In a further 350m you come to a signpost indicating that the public bridleway turns left while the “Walk the Chalk” route continues on the permissive bridleway ahead.
    If you are doing the Long Walk, go to §F.

C. White Down Lease to Wotton (2¼ km)

15. ***Turn left*** through a wooden gate and follow the public bridleway down the right-hand side of a field. After going under the railway line the track swings right, left and right again, passing a cluster of buildings at Stockmans Coomb Farm. Follow its long driveway round to the left and all the way out to a T-junction.
16. At the junction ***turn right*** onto another driveway, with a long fenced paddock on your left. At a fork in 150m keep left, staying alongside the paddock. In 250m bear left past a group of houses and go over a stile to the right of a wooden fieldgate onto a grassy track. Follow this as it curves round to the right into an attractive open valley.
17. At a path junction in 150m the simplest route is to continue along the valley floor, passing to the right of two tree-lined ponds ahead. In a further 200m you will pass below the old church of **St John the Evangelist**[3] on the right.
    - There are several paths sloping up the side of the valley if you want to take a closer look at the church, but it is usually only open on Sundays in summer. If you do this, continue along its access lane at the top of the valley.
18. The footpath along the valley floor climbs gently and eventually you go through a gate to join the lane from the church. This leads out to the A25, with the **Wotton Hatch** pub opposite. Use the traffic island just off to the left to ***cross this busy main road with great care***.
    Note that this is now the only pub on both the Main and Short Walk routes.
    If you are doing the Short Walk, go to §E.

D. Wotton to Friday Street (2 km)

This section follows the route of Walk 1–42 (in reverse).

19. For the **Main Walk** make your way to the pub's car park, either directly from its beer garden or along the driveway to the left of the pub, signposted to Wotton Village Hall. At the back of the car park go through a metal kissing gate to the left of the village hall and follow a faint grassy path to the far right-hand corner of a large field (ignoring a gate on the right-hand side leading out to a lane).
20. In the corner go through “Gordon's Gate” and follow a path down through the trees, across the **River Tillingbourne**[4] in a meadow and up the other side of the valley. Go over a stile and continue on the woodland path for 500m, over the shoulder of Oldpark Hill.

21. At the bottom of a long slope bear left onto a broad track running along the edge of the wood, with another river valley on the right. In 500m go through a wooden fieldgate and keep ahead at a footpath crossing (with a nice view of the valley from the bridge on the right).
22. In a further 150m go past Yew Tree Cottage and fork right onto an unsurfaced driveway, climbing gently past several more houses. At the top ***turn left*** at a road junction by the north-west corner of the large **Hammer Pond**[5] in the hamlet of **Friday Street**[6].
    Continue the directions at §J.

E. Wotton to Bury Hill Fisheries *direct* (4 km)

23. For the **Short Walk** take the minor road (Damphurst Lane) to the left of the pub, which in 250m comes to the entrance to a business park. For the suggested route ***veer left*** onto a signposted footpath running parallel to the lane behind a belt of trees.
    - If the footpath is overgrown you can simply stay on the lane.
24. Where the path rejoins the lane ***turn left*** onto either a fenced footpath or the track running alongside it (Wolvens Lane, a public byway). In 200m both come to a major path junction where you ***turn right*** onto a broad track heading **SE**, the continuation of Wolvens Lane.
25. You now follow this tree-lined byway (or a parallel sandy path on its right) for 1 km, climbing gently along a ridge. There is coppiced woodland on the left and fields sloping down into a valley on the right.
    The sandy path was a useful alternative at points where the byway used to become waterlogged, but its condition has been improved with a stony surface.
26. Shortly after the end of the wood on the left (opening up a clear view of the North Downs) ***turn left*** off the byway onto a signposted bridleway. This fenced path goes downhill for 300m and leads into a small clearing with a sign for Logmore Farm. Join its long driveway and follow it past fields and cottages for 700m to a T-junction with Logmore Lane.
27. Go across the lane (slightly to the left) onto another driveway, with a sign for Surrey Hills Yurts. Where the drive forks after 200m, go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal gate into the field ahead. Follow this fenced footpath downhill for 300m (with some potentially muddy stretches) and out into a meadow.
28. Continue across the meadow on a grassy path. In the far corner go through a metal kissing gate and across a footbridge onto a path between hedges, with the ponds of **Bury Hill Fisheries** on the right. At the end go over **Milton Brook** on another footbridge and turn left, joining the longer routes.
    Continue the directions at §L.

