

Main walk to Watts and Guildford Circ checked	Main walk Watts Gallery to Crooksbury last checked	Charleshill/Crooksbury to Farnham checked	Hog's Back start last checked
4 October 2024	24 July 2024	24 July 2024	24 July 2024
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# Guildford to Farnham

## Adventures on the Surrey Heathlands

<b>Length:</b>	<b>Guildford to Farnham</b>	22.2km (13.8 miles)
	<b>Guildford Circular</b>	13.4km (8.3 miles)
	<b>Farnham Circular</b>	16.2km (10.1 miles)

**Toughness:** 2 out of 10 (6 out of 10 for the Hog's Back start)

**Maps:** OS Landranger 186, OS Explorer 145

## Features

Think Surrey, and you probably think of pretty villages, gentle green pastures, and the country houses of retired stockbrokers. The first part of this walk conforms to that image, but the second, after lunch, takes you into the suprisingly wild and uninhabited Surrey heathlands - a vast area of woods and heather-covered moors which is particularly colourful from late July to early September when the heather is in bloom.

The lack of habitation in this area means that it was either taken over by the army for exercises or bypassed by the railways, and so to visit it requires a long walk: the afternoon of this walk is 13.3 km (8.3 miles): this is thus a walk for a long spring or summer day. It is quite a good idea to bring some refreshments with you to break up the afternoon: otherwise, there are late tea options in Farnham.

## Walk options

**a) Guildford Circular:** This walk does not go near the heaths, but it makes a pleasant shorter outing from Guildford, with the interesting Watts Gallery and Chapel or Loseley Park as its focus. This route is **13.4km (8.3 miles)**. *To do this option, follow the main walk directions as far as paragraph 14 on page 3 and then switch to the alternative directions as directed. You only need pages 1-3, 5 and 10-12 of this document*

It is also possible to use part of the Guildford Circular route to **stay on the North Downs Way** as far as Watts Gallery on the **main walk**. This is less scenic than the recommended route via Loseley Park but more straightforward, 500 metres shorter, and less muddy in winter. *For details see paragraph 14 on page 3.*

**b) Alternative start via the Hog's Back:** This is an alternative start to either the main walk or the Guildford Circular walk via the dramatic ridge of the Hog's Back (the small part of it not occupied by the A31 dual carriageway), with magnificent views both to the north and south. It is **1km (0.6 miles) shorter** than the main walk route, but more strenuous. *Directions for this option start in paragraph 49 on page 6.*

**c) Farnham Circular:** This option follows the morning of the **Farnham to Godalming** walk on this website as far as its lunch pub, the Donkey in Charleshill, and then uses the latter part of this walk to return to Farnham. This creates a nicely contrasted walk, following a pretty valley in the morning and across wooded heathland in the afternoon. In all this walk is **16.2km (10.1 miles)**. *To do this start first with the directions for the Farnham to Godalming walk. At the Donkey pub in Charleshill, switch to the directions in paragraph 108 on page 9. You only need pages 9 and 10 of these directions*

## Transport

Four trains an hour run between **Waterloo** and Guildford, taking 38 minutes. Be sure to get the fast trains via Woking not the slower stopping services via Effingham Junction or Clandon.

Take **the train nearest to 9.40am** from Waterloo to get to lunch at the right time. Buy a **day return to Farnham**, which is also valid for the outward journey via Guildford.

If doing the **Guildford Circular** walk take the train nearest to **10.40am**.

From **Farnham** two trains an hour run back to Waterloo (one an hour on Sundays: journey time 51-59 minutes).

## Lunch

**Watts Gallery tea shop** in Compton, located 6.2km (3.8 miles) into the main walk and 5.7km (3.5 miles) into the Guildford Circular, serves cakes, soups, sandwiches, salads, and hot savouries such as Welsh rarebit from 10am to 5pm daily.

**The Good Intent** in Puttenham, (01483 923434), located 8.9km (5.6 miles) into the main walk, serves a simple menu of pub classics and has a small garden, well-hidden, out the back. It serves food Tuesday to Saturday 12-2.30pm and Sunday to 6pm. Drinks are served all afternoon at weekends. (On Monday the pub is drinks only, from 12-3pm and from 5pm.)

The **Withies Inn** in Compton (01483 421158), situated 7.2km (4.5 miles) into the Guildford Circular walk, is an excellent and friendly rural pub serving bar food and more formal meals, with both inside and outside seating. It serves food 12-2.30pm Monday to Thursday and 12-3pm Friday to Sunday. It is open all afternoon for drinks from Monday to Saturday, serving food again from 6pm to 9pm, but closes at 4pm on Sundays.

**Picnics:** On the **main walk**, the best place is on **Puttenham Common** at the place indicated in paragraph 88 on page 8. **Loseley Park**, early in the main walk, also has a picnic area by its lake (see 23 on page 4 - also paragraph 151 on page 12 of the **Guildford Circular**). On the **Farnham Circular** walk a possible picnic spot is the green in the village of **Tilford**.

