Main walk (from Earlswood) last checked	Nutfield start last checked	Minor options last checked	
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## **Earlswood or Nutfield to Oxted**

### Greensand Way stage 5: a gentle ridge walk through a quiet part of Surrey

Length: - Earlswood to Oxted 16.9km (10.5 miles)
- Nutfield to Oxted 14.2km (8.8 miles)

Toughness: 4 out of 10: gently undulating: 320m (1050ft) of ascent

Maps: Explorer 146, Landranger 187

## **Features**

This is a pleasant section of the Greensand Way, passing through gentle Surrey countryside, with a mix of pasture, arable fields and woodland, and some fine escarpment views typical of the Greensand Way (more views in winter than in summer, but still plenty at any time of the year). There are several bluebell woods in late April and early May. The start of the walk (from Earlsfield to Nutfield) and the last section (from Tandridge to Oxted) are more low-lying. Pubs are regularly spaced throughout the walk.

Waymarking on the route is often fairly poor, hence these directions. While the route largely follows the Greensand Way, in a couple of places alternatives are suggested to avoid walking on busy roads. Just after Nutfield you cross (in tunnels or underpasses) under the M23 motorway and inevitably there is noise from that for a while. If winds are westerly the noise starts when you cross the motorway and fades as you approach Bletchingley. If winds are easterly the noise affects the section between South Nutfield village and the motorway.

### Walk options

Two possible starts are outlined in this document - from **Earlswood** or **Nutfield** stations:

- The **Earlswood** start gives you a walk of **16.9km (10.5 miles)**, of which 6.1km (3.8 miles) is before lunch at Bletchingley. Earlswood station itself is rather run down but the scenery quickly improves, with a pleasant low-lying section across fields which is full of wildflowers in late spring. Approaching South Nutfield there is an awkward road section for which an alternative route is suggested here. You can then either re-join the Greensand Way or continue on a very attractive alternative to a point just before Bletchingley. Note that this second section of the alternative route involves crossing the M23 motorway in a rather dark tunnel. There is nothing difficult about

this and it can be done without a torch in reasonable daylight: but the tunnel is a bit creepy. To do this start, begin with the directions on page 3.

- The **Nutfield** start provides a shorter walk of 3.4km (2.1 miles) to Bletchingley, reducing the walk to Oxted to **14.2km (8.8 miles)**. There is an awkward 300 metre section of the Greensand Way that follows a road that can be busy, especially on weekdays, but otherwise this is a very pleasant route across fields. To do this option, start the directions at paragraph 48 on page 5.

### **Transport**

There are two Thameslink trains an hour Monday to Saturdays from St Pancras and London Bridge to **Earlswood**, one an hour on Sundays, taking 36 minutes. Get the train closest to **9.45am** from London Bridge to get to lunch in Bletchingley in time.

For **Nutfield** take the Thameslink train from St Pancras or London Bridge to Redhill and change there for a Tonbridge train. Total journey time from London Bridge is 43 minutes Monday to Saturday and 51 minutes on Sundays. Get the train closest to **10.20** if you are aiming for lunch in Bletchingley, or an hour earlier if planning to lunch at the Barley Mow in Tandridge.

Buy a **day return to Edenbridge Stations** in both cases. If offered a cheaper ticket "via East Croydon only", take that. If starting from Nutfield, this covers both your outward and return journey (so long as you travel outward via Redhill: if you take the slightly longer option of going via Tonbridge you would need an "any permitted" Nutfield return, but this might not be accepted for return from Oxted). If starting from Earlswood you are technically liable to buy a single for the one stop from Redhill to Earlswood, but as this is a much shorter distance than to Edenbridge, a return to that station may be accepted.

From **Oxted** there are two trains an hour to Victoria and one to London Bridge Monday to Saturday, and just two an hour to Victoria on Sundays.

Hourly number 400 and twice hourly 410 **buses** link Bletchingley and Redhill Monday to Friday - the bus station in Redhill is conveniently right by the station. On Saturdays there is one bus an hour on each route and on Sundays there are only eight buses all day (four on each bus route). In the other direction the 410 also serves Oxted station.

