

Main walk last checked	Option a) last checked	Option b) last checked	Option e) last checked
27 November 2021	15 October 2021	1 November 2023	15 October 2021
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Guildford to Gomshall

On the Pilgrims Way along the North Downs

Length	Main walk	19.2km (11.9 miles)
	a) Via short cut to Abinger Hammer	17.2km (10.7 miles)
	b) Long walk to Boxhill station	23.4km (14.5 miles)
	d) Short walk to Gomshall	11km (6.8 miles)
	e) Short walk to Chilworth	6.6km (4.1 miles)
	f) Gomshall Circular	9km (5.5 miles)
	g) Gomshall to Boxhill station	13.2km (8.2 miles)

Maps OS Explorer 145, OS Landranger 186 & 187

Toughness 5 out of 10

Features

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 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

For options **a)** to **e)** simply follow the main walk directions and you will be prompted when the time comes. For options **f)** and **g)** start with the text in italics in paragraph 70 on page 7.

a) Short cut to Abinger Hammer. This direct descent from Blatchford Down to Abinger Hammer trims **2km (1.3km)** off the end of the walk, but misses out a nice open section of downland. It makes a total walk of **17.2km (10.7 miles)**.

b) Longer walk Box Hill station. By carrying on along the North Downs Way from paragraph 80 on page 8, you come in **9.3km (5.8 miles)** to Box Hill & Westhumble station, from which a Gomshall return is valid for return to London. From Guildford, this makes a total walk of **23.4km (14.5 miles)**.

c) Bluebell diversion. In late April or early May it is worth making a short diversion from the main walk route to visit Old Simm's Copse, a spectacular bluebell wood just behind the escarpment - see paragraph 80 on page 8. This can also be combined with options **a), b), f)** and **g)** and adds only 2-300 metres to the length of any of these options. This diversion is only worth doing in bluebell time: otherwise the routes described are better.

d) Short walk to Gomshall. The main walk passes very close to Gomshall station in paragraph 64 on page 6, making it possible to cut short the walk at this point. This makes a walk of **11km (6.8 miles)**. *You only need pages 1-6 if doing this option.*

e) Short walk to Chilworth. For an even shorter walk from Guildford you can follow the main walk directions to paragraph 28 on page 5, just beyond St Martha-on-the-Hill church, and then take a short cut down to Chilworth, which has a train every two hours to Guildford and is also on a bus route (see **Transport** below). This makes an invigorating walk of **6.6km (4.1 miles)**. *You only need pages 1-5 if doing this option.*

f) Gomshall Circular. These instructions allow you to start the walk in Gomshall and do a circular walk of **7km (4.3 miles)** - or **9km (5.5 miles)** if you use the option **a) Short cut to Abinger Hammer** as well. There are tea options but no lunch stop on this walk. *To do this option go to the section in italics in paragraph 70 on page 7: you only need the pages 1-3 and 7-9 if doing this option.*

g) Gomshall to Box Hill station. Using option **f)** to start with and then switching to option **b)** makes a walk of **13.2km (8.2 miles)**. There are tea options but no lunch stops on this walk. *To do this option go to the section in italics in paragraph 70 on page 7: you only need pages 1-3 and 7-10 if doing this option.*

Transport

Four trains an hour run between **London Waterloo** and **Guildford**, the fastest taking 38 minutes. Take **the train nearest to 9.30am** from Waterloo to get to lunch at the right time. Do not get the slower stopping trains via Clandon or Effingham Junction, unless these happen to be more convenient to you.

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).

Chilworth is served by the same trains that call at Gomshall. From **Box Hill & Westhumble** trains go hourly Monday to Saturday and twice hourly on Sundays to London Victoria: change at Epsom for connections to Waterloo. A **Gomshall return** is valid via Box Hill or you could try a **Guildford return**, adding a single for the one stop from Box Hill to Leatherhead if necessary.

Lunch

Of the two pubs in Shere, 9.1km (5.7 miles) into the walk, the **White Horse** (01483 202518) is the busiest and most obvious. A rambling ancient inn with a small patio out the back, it serves food all afternoon daily. Nearby is the **William Bray** (01483 202044, www.thewilliambray.co.uk), also open and serving food all afternoon, which has a more modern rustic decor.