## Tea

If you want a takeaway tea for the train, a petrol station just before the end of the walk has a **Wild Bean Cafe** in its shop, a proper barista outlet serving coffee, tea and an excellent selection of pastries and savoury snacks. There is even a picnic area around the back of the petrol station where you could consume your purchases, though this is by the busy A31.

Otherwise, the **Mulberry**, the pub by Farnham station serves tea and coffee well into the evening, but it becomes a party and sports pub on Friday and Saturday evenings. Quieter pub options nearby include **The Lamb** and **William Cobbett** on the other side of the A31. Or if you cross the main road and carry on down the main road on the other side into central Farnham the **Bush Hotel** is a potential tea option, and the town's high street has other pubs and coffee outlets.

On the **Guildford Circular** walk **Loseley Park**, 8.3km (5.1 miles) into the walk, has a tea room. However you have to pay the admission charge to the gardens at this stately home (£11.50 in 2024) to access it, and it is only open on Sundays to Thursdays from May to August: see the panel on page 11. Otherwise Guildford has lots of options in and around its picturesque high street, or as a backstop there is a decent-sized and quite pleasant **Costa Coffee** at Guildford station that opens well into the evening.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

For the **Hog's Back start** go to paragraph 49 on page 6.

For the **Farnham Circular** walk go to paragraph 108 on page 9.

### **Guildford station to the North Downs Way (2.1km/1.3 miles)**

*This is the start for both the **main walk** and for the **Guildford Circular**.*

1. Coming out of **Guildford station**, walk down the station approach towards an office block named Bridge House.
2. Just before the road go right down the underpass ramp. Turn left into the tunnel and on the far side of it go right, up the ramp.
3. In 50 metres follow the pavement round to the left. In another 50 metres descend steps to the river bank and turn right under the bridge.
4. Follow the edge of the river for 100 metres until you come to a pedestrianised stone bridge.
5. Do not cross the bridge, but just beyond it and just before the White House pub turn left on a path which brings you in 20 metres to the riverside path, where you turn right.
6. In 70 metres this path rejoins the road.
7. 150 metres further on go left over the river on a metal footbridge.
8. 30 metres beyond the end of the bridge, and just before a second footbridge, turn right\* to follow a path between a canal lock to your left and the river to your right.

*\* The weir mentioned in the next paragraph failed in 2019, and whichever body is responsible seems in no rush to repair it. The path across the weir is thus closed. To get round it requires a road walk: in paragraph 8 instead of turning right, keep straight on. In 100 metres you come to a main road, where you turn right. In 350*

*metres, just beyond the Weyside pub garden, turn right to cross a footbridge over the river. At the bottom of the steps turn left and cross the grass, with the river to your left, to come to a weir. You are now on the right-hand bank of the River Wey. Continue with the directions in paragraph 11 below.*

9. In 120 metres the path crosses over a weir: 20 metres after this **fork right** on a tarmac path which crosses a park.
10. In 150 metres, when this comes to the river bank again, go right over a green metal weir. You are now on the right-hand bank of the **River Wey**.
11. Keep on the river path for 650 metres until you see a wooden bridge over the river. 50 metres **before** the bridge turn right up a tarmac path, passing a miniature stone bridge over a tiny stream to your left.
12. The tarmac path becomes a tarmac lane and climbs steeply until in 70 metres it crosses a brick bridge over the railway line. Keep straight on and after 80 metres you emerge onto a busy main road.
13. Turn right down the main road. In 40 metres go left up Sandy Lane.
14. In 170 metres, just before Manor Cottage on your right, the North Downs Way forks right on a part-tarmac track.
  - At this point, for the **Guildford Circular** walk or to follow the **North Down's Way** to Watts Gallery on the **main walk**, go to paragraph 34 on page 5.
  - For the **recommended route** for the **main walk** continue with the next section.

### **To Watts Gallery via Loseley Park (4.1km/2.5 miles)**

15. Ignore the North Downs Way forking right and remain on the road, keeping on the pavement on the left-hand side.
16. In 150 metres the pavement diverges from the road to become a path climbing up into woods.
17. In 300 metres cross a road and go into a residential cul-du-sac. In 40 metres keep straight on down a broad path into the woods.
18. In 200 metres the path veers right, and in 50 metres does so again. In another 250 metres it turns left for 80 metres to reach a T-junction. Go right here, with a field soon on your right.
19. In 220 metres the path becomes a tarmac lane. Follow this for 130 metres to a road T-junction.
20. Cross straight over to continue up a track between The School House left and Pillarbox Cottage right.
21. In 45 metres pass through a kissing gate to the left of a fieldgate and carry on down the right-hand edge of a field.
22. In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate and keep on along the edge of the next field.
23. In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate to carry on along the edge of a lake, passing **picnic** benches.
24. In 150 metres, at the far end of the lake, pass through another kissing gate to carry on along a fenced path on the left-hand edge of a field. To the left can be seen **Loseley Park**.