### **Lunch and tea**

The **Red Lion**, Bletchingley (01883 743 342) is the recommended lunch stop, 6.1km (3.8 miles) into the walk if you start from Earlswood, or 3.4km (2.1 miles) if you start from Nutfield. It is a charming, quite large and efficient Greene King pub which serves a varied selection of meals (including vegan options) all afternoon and evening daily. There is an outside terrace at the rear where meals are also served, and a garden beyond the car park for drinks only.

The **Whyte Hart Hotel**, an alternative lunch option in Bletchingley, has recently reopened, but we have not yet had a chance to check out its food offering. A former coaching inn, it has a garden, though it is not yet clear if the new layout includes this in the public areas of the pub.

Just before the Whyte Hart, **Lamingtons Tea Room** in Bletchingley is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and on Sunday 11am to 4pm.

**The Barley Mow**, Tandridge (01882 713770), 13km (8.1 miles) into the walk if you start from Earlswood, or 10.3km (6.4 miles) if you start from Nutfield, is a possible late lunch stop or a refreshment stop. It has been recently (2022) revamped which serves food 12-4pm and 5.30-9pm Monday to Saturday (all afternoon for drinks), and 12pm to 7pm (drinks to 9pm) Sundays. It also advertises coffee and pastries.

**The Haycutter**, Broadham Green (01883 712550) is a possible refreshment stop  $1.9 \, \text{km}$  (1.1 miles) from the end of the walk. It has a large garden.

In Oxted **Robertsons** is the traditional tea choice, a specialist coffee shop which has a few tables selling tea and cakes up to 4.45pm (last orders 4.15pm) Mondays to Saturdays. But a new competitor is **Cafe Papillon**, open till 5pm Monday to Saturday. Outside these hours the **Everyman Cinema** in the same street has a small coffee bar open till 11pm which serves tea and

coffee as well as a small selection of cakes and cookies. Alternatively if you pass through the station underpass there is a **Caffe Nero** in Station Road East open till 6pm Monday to Saturday and 5pm Sundays. Possibly the best value tea stop, however, is the Weatherspoon pub by the station, the **Oxted Inn**, which serves bottomless tea, coffee and hot chocolate for (at time of writing) £1.35 and desserts from as little as £1.55.

#### **WALK DIRECTIONS**

## <u>Earlswood to South Nutfield</u> (3.6km/2.2 miles)

This is the **Earlswood start** for the walk

For the **Nutfield start**, see paragraph 48 on page 5

- 1 From platform one at Earlswood station, the southbound platform, go into the underpass and on the far side exit the station and turn right along its front.
- At the far end of the car park look for a well-concealed underpass on the right-hand side which allows you to cross back under the tracks again.
- 3 On the far side carry on down the station approach road. In 70 metres cross Earlsbrook Road and carry on down Brambletye Park Road.
- 4 In 120 metres, 30 metres after the houses end on the right-hand side of the road, turn right up a signposted footpath into a grassy field. Fork left immediately (ie ignore a path forking right) on a grassy path that crosses a corner of the open space.
- 5 In 100 metres merge with the field edge and keep along it. In 150 metres more you enter a wooded area, joining the Greensand Way, and the path continues straight ahead with a stream to its left.
- **6** In 100 metres you are out in the open between bushes.
- 7 Ignore a kissing gate to the right in 40 metres. In another 100 metres you emerge into a more open area (though it is rapidly getting overgrown with trees and shrubs).
- 8 In another 70 metres **fork right** to pass in 60 metres into an area that is being left to go back to nature currently (November 2022) it is full of young oaks, and so may in due course be woodland.
- **9** In 170 metres pass through a line of mature trees, ignoring a signposted footpath to the right, and carry on along a fenced path between fields.

- In 180 metres, near the top of the hill, cross a stile and keep more or less straight on across a complicated junction of concrete tracks.
- In 70 metres pass through a kissing gate to walk between fences across a large field (with a fine view of the Greensand Ridge to the left).
- 12 In 200 metres cross a stile to enter a wooded strip. In 50 metres emerge onto an abandoned tarmac road and turn left along it.
- 13 In another 30 metres turn right off the road, following a footpath sign. Veer slightly left across a section of field, aiming to the right of an oak tree 70 metres ahead.
- 14 Beyond the oak tree, again veer slightly left, aiming for a gap in the hedge 70 metres away.
- 15 In the next field follow a path that is soon enclosed within a wooded field boundary.
- In 230 metres the path emerges into the open once more, still to the left-hand edge of a field.
- 17 In another 300 metres pass through a kissing gate and turn left on a road. This road is quite busy. For the most part there is a narrow verge, often on the right-hand side, sometimes on the left, but these have to be used with great care.
- 18 In 300 metres, 30 metres before a 30mph sign, fork right up a disused section of road.
- 19 In 70 metres you come out by a staggered crossroads. Here you have a choice.
  - For the recommended route, a diversion off the Greensand Way which cuts out some road walking and is a bit shorter, turn right at the crossroads and refer to paragraph 23 overleaf.
  - To stay on the Greensand Way 350 metres longer, with more road walking but with some fine views later go straight on at the

