

Morning last checked	Afternoon last checked	Option c) last checked	Option d) last checked
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Book 2, Walk 13: Guildford to Gomshall

On the Pilgrims Way through the North Downs

Length	Main walk	17.1km (10.7 miles)
	a) Short walk to Gomshall	10.9km (6.8 miles)
	b) Short walk to Chilworth	6.4km (4.0 miles)
	c) Longer route to Gomshall	19.0km (11.8 miles)
	d) Ending at Boxhill station	22.4km (13.9 miles)
	f) Gomshall Circular	8.5km (5.3 miles)
	Gomshall to Boxhill station	12.4km (7.7 miles)

Transport Four trains an hour run between London Waterloo and Guildford (the fastest take 38 minutes). Take the train nearest to 9.30am from Waterloo to get to lunch at the right time. Trains back from Gomshall to Guildford run every two hours (journey time 15 minutes). Buy a day return to Gomshall, making sure your ticket is valid for "any permitted" route, as a cheaper ticket is sold for return in the opposite direction from Gomshall, changing at Redhill, which is an alternative way to get back to London. If you miss the train, buses go fairly regularly (Mon-Sat only) to Guildford from outside the Compasses Inn (0870 608 2608 for info). If driving, park at Guildford station and make your way back by train or bus.

Maps OS Explorer 145, OS Landranger 186 & 187

Toughness 5 out of 10

Walk notes This walk explores the lovely ridges and valleys leading eastwards from Guildford - the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It starts with a short steep climb out of Guildford which leads straight to the dramatic viewpoint of Pewley Down. Then it joins the North Downs Way to climb to the hilltop church of St Martha-on-the-Hill. From there the route passes through follows the Pilgrims Way along the foot of the Downs to lunch in the pretty village of Shere. Climbing up onto the downland again and following first a wooded section and then a more open one, it finally descends to the valley again where you have a choice of two village tea rooms and a riverside pub to refresh you at the end of your walk.

This is a good walk at any time of year, with the sandy soils around St Martha's Hill providing a relief from mud in winter, and some fine bluebell woods in early spring. In summer the mixture of open country and woodland provides relief from the heat and the walk is also a good one for autumn colours

Walk options

a) Short walk to Gomshall. The main walk passes very close to Gomshall station in paragraph 48 (page 6), **10.9km (6.8 miles)** into the walk, making it possible to cut short the walk at this point. Instructions on how to get to the station are given in the main walk directions.

b) Short walk to Chilworth: For an even shorter walk from Guildford you can follow the main walk directions to paragraph 26 (page 5) just beyond St Martha-on-the-Hill church, and then take a short cut down to Chilworth. This is served a few minutes after Gomshall by the return train to Guildford and is also on the bus route described in the **Transport** section above. This makes an invigorating two hour walk **of 6.4km (4 miles)**.

c) Longer route to Gomshall. This attractive **1.7km (1.1 mile) extension** to the afternoon route starting from paragraph 61 (page 7), takes in an open section of the North Downs Way with fine views, before looping back to Abinger Hammer and Gomshall. This extends the walk to **19km (11.8 miles)** or six hours walking time.

d) Ending at Boxhill station. By carrying on along the North Downs Way from paragraph 61 (page 7) in the main walk directions, you come in 8.5km (5.2 miles) to Boxhill & Westhumble station, from which a Gomshall return is valid for return to London. From Guildford, this makes a total walk of **22.4km (13.9 miles)** or seven hours walking time.

e) Bluebell diversion. In late April or early May it is worth making a short diversion from the main walk paragraph 61 (page 7) to visit Old Simm's Copse, a spectacular bluebell wood just behind the escarpment. This can also be combined with options c) and d) and does not add significantly to the length of either option. This diversion is only worth doing in bluebell time: otherwise the routes described are better.

f) Starting in Gomshall. These instructions (see page 11) allow you to start the walk in Gomshall. Using the main walk directions it is thus possible to do a circular walk of **6.8km (4.2 miles)**, or if you also include option c) the Longer Route to Gomshall a circular walk of **8.5km (5.3 miles)**. To walk from Gomshall to Boxhill station using option d) makes a walk of **12.4km (7.7 miles)**. There are no lunch stops on these walks but each has a tea stop: the Abinger Hammer tea rooms or Tillings Tea Room for the circular walks, Denbies Wine Estate Visitor Centre for the Box Hill ending.

