

Main walk checked	Option a) checked	Option b) checked	Option c) checked	Options d+e) checked
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Guildford to Horsley

Viewpoints on the North Downs ridge

Length	Main walk:	21.2km (13.2 miles)
	a) Shortcut to Newlands Corner	reduces walk by 3.3km (2 miles)
	b) Shorter start via Pewley Down	reduces walk by 1.4km (0.9 miles)
	c) Shortcut through the woods	reduces walk by 1km (0.6 miles)
	a) + b)	reduces walk by 4.7km (2.9 miles)
	b) + c)	reduces walk by 2.4km (1.5 miles)
	d) Diversion to Percy Arms	adds to walk 1.6km (1 mile)
	e) Starting from Chilworth	reduces walk by 6.3km (3.9 miles)
	f) Ending via the Barley Mow pub	adds to walk 0.5km (0.3 miles)

Toughness 4 out of 10 – two substantial hill climbs in first half, otherwise mainly level

Maps OS Explorer 145, Landranger 186 + 187

Features

There are numerous fine viewpoints looking southwards from the North Downs escarpment, but less well known are the views to the north, where London can be seen in the far distance. This walk takes in both, starting a route from Guildford over Chantries Hill and then carrying on to St Martha's Church, perched high on the downs, with more fine views.

You then descend to lunch in a pub in the village of Albury, which is followed by a steady climb up to Newlands Corner, another popular viewpoint. (Picnickers can cut out this descent and ascent altogether by staying on the ridge.) A wooded stretch of the North Downs Way follows, after which you emerge into beautiful upland country, with views north eastwards to the distant City of London on clear days. The last section is a walk through the estate of West Horsley Place to Horsley station, from where there are half-hourly trains back to Waterloo.

This is a good walk in any season, but in late April and early May Chantries Hill is awash with bluebells, and in high summer the slopes leading up to Newlands Corner puts on a fine display of downland flowers and butterflies. In late autumn this walk alternates plenty of leaf colour with extensive views.

Walk options

Options **a)** to **c)** are ways to shorten the main walk, while **b)** is a shorter start from Guildford. Options **a)** and **b)** can be combined in the same walk, saving **4.7km (2.9 miles)** off the main walk route, and options **b)** and **c)** can also be combined, saving **2.4km (1.5 miles)** off the main walk route.

Option **d)** is a diversion to an alternative lunch pub next to Chilworth station, which can therefore also be used as a shorter start to the walk - option **e)**. Options **b)** and **d)** can be combined, more or less cancelling each other out distance-wise. Option **f)** can be used on any walk.

a) Shortcut to Newlands Corner. If you are not planning to eat at either of the lunch pubs (ie, if you have brought a picnic, or if you plan to eat at Newlands Corner), you can **save yourself 3.3km (2 miles)** by simply staying on the North Downs Way from St Martha's Church to Newland's Corner, taking in a fine section of downland with extensive views. The directions for this are in paragraph 28 on page 5.

b) Shorter start via Pewley Down. This is the same route as is used in the Guildford to Gomshall walk, also on this website, climbing directly out of Guildford onto Pewley Down and on to St Martha's Hill. This route misses out the views and bluebell woods of Chantries Hill (though the view from Pewley Down is also quite good) and is **1.4km (0.9 miles) shorter** than the main walk. This option starts in paragraph 133 on page 11.

c) Short cut through the woods This shorter route from St Martha's Hill to the lunch pub in Albury follows a wooded ridge for most of the way, while the main walking route goes through more varied scenery. It is **1km (0.6 miles) shorter** than the main walk route. The option starts in paragraph 28 on page 5 and the directions for it are in paragraph 54 on page 7.

d) Diversion to the Percy Arms. This **1.6km (1 mile)** diversion off the route, which starts from the point indicated in paragraph 32 on page 6, brings you to an **alternative lunch pub**. For details of the pub see **Lunch** overleaf. This option also takes you past the interesting ruins of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills.

e) Starting from Chilworth. Starting from this railway station, which is just below the hill on which St Martha's Church stands, allows you to **cut 6.3 km (3.9 miles)** off the start of the walk. You miss out the viewpoints of Chantries Hill and St Martha's Hill but you pass the interesting ruins of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mill. See **Transport** below for how to get to Chilworth station. To do this option, start the walk directions from paragraph 37 on page 6.

f) Alternative ending via Barley Mow pub. This is the former ending of the walk (now replaced by a direct route past West Horsley Place) whose main aim now is to take you to the Barley Mow pub (see **Tea overleaf**). It adds **0.5km (0.3 miles)** to the walk length. The **1.6km (1 mile)** route from this pub to Horsley station is all on tarmac – for the most part a path alongside the railway line. This path is unlit, but as long as you locate its start correctly it is perfectly easy to follow with a torch (or indeed, in moonlight). This option starts in 111 on page 10.

Transport

The walk starts at **Guildford** station, which is served by fast trains from Waterloo every 15 minutes (journey time about 40 minutes). *Ignore the slower stopping services to Guildford, which sometimes leave just a few minutes later.* **Take a train at around 9.30am** to get to the lunch options in time, though a train half an hour later would not be a problem for faster walkers.