F. White Down Lease to Abinger Roughs (4 km)

29. For the **Long Walk** continue on the permissive path. In 200m go through a gate and follow the track as it turns left and right through a copse, then back through another gate onto the open hillside again. In 600m the track bends right and comes to a junction where you finally leave the “Walk the Chalk” route: ***turn left*** onto a public bridleway, which swings all the way round to the left in a tight curve as it descends.
    - You could also take an unmarked path down through the trees on the left just before this junction; this simply cuts off a corner and joins the bridleway lower down.
30. Either way, follow the bridleway out through a wooden gate onto farmland. Continue on a farm track down the left-hand edge of the field and then over the railway line on a wide bridge, towards the buildings of Park Farm. Alongside the large farmhouse the track comes to a major path junction where you ***turn half-right*** onto a bridleway going past some old barns towards a wood, now on Cycle Route 22 (CR 22).
    The next 1 km follows the route of Walk 1–42.

31. At the edge of **Deerleap Wood** keep left to continue on a narrow fenced path between the trees and a large field for nearly 1 km, heading **W**. After turning right and then left the path comes out onto a road (White Down Lane) where you turn left. Almost immediately ***veer right*** at a CR 22 signpost onto a track into **Abinger Roughs**[8].
32. At the start of a patch of grassland ignore a path forking up to the left, but in a further 75m ***turn left*** by a large granite cross, the **Wilberforce Memorial**[9]. At the top of the slope ***turn right*** at a path crossing onto another broad grassy track and follow this for 400m. Shortly before it comes to a T-junction with the track you were on earlier there is an information panel about the **Witch's Broom Tree**[10] on the left.
33. At the T-junction turn left briefly onto the track. In 20m ignore one path going back up to the left but 20m later ***turn left*** onto a second path (both with yellow NT waymarkers), heading **S**. In 50m ***turn right*** at a path crossing and go across a potentially boggy area by an old well. Continue up a short slope and round to the left, merging with a path from the right.
There is another unusual tree in this boggy area: many years ago an American ash was grafted onto the trunk of an English ash, just above ground level.
34. After going through a more open area and curving right, keep ahead at a footpath crossing. Follow the path for a further 200m to an open glade and continue along its left-hand edge. In the next corner ***fork left*** at a major path junction onto a public bridleway sloping down to a wooden fieldgate, leaving the Roughs.
Continue the directions at §H.

G. Gomshall Station to Abinger Roughs (1¾ • 2¾ km)

35. Do not leave the station via its approach road but take a footpath from the Redhill end of Platform 2 (if arriving on a train from Guildford, cross over the new footbridge to come directly to this exit). At the bottom of this fenced path turn left and go alongside the busy A25 for 350m, ***crossing over carefully*** to the pavement on the other side at the end of the houses on your left.
36. Opposite the entrance to a Trout Farm cross back over the main road and ***turn left*** into Beggars Lane, signposted as a byway. In 200m, at the start of a wood on your right, ***turn right*** up a narrow path into **Piney Copse**[11], passing a National Trust information panel at its entrance.
37. Follow the public footpath through this small open-access wood and continue along a fenced path at the top of a field, heading **E**. Cross over a lane (slightly to the right) and go through a wooden gate to maintain direction on a bridleway along the edge of another field.
38. On the far side go through a wooden side gate into **Abinger Roughs**[8] and continue along the main bridleway. In 150m you come to a path crossing at the start of an attractive area of mixed woodland and grassland, with a choice of routes.
If you want to explore this area more fully, take the longer route in [40].