- crossroads, up the road ahead, a bit less busy than the one you have just been on but still with quite a bit of traffic. Continue with the directions in the next paragraph.
- 20 In 170 metres you pass under a rail bridge and in 250 metres the road starts to climb more steeply. In 200 metres ignore Hogtrough Lane to the left and continue curving right with the main road.
- 21 In 120 metres fork right up a signposted footpath. In 50 metres pass through a gate into a field with nice views ahead, and in another 20 metres cross a stile onto an enclosed footpath with a wire fence (and the view) to your right.
- In 300 metres pass the remains of a stile onto a fenced path under trees. In 270 metres more you come to a road.
  - To continue with the recommended route, a shortcut which avoids two sections of road walking, turn left on the road. In 50 metres, as the houses end right, turn right up a signposted footpath. There is a house garden fence and later a chainlink fence to your right. Resume the directions in paragraph 32 opposite.
  - To remain on the Greensand
    Way 1.1km (0.7 miles) longer
    than the recommended route and
    with more road walking turn right
    on the road, passing the village
    shop 'Holborns' on the right in 350
    metres (it serves tea and coffee and
    fresh cakes and has some outside
    tables). In another 100 metres, just
    after house number 122 on the
    right, turn left up an easily missed
    turning, a track to 'Pippins 83' and
    '85 Mid Street'. Now pick up the
    directions at paragraph 51 on
    page 5.
- 23 In 80 metres turn left up a signposted footpath between hedges, between the driveways of Millbrook and Norfolk Cottage.
- 24 In 100 metres there is a stream/ditch to your left. In another 100 metres turn right with the wire fence and then left over a stile to climb steps and cross the railway line (Redhill to Tonbridge).
- 25 Beyond, cross a stile and veer half right across a field, heading for a metal kissing gate in 90 metres.

- 26 Beyond the kissing gate keep on diagonally across the next field, aiming to the right of a rusty-roofed barn.
- 27 In 180 metres, 40 metres beyond the barn, pass through a metal fieldgate into the next field and keep on along its left-hand edge.
- In 70 metres cross a stile and keep on up the left-hand edge of a recreation ground.
- 29 In 300 metres pass through a kissing gate and turn left on the road beyond..

## South Nutfield to Bletchingley (2.5km/1.6 mi)

- 30 In 40 metres ignore a road, Braes Mead, to your left.
- 31 In another 120 metres, as the houses end right, turn right up a signposted footpath. There is a house garden fence and later a chainlink fence to your right.
- 32 In 150 metres there is a rough field to your left and a view to the Greensand Ridge.
- 33 In 200 metres pass through a kissing gate and keep on across a field
- 34 In another 150 metres, at the end of the field, go through a metal gate to emerge in 30 metres into a grassy valley. Keep to the right-hand edge of this.
- In 250 metres exit the field via a hidden stile in its far right-hand corner. In 10 metres more turn left on a road.
- 36 Care is needed on this road, which has fast traffic, though the grass verge on the left is useful for about 40 metres.
- 37 In 80 metres turn right up a tarmac drive to Pine Hill House, a signposted public footpath.
- 38 In 40 metres pass around a metal gate and on up a tarmac drive.
- In 150 metres, where the drive turns right, keep on down an intensely gloomy path (in summer at least) shaded by leylandii trees.
- 40 In 200 metres pass a three-armed footpath sign (currently with two arms missing) and go under the M23 in a long and rather dark and creepy tunnel.