Buy a day return to Guildford, which is valid for return from **Horsley**, which is on the slow line from Guildford to Waterloo. There are currently three trains an hour from Horsley Monday to Saturday - two via Cobham & Stoke D'Abernon, which are slightly faster at 49 minutes journey time to Waterloo, and one via Epsom, taking 57 minutes. On Sundays there are two trains an hour, one on each route.

If starting from Chilworth (see option **e)** in **Walk Options** above) you need to take a train to Guildford and change there for the Redhill/Gatwick Airport line. **Buy a day return to Chilworth.** Trains are only every two hours, so currently the 9.00 from Waterloo connects at Guildford with a train that arrives at Chilworth around 10.00, and the next option is the 11.00 from Waterloo,

arriving Chilworth at 12.00. If you want to get to Chilworth between those times, you can take a **bus number 32** from Guildford to Chilworth station (15 mins: hourly Monday to Saturday, every two hours on Sunday). To find the stop, follow the main walk directions to paragraph 4 on page 4, but instead of turning right between the navigation and the river, keep straight ahead on a bridge over the lock. Carry on down a footpath to emerge in front of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. Cross the main road and turn right to find the bus stop on the left in 50 metres. These buses also go on to **Albury**, stopping outside the Drummond at Albury pub.

Lunch

The Drummond at Albury (01483 202 039) 9.1km (5.6 miles) into the main walk, or 2.8km (1.7 miles) if you start from Chilworth, is a large and pleasant pub serving both restaurant-style meals and cheaper bar classics. It has a garden with outside tables by the river. Food is served 12-3pm and 6-9pm Monday to Friday, but all afternoon on Saturday and Sunday.

An alternative pub 7.9km (4.9 miles) into the walk - but requiring a 1.6km (1 mile) diversion off the route: see option **d**) in **Walk Options** above - is **The Percy Arms** in Chilworth (01483 561 765). Describing itself as "a country pub and grillhouse, serving modern British cuisine with a South African twist" it is more of a restaurant than a pub inside, but will serve food in its bar area as well as in its large garden. In colder or wetter weather, groups of more than eight should definitely phone to book a table. It is open and serves food 12-3pm and 6-10pm Monday to Friday and all afternoon on Saturday and Sunday.

If neither of these options can fit you in, the **Plucky Pheasant** (01483 252222) at Newlands Corner, 11.2km (7 miles) into the walk, or 7.9km (5 miles) if you do the option **b**) shortcut, is a café-restaurant which serves a range of burgers, toasted sandwiches, a few other hot dishes, salads and normal tea room fare. It is open till 4pm weekdays in winter, 4.30pm in summer and half an hour later at weekends. It has a garden with a view, though this is also next to a busy main road.

The **tea kiosk at Newlands Corner**, to the right-hand end of the visitor's centre (distances into walk as for the Plucky Pheasant cafe above) is open daily except Christmas Day and serves hot drinks, cakes, and basic food such as burgers, chips and jacket potatoes "until about 4.30pm" in summer, and 4pm or earlier in winter. It seems to be popular with bikers (ie motorcyclists). There is a proposal to redevelop this site and put up a larger visitor's centre, which may affect this kiosk.

For a **picnic**, the benches in front of **St Martha's Church**, 5.6km (3.5 miles) into the walk are one possibility (paragraph 25 on page 5), but by far the best spot is the wonderful downland escarpment at **Newlands Corner** (paragraph 74 on page 8), 11.2 km (7 miles) into the walk, but only 7.9km (5 miles) if you take the option **a**) shortcut. I am told there are also picnic tables just behind the village hall in **Albury**: see paragraph 53 on page 7.

Tea

The **tea kiosk at Newlands Corner** or the **Plucky Pheasant** cafe across the road are mentioned in **Lunch**, but these are quite early after lunch to stop for tea.

At weekends you may find a **tea van** in the car park in paragraph 77 of the walk directions on page 9, which serves a good range of homemade cakes.

Near the end of the walk in **West Horsley Place** the **Tiger Lily** is a pop-up cafe serving hot drinks and cakes, with seating available in a nearby courtyard. It is open daily until 4pm.

La Meridiana (01483 284343), opposite the station approach in Horsley, is an Italian restaurant that offers hot and alcoholic drinks at outside tables (in summer at least) as well as Italian deserts.

Quaich (01483 285181) (*name plate currently missing, but with a blue facade, just beyond The Bakery*) is a pleasant coffee shop in Station Parade near Horsley station, which has sofas, a nice range of cakes, and seems popular with the local community. It is open till 5pm Mondays to Saturdays (closed Sundays). There is also a **Sainsbury** that has quite a nice selection of pastries and a Costa Coffee machine (coffee, but no tea sadly), open till 11pm daily.

If you want a **pub stop** at the end of the walk (or a later option than the cafes mentioned above), option **f**), the **alternative ending**, takes you to the **Barley Mow** pub in West Horsley, adding 500 metres to the walk length. It has a garden and does tea in pots and coffee. The **1.6km (1 mile)** route from this pub to Horsley station is all on tarmac – for the most part a tarmac path alongside the railway line. This path is unlit, but as long as you locate its start correctly it is perfectly easy to follow with a torch (or indeed, in moonlight).