Lunch and tea places

Percy Arms 75 Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8NP (01483 561765). **Open:** noon-11pm daily. **Food served** noon-3pm, 6-10pm Mon-Sat; noon-2.30pm, 6-9.30pm Sun. This large restaurant-style pub is a possible lunch or tea option at the end of option **b) Short walk to Chilworth**.

White Horse, Shire Lane, Shere, GU5 9HS (01483 202518) **Open** 11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** 11am-10pm Mon-Sat. noon-9pm Sun. Located 9.2km (5.7 miles) into the walk, this rambling ancient inn with a small patio out the back is one of two possible lunch pubs for the main walk.

William Bray, Shere Lane, Shere, GU5 9HS (01483 202044, www.thewilliambray.co.uk). **Open** 11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-3pm, 6-9.30pm Mon-Sat; noon-8pm Sun. This place has recently been refurbished as a gastro pub and currently seems to be much less busy than the White Horse.

The Dabbling Duck, Middle Street, Shere GU5 9HF (01483 205791). **Open** 9am-5pm daily. **Hot food served** noon-3pm daily. Sandwiches, cakes and drinks are available all day at this tea room and restaurant, and it has hot dishes at lunch time. In season it has some outside

tables. There is apparently also **another cafe** 40 metres further up the road on the opposite side, serving homemade snacks and soup.

Abinger Hammer tea room. Attached to the post office in the village of Abinger Hammer, this is the suggested tea stop for the main walk

Compasses Inn, 50 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LA (01483 202506). **Open** 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-9pm Mon-Sat; noon-8pm Sun. This pub is a possible lunch stop 10.6km (6.6 miles) into the walk, or a tea stop at the end of it. It has a riverside garden.

Tillings Tea Room, 55 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9NP (01483 202 214) is a large and popular tea room on the main road between the station and the Compasses Inn in Gomshall. It is open until 5.30pm daily.

Gomshall Mill Inn, 52 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LB (01483 203060). **Open** noon-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-10pm Mon-Sat; noon-9.30pm Sun. Located opposite the Compasses Inn, this is primarily a table service restaurant, but it also has a small cosy bar which serves tea and coffee well into the evening.

Denbies Wine Estate Conservatory Restaurant London Road, Dorking, TH5 6AA (01306 876616, www.denbies.co.uk). **Open/food served** Apr-Oct 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat; 10am-5.30pm Sun. Nov-Mar 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat; 10am-5pm Sun. This is the recommended tea stop for option **d) ending at Boxhill station.**

Stepping Stones Westhumble Street, Westhumble, Dorking, RH5 6B5 (01306 889932, www.steppingstonesdorking.com). **Open** 11am-3pm, 5-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-2.30pm, 7-9pm Mon-Thur; noon-2.30pm, 7-9.30pm Fri, Sat; noon-3pm Sun. Situated 400 metres beyond Boxhill and Westhumble station this comfortable pub, which also has a garden, is an alternative tea stop at the end of option **d) ending at Boxhill station.**

Picnic: possible picnic spots are highlighted in paragraphs 10 (page 4), 21 (page 3) and 60-61 (page 6) in the main walk text.

WALK DIRECTIONS

- 1. [1] [Numbers in square brackets refer to the map in the book]**
Coming out of **Guildford station**, walk down the station approach towards an office block named Bridge House. Just before the road, go right down the underpass ramp.
2. Turn left into the tunnel, and on the far side of it go right, up the ramp.
3. In 50 metres follow the pavement around to the left. Ignore a ramp to the right in 10 metres. In another 30 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. Turn left over this, and cross the main road. Walk up the High Street ahead of you.
5. In 80 metres, and then turn right down Quarry Street, the first turning right,.
6. In 150 metres turn left up Castle Street. Ignore ways off. In 130 metres you pass the entrance to **Guildford Castle** on the right.