A cafe option in Shere is **The Dabbling Duck**, open till 4.30pm weekdays and 5pm weekends and serving hot food until half an hour before closing time. Just around the corner, on the left at the start of the lane leading to the church, is **Hilly's Tea Shop**, open till 5pm daily.

1.6km (0.9 miles) further on from Shere - and thus 10.7km (6.6 miles) into the walk, the **Compasses Inn** in Gomshall (01483 202506) is also a possible lunch stop. Open all afternoon, it does food from noon-9pm Monday to Saturday and noon-8pm Sunday and has a riverside garden.

At the end of **e) Short walk to Chilworth**, the **Percy Arms** (01483 561765) is a restaurant pub with a South African tinge. It has a garden. It is open and serves food noon-3pm and 6-10pm Monday to Friday and all afternoon Saturday and Sunday.

Picnic spots are indicated in paragraphs 14 (page 4), 24 (page 4), 79 (page 7) and 86 (page 8).

Tea

The **Abinger Hammer tea room**, attached to the post office in the village of Abinger Hammer, is a possible tea stop for the main walk, open till 5pm daily. It has some outside tables in summer, albeit by a rather busy road. The shop sells a range of snacks and homemade cakes.

Otherwise, the only pub option in Gomshall is currently (as of April 2022) the **Compasses Inn** (see **Lunch**), the **Gomshall Mill** opposite being closed and up for sale.

On options that end at **Box Hill station (b and g)** the best tea choice is the **Denbies Wine Estate Conservatory Restaurant** (01306 876616, www.denbies.co.uk), a self-service restaurant under a large glass-roofed courtyard which has an good choice of cakes, which also has an outside tea kiosk. It is open till 5pm daily from April to October, 4pm from November to March.

A pub option in Westhumble is the **Stepping Stones** (01306 889932), 400 metres beyond Box Hill and Westhumble station, which has a garden and serves cakes as well as hot drinks.

WALK DIRECTIONS

*For **f) Gomshall Circular** and **g) Gomshall to Box Hill station** go to the section in italics in paragraph 70 on page 7.*

Guildford station to Pewley Down (1.9km/1.2 miles)

1. 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. In 40 metres, descend steps to the river bank, and turn right under the road 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 turn right down Quarry Street, the first turning right.
6. In 150 metres turn left up Castle Street.

7. In 40 metres turn right through a gate into the grounds of Guildford Castle.
 - **If this gate is closed**, stay on the road for 150 metres to come to the junction in paragraph 11 overleaf.

Only a ruined keep remains today, but under Henry III **Guildford Castle** was a key royal residence. After his death in 1272, the castle fell into disuse and was eventually bought in 1611 by a local worthy, who used it as a private house. The ruins were bought in 1885 by Guildford Borough Council. From the top of the keep there is a fine view of the Wey river valley.

8. Once through the gate turn left to follow a path uphill, with the castle uphill to your right.
9. In 70 metres pass through a gate and in 35 metres more go right at a path T-junction, to pass through another gate in 10 metres.
10. Beyond this gate turn left and in 25 metres, after another gate, turn left again to come to a road in 40 metres.

11. Turn right uphill on the road and immediately go right at a junction along South Hill. In 30 metres turn half left up Pewley Hill.
12. 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.
13. 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**.
14. Walk about 20 metres ahead, and a concrete plinth comes into view on the hill half left: make a beeline for this. Some benches immediately below the plinth make a fine point for a **picnic**.

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.

Pewley Down to St Martha's Hill (2.8km/1.7 miles)

15. Turn left at the plinth and walk along the edge of the escarpment. In 100 metres fork right on a path that slants diagonally downhill to the right of a line of bushes and with a fence to your right.
16. In 220 metres the path enters a wood and levels off.
17. In 150 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.
18. You soon emerge onto a long path between hedges and open fields that slants downwards into the valley bottom.
19. In 650 metres, at the edge of the wood, cross a track to carry straight on up a path which climbs gently uphill just inside the left-hand edge of a wood of pine trees.
20. In 50 metres you can use the less muddy raised path to the left of the main path if you wish.
21. In 220 metres more you come to a three-way path junction. Go left here. In late April or early May there are fine

bluebells in the wood at the top of the hill to the right.