- 41 40 metres after the end of the tunnel, where the fences widen out, veer slightly left through about 80 metres of nettles (in summer) to cross a stile into a field.
- **42** Keep on up the left-hand side of the field, with a rusty fence to your left.
- 43 In 100 metres pass a redundant stile and keep on, still with the fence to your left.
- 44 In 100 metres you cross a small boggy area (a concealed stream). In another 100 metres cross a stile and turn left across a track, to cross another stile onto a fenced in path.
- 45 Stay on this fenced-in path as it climbs uphill for 400 metres and then follows the crest of the hill, with fine views to the south (including planes taking off from or landing at Gatwick), for another 400 metres.
- **46** At the end of this distance you come to a road. For lunch in Bletchingley turn left on this road.
  - If you don't want to stop for lunch in Bletchingley, cross the road and go up a signposted tarmac footpath on the far side. Resume the directions in paragraph 68 on page 6.
- 47 In 120 metres you come to the main road in the centre of Bletchingley. 80 metres to the left here, on the opposite side of the main road, is the **Red Lion**, the recommended lunch stop. After lunch continue with the directions in **paragraph 66** on page 6.
  - For other lunch options, turn right on the main road. In 350 metres you pass Lamingtons Tea Room on the right, and in another 60 metres the Whyte Hart Hotel is on the same side. After lunch, turn right out of either place onto the main road, and then right again up the next side road, 50 metres beyond the Whyte Hart. In 300 metres, just after a road sign for 'Ice', the Greensand Way joins from the right. Resume the directions in paragraph 69 on page 6.

# Nutfield station to Bletchingley (3.4km/2.1 mi)

This is the **Nutfield start** to the walk

- **48** Exiting platform 2 Nutfield station (the platform you alight at if you are coming from Redhill), walk northwards up the road.
- 49 In 150 metres merge with another road coming from the right and keep on uphill, ignoring a side road to the right.
- In 80 metres more, where the road levels out, turn right up a signposted footpath, a track leading to 'Pippins 83' and '85 Mid Street'.
- 51 In 250 metres, at the end of the track, pass through a kissing gate into a field and carry on up its left-hand edge, passing through a second kissing gate in 40 metres.
- In 70 metres, at the end of the next field, follow a path to the left along the right-hand edge of another field.
- 53 The hedgerow curves right to a field corner. When you get to it in 100 metres pass through a kissing gate and go left uphill along the edge of the next field.
- 54 In 130 metres pass through a somewhat hidden kissing gate in the field corner and veer diagonally right up across the next field.
- 55 In 200 metres exit through a kissing gate in the top corner of the field to come to a road.
- Turn right on the road. **Take great**care on this road, which has narrow
  or non-existent verges and some fast
  traffic coming along it (but which is,
  however, the official route of the
  Greensand Way).
- **57** After 300 metres on the road, just after passing Colegates Barn Cottages on your left, turn left up a signposted footpath, a gravel track leading to Colegates Barn.
- 58 In 200 metres pass under the M23 motorway. 30 metres beyond it cross a stile to the left of a fieldgate. In another 30 metres, where the concrete track becomes gravel, turn left with it across a field.
- 59 In 280 metres pass through a metal gate to the left of a fieldgate and keep on up the track.

- **60** In 400 metres pass through another gate to the left of a fieldgate and keep on along the track, passing a barn to your left.
- **61** In another 100 metres keep left at a track fork (almost a T-junction).
- of a fieldgate (ignoring a stile to the right of a fieldgate (ignoring a stile to the left just before the fieldgate) and go uphill on a fenced-in path.
- 63 Stay on this fenced-in path as it climbs uphill for 400 metres and then follows the crest of the hill, with fine views to the south (including planes taking off from or landing at Gatwick), for another 400 metres.
- 64 At the end of this distance you come to a road. For lunch in Bletchingley, turn left on this road.
  - If you don't want to stop for lunch in Bletchingley, cross the road and go up a signposted tarmac footpath on the far side. Resume the directions in paragraph 68 opposite.
- 65 In 120 metres you come to the main road in the centre of Bletchingley. 80 metres to the left here, on the opposite side of the main road, is the **Red Lion**, the recommended lunch stop. After lunch there continue with the directions in **paragraph 66** below
  - For other lunch options, turn right on the main road. In 350 metres you pass Lamingtons Tea Room on the right, and in another 60 metres the Whyte Hart Hotel is on the same side. After lunch, turn right out of either place onto the main road, and then right again up the next side road, 60 metres beyond the Whyte Hart. In 300 metres, just after a road sign for 'Ice', the Greensand Way joins from the right. Resume the directions in paragraph 69 opposite.