Only a ruined keep remains today, but under Henry III **Guildford Castle** was a key royal residence. After Henry's death in 1272, the castle fell into disuse and was eventually bought in 1611 by Francis Carter, a local worthy, who used it as a private house.

The ruins were bought in 1885 by Guildford Borough Council. It is now a park, open during daylight hours. From the top of the keep there is a fine view of the Wey river valley.

7. 60 metres further on you come to a staggered crossroads. Go right along South Hill, and in 20 metres turn half left up Pewley Hill.
8. Climb this steep hill for 400 metres all the way to the top, ignoring side roads. Halfway up turn round to get a fine view of Guildford and its modern cathedral.
9. At the top of the hill carry straight on, along a now level road, until it comes to a dead end in 350 metres. An opening with wooden posts leads out onto **Pewley Down**.
10. Walk about 20 metres ahead, and the a concrete plinth that looks like a trigonometry point comes into view on the hill half left: make a beeline for this. Though it is really too early for a rest, some benches immediately below the plinth make a fine point for a **picnic [2]**.
15. In 50 metres, you can use the less muddy raised path to the left of the main path if you wish.
16. In 220 metres more you come to a T-junction. Go left here, your direction 110 degrees. In late April or early May there are fine bluebells in the wood at the top of the hill to the right.
17. In 100 metres you come to a road, where you turn left.
18. In 30 metres, just past Southernway Cottage on your right, turn right up a path, following a North Downs Way sign, your direction 100 degrees.
19. In 80 metres cross a tarmac driveway and go straight on down a car-wide sandy track, with a open space soon to your left.
20. When the space ends in 180 metres, carry straight on along the track into a wood.

The plinth commemorates the gift of **Pewley Down** to posterity by the Friary Brewery Company in 1920 in memory of those who died in the First World War, many of whom doubtless dreamed of views such as this during their time in the trenches.

11. From the plinth, walk onwards along the ridge for 80 metres, your direction 80 degrees, and then fork right on a path that slants diagonally downhill to the right of a line of bushes and with a fence to your right, your direction 140 degrees.
12. In 220 metres the path enters a wood and levels off. In 200 metres more fork right to merge with a path climbing up from the right. In another 20 metres turn right on a path coming from the left.
13. You soon emerge onto a long path between hedges and open fields, your direction 120 degrees, that slants downwards into the valley bottom.
14. In 600 metres, at the edge of the wood, cross a car-wide track to carry straight on, initially bearing 140 degrees, up a path which climbs gently uphill just inside the left-hand edge of a wood of pine trees.

Given its dramatic situation on top of a hill on the Pilgrim's Way, you would imagine that **St Martha-on-the-Hill** must have once been a stop for medieval travellers on their way to the shrine of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. But in fact there is no evidence for this. The Pilgrim's Way turns out to have been a romantic fancy of a Victorian vicar, which was adopted with very little evidence by the Ordnance Survey: real pilgrims travelled from London to Canterbury down what is now the A2, and travellers from other parts of the country would have stuck to the valley, with its villages and inns. The church is a Victorian reconstruction, though from a Norman ruin. It is much more likely that the Pilgrim's Way and the North Downs Way were drove roads used by farmers driving sheep or cattle to market or pasture.

21. In another 200 metres ignore a bridleway to the right. Continue to climb and in 220 metres more you come to the church of **St Martha-on-the-Hill** at the summit of the ridge. **[3]**
22. Pass through the gate into the churchyard and go past the church door to the far side of the church,

where you will find a series of benches that face the noontday sun. This is another good place for a **picnic**.