Still a family home, **Loseley Park** was built in 1562 by Sir William More and is considered a fine example of Elizabethan architecture. Its attractions include paintings, tapestries and panelling from Henry VIII's now lost Nonesuch Palace, and a beautifully restored walled garden. The famous Loseley Park ice cream brand also originated here, and is on sale in the house's shop, though the product is now manufactured elsewhere. The house and gardens are open (2024) Sunday to Thursday 10.30am to 4pm in May, June and July, with just the gardens open at these times in August.

25. In another 250 metres, at the end of the field, cross a track to carry on up a footpath with a hedge to the left.
26. In 40 metres more turn left with the hedge.
27. In 170 metres you come to a track lined with trees leading from Loseley Park house. Turn right on this.
28. In 250 metres you pass a cottage on your right.
29. 350 metres beyond this pass around a fieldgate. In 40 metres more, just before the track turns left to become a tarmac road, turn right at a two-armed footpath signpost up a sandy path surrounded by high banks.
30. In 60 metres **turn left off this path**, climbing (decaying) steps up the steep bank. At the top follow a path that emerges in 40 metres onto the left-hand edge of a field (later between two fields).
31. In 350 metres pass through a gate and keep straight on, now on a fenced path on the right-hand edge of a field.
32. In 300 metres exit the field through a metal gate and turn right on a fenced path. In 10 metres, go left onto a fenced track.
33. In 200 metres you come to a barn.
  - **To visit Watts Chapel** (see panel overleaf - a detour of a few minutes), turn left in front of the barn. In 40 metres go through a gate and on along a path between fences. In 30 metres turn right with the path. In another 180 metres turn right through a gate and turn left on a road. The entrance to Watts Chapel is 100 metres along on the left. **After visiting the chapel** return to the road and turn right, retracing your steps, but remaining on the road instead of veering onto the path you came up on. 250 metres after leaving the chapel grounds turn left down a tarmac lane, signposted North Downs Way, and continue with paragraph 69 on page 7. (*To get to **Watts Gallery** - see panel overleaf - ignore this left turn and stay on the road for another 70 metres.*)
  - **If you don't want to visit Watts Chapel** turn right 25 metres before the barn. In 10 metres ignore a fieldgate ahead marked private and instead turn left through a wooden

gate along a fenced path that in 50 metres enters a wood. In 170 metres more you come to a road. *Turning right on this road for 70 metres brings you to the entrance to **Watts Gallery** and its **tea room**, but **to continue the main walk**, go straight across the road and down the tarmac lane ahead, signposted North Downs Way. Continue with paragraph 69 on page 7.*

**Watts Gallery** exhibits the paintings of 19th century painter and sculptor George Frederick Watts, who has - somewhat fancifully - been described as "England's Michelangelo". Contemporary with the pre-Raphaelites, the paintings have a similar character to them. It is open 10.30am to 5pm daily.

**Watts Chapel** was the project of Watts' second wife, Mary, who designed this Celtic, Byzantine and art nouveau masterpiece without architectural or building experience. Much of the work was done by local villagers. Every interior surface is covered with what Mrs Watts called "glorified wallpaper" - angels and seraphs made out of gesso, a material which her husband used when rheumatism meant he could no longer handle wet clay. The painter is buried in the cloister behind the chapel.

### **To Watts Gallery via North Downs Way (3.6km/2.2 mi)**

34. Fork right off the road onto the part-tarmac track just before Manor Cottage.
35. In 50 metres the track curves left and there is a field to your right, but you are soon inside the edge of a wood. Later you are surrounded by low trees with fields beyond.
36. 750 metres after leaving the road you come to a farm. Keep straight on through this, still on a track, which becomes a tarmac lane.
37. 300 metres after the farm curve left with the lane.
38. In 70 metres more, as you approach the end of the field to your left, **turn right** onto a sandy track, crossing a stile to the right of double metal fieldgates (usually open).
39. Stay on this track, ignoring ways off. In 150 metres there is a field to your right and a view across the valley.
40. In a further 500 metres, at the bottom of a long hill, go left at a track T-junction.
41. In 10 metres curve right with this track, ignoring a minor path to the left, to resume your former direction.
42. In 60 metres, where the track curves left, keep straight on up a narrow sandy path which climbs a hill.
43. In 400 metres the path finally flattens out and starts to descend.
44. In another 100 metres, at a major path crosspaths, keep straight on.
  - If you are on the **Guildford Circular** walk and **in a hurry to get to the Withies Inn for lunch**, you can turn **left** at this crosspaths. In 350 metres you come to a road and go straight on down it. In another 700 metres, at a three-way road junction, go left. In 250 metres on the left you come to the Withies Inn. **After lunch** to resume the Guildford Circular walk come out of the pub, turn right up the lane and in 250 metres at the three-way road junction turn right. Continue with 147 on page 11.
45. In 230 metres you emerge by some farm buildings. Keep straight on along a track that climbs gently uphill between hedges.
46. In 450 metres you come over the crest of a hill and descend.
47. In another 250 metres, just before you get to a road, the entrance to **Watts Gallery** (see panel) and its **tea room** are on your right.
48. To continue the walk, cross the road and turn left on a gravel path beyond it. In 40 metres there is a tarmac lane to the right.
  - **To continue on the Guildford Circular** walk and for **Watts Chapel** (a very short diversion) stay on the road you are on and go to paragraph 141 on page 10.
  - **To continue on the main walk**, turn right up the tarmac lane and go to paragraph 69 on page 7.