# Bletchingley to the Barley Mow (6.9km/4.3 miles)

- 66 Coming out of the Red Lion, turn left on the main road. In 80 metres turn right up the road with 'Mickenna Hair' on the corner (the road **opposite** is Stychens Lane).
- 67 In 120 metres, just after two bungalows on the left and just before driveways fork left and right from the

- road, turn left up a signposted tarmac footpath.
- Follow this path between houses and gardens. In 400 metres you come to a road, where you turn right.
- 69 In another 130 metres, where the houses end left and the road starts to descend a hill, fork left up a tarmac side track, a signposted bridleway, passing a metal fieldgate onto an earth path into a wooded area, with a pond to the right in 30 metres.
- 70 In 250 metres, just past the top of the hill, go right downhill at a fork (almost a T-junction), emerging on a path between bramble (with fields beyond) in 10 metres. Follow this downhill, ignoring a path to the left.
- 71 In 120 metres cross a track and enter a wood on a car-wide path that soon curves left.
- 72 In 150 metres, after a gentle descent, the path levels out just inside a wood (**bluebells** in late April and early May).
- 73 In another 300 metres the path starts to climb and then alternately climbs and is level for about 500 metres until it comes to a road.
- 74 Turn left uphill on the road (more or less straight on in fact), passing a house to the right.
- 75 In 80 metres, where the road veers left uphill just after the house, leave it to keep straight on along a gravel track, descending gently at first.
- 76 In 250 metres there is a fine view over the hedge to your right. In another 50 metres, where the gravel track ends at a tile-sided house, keep straight on up a foopath, with a hedge still to the right.
- 77 In 70 metres you are on the right-hand edge of an arable field. Follow this as it curves right downhill in and then left again uphill (ignoring a track to the right at this corner).
- 78 In 300 metres you come to a road, where you turn left.
- 79 In 100 metres the road enters a wood. In 50 metres ignore a signposted path to the left, but in 80 metres more, at the end of another open section, turn right up a signposted bridleway. Here you have a choice:
  - Greensand Way purists (and walkers in late April and early May

- when there are some **bluebells** up ahead, or when autumn colour is at its best) should stay on the track. In 400 metres it curves right and in 10 metres comes to a crosspaths, with a stile and an entrance to a field to the right. Go left here and carry on with the directions in **paragraph 80** below.
- The recommended route, with better views, is to turn right off the track 40 metres after the road up an easy-to-miss and unmarked footpath (which is nevertheless a right of way) which leads out into the field in 15 metres. Turn left along the top edge of the field. In 350 metres, at the end of the field, go straight on into the wood, keeping ahead at a crosspaths. Continue with the directions in the next paragraph.
- There are more **bluebells** in this wood. In 80 metres you are on a fenced-in path with a field to your right.
- 81 Follow this path along the side of two large fields (which themselves are sometimes subdivided into horse paddocks). In 700 metres the fields end and you enter a wood, merging with an earth track coming from a fieldgate to the right.
- In 40 metres the track starts to descend and there are glimpses of a field to the right.
- 83 In 150 metres cross a potentially busy road with care and turn right. In 10 metres turn left up a signposted bridleway, a car-wide path just inside a wood, with intermittent views to the right.
- 84 In 250 metres you emerge from the trees onto a path between hedgerows with fields either side. The path curves slowly left with pleasant views.
- 85 In 300 metres cross a track leading between a fieldgate right and a field left.
- 86 In 100 metres more, just before a rusted metal fieldgate and new metal gate blocking your path, turn right at a junction and emerge into a large arable field. Cross it, heading straight ahead for 120 metres to a footpath post, and slanting left at the post towards the far field corner.