23. After resting on the benches, turn left (that is, resuming the same direction as before), and walk along line of the ridge and out through the churchyard gate. You are now on a broad sandy path that follows the top of the hill, with a wooden fence to the right.
24. In 100 metres, as the path starts to descend sharply, keep to the main track forking to the right, ignoring a lesser path forking slightly left marked by an arrow on a post.
25. In 250 metres, as the surroundings get more wooded, a bridleway merges from the right.
26. 100 metres beyond this the North Downs Way forks left, marked by a three-armed footpath sign. Ignore this and keep straight on. In 40 metres there is another junction, where a bridleway forks sharp right, indicated by a signpost. [4]
 - At this point you can option **b) Short walk to Chilworth**. See the directions on page 8.
27. **To carry on with the main walk**, ignore the turning to the right and go straight on, your direction 90 degrees, passing a World War Two pillbox on your left.
28. In another 200 metres you come to a three way fork (the centre path may be concealed by a tree in summer), with a another signposted path to the right, and a car park possibly visible about 100 metres to the left. Take the middle of the three forking paths, your direction 70 degrees, and in 40 metres stay right at another fork.
29. In 30 metres more, just before a car park, turn right on a footpath.
30. In 80 metres cross over a road and go straight ahead down a signposted bridleway with a wooden fence to the left (this section of the path is part of the **Pilgrims Way**).
31. In 400 metres skirt a wood on your right (some bluebells in spring). In 300 metres, at the end of the wood, cross an earth path and go through a gap in the hedge to follow a bridleway sign half right across a field, your direction 100 degrees
32. At the top of the hill exit the field by a wooden gate and turn left to follow the edge of a wood (more bluebells in season). In 150 metres the path starts to descend much more steeply.
33. 80 metres later you come out on a tarmac lane between high banks. Turn left onto this and almost immediately, in 10 metres, turn right onto a car-wide track.
34. Stay on this track for 600 metres until you come to a house and a three-armed footpath sign. Here go straight on, still on a car-wide track, your direction 110 degrees.
35. In 40 metres cross a stile to the right of a green metal gate and keep straight on. But in 100 metres fork right off the track up a signposted path.
36. In 300 metres keep straight on across a concrete road, the entrance to a quarry, into a wood of young trees. In another 150 metres cross a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate to enter an open field, with the A25 to your left and a church ahead.
37. Keep on down the left-hand edge of the field. In 250 metres, cross two stiles beside metal fieldgates to emerge onto a road. **Be careful crossing this road:** though it may look like a quiet country lane at times, it is in fact a main road, the A248.
38. On the far side of the road carry straight on up a car-wide track. In 80 metres pass through a kissing gate to the right of a fieldgate and keep straight on up the grass slope beyond.
39. In 120 metres, pick up the line of a wire fence to your right, around an area of newly planted saplings. In another 150 metres pass through a kissing gate into a wood.
40. In 400 metres pass through a kissing gate into an open field: keep straight on down its right-hand edge. In 150 metres cross a tarmac drive and in another 70 metres enter a pine wood through a metal kissing gate.

- 41.** In 60 metres you come to a narrow road, which you cross to carry on up a path along the left side of high brick wall. In 150 metres you come to another road, where you go right downhill, your direction 120 degrees.
- 42.** In 120 metres (not 200 yards as the road sign would have it) the road comes to a ford, which you cross on a footbridge.
- 43.** Beyond this curve left with the road, with a walled vegetable garden to your left. Ignore ways off and in 260 metres you come to a crossroads, which is the centre of **Shere [5]**.
- Immediately to the right is the **White Horse**, a possible lunch stop, with the **William Bray** another 50 metres further up the road. Alternatively turn left up Middle Street for the **Lucky Duck** tea room and restaurant, 20 metres beyond the stream on the left.
- 44. To continue the walk**, however, go straight ahead across the crossroad, your direction due east, towards the Church of St James.

In 1329 the anchoress Christine Carpenter (an anchoress was a kind of halfway house between a lay woman and a nun) was enclosed in a cell in the north wall of **Shere church**, receiving food through a grating on the outside wall. After three years she returned to the world, but then petitioned to be re-enclosed. The bishop consented. You can still see where her cell was situated to the left of the altar.