39. Main route

a. ***Turn right*** at the path crossing, heading **S**. Follow the path as it curves gradually round to the left, and keep left where the NT's ‘Snowdrop Path’ joins from the right. Later you might be able to see the continuation of your route down to your right: a public bridleway almost doubling back from your current direction.
b. The two paths gradually come closer together and you could simply turn sharp right onto it when they meet at a major path junction, but if you spot a wooden fieldgate on the bridleway (50m before the junction) you can nip down the bank and turn right to go through it, leaving the Roughs.

40. Longer route (+1 km)

a. ***Turn left*** at the path crossing, heading **N** and now on the **Abinger Roughs Nature Trail**. Follow its green waymarkers as the trail winds its way along the edge of the wood, gradually curving round to the right and with a meadow down to the left.

b. The trail eventually crosses a public bridleway and heads **E** on a long straight path between rhododendrons and azaleas. At the end follow the path round to the right, now heading **S**.

c. Keep ahead at another bridleway crossing (leaving the Nature Trail, which turns left to loop around the eastern half of the Roughs). You soon merge with another path coming up from a wooded depression on the left, the Long Walk route from Dorking.

d. After going through a more open area and curving right, keep ahead at a footpath crossing. Follow the path for a further 200m to an open glade and continue along its left-hand edge. In the next corner ***fork left*** at a major path junction onto a public bridleway sloping down to a wooden fieldgate, leaving the Roughs.

H. Abinger Roughs to Abinger Common (3 km)

41. Follow a grassy path near the right-hand edge of a large meadow, curving gently round to the left. At the far end go through a wooden gate and down a gloomy sunken path. In 250m this comes out onto a busy main road with limited visibility, the A25.

42. ***Cross the A25 with great care*** and continue on the tarmac lane opposite, a public bridleway. Follow this past a new house (Paddington Mill), a fishing pond and then some farm buildings. After going up a short slope ***veer left*** in front of Paddington Farmhouse, then immediately ***turn right*** onto a track, the continuation of the bridleway.

43. This potentially muddy track climbs gently between tall hedges, then levels out with views across farm fields. In 600m keep ahead where a footpath joins from the right. In a further 125m you come to another three-way path junction in front of a line of trees, with the bridleway turning right and a footpath going through a gap in the trees.

The alternative directions in [45] are to a (possibly closed) lunch pub in Sutton Abinger.

44. Main route

a. Take the footpath through the trees and bear right to cross a large field; if there is no clear path, aim for a double wooden fieldgate in the far corner, 400m away. Continue on a narrow path to the right of this fieldgate to come to a minor road (Raikes Lane).

b. Turn right briefly onto the lane, then before it drops downhill ***veer left*** onto a signposted footpath. Go through a wooden kissing gate towards a cluster of farm buildings and turn right as indicated. Continue on a short track to the left of Raikes Farmhouse and ***turn left*** at a T-junction.

45. ~~**Route via The Volunteer (+350m)**~~

a. For the alternative route ***turn right*** in front of the trees onto the narrow bridleway, heading **S**. In 300m this swings left and joins a long driveway. At the end turn right onto a minor road (Raikes Lane), coming to the **The Volunteer** pub on the right in 50m.

b. Afterwards retrace your steps up Raikes Lane and carry on past the driveway. In a further 75m ***turn right*** up a flight of steps in the bank, signposted as a footpath. Continue on a narrow fenced path at the top of the bank, later bearing right away from the lane. Before reaching some farm buildings ***turn right*** at a Y-junction.