22. In 100 metres turn left on a road and then in 30 metres **turn right up a path**, signposted North Downs Way, which passes to the left of a white house.
23. You now keep straight on along this path for 800 metres to **St Martha-on-the-Hill Church**. (Ignore all side paths, including a broad sandy bridleway forking right after about 500 metres.)
24. 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 noonday sun. This is another good place for a **picnic**.

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.

25. 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.
26. In 100 metres, as the path starts to descend sharply, keep to the main track forking to the right, ignoring a lesser path straight ahead.

27. In 250 metres, as the surroundings get more wooded, a bridleway merges from the right.
28. 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, with a World War II pillbox 40 metres ahead to the left, where a bridleway forks sharp right, indicated by a signpost.

- To do **e) Short walk to Chilworth**, take this bridleway forking sharp right and continue with the next section.
- **To continue on the main walk**, go to paragraph 37 opposite.

St Martha's Hill to Chilworth **(1.9km/1.2 miles)**

This is the ending of e) Short Walk to Chilworth.

29. After you have turned sharp right in paragraph 28 the path slants downhill through the trees. In 200 metres there are fields visible left and right. In another 300 metres you emerge more or less into the open and in 100 metres more the path turns left downhill with the field boundary.
30. In 300 metres more, at the bottom of the hill, you come to a T-junction with a track and turn left, following the Downs Link signpost.
31. In 100 metres ignore a private drive left and carry on along the track, crossing a stream and ignoring a path to the right through a kissing gate in another 30 metres.
32. In 60 metres more, just before a metal railed bridge over a larger stream (which is also crossed by a large metal pipe), **turn right** up a non-signposted path through wooden barriers to the right, along the bank of the stream.
33. In 50 metres you are passing the derelict buildings of an abandoned gunpowder works – once one of the leading gunpowder makers in the country.
34. In 100 metres more, just beyond the end of the buildings, stay on the main path as it veers right away from the stream.
35. In 200 metres, by some picnic tables, look out for a path to the left which leads in 30 metres to a footbridge over the stream (with what looks like rails also crossing the stream to its left). Cross this footbridge to emerge on a path between two open fields.
36. In 200 metres you come to a main road, where you turn left. The **Percy Arms** is on the left in 120 metres. On the opposite side of the main road is **Chilworth station** and also the **bus stop**: cross to the far side of the station for the platform to Guildford.

St Martha's Hill to Shere **(4.4km/2.7 miles)**

This is the continuation of the main walk.

37. Having ignored the turning to the right in paragraph 28, go straight on passing to the right of the World War Two pillbox.
38. In another 200 metres you come to a fork (the left-hand path may be concealed by a tree in summer), with another unsignposted path to the left (with a car park visible about 100 metres beyond) and a signposted one to the right. Take left-hand path of the fork, your direction 70 degrees, and in 40 metres stay right at another fork.
39. In 40 metres more turn right along the near edge of the car park, carrying on up a footpath when it ends in another 25 metres.
40. In 70 metres cross over a road and go straight ahead down a signposted bridleway between fences (this section of the path is part of the **Pilgrims Way**).
41. In 300 metres skirt a wood on your right (some **bluebells** in spring).
42. In 250 metres more, 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.
43. At the top of the hill exit the field through a gap 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.
44. 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 track.
45. Stay on this track, which soon becomes a path, for 600 metres until you come

to a house and a three-armed footpath sign. Here go straight on along a track.

46. In 40 metres pass around a fieldgate.
47. In another 100 metres fork right off the track up a signposted path.
48. In 300 metres keep straight on across a concrete road, the entrance to a quarry, into a wood of young trees.
49. In another 150 metres cross a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate to enter an open field, with a main road to your left and a church ahead. Keep on down the left-hand edge of the field.
50. 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.
51. On the far side of the road carry straight on up a track. In 80 metres pass through a kissing gate to the right of a fieldgate and keep straight on up the grass slope beyond.
52. In 120 metres pick up the line of a wire fence to your right, around an area of newly planted saplings. In another 130 metres pass through a kissing gate into a wood.
53. In 400 metres pass through a kissing gate into an open field: keep straight on down its right-hand edge.
54. In 150 metres cross a tarmac drive and in another 70 metres enter a pine wood through a metal kissing gate.
55. 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.
56. In 150 metres you come to another road, where you go right downhill.
57. 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.
58. Beyond this curve left with the road, with a walled vegetable garden to your left. Ignore ways off and in 200 metres you come to a crossroads, which is the centre of **Shere**.