- 45.** Once level with the end of the church take the signposted path half right through a wooden gate, your direction 130 degrees, ignoring a drive straight ahead to High House, and a road - Church Hill - to the right.
- 46.** In 150 metres emerge into a field and turn left along its left-hand edge. In 200 metres, at the end of the field, pass through a gap and onto a wide path between fences, your direction 120 degrees.
- 47.** In 250 metres, by a red bin, ignore an opening to the left leading to new houses. In a further 120 metres turn

left on a gravel drive, your direction 40 degrees.

- 48.** In 80 metres curve right to a road. Turn left on this, ignoring other roads further ahead, and follow it to a T-junction with a main road, the A25, in 400 metres. **[6]**.
- At this point, the **Compasses Inn**, a possible lunch stop, is on the right in 170 metres. This is also the way to **finish the walk in Gomshall**, option **a**): stay on the road beyond The Compasses Inn for another 250 metres until you come to the railway bridge. The approach road to Gomshall station is on the left just before the bridge.
- 49. To carry on with the main walk**, however, cross this busy A25 with care. **[!]** Do **NOT** go up the tarmac driveway ahead (Netley Close), but take the signposted path 30 metres to the left up four steps. In 10 metres you pass a National Trust sign for Netley Park.
- 50.** Continue up this footpath, with a hedge and an open field to your left. In 100 metres, you enter a wood. The path is a bit indistinct here, but keep straight on, uphill. In 200 metres the wood thins a bit and the path becomes steeper and more distinct.
- 51.** In 300 metres fork right following a yellow arrow on a post, your direction 30 degrees. In another 50 metres curve right at another footpath post, merging with a path that joins from the left, your direction 60 degrees. In 30 metres merge with a wider path from the left and keep straight on, downhill, your direction 100 degrees, ignoring a signed footpath to the right in 10 metres.
- 52.** In 70 metres there is an open field and a view of the valley over the bank to the right. In another 250 metres, you pass a house to the left and 50 metres further on you come to a tarmac drive. Cross this, but in five metres turn left downhill on a tarmac lane, signposted to Colekitchen Farm **[7]**
- 53.** In 150 metres, just before a fieldgate, veer right through wooden posts onto a footpath, passing to the right of the farm buildings. Keep on uphill on this

path, which becomes increasingly steep. Further up the hill there are bluebell woods in season.

54. In 700 metres, at the top of the hill, you come to a five way track junction with a large concrete circular structure ahead. Here turn right onto the car-wide North Downs Way, your direction 120 degrees.
55. You now stay on the North Downs Way until point [8] below. But in more detail:
56. In 400 metres you pass an open space with a bench to the right. [!] In a further 200 metres, at a three-armed footpath, fork right off the main track, following the North Downs Way signpost, your direction 140 degrees.
57. In 60 metres turn right through a wooden barrier, still following the North Down Way sign, your direction 200 degrees. Follow the path downhill. In 100 metres **do not go through the kissing gate ahead** but veer left with the North Downs Way, with a wire fence to your right.
58. In 250 metres ignore another kissing gate to the right. 100 metres further on cross a car-wide byway at a four-armed footpath post to keep straight on along the North Downs Way.
59. Follow this path as it meanders through gorse scrub and then light woodland, with a wire fence to the right.
60. In 400 metres ignore a path downhill to the right, and instead veer left on the main track to pass through a kissing gate to the left of a fieldgate in 15 metres to emerge onto **Blatchford Down**, a possible **picnic** spot (though a better one is coming up if you are doing option c).
61. Follow the path across this open space, with fine views. In 350 metres pass through a kissing gate on to a bridleway. [8].
 - At this point you can take option **c) Longer route to Gomshall** (4.9km/3.1 miles from this point versus 3.2km/2 miles for the main walk route) - see the directions on page 8 - or option **d) Ending in Boxhill station** (8.5km/5.2 miles

from this point): see directions on page 9. The section of downland ahead of you at this point is also a good **picnic** spot. See also the **Bluebell Diversion, option e)** on page 10 for a side trip to a spectacular bluebell wood in late April or early May.