46. Head **E** along a narrow path between hedges for 200m, then in much the same direction on a farm track for a further 450m. Shortly after another footpath joins from the left go through a kissing gate and follow an enclosed path as it skirts around the buildings of **Abinger Manor**[12].

47. Continue through an old gate into a churchyard and up to **St James'** church[13], which is worth a quick visit. Leave through its lychgate and go along a tarmac path to a road (Abinger Lane), passing some old stocks off to the left. The route continues along the road to the right, but if you are stopping for lunch here the **Abinger Hatch** is directly opposite.

I. Abinger Common to Friday Street (1½ km)

48. Turn left out of the pub to head **S** briefly on Abinger Lane. At the end of the pub's beer garden ***turn left*** into a narrow road (Donkey Lane). This dips downhill and goes round a couple of sharp bends, passing the entrance gates to some houses. After climbing back up it comes to a T-junction with a sunken road (the aptly-named Hollow Lane).
49. Turn right and go along this road ***with great care*** as there is no pavement and more traffic than you might expect. In 100m ***veer left*** off the road onto a signposted bridleway, a muddy sunken path which climbs up through the wood. Where it splits at the top of the slope the slightly raised left-hand path is preferable, as it joins the lane ahead 100m further on.
50. Continue briefly along the lane (the oddly-named Friday Street Road), ignoring a driveway and a signposted footpath on the left, then take a path running along its right-hand bank. This gradually climbs above the level of the road on the edge of the wooded Abinger Common.
    There are plenty of tempting little paths meandering through this open-access woodland but for simplicity the walk route follows a fairly straightforward course alongside lanes or on defined rights of way.
51. In 250m continue along the roadside path past a large car park (or detour through it and rejoin the path on the other side). The path goes alongside a wooden fence as it follows the road downhill. At the bottom go down a few steps to join the road. In 60m keep ahead at a road junction by the north-west corner of the large **Hammer Pond**[5] in the hamlet of **Friday Street**[6].

J. Friday Street to Logmore Lane (3 km)

52. Head **E** alongside the pond, on Noons Corner Road. At the end of the pond ***fork right*** off the road onto a signposted footpath into a wooded area. The path veers away from the pond, climbs steadily and then levels off, passing a National Trust sign for **Severell's Copse** on the right. The path eventually comes to a lane, Noons Corner Road again.
53. Go across the lane (slightly to the right) to continue on the footpath, which soon crosses another lane. At a junction after 100m the suggested route is to ***fork left*** and follow the path down and round a curve to the right, merging with another footpath from the left; later the potentially awkward path from the (slightly shorter) other fork rejoins from the right.
54. Shortly after the two routes rejoin you come to a footpath junction in a small clearing where you ***turn left***. Go down a broad gap between houses and ***turn left*** onto a lane in the hamlet of **Broadmoor**. Go past a few cottages and then ***turn right*** onto a private road to a number of houses, which is also a public bridleway.
55. In 100m ***turn left*** at a bridleway junction onto a track leading to two cottages. Go across a potentially muddy area at the bottom of a dip and past their entrances onto a broad path going uphill, initially between fences. After climbing steadily through a wood for 200m the path bends right and at the top of the hill you pass a large cleared area on the right.

56. Go straight across a broad sandy track (a public byway) flanked by a pair of metal vehicle barriers onto the bridleway opposite. In 175m ***fork right*** to continue on this rough track, gently downhill, to a major path junction. Ignore all the obvious forest tracks and ***take a narrow path ahead*** into the trees, now descending more steeply.
57. In 150m ***keep left*** at a three-way signpost. In 200m ignore a footpath branching off to the left through a new metal gate and stay on the bridleway as it skirts around a large property, turning left at the edge of the wood. At the entrance to Squire's Farm ***turn right*** onto its long driveway (still on a public bridleway) and follow it for 600m between fields and through copses to a T-junction with Logmore Lane.