## **To Watts Gallery via the Hog's Back (5.2km/3.2 miles)**

49. Exit Guildford station and walk down the station approach.
50. In 50 metres **ignore** the pedestrian underpass to the right, but turn right on the pavement just **beyond** it (so that the pedestrian underpass is now to your right).
51. In 60 metres cross a main road at traffic lights, and on the far side keep left downhill, (following a brown sign for 'High Street'), with the main road to your left.
52. In 150 metres, opposite the town bridge which is visible away to your left, turn right up "The Mount" (the old main road out of Guildford, now a quiet side road).
53. Follow this road as it climbs steadily uphill, ignoring all ways off (including a road to the right and left in 150 metres, and signposted footpaths right and left thereafter)
54. In 700 metres, at the top of the hill, just after the houses end to the right, turn right, taking the leftmost of two paths, which leads in 10 metres to a wooden kissing gate and out onto open downland.
55. Turn left along the top edge of the downland, along the contour of the hill. (There are several grassy paths parallel to one another here: take the one that seems most obvious).

*There is a magnificent view to the north, including Guildford cathedral. If you face outward from the slope, on a clear day you can see the buildings of the City of London, including the Shard to the far right, and to the right of that Canary Wharf peeping up above the line of the hills. About a third to the right you can see the long low white building of Heathrow Terminal 5 and the airport control tower.*
56. In 250 metres, as you approach a line of trees, aim for an initially not very obvious metal kissing gate 10 metres to the right of a garden hedge and about 80 metres to the right of the field corner, ignoring a wooden fieldgate 40 metres further down the hill.
57. Pass through the kissing gate and carry on through light woodland on a path marked out by wooden strips either side.
58. In 100 metres pass through another kissing gate, and out into a rather scrubby field. Keep straight ahead, also keeping more or less straight on in 100 metres at a field corner.
59. In a further 100 metres leave the field by a gap (with a redundant kissing gate to its left), and turn left uphill along the edge of the next field, with a line of scrub and wire fence to your left.
60. In 70 metres pass through a double gate and in 10 metres cross a track (the former main road out of Guildford), to carry on up an unmarked footpath through strip of scrub.
61. In 20 metres you emerge into a large sloping field with a fine view to the south. Turn right along the top edge of this field, on a permissive footpath, heading for communications masts on the hill ahead. (*This footpath seems in common use, but if the landowner blocks access, return to the gravel track and follow that for 700 metres to find a signposted footpath to the left, which goes downhill with a hedge left and a fenced-off field right. Continue with paragraph 64 below.*)
62. In 400 metres you arrive at the edge of the compound containing the masts. Follow the informal path that skirts around to the left of the compound rejoining the field edge on its far side.
63. In another 200 metres, at the end of the field, the **official path** passes through a gap in the hedge to turn left downhill on a path with a hedge to the left and a wire field fence to the right. However this is currently (July 2024) getting quite overgrown, and **the path in use** seems to be to turn left **before** the hedge and walk down the field edge.
64. Either way, in 500 metres, at the bottom of the hill, pass a former farm, and beyond it carry on down a track.
65. In 150 metres more, where the track curves left at the far end of a field, go half right up a car-wide sandy path, ignoring an opening into a field to the right, and in 10 metres turn right with this path where it merges with a path coming from the left. In 60 metres ignore a sandy track to the left leading to a metal gate and keep on uphill on a now narrower sandy path.

**66.** In 400 metres the path starts to descend into a cutting, and in another 100 metres you come to a signposted crosspaths. **Here you have a choice:**

- If you are on the **Guildford Circular** walk and would like a **more direct route to the lunch pub, the Withies Inn**, saving 1km off the walk route (1.2km v 2.2km) and **avoiding Watts Gallery and Chapel** (see panel page 5), *turn left downhill* at the crosspaths. In 300 metres you come to a road and go straight on down it. In another 700 metres, at a three-way road junction, go left. In 250 metres on the left you come to the Withies Inn. **After lunch** to resume the Guildford Circular walk you have to retrace your steps slightly: come out of the pub, turn right up the lane, and in 250 metres at the three-way road junction turn right. Continue with paragraph 147 on page 11.
- **To join the main walk route** or to follow **the Guildford Circular route past Watts Gallery and Chapel** *keep straight* on at this crosspaths, remaining on the North Downs Way and continue with the directions below.