62. **To carry on with the main walk**, however, turn right downhill on the bridleway, your direction 200 degrees. Follow this all the way downhill for 1km to the railway line, ignoring ways off (in particular a large track to the left in 450 metres).
63. Cross the railway line and carry straight on, past farm buildings and on up a tarmac lane. In 200 metres, at the top of the hill, ignore a signposted bridleway to the left [9]. Carry straight on downhill on the lane. In 260 metres you come to a T-junction with the main A25.

Turn left here for the **Abinger Hammer Tea Rooms** which are 100 metres along on the left, just before the post office: After tea, you can either retrace your steps to this point after tea to continue the walk, or take the bus from the opposite side of the road to the tea rooms back to Guildford.
64. Otherwise, turn right along the A25. In 60 metres, a pond starts on your left. In 100 metres, 20 metres after the end of the pond, turn left, down a car-wide track on a signposted bridleway.
 - To go **direct to Gomshall station** from this point, you can continue along the A25. In 650 metres you come to the railway bridge and the station approach is on the right just beyond the bridge. There is also a footpath to the station to the right 100 metres before the bridge.
65. Otherwise, having turned down the car-wide track, in 100 metres you pass houses to the right. 100 metres beyond this the track crosses a stream and curves right. 40 metres further on, at a sign for Brook Cottage, take the right-hand of two paths that fork left uphill.

- 66.** In 120 metres you come out alongside an open space to the left and 80 metres later another path merges from the left in front of a house. In 20 metres your path merges with an earth driveway from another house. In a further 30 metres turn right downhill at a T-junction with a car-wide track, which curves left almost immediately.
- 67.** In 250 metres follow this track as it curves right, ignoring a path straight on, and in another 250 metres you come back to the main road, the A25. Go left under the railway bridge. The approach road to Gomshall station is to the right immediately after the railway bridge. For tea, continuing on the main road for 100 metres brings you to **Tillings Tea Room**, and in another 100 metres you pass **Gomshall Mill**, with the **Compasses Inn** 50 metres further on.

b) Short walk to Chilworth

Follow the main walk directions until paragraph 26 on page 5.

- 1.** At the signpost turn sharply right onto the signposted bridleway, your direction 240 degrees. This sandy path descends gently through a wood at first, then after 170 metres more steeply between fields in a holloway.
- 2.** In 180 metres it curves right, and in another 90 metres, it emerges from the holloway and levels out, now running parallel to the ridge of the Downs. In another 80 metres it turns left downhill on a broad track.
- 3.** In 270 metres, you approach a thicket of trees, and a T-junction marked by a two-armed footpath sign. Follow the sign for 'Downs Link' left, your direction due east.
- 4.** After 120 metres, you cross a stream, and 15 metres beyond this, turn right through a gate to the left of a fieldgate, to walk along a permissive path, your direction 200 degrees, with a small stream to your left after 20 metres.
- 5.** 60 metres further on, the path crosses this stream, so that it is now on your right, and 15 metres later the stream forks off to the right. Continue straight

on for 40 metres to a T-junction, where you turn right, your direction due west.

- 6.** After 100 metres you cross another stream, and 50 metres after this, you come to picnic tables on the right in a small open space. Turn half left here, your direction 200 degrees, and in 25 metres cross a footbridge.
- 7.** Beyond the bridge keep straight on for 10 metres, then curving right with the path to pass between two fields, your direction 220 degrees. After 200 metres, you come to the A248, where you turn left, your direction due east.
- 8.** In 120 metres, you come to the **Percy Arms** on your left. **Chilworth Station** is a further 40 metres along the road to the right.

c) Longer route to Gomshall

Follow the main walk directions paragraph 61 on page 7.