K. Logmore Lane to Bury Hill Fisheries (1½ • 1¾ km)

The main route for this section goes past one of the sources of Milton Brook. If this area proves too boggy you could return and switch to the alternative route in [59].

58. Main route (1½ km)

a. Go through the gate into the field opposite and take the ***left-hand*** of two footpaths, a grassy path which goes up to and along the left-hand side of some trees. At the bottom of the field make your way across a boggy area and through a metal kissing gate into a wood.
b. Follow the path down through the wood and out through another kissing gate into a long narrow field. Go all the way along its left-hand edge to a metal fieldgate at the far end.

59. Alternative route (1¾ km)

a. Go through the gate into the field opposite and take the ***right-hand*** of two footpaths, a grassy path which goes down to a metal fieldgate in a dip. Go through a side gate and continue along the left-hand edge of a farm field sloping up to the right.
b. At the end of the trees on your left go past a redundant gate and keep ahead down through another field, aiming for the centre of a barn if there is no clear path. At the bottom of the field veer left as indicated to pass to the left of the barn.
c. Go through a gap in the hedge and ***turn left*** onto a farm track, which in 300m leads into a long narrow field. Follow a faint grassy path all the way along it to a metal fieldgate at the end.

60. Go through a metal kissing gate to the right of the fieldgate and continue in the same direction on a tree-lined path, alongside **Milton Brook** on your left. In 150m go straight across a link road between the ponds of **Bury Hill Fisheries**, then in a further 400m cross another link road. On the far side of the second road a footpath joins from a footbridge on the left, the route of the Short Walk.

L. Bury Hill Fisheries to The Nower (Temple) (1 km)

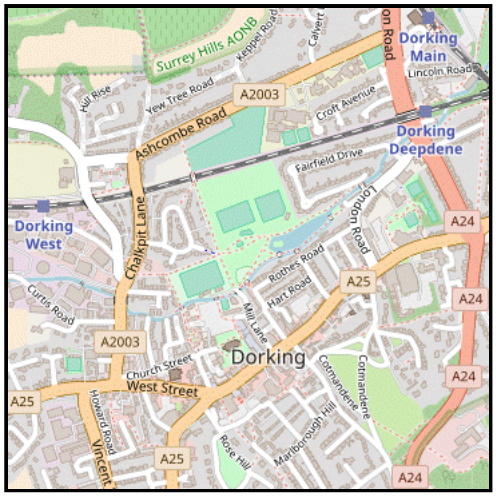
61. Head **N** along the path, with Milton Brook on the left and the private road for the Fisheries behind trees on the right. At the end go through an old iron gate and continue on a tarmac lane curving gently left. 50m after passing a house “The Hedgerow” on the right, ***bear right*** onto a signposted bridleway into the trees.
62. The path climbs gently and curves round to the right. On the right you pass a high brick wall and then a curious brick and stone structure, looking like a modern ice house. After passing under a footbridge the path goes past a house and joins the tarmac driveway from Old Bury Hill House. Continue briefly along this drive to a signposted path crossing.
63. The suggested route (nicer than staying on the driveway) is to ***veer left*** down a slope on the signposted bridleway. In 75m ***turn right*** onto a narrow path through the ferns, soon bending slightly left to run parallel to the drive, off to the right.

64. In 300m go past a vehicle barrier and straight across the drive (which has curved left) to a small clearing with an information panel for “Milton Heath & The Nower”. The suggested route through **The Nower**[14] follows the waymarked **Greensand Way**[15] (GW).
    - For a shorter and easier route through this wood you can take any of the paths going straight ahead, heading roughly east. Sooner or later you will come out onto a large open space and can aim for the exit in its far left-hand corner. If you do this, resume the directions at [67] in §M.
65. For the suggested route take the path to the right of the panel and ***fork right*** at the next two path junctions, following the GW waymarkers. This takes you up a fairly steep slope, with a couple of short flights of steps along the way. The path eventually curves left, passes a vehicle barrier and goes up to an ornamental **Temple** at the top of the ridge.
    Through gaps in the trees there are views of the Greensand Hills to the south and the vineyard on Denbies Hillside to the north. The tall spire of Dorking's parish church is 1½ km to the north-east, with Box Hill 2 km beyond it.