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 **Dabbling Duck** cafe 20 metres beyond the stream on the left. **Hilly's Tea Room**

is across the intersection, on the left at the start of the road to the church mentioned in the next paragraph.

Shere to Gomshall **(1.4km/0.9 miles)**

59. After lunch come out of the **White Horse** and go straight ahead up the road towards the church. (Coming out of the **Lucky Duck** turn right and then left at the crossroads after the stream; turn left out of **Hilly's Tea Room**; from the **William Bray** return down the road and turn right in front of the White Horse).
 60. Once level with the end of the church take the signposted path half right through a wooden gate, ignoring a drive straight ahead to High House, and a road - Church Hill - to the right.
- In 1329 the anchoress Christine Carpenter (halfway 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.
61. In 170 metres, at a path crossroads, turn left along a path fenced off from a field.
 62. In 180 metres, at the end of the field, pass through a gap and onto a path between fences.
 63. In 250 metres ignore an opening to the left leading to new houses. In a further 120 metres turn left on a gravel drive.
 64. 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 in 400 metres.
 - At this point, the **Compasses Inn**, a possible lunch stop, is on the right in 180 metres. This is also the way to **finish the walk in Gomshall, option d**): stay on the road beyond the pub to find the approach road to Gomshall station on the left in 300 metres, just before the railway bridge.

Gomshall to Blatchford Down (3.6km/2.2 miles)

65. To **continue with the main walk** cross the main road with care. **Do not go up the tarmac driveway ahead** (Netley Close), but take the signposted path 30 metres to the left, up four wooden-edged steps.
66. Continue up this footpath, with a hedge and a field to your left. In 100 metres you veer right into a yew wood. The path is a bit indistinct here, but keep straight on uphill.
67. In 200 metres the wood thins a bit and the path becomes steeper and more distinct.
68. Keep near to the right-hand edge of the wooded strip, ignoring any paths forking left. However, in 300 metres, after a large clump of buddleia (*there in November 2021 at least...*), fork right (*a footpath post is sadly missing here*). In another 50 metres curve right, merging with a path that joins from the left, marked by a footpath post with two arrows on it.
69. In 30 metres merge with a wider path from the left and keep straight on, downhill.
70. In 70 metres there is a field and a view of the valley over the bank to the right. In another 300 metres, you come to a tarmac drive. Cross this, but in five metres turn left downhill on a tarmac lane, signposted to Colekitchen Farm.
- *If starting from Gomshall - options f) and g), walk off platform 1 at Gomshall station (the platform you arrive at if coming from Guildford) and left down the station approach road. In 150 metres turn right on a main road. In 250 metres you pass the **Compasses Inn** on your left. 70 metres beyond this turn right up Colekitchen Lane. 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. Now continue with the directions below.*
71. In 200 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.
72. 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 a track, the North Downs Way.
73. 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.
74. In 60 metres turn right up a side path, still following the North Down Way sign. Follow the path slightly downhill.
75. In 130 metres ignore a wooden kissing gate to the right, and instead veer left with the North Downs Way, with a wire fence to your right.
76. In 250 metres ignore another kissing gate to the right.
77. 100 metres further on cross a car-wide byway to keep straight on along the North Downs Way.
78. Follow this path as it meanders through gorse scrub and then light woodland, with a wire fence to the right.
79. 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 *not* doing the short cut to Abinger Hammer in the next paragraph.)
80. Follow the path across this open space, with fine views. In 350 metres pass through a kissing gate on to a bridleway. **Here you have a choice of four options** (*on this page and overleaf*):
- For **a) Short Cut to Abinger Hammer**, turn right onto the bridleway, downhill, and continue with paragraph 96 on page 9. By this route it is **3.1km (1.9 miles)** to Gomshall from this point.
 - For **the main walk** and also for the longer of the two versions of **g) Gomshall Circular - 5.1km/3.1 miles** to Gomshall from this point - *keep straight ahead* across the bridleway, continuing on the North

Downs escarpment and continue with paragraph 86 on page 8.