- 1.** Carry on across the bridleway to continue along the North Downs Way. The route passes along a delightfully open section of the escarpment, with fine views (and good spots for a **picnic**).
- 2.** In 1.2km, the track passes through a kissing gate to the left of a fieldgate. **[!]** 10 metres beyond the kissing gate and five metres before a four-way footpath sign fork right, steeply downhill on a signposted footpath sign with a barbed wire fence to the right (possibly invisible in summer), your direction 140 degrees.
- 3.** In 150 metres the path curves left to a road, where you turn right downhill, your direction 220 degrees. (Be careful on this minor road as cars sometimes come too fast down it). Follow the road around the hairpin bend and down onto the valley floor.
- 4.** In 400 metres you cross over a railway bridge. 70 metres beyond the bridge ignore a signposted bridleway to the left and a footpath to the left just beyond it, but 20 metres further on fork right off the road onto a signposted bridleway, passing in 20 metres a National Trust sign for Abinger Roughs.

5. Stay on this broad pleasant path along the valley bottom, ignoring ways off. For 600 metres the path follows the edge of a wood before going uphill deeper into the wood.
 6. In another 400 metres you cross a substantial clearing. In 100 metres, at the far end of the clearing, ignore two forks to the left marked by a footpath post and keep straight on along the main path, slightly uphill.
 7. In 200 metres, at the top of the hill, leave the wood and descend down the right-hand side of an open space with a fence to your right. In 150 metres, cross a farm track and carry on through a gate to the right of a wooden fieldgate. Keep straight on, with a hedge to the left and a fence to the right.
 8. In 200 metres pass through a wooden gate and in 20 metres turn left onto a tarmac lane. You can now rejoin the main walk directions in paragraph 63 on page 7 at the point marked **[9]**.
4. 30 metres beyond the second bench go left at a three-armed footpath sign, still on the North Downs Way. In 70 metres pass through a kissing gate and turn half right, your direction 50 degrees, to a road T-junction in another 40 metres. Go straight ahead down the road opposite, signposted to Bookham, Westhumble and Parish Church.
 5. In 100 metres you pass a wood on the right that is carpeted with bluebells in late April and early May. In another 150 metres, you pass the church of **St Barnabas, Ranmore** on the right.
 6. 500 metres further on, where the road curves left, with the entrance to Denbies house right (note: this is **NOT** the Vineyard Visitors Centre), keep straight on down a concrete track, following the North Downs Way sign. In 40 metres, go right on a stoney track, still following the North Downs Way.
 7. In 180 metres, at a crossroads, go left along a tarmac track. In 150 metres pass through a high metal gate, the entrance to **Denbies Wine Estate**, and carry on down the tarmac track. There is an extensive view of the vineyard and Dorking to your right.

d) Ending at Boxhill station

Follow the main walk directions until paragraph 61 on page 7.

1. Carry on across the bridleway to continue along the North Downs Way. The route passes along a delightfully open section of the escarpment, with fine views (and good spots for a **picnic**).
2. You now follow the well-waymarked North Downs Way for 4.3km (2.6 miles) until you come to **Steers Field** (named as such by a National Trust sign) an area of open downland on the top of the escarpment, with Ranmore Church visible in the distance ahead, and Dorking in the valley below to the right.
3. Carry straight on across this open space, ignoring a fork to the left, and passing two benches on your left in 220 metres. This is a good spot for a **picnic tea**. It is also worth stopping here to look back over your right shoulder for a fine view up the valley towards Gomshall.
8. In 600 metres pass through another high metal gate. 80 metres after this, ignore a 'Woodland Walk' signposted to the left, and keep on the main track, which emerges from the trees to give you a fine view of Boxhill and the Denbies Wine Estate Visitor's Centre in the middle of the vineyard below.
9. In 400 metres there is a crossroads with gravel tracks left and right.
 - At this point, **if you are NOT having tea at the Denbies Wine Estate tearoom**, you can go straight on, remaining on the North Downs Way. In 170 metres where the track turns concrete and veers right, **go straight on** along a gravel track, following a yellow arrow on a post. 40 metres after this, keep straight on at a three-armed footpath post. **[!]** In 400 metres, at a four armed footpath sign, easily missed in summer, go left through a kissing gate on a

public footpath signposted to Westhumble, leaving the North Downs Way, your direction 10 degrees. Resume the directions at paragraph 15 below.