M. The Nower to Dorking High Street (2 km)

66. Continue on the broad grassy path along the top of the wooded ridge for 600m. The best way down is to ***turn left*** shortly before the far end where there is a partly-concealed GW waymarker in the ferns on the right, by a memorial bench to Noel & Ilse Wightman. Follow a narrow path down through the trees to a large open area and keep ahead on a grassy path heading **N** to the far corner.
67. In the corner follow a short path past a metal fieldgate to a residential street (Hampstead Lane). Cross over into Nower Road, following a brown GW sign. In 150m ***turn right*** onto another branch of Nower Road. At the end continue on a tarmac footpath which drops down to the A25, taking westbound traffic through Dorking's one-way system. Bear right, cross over Falkland Road and go along the right-hand side of the A25.
    - For a direct route to the town centre you could simply stay on the A25 as it curves round to the left, but the route via Rose Hill is more interesting and takes you away from the worst of the traffic noise.
68. For the suggested route, cross over Horsham Road and take the tarmac footpath to the right of the **Queens Head**, signposted to Rose Hill & St Paul's and going uphill. At the top turn left onto an alleyway (Peacock Walk), which leads to a street (Rose Hill). Turn right and follow this street gently uphill and round a long curve to the left, later with low flint walls on both sides.
69. In 200m the road forks in front of a large sloping green, with a chainlink fence protecting its grazing sheep. Go round either side of this green (surrounded by 19thC villas) to the bottom and continue on a one-way street leading back to the main road, passing under the picturesque **Rose Hill Arch**[16] along the way. At the bottom you come out onto the A25 (South Street) by an old coaching inn, the **Bulls Head**.
70. There are several refreshment places nearby. **Two Many Cooks** is on the other side of the main road, just off to the left. Turning right instead would bring you to a **Costa** by the traffic lights, with **Cosy Moose** and Old Kings Head Court (containing **Harts at the Courtyard**) opposite. The historically interesting **Mullins Coffee Shop**[17] is 75m along West Street from this junction.
    - This is only a selection: there are more coffee shops, pubs and fast food places along the High Street.

N. Dorking High Street to the Stations (1¼ • 1½ km)



71. For a relatively traffic-free route to the station, head **E** along the High Street from its junction with South Street and West Street. About 30m before the pedestrian lights ***turn left*** into a broad passageway, which leads to a small green in front of the imposing **St Martin's** church[18].
72. Unless you want to visit the church (its entrance is on the left), fork right and go past its eastern end. Continue between Marks & Spencer and a large car park to Mill Lane. Take the tarmac path at the left-hand end of the block of flats opposite, signposted to Meadowbank.
73. After crossing **Pipp Brook** follow the path round to the right and continue alongside the stream for 600m, passing the town's football stadium, a recreation ground and then a lake. At the far end keep ahead on London Road to reach its junction with the A24. Cross over this dual carriageway at the pedestrian lights on the left, with Dorking Deepdene station ahead.

74. Finishing at Dorking Deepdene

The steps on this side of the railway bridge lead to Platform 2, for trains towards Guildford. For trains to Redhill (where you could change for London) go under the bridge and up another flight of steps to Platform 1. There is no footbridge between the two platforms.

75. Finishing at Dorking (Main) (+¼ km)

For direct trains to London go under the railway bridge and continue along the A24. In 125m ***fork right*** into Station Approach, passing the **Lincoln Arms Hotel** on the way to the station. Trains to London can depart from any of the three platforms, so you might have to cross the station footbridge to Platforms 2 or 3.