**67.** Carry on down the path for 230 metres until it emerges onto a track beside some farm buildings. Keep straight on along this for 700 metres to reach a tarmac road, with **Watt's Gallery** and its **tea room** on your right.

**68.** Turn left on the road and in 40 metres there is a tarmac lane on your right, signposted as the North Downs Way.

- **To continue with the main walk** without visiting Watts Chapel turn right up this tarmac lane and go to paragraph 69.
- **To visit Watts Chapel** or to continue with the **Guildford Circular** walk keep straight on along the road you are on and refer to paragraph 141 on page 10.

### **Watts Gallery to Puttenham** **(2.8km/1.7 miles)**

**69.** In 180 metres pass under a large arched bridge, and after 100 metres more under a flyover (the A3).

**70.** 20 metres after the flyover and just before the entrance to a house, fork

left up a path into the woods, signposted North Downs Way.

**71. You now follow the North Downs Way for 2km all the way to Puttenham.** Simply keep straight on along the main path and ignore all ways off. Initially the path is through woods and later becomes a track and passes a golf course (where any deviations will lead you onto the fairway) and a cricket field. The only potentially confusing junction is in 500 metres when there are multiple turnings left and right: but keep straight on and 80 metres after this junction you pass a house - Questors - on your right.

**72.** After 2km the path reaches a main road. Cross the road and turn right.

**73.** In 150 metres turn left down a side road into **Puttenham** village.

**74.** In 150 metres you pass the church on your left. In another 180 metres you come to the **Good Intent** pub on the right, the recommended lunch stop.

### **Puttenham to Crooksbury** **Common (6.5km/4 miles)**

**75.** Coming out of the Good Intent turn right along the main road through the village, or carry on past it if not stopping.

**76.** In 350 metres the road forks. Take the left fork, Lascombe Lane.

**77.** In 100 metres fork left again onto Highfield Lane, leaving the North Downs Way.

**78.** Stay on this lane as it climbs up out of the village into the open countryside. In 400 metres you pass an isolated house (Lower Lascombe) to the left.

**79.** 150 metres beyond the house, opposite an opening into a field to the right, fork left diagonally across a field on a signposted footpath.

**80.** In 180 metres pass through a kissing gate to the left of the line of trees on the far side of the field.

**81.** Carry on in the same direction across the next field and in 80 metres pass through another kissing gate.

**82.** Cross the gravel driveway of a house to continue straight on down a footpath at first between wooden fences and later with a high hedge on your left.

83. In 100 metres the hedge ends and you find yourself in open woodland. Keep straight on along a clear path for a further 200 metres to a gap in a wooden fence.
84. After the gap, turn left on a track for 10 metres to a staggered crosspaths marked with a wooden post. Here go right.
85. In 200 metres, as you emerge from the trees into an area of open heathland (**Puttenham Common**), ignore a fork to the left. In 50 metres more ignore another.

The **Surrey Heaths** are not as natural as they look, nor as extensive as they used to be. Based on the sandy Greensand soils, they are in fact an ancient man-made habitat created by rural communities over many generations of grazing and wood cutting. With the decline in the grazing of animals on the heaths in the last century, the woodland has gradually started to re-occupy the heaths. Puttenham Common is now actively managed to preserve its unique habitat for plants, birds and insects

86. In 40 metres more go right on a sandy track, ignoring a fainter path forking right from it.
87. You can stay on this track for 600 metres to the T-junction with a fence beyond it in paragraph 92. **But the recommended route, with better views**, is to fork left down a sandy path in 200 metres, just before the brow of a slight hill.
88. In 120 metres this brings you to an escarpment with fine views (including Black Down near Haslemere in the distance) and a bench. Here or anywhere in the next 300 metres makes a fine **picnic** spot.
89. Follow the clear sandy path as it curves right along the escarpment, passing a second bench by a twisted evergreen in 180 metres and a third bench in another 170 metres.
90. After this the path curves right, away from the escarpment edge. In 40 metres fork left at a footpath post and in 50 metres more turn left at a T-junction.
91. In 40 metres this path goes downhill and in 70 metres more you go straight on at a crosspaths.
92. 70 metres after this you come to T-junction in front of a wire fence (largely hidden by bracken in summer), where you turn left.
93. Follow this clear path downhill, ignoring ways off. In 350 metres merge with a path from the left. In 150 metres more you pass a small lake screened by trees to your left (**General's Pond**).
94. In another 300 metres, at the end of a large coppiced area on your left (*ie, where trees had been recently felled in July 2024*), and 10 metres after a large oak tree on your right, **the path splits**: take the left fork.
95. In a further 150 metres, at the bottom of a dip, cross a stream (which may be dry in summer). Beyond it, fork right, following the edge of a marsh to your right to reach a large lake 70 metres later. Turn left along its shore.
96. Keep to the edge of the lake for 200 metres until you come to a road.
97. Turn right on the road. It passes between two lakes, both concealed by trees, until in 200 metres you come to a crossroads and go right, following a sign to Sands.
98. Follow this road past a parking area on your right. In 250 metres follow the road as it curves left, ignoring a road to the right and 50 metres further on another one.
99. In 300 metres more, as the road curves right opposite a brick house, veer left through a car-blocking barrier up a signposted footpath, ignoring a parking area and signposted bridleway to the left.
100. In 200 metres, 60 metres beyond the end of the garden of a house just visible through the trees to the right, **turn right at a crosspaths** marked by a footpath post, onto a path that is sometimes initially not well defined, your direction 290 degrees.
101. In 60 metres **fork left** and keep straight on along on along a path that starts to climb a hill, gently at first and then in 80 metres more steeply.
102. In 70 metres you emerge onto a forest track and keep straight on up it into a pine forest.
103. Ignore ways off. In 250 metres there is a newly logged area fenced off to your left, and in another 250 metres you