- For **b)** or **g)**, ending at **Box Hill station (9.3km/5.8 miles)** from this point) also *keep straight ahead* along the North Downs escarpment and continue with paragraph 105 on page 9.
- For **c) Bluebell Diversion** - a trip to a spectacular bluebell wood in late April or early May - *turn left* onto the bridleway and continue with the directions below. This can be combined with any of the walk options and adds very little to the walk length.

Bluebell diversion

- 81.** Here turned left onto the bridleway in paragraph 80, carry on into the woods.
- 82.** 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.
 - After exploring it, for **a) Short Cut to Abinger Hammer (ONLY: for all other options see below)** retrace your steps to the junction in paragraph 80, heading downhill on the bridleway. Continue with paragraph 96 on page 9.
 - For **all other walk options** stay on the track heading east through the bluebell wood and continue with the directions below.
- 83.** In 400 metres, another track joins from the left and 200 metres beyond this there is a track fork, where you keep right.
- 84.** 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.
- 85.** In 100 metres you emerge onto the North Downs Way. **Here you have a choice:**
 - For option **b)** or **g)** ending at **Box Hill station** go left and continue with paragraph 106 on page 9.
 - For the **main walk** and **g) Gomshall Circular**, 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). Continue with paragraph 88 below.

Blatchford Down to Abinger Hammer (3.6km/2.2 miles)

- 86.** Continue along the escarpment of the North Downs Way. The route passes along a delightfully open section of the escarpment, with fine views (and good spots for a **picnic**).
- 87.** In 900 metres the track passes through a kissing gate to the left of a fieldgate. 10 metres beyond the kissing gate, **fork right, steeply downhill** on a signposted footpath sign with a barbed wire fence to the right (possibly invisible in summer).
- 88.** In 130 metres the path curves left to come to a road in another 70 metres. Turn right downhill on this. (**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.
- 89.** After 450 metres on the road 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 40 metres a National Trust sign for Abinger Roughts.
- 90.** 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.
- 91.** 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.
- 92.** 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.
- 93.** In 170 metres cross a farm track and carry on through a gate to the right of a wooden fieldgate. Keep straight on, with a hedge left and a fence right.
- 94.** In 200 metres pass through a wooden gate and in 20 metres turn left onto a tarmac lane, downhill.

95. In 350 metres you come to a T-junction with the main road.
- Turn left here for the **Abinger Hammer Tea Rooms** which are 130 metres along on the left, attached to a village shop selling a range of snacks and cakes. On the opposite side of the road from the tea rooms is a **bus stop** with services to Guildford, if you want to end the walk here.

To continue the walk cross the road and turn right. Continue with paragraph 99 below.

Blatchford Down to Abinger Hammer - short cut route (1.6km/1 mi)

96. Having turned right downhill on the bridleway in paragraph 80, follow it all the way downhill for 1km to the railway line, ignoring ways off (in particular when the main track seems to sweep round sharply to the left in 450 metres, ignore this and **keep straight on** on a narrower path).
97. Cross the railway line and carry straight on, past farm buildings for 100 metres and on up a tarmac lane. In 200 metres more, at the top of the hill, ignore a footpath to the right and a bridleway to the left 5 metres later, to carry straight on downhill on the lane.
98. In 350 metres you come to a T-junction with the main road, where you cross the road with care and turn right.
- Turn left here for the **Abinger Hammer Tea Rooms** which are 100 metres along on the left, just before the post office. On the opposite side of the road from the tea rooms is a **bus stop** with services to Guildford, if you want to end the walk here

Abinger Hammer to Gomshall (1.5km/0.9 miles)

99. Carry on along the main road. In 150 metres **turn left down a track**, a signposted bridleway.
- To **go direct to Gomshall station** you can just continue along the main road. 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.
100. Otherwise, having turned down the track, in 100 metres you pass houses to the right.
101. 100 metres beyond this the track crosses a stream and curves right. 50 metres further on, take the right-hand of two paths that fork left uphill.
102. In 120 metres you come out alongside an open space to the left and 100 metres later another path merges from the left in front of a house.
103. In 20 metres more your path merges with an earth driveway from another house. In a further 30 metres turn right downhill at a T-junction with a track, which curves left.
104. 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. Go left under the railway bridge. The approach road to Gomshall station is to the right immediately after the railway bridge.
- For **tea**, continue on the main road for 220 metres to **Gomshall Mill**, with the **Compasses Inn** 70 metres further on.