- 10. Otherwise to have tea in the Denbies Wine Estate Visitor Centre** go right at the crossroad in paragraph 9, downhill into the vineyard, your direction due east initially. In 150 metres merge with a concrete track and follow this downhill towards the buildings of Denbies Wine Estate, which you reach in 350 metres.
- 11.** Keep to the right of the buildings. In 120 metres more, turn left along the front of the Visitor Centre, with its car park to your right. The entrance to the **Denbies Wine Estate Visitor Centre** is the arched doorway 100 metres along on the left. Once inside, turn immediately right, passing through the shop to the glass-roofed courtyard and the self-service restaurant.
- 12.** After tea, come out of the Denbies Wine Estate Visitor Centre and turn right for 100 metres through the car park to a road. Turn right on this road.
- 13.** In 120 metres, just beyond the Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast, turn right at a four-armed footpath sign onto a car-wide grass path between the vines, your direction due north. (Note: **NOT** the gravel track sharp right, which leads back to the vineyard buildings).
- 14.** In 300 metres, leave the vineyard by a wooden gate, and keep straight on across the North Downs Way to a kissing gate.
- 15.** Beyond this gate, keep straight ahead across a field for 50 metres to another kissing gate. Carry on up a path between garden fences.
- 16.** In 250 metres cross a road and carry on up a path to the right of the wooden fence ahead, and to the left of a driveway. This path, which is soon bounded on both sides by garden fences, is at times narrow and a bit overgrown.
- 17.** In 200 metres you come to a road and turn right. Take care on this road,

which is not over busy but narrow. In 30 metres, just after a private road turns off to the right, you can escape from the road by taking the path between two wooden fences, passing to the left of Beware Children and 15 mph signs.

- 18.** In 120 metres this path rejoins the road, and there is now a pavement to the right-hand side of the road. In 60 metres this brings you to a brick railway bridge. **Boxhill and Westhumble station** is to the right on the far side, through the white wooden gate. **Pilgrim Cycles**, with its cafe, is in the old booking hall of the station. Cross the footbridge to platform 1 for trains to London.
- 19.** If you want to stop for a drink at the **Stepping Stones** pub, carry on down the road beyond the station for 400 metres to find the pub on the right.

e) Bluebell diversion

Follow the main walk directions to paragraph 61 on page 7.

- 1.** Here turn left at the junction, into the woods.
- 2.** In 100 metres, at a crosspaths marked by a four-armed footpath sign, turn right up a car-wide track. The bluebell wood is soon to your left.
- 3.** After exploring it, you can either retrace your steps to point [8] to continue the main walk, or if doing option **c) the Longer route to Gomshall**, or **d) ending in Boxhill or Dorking**, stay on the track heading east through the bluebell wood.
- 4.** In 400 metres, another track joins from the left and 200 metres beyond this there is a track fork, where you keep right.
- 5.** In another 100 metres fork right again, this time onto a smaller path that goes directly downhill. In 70 metres this turns left along a fence, and in 100 metres follows the fence right, directly downhill.
- 6.** In 100 metres you emerge onto the North Downs Way.

For option **d) ending at Boxhill station** go left and pick up the

directions for this option (see page 9) in paragraph 2.

For option c) the **Longer route to Gomshall** go right for 10 metres towards a gate, and then hard left (that is doubling back on yourself) to follow a path steeply downhill, with a barbed wire fence to the right (possibly invisible in summer). Pick up the directions for this option (see page 8) in paragraph 3 ("The path curves left to a road..")

f) Starting in Gomshall

- 1.** Walk off platform 1 at Gomshall station (the platform you arrive at if coming from Guildford), and walk straight ahead through the station car park. In 30 metres turn left down the approach road.
- 2.** In 150 metres you come to the main road, the A25, and turn right. In 250 metres, you pass the Compasses Inn on your left. 70 metres beyond this turn right up Colekitchen Lane.
- 3.** Carry on up this hill for 700 metres as it climbs increasingly steeply. At the very top of the hill, a private driveway forks left to Kings Holt and Northanger, but your onward route is to stay on the lane, the right fork, signposted Colekitchen Farm. You can now follow the main walk directions from paragraph 53 on page 6.