come to a road. Cross this and go straight on down a footpath which curves right, parallel to the road and then in 60 metres curves left to merge with a gravel track.

104. 70 metres further on pass through a metal barrier by a Forestry Commission sign for **Crooksbury Common** and turn left uphill on a sandy track onto heathland.
105. In 200 metres the track passes over the brow of a hill.
106. In another 350 metres, after a section under pine trees, you come to a house on your left behind a wooden fence.
107. When the fence ends, turn right at a track crossroads onto a sandy track that heads out across the heath. *Continue with paragraph 113 opposite.*

### **Farnham Circular link route** **(850 metres/0.5 miles)**

*These directions link the morning of the **Farnham to Godalming** walk, also on this website, with the last section of this walk to create a **Farnham Circular** walk of **16.2km (10.1 miles)**. Follow the Farnham to Godalming walk as far as *The Donkey*, its recommended lunchstop in *Charleshill*. Then...*

108. Coming out of the Donkey, turn right (or if coming from Tilford and not stopping at the Donkey, keep straight on past it down the road).
109. In 50 metres you come to the main road, which you cross. On the far side take the track to the left of the gated driveway to Foxhill, signposted as a public bridleway.
110. In 40 metres, ignore a signposted public bridleway to the right to keep straight on along the main track.
111. You now follow this track uphill for 700 metres, at first through rhododendron-filled woods, and then past several large houses.
112. At the top of the hill, 100 metres after the slope finally levels out, you come to a wooden car barrier with a Forestry Commission sign next to it announcing **Crooksbury Wood**. Go around the barrier and straight on up a track that heads out across the heath. *Continue with the next section.*

### **Crooksbury Common to** **Farnham (6.8km/4.2 miles)**

113. In 700 metres pass through a wooden barrier and in another 100 metres pass a gated drive to Woodland Cottage to your left and a house named Gairnshiel to your right. The track is now gravelled.
114. 60 metres beyond these houses, just past Nandina House on the right, **fork left** onto another track, a signposted bridleway.
115. In 500 metres cross over a road onto an unsignposted woodland path.
116. In 40 metres ignore a path uphill to the left and carry on slightly downhill, your direction 350 degrees initially.
117. In 50 metres ignore a path forking left. In another 50 metres, at a crosspaths, go straight on, slightly uphill, passing a footpath post.
118. In another 80 metres the path veers right, merging with a path from the left. In 30 metres more, just before a wooden barrier, turn left downhill, your direction 300 degrees initially.
119. In 150 metres, at a three-armed footpath post, turn right.
120. In 130 metres, 10 metres after a blue-topped post, fork left for 40 metres to reach a road.
121. Turn left on the road (**take care** on this road which has no verges or pavement and along which traffic sometimes comes quite fast).
122. In 450 metres you come to a staggered crossroads and go right on a rather busier road, which requires **even more care**.
123. In 150 metres, just beyond Compton Way on your left, take a signposted bridleway that forks half left along the back of house gardens.
124. In 500 metres, ignore a footpath to the left (marked by a footpath sign but the path entrance is rather hidden by a large cherry laurel).
125. 300 metres beyond this, as a green wire fence around a garden on your right-hand side ends, ignore a broad path to the right and carry straight on downhill.
126. You have now re-joined the North Downs Way, which you follow all the way into Farnham. But in more detail:

- 200 metres after the junction, turn left up three wooden steps, following a North Downs Way sign. Keep straight on along this path, ignoring ways off.
127. In 300 metres pass through a wooden kissing gate and carry straight on down a fenced-in path on the right-hand edge of a field.
  128. In 350 metres, at the far end of the field, pass through a wooden kissing gate, ignoring a path to the right just before it, and keep straight on along a path between wire fences.
  129. In another 60 metres turn left along a fence for 15 metres to come to a road and then turn right downhill on it.
  130. In 150 metres, at the bottom of the hill, keep straight on, crossing the River Wey in another 130 metres (a mere trickle compared to the river you walked along out of Guildford this morning).
  131. In 100 metres more, at a road T-Junction, turn right on Moor Park Way.
  132. In 150 metres turn right off the road through a kissing gate, following the North Downs Way sign.
  133. In 350 metres you come to a curious wooden seat (shaped like a bee orchid). *This marks the start of the 245km (153 mile) long North Downs Way which stretches all the way from Farnham to Dover - though the actual, rather less romantic, starting point is the major road junction by Farnham station, where there is also now a monument.* Just beyond the seat, pass through a kissing gate and turn left on a track.
  134. In 70 metres, at a path junction, go right, following the North Downs Way sign.
  135. In 400 metres go through a tunnel under the railway embankment. 50 metres beyond this turn left with the track along the river.
  136. In 600 metres you pass a large petrol station (whose **Wild Bean Cafe** is a possible place to get takeaway tea, coffee or cakes for the train home - see **Tea** on page 2: there is a gate on the right just beyond the end of the building which gives you access).
  137. 80 metres after this the track curves right around a picnic area and heads towards a dual carriageway, the A31.
  138. 30 metres before the dual carriageway, go left up a tarmac drive, signposted North Downs Way.
  139. In 200 metres this brings you out onto the A31 and in 120 metres you come to a major road junction marked by traffic lights, with the monument to the start of the North Downs Way to your left.
    - Turning right across this junction takes you to various **tea options**:
    - **Either** immediately after crossing the A31 turn left along its pavement, then in 40 metres veer right up a side road to find **The Lamb** pub in 120 metres and the **William Cobbet** in 100 metres more.
    - **Or** continue down the main road leading away from the A31 on its far side. In 300 metres, just after Sainsbury on the right, the **Bush Hotel** is to your left. Or continue another 70 metres or so to a crossroads and turn left up a road called The Borough into the picturesque **centre of Farnham**, which has several cafes and pubs
  140. Otherwise, **to finish the walk without going into the centre of Farnham**, turn left at the traffic lights. The **Mulberry** pub, a possible tea stop, is on the right in 50 metres, and **Farnham station** is just beyond that.
- Watt's Gallery to Loseley Park (2.6km/1.6 miles)**
- This is the second half of the **Guildford Circular** walk and also provides a short diversion of the main walk route to **Watts Chapel**.*
141. In 80 metres pass the drive to Coneycroft Farm & Stud on your left. In another 40 metres there is a triangle of grass to your left in front of farm buildings. In 50 metres more, at the end of the grass triangle, there is a gate in the fence ahead, marked by a footpath sign.
    - **To visit Watts Chapel** (see panel page 5), which is on the other side of the the hill straight ahead, stay on the road to find its entrance gate on your left in 100 metres. **After your visit**, for the **Guildford Circular** follow the road and fence back to the gate and turn right through it: continue with the

directions in paragraph 142. **Or to rejoin the main walk**, ignore the gate and carry on along the road. In 170 metres turn left up a side road and continue with paragraph 69 on page 7.

- Otherwise, **to continue the Guildford Circular walk without visiting Watt's Chapel** go through the gate and turn sharp left along a fenced path that doubles back along a hedge marking the edge of the stud farm complex.
- 142.** In 180 metres turn left with the path and in 30 metres pass through a wooden gate. In another 40 metres go right up a concrete track leading away from a barn.
- 143.** In 200 metres, where the track ends at a fieldgate, turn right on a fenced path to pass through a kissing gate in 15 metres, ignoring a path into a field to the left just before it.
- 144.** Beyond this, carry on along a fenced path. In 40 metres there is a wood to your left. Follow the path as turns right around a field corner.
- 145.** In 150 metres more there is a (clearly well-used) **unofficial path** into the wood left, but the **official route** is to turn left in another ten metres around a corner of the wood. See below for the advantages and disadvantages of either option:
- **The official path**, around the corner of the wood, is a bit overgrown initially (as of October 2024), but in 120 metres enters a wood. Keep straight on through this, on a clear path, ignoring ways off. In 400 metres you come to a road.
  - **The unofficial path** is at first clearer and better used. But in 150 metres, it forks. Here **ignore** the left fork (which soon curves even more to the left), and instead take the right fork, which veers slightly right. In another 100 metres this joins the main woodland path to come to a road in 250 metres.
- 146.** Whichever way you have come, when you get to the road turn left. In 10 metres you come to a road junction.
- **For the Withies Inn**, the recommended lunch stop, turn right at this junction. The pub is in 250 metres on the left-hand side. After

lunch retrace your steps to this junction and turn right.

- **To carry on without stopping at the Withies Inn** keep straight on at the road junction.