Walk Notes

1. **Pippbrook Mill** was one of six grain mills on this short river, which rises in the Greensand Hills to the south-west of Dorking and flows into the River Mole at Pixham.
2. The **Old Carriage Road** was built in the 1890s as the access road to Denbies House on the North Downs ridge, with one branch from Dorking and the other from Westcott.
3. **St John the Evangelist, Wotton** dates from the 11thC, one of the oldest churches in south-east England. It contains many Elizabethan and Jacobean monuments to the Evelyn family, owners of the Wotton estate.
4. The **River Tillingbourne** (shown as Tilling Bourne on the OS map) only runs for 18 km from its source at Leith Hill to the River Wey, but its strong and steady flow enabled it to power a good number of gunpowder, paper and flour mills.
5. The large **Hammer Pond** at Friday Street was one of many in the south-east, providing water power for bellows to smelt iron ore and for hammers to beat the hot metal into shape. The industry declined in the 18thC when coke from the northern coalfields became the preferred fuel, supplanting charcoal from the local trees.
6. There are several English settlements called **Friday Street**. The precise reason for this hamlet's name is unknown but the day of the week is named after the Anglo-Saxon god *Frige* and ‘Street’ in a place name implies that it pre-dates the Norman Conquest.
7. The **Stephan Langton** inn is named after the Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King John. He was a member of the baron's council which forced the king to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. A 19thC biography claimed (without supporting evidence) that he was born in the hamlet of Friday Street.

8. **Abinger Roughs** takes its name from an area of poor sandy soil between medieval fields and rough pasture. It used to be part of the Abinger Hall estate and is now owned by the National Trust.
9. The **Wilberforce Memorial** marks the spot where this Victorian bishop (a son of William Wilberforce) was killed when he fell from his horse in 1873. Known as ‘Soapy Sam’, he vigorously opposed Darwin's theory of evolution, most notably in a famous debate at Oxford in 1860. Hearing of his death, his opponent Thomas Huxley is said to have waspishly remarked that “his brains had at last come into contact with reality, and the result had been fatal”.
10. The unusual shape of the **Witch's Broom Tree** is thought to be the result of ‘bundle planting’: a bunch of seeds are planted together and the resulting saplings eventually coalesce into one large tree.
11. **Piney Copse** was acquired by the National Trust from the estate of E.M. Forster after his death in 1970. In *My Wood* the distinguished novelist revealed his feelings about ramblers having access to his property: “it is intersected, blast it, by a public footpath”.
12. **Abinger Manor** was built in the 17thC by the writer and diarist John Evelyn, although much of the house was rebuilt in 1872. The grounds contain the motte of the 12thC **Abinger Castle**.
13. **St James, Abinger** was badly damaged by a flying bomb in 1944 and again by a lightning strike 20 years later, so there is little evidence of the original 12thC church. The second misfortune is reflected in the design of its modern stained-glass window, “the Cross depicted as a living tree, riven by lightning”.
14. **The Nower** (an obsolete word meaning “at the slope or bank”) was once part of the 18thC Bury Hill estate. It was presented to ‘the people of Dorking’ in 1931; the remainder of the estate was broken up and sold in 1952.
15. The **Greensand Way** follows the course of a sandstone ridge just to the south of the North Downs. It runs for 175 km from Haslemere in Surrey to Hamstreet in Kent.
16. The picturesque archway known as **Rose Hill Arch** originally led to the rear of a larger property. The large villas on Rose Hill were built around what was a paddock when the estate was broken up in the 19thC.
17. **Mullins Coffee Shop** is in the 16thC house of one of the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. William Mullins died soon after arriving in America (as did his wife and son) but many Americans are his descendants as his surviving daughter Priscilla had ten children.
18. **St Martin, Dorking** was substantially rebuilt in the 19thC, with the last of these renovations in 1877 adding a new tower and 64m spire. Since 1973 this Anglican parish church has been shared with the Methodists.

» Last updated: March 21, 2024

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