- 87 In 300 metres, at the field corner, carry on through an area of brambles, passing a footpath post in another 20 metres. Keep on downhill through trees, emerging on a path to the right of a line of Lombardy poplars.
- **88** In 100 metres cross a stile. Cross a busy road with care, and turn left on its far side.
- In 300 metres, where the road turns left, turn right down a tarmac side lane (actually a tarmac drive) with a wooden fence to your left.
- 90 Ignore ways off, including a footpath signposted to the left in 150 metres just as you cross over an unseen rushing river below.
- 91 In 50 metres more pass green gates to your left. In another 60 metres, where the drive ends at a second set of green gates, turn right up a car-wide path with a white fence to the right and then hedges either side.
- 92 In 60 metres this enters a wood (with some **bluebells** in spring).
- 93 Follow a clear path, soon with a fence to the right, climbing steadily. In 180 metres, at the top of the hill ignore a path to the left, but instead turn right down some steps and then left with the path to come in 100 metres to a very busy main road.
- 94 Cross the road with great care, taking especial care of the blind bend to the right, and go straight on through a kissing gate. Keep on up the left-hand edge of an arable field.
- 95 Follow this path for 900 metres. It eventually descends into a dip, becomes a track, and climbs uphill between two arable fields.
- You emerge eventually onto a road and turn right. In 40 metres the Barley Mow pub, a possible late lunch or tea stop, is on your left.

# The Barley Mow to Oxted (3.8km/2.4 miles)

- 97 Turn left just beyond the pub up a side lane, 'The Walk'. (This is the lane down the left-hand side of the pub if you are coming out of its front door.)
- 98 In 100 metres, at the end of the pub garden, turn left with the lane.
- 99 In 130 metres, where the lane veers left, keep straight ahead up a path to

- the right of some garages, following the path to the right in 40 metres.
- 100 In 60 metres pass through a kissing gate and keep on on the left-hand edge of a field, slanting left when the edge ends in 100 metres, aiming for the far end of a disintegrating corrugated shed with a stone wall alongside it.
- **101** In 100 metres more pass through a metal kissing gate and turn right along the wall on an earth track.
- **102** In 150 metres the track goes into a dense wood of cherry laurel.
- 103 Carry on along the track, climbing for 400 metres in a wood (with **bluebells** in spring in the last 100 metres), then on a narrower path between fields for 170 metres, then back into a wood (with more bluebells) for 150 metres.
- **104** At the end of all this, you merge with a tarmac drive and follow it downhill.
- 105 In 250 metres you come to a tarmac drive T-junction. Here go straight on along an earth path, a signposted bridleway.
- 106 In 200 metres you emerge onto a village green (Broadham Green). Keep straight ahead for 60 metres to cross a road, and on its far side turn half left along the far edge of the green, with garden hedges to your right.
- **107** In 170 metres, when you come to a busy road, turn right along it.
- 108 In 180 metres you come to **The**Haycutter pub, a possible
  refreshment stop. Turn left to cross the
  road here and pass through a kissing
  gate opposite the pub. Keep to the
  right-hand edge of the field beyond.
- 109 In 220 metres pass through a kissing gate in the field corner and veer left up the middle of the next field.
- 110 In 120 metres pass through another kissing gate, aiming for a further kissing gate to the left of a white house in 70 metres. After this, carry on up a gravel and grass driveway.
- **111** In 120 metres more, when you come to a road, ignore a footpath ahead and instead turn right past an old mill building.
- 112 Cross a small bridge at the end of a pond and beyond veer left over a stile into a field, following a footpath sign.

- Follow the path straight ahead, diagonally across a rough field.
- 113 In 120 metres pass an overgrown gate/fence and keep on up the left-hand edge of the field.
- 114 In 170 metres cross a footbridge over a weir and keep on up a fenced path. In 100 metres more merge with a tarmac drive.
- 115 In 60 metres turn left on a road.
  Follow it downhill to cross a bridge in 80 metres and then go on up a suburban road.
- 116 In 50 metres more turn left up a side road, Woodhurst Park and then immediately fork right up a tarmac path between high fences.
- 117 In 130 metres the path veers left on a high shelf, with a lane below to the right.
- 118 In 200 metres cross a busy main road and keep on down East Hill Road opposite.
- 119 In 220 metres, at roundabout, turn right up Station Road West. Tea options include the Everyman Cinema in 100 metres on the left, which serves coffee and tea, Robertsons Coffee Room in another 50 metres on the right, and Cafe Papillon in another 50 metres on the right, just before Oxted Station, which is at the end of the road. The Oxted Inn, a Weatherspoons pub, to the right in the station forecourt, is the late tea option or go through the station underpass to find Caffe Nero in Station Road East.