- 147.** Follow this quiet dead-end lane for 700 metres. When it ends next to a house called Little Polsted, turn right up a gravel track, ignoring a path straight ahead. In 40 metres pass around a fieldgate and keep on up the track.
- 148.** In 350 metres you pass a house – Polsted Lodge. In 250 metres more you come to a wooden fieldgate, a private way into the grounds of **Loseley Park**.

Still a family residence, **Loseley Park** was built in 1562 by Sir William More and is considered a fine example of Elizabethan architecture. Its attractions include paintings, tapestries and panelling from Henry VIII's now lost Nonesuch Palace, and a beautifully restored walled garden. The famous Loseley Park ice cream brand also originated here, and is on sale in the house's shop, though the product is now manufactured elsewhere.

The house and gardens are open (2024) Sunday to Thursday 10.30-4pm in May, June and July, with just the gardens open at these times in August. The official way into the house is 600 metres to the right along the road crossed in paragraph 155. However, in the past staff at the house have the said that it is all right to walk up to the house from the lake (paragraph 151), provided that your intention is to visit the house or gardens on a day when they are open. Possibly phone to check if this advice is still current, however.

### **Loseley Park to Guildford** **(5.1km/3.2 miles)**

- 149.** Just before the fieldgate that is a private way into Loseley Park, go left up a footpath marked by an arrow. *An unofficial path just follows the field edge. The official path goes between hedges/under trees, but later ends up on the field edge anyway.*
- 150.** In 180 metres turn right with the hedge and in another 40 metres cross a track to continue on a fenced path on the right-hand edge of a field. Loseley Park house can be seen to the right.

- 151.** In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate and keep straight on, with a lake to your right. (Some **picnic** tables and benches here.)
- 152.** In 150 metres, at the far end of the lake, pass through another kissing gate and keep straight on along the left-hand edge of a field.
- 153.** In 250 metres, at the end of the field, pass through a kissing gate and keep on down the left-hand edge of the next field.
- 154.** In 250 metres, at the end of this second field, pass through a kissing gate to the right of a field gate and carry on down a track between houses.
- 155.** In 45 metres cross a road and go straight on down a tarmac lane.
- 156.** In 130 metres, when the tarmac lane veers off right over a cattle grid towards a house, keep straight on up an initially car-wide grassy path, which narrows in 70 metres.
- 157.** In 150 metres, just over the top of the hill, ignore a footpath to the left to carry straight on downhill between fences. The grounds of the Surrey Police headquarters and training school are on your left.
- 158.** In 550 metres you come to a suburban road, where you continue straight on.
- 159.** In 170 metres you come to a main road. Turn left on this and in 80 metres, just past a bus stop on the right, turn right through a wooden barrier down a gravel track.
- 160.** In 170 metres pass through a brick arch under the railway line. 150 metres after this you come to the **River Wey**. Here turn left along the riverside path, ignoring a bridge over the lock ahead.
- 161.** Follow the river bank for 700 metres until you come to a footbridge over the river, which brings you full circle on your route. You can continue on the same side of the river into Guildford (the reverse of your outward route at the start of the walk), but for variety cross the bridge and turn left along the river on the far side.
- 162.** In 40 metres, where the gravel path turns right, go straight ahead up an earth path, keeping to the river bank.
- 163.** In 180 metres pass through a kissing gate into water meadows and keep on along the river bank.
- 164.** In 100 metres pass through a metal gate and again keep to the river bank.
- 165.** In 400 metres, at the far end of the meadows, pass through a kissing gate and carry on up a fenced path.
- 166.** In 80 metres more, at a T-junction with a tarmac path, turn left, crossing the driveway to the Guildford Rowing Club in 30 metres and carrying on down a tarmac path along the river, just below the level of the road.
- 167.** In another 40 metres turn left over the River Wey on a footbridge\* and on the far side of the river turn right, with the river now on your right-hand side.
- \* Since 2019 the path across the park has been blocked by the collapse of the weir mentioned in the next paragraph, which is awaiting repair. If this is still the case, **do not cross the footbridge** but instead carry on along the main road. In 350 metres turn left up the driveway towards the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, and pass to the left of it on a footpath. In 60 metres this brings you to the river by Milmead Lock. Keep straight on here to cross another arm of the river on a footbridge. Continue with paragraph 169.*
- 168.** In 170 metres cross a weir. In another 120 metres turn left at the end of Millmead Lock and cross a bridge.
- 169.** On the far side of the bridge turn right on a road, with the river now on your right-hand side.
- 170.** In 130 metres fork right onto the riverside path. In 70 metres, just beyond the White House pub, turn left to come to the road again.
- **For tea**, cross the bridge over the river. Guildford high street is directly ahead up the hill.
- 171. For Guildford station**, do not cross the bridge but carry on past it along the river bank. In 100 metres go under a road bridge and just beyond it turn left up the steps.
- 172.** In 50 metres bend right with the road. In another 50 metres descend the ramp into the underpass and turn left through the tunnel under the road. At its far end, turn right and at the top of the ramp you can see **Guildford Station** directly in front of you.