Blatchford Down to Box Hill station (9.3km/5.8 miles)

105. Continuing along the North Downs Way, the route passes along a delightfully open section of the escarpment, with fine views (a good spot for a **picnic**).
106. You now follow the well-waymarked North Downs Way for 4.3km (2.7 miles) until you come to **Steers Field** (named as such by a National Trust sign) an area of open downland, with Ranmore Church visible in the distance ahead, and Dorking in the valley ahead to the right.
107. Carry straight on across this open space, ignoring a fork to the left. In 100 metres there is a bench to your right, and in another 150 and 180 metres two more to your left. Any of these are a good spot for a **picnic tea**. It is also worth stopping at the latter two benches to look back over your right shoulder for a fine view up the valley towards Gomshall.
108. 30 metres beyond the second bench go left at a three-armed footpath sign, still on the North Downs Way.
109. In 70 metres pass through a kissing gate and turn half right to a road T-

junction in another 30 metres. Go straight ahead down the road opposite, signposted to Bookham, Westhumble and Parish Church.

- 110.** In 150 metres you pass a wood on the right that is carpeted with **bluebells** in late April and early May. In another 100 metres you pass a church right.
- 111.** 450 metres further on, where the road curves left, with the entrance to Ashmore Park right, keep straight on down a concrete track, following the North Downs Way sign.
- 112.** In 40 metres go right on a track, still following the North Downs Way.
- 113.** In 130 metres follow the now tarmac track to the left, ignoring a path straight ahead. In 50 metres merge with a level track and pass a vehicle turning area.
- 114.** In 100 metres more pass through a high metal gate, the entrance to the **Denbies Wine Estate**, and carry on down a tarmac track. Initially there is scrub to your right. Later there is a view of Dorking and the vineyard.
- 115.** In 600 metres pass through another high metal gate. Soon after this the track emerges from the trees to give you a fine view of Box Hill and the Denbies Wine Estate Visitor's Centre in the middle of the vineyard below.
- 116.** In 150 metres you enter the woods again. In another 400 metres there is a signposted crossroads with gravel tracks left and right.
 - At this point, **if you are NOT having tea at the Denbies Wine Estate tearoom**, go straight on, remaining on the North Downs Way. In 170 metres where the tarmac/concrete track veers sharp right, **go straight on** along a gravel track, following a yellow arrow on a post. 30 metres after this ignore paths right and left, and curve slightly right with the track. In 250 metres, at a red-topped white post which marks a gas pipeline, ignore an unmarked footpath to the left. In another 250 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. Continue with paragraph 122 opposite.
 - Otherwise **to have tea in the Denbies Wine Estate Visitor Centre** go right at the crossroad, downhill into the vineyard and continue with the next paragraph.
- 117.** In 150 metres merge with a concrete track and follow this downhill to the estate buildings 400 metres ahead.
- 118.** Keep to the right of the buildings. In 150 metres more, turn left along the front of the farm shop to come in 100 metres to the Visitor Centre. Go through the arched doorway and turn right, passing through the shop, to get to the self-service restaurant.
- 119.** After tea, come out of the centre and turn right for 100 metres to a road. Turn right on this road.
- 120.** In 150 metres, just beyond the Denbies Vineyard Hotel, turn right at a four-armed footpath sign onto a grass path between the vines. (**NOT** the gravel track sharp right, which leads back to the vineyard buildings).
- 121.** In 300 metres, leave the vineyard by a gap in the fence, and keep straight on through a wooded strip and across the North Downs Way to a kissing gate.
- 122.** Beyond this gate keep straight ahead across a field for 40 metres to another kissing gate. Carry on up a path between garden fences.
- 123.** In 250 metres cross a road and carry on up a path between a wooden fence and a driveway. This path between garden fences is narrow and a bit overgrown at times.
- 124.** In 200 metres you come to a road and turn right. **Take care** on this road, which is not over busy but narrow.
- 125.** In 40 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 a 15 mph sign (staying parallel to the road, not going up the residential side road).
- 126.** In 170 metres this path rejoins the road. In 70 metres you cross a railway bridge. **Box Hill and Westhumble station** is to the right. Cross the footbridge for trains to London.

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.