WALK DIRECTIONS

For **b) Shorter start via Pewley Hill** go to paragraph 133 on page 11.

For **e) Starting from Chilworth** go to paragraph 37 on page 6.

Guildford station to Chantries Hill **(4.1km/2.5 miles)**

1. Exit **Guildford station** and go down the station approach towards an office block named Bridge House. Just before the road go right down a pedestrian underpass.
2. Turn left into the tunnel and at the far end of it turn right up the ramp. Follow the fenced-off pavement around to the left to get to the river.
3. Turn right on the riverbank, under the road bridge. In 100 metres carry on past the town bridge and down a road to the right of White House pub (*if you prefer, there is a path that goes to the left just before the pub and then turns right on the riverbank, but it soon comes back out onto the road again.*)
4. 200 metres or so after the pub turn left over a footbridge across the river that leads into the park. Just beyond the bridge turn right along the edge of a canal (the Wey Navigation).
The weir mentioned in the next paragraph failed some time ago, and Guildford Council seem in no rush to repair it. The path across the weir is thus closed. To get round it requires a road walk: instead of turning right along the edge of the canal in the previous paragraph, 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 7 opposite.
5. In 120 metres the path crosses over a weir: 20 metres beyond this take the park forking right across the grass.
6. In 150 metres this brings you to the canal again, where you turn right across another weir and carry on along the Wey Navigation tow path.
7. Follow this for 700 metres until you see a large wooden footbridge over the river. Turn left across the bridge, joining the North Downs Way (NDW).
8. On the far side of the bridge turn left and then in 30 metres right, to keep on up NDW going away from the river. In another 200 metres, when the path comes to an open space/playing fields, go straight on across it.
9. In 200 metres more cross a main road and go straight on up a suburban side road, Pilgrims Way.
10. In 200 metres ignore Clifford Manor Road to the right. But in another 250 metres, just after the houses end to the right, fork right up a tarmac lane on the right-hand side of a triangular open space following the NDW signpost.
11. In 120 metres, just past a car park to the left, turn right in front of a white house, ignoring the track ahead (which is the NDW), and then immediately turn left uphill into an open space.
12. In 50 metres carry on up a broad path into the woods. Follow this all the way to the top of the hill. It is a long (700 metres or so) steady climb but the way is never in doubt.
13. Where the path finally levels out there is a grass and shrub-filled clearing to the left. Carry on along the right-hand side of this on a car-wide path.
14. In 150 metres take a wide path to the right.
15. This contours around the crown of a wooded hill until in 250 metres you can see an open space through a kissing gate 20 metres to the right. Pass through this gate and follow the path to the left along the edge of the open space.

16. In 100 metres, just before you come to a field boundary, by a bench, take the path forking right.
17. In 50 metres pass through a kissing gate. Beyond, **curve to the right** and in another 80 metres you come to some benches, from where you get a **fine panoramic view**.

**Chantries Hill to the Downs
Link junction (1.9km/1.2 mi)**

18. Beyond the viewpoint, keep on along the edge of the escarpment on a clear path. You pass through another kissing gate in 120 metres and have a clear view of the hill on which St Martha's Church stands ahead.
19. In another 100 metres ignore a path forking left to keep to the escarpment edge. In a further 100 metres, at the next field boundary, pass through a kissing gate and keep straight on, with a fenced-off area just uphill to your left.
20. In 100 metres take the path forking left to a kissing gate in the fence. Beyond this veer right diagonally across the field, passing to the right of two oak trees and heading for its far corner.
21. In the corner of the field take the rightmost of two exits. Keep straight on along a path into the woods, ignoring ways off.
22. In 150 metres, at a T-junction with a car-wide path, turn right uphill. In 35 metres pass through metal posts and turn right at a T-junction for 25 metres to a road.
23. Turn left on the road and then **in 30 metres turn right off the road** up a path, signposted North Downs Way, which passes to the left of a white house.
24. 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.)
25. Go into the churchyard and round the far side of the church, where you will find some benches with fine views, a possible **picnic** spot. Carry on beyond the church along the line of the ridge.
26. In 130 metres the path starts to descend more steeply.

It is tempting to think of medieval pilgrims stopping at **St Martha's-on-the-Hill** church on their way from Winchester to Canterbury, but there is actually scant evidence for this. The church is on what is described as The Pilgrim's Way on Ordnance Survey maps, but this turns out to have been the romantic notion of Victorian map makers rather than having any basis in historical fact.

Chaucer and his pilgrims certainly didn't come this way – in *The Canterbury Tales* they were travelling down Watling Street from London to Canterbury: what is now the A2. Nor is the church you see today that old – it is essentially a Victorian reconstruction of a Norman ruin. But still, it is the kind of place you can imagine medieval pilgrims *might* have come, and maybe that is enough.

27. In 170 metres more, at the bottom of the slope, you pass the remains of a wooden barrier and enter a wood.
28. 150 metres beyond this, at a not very visible three-way footpath sign, the North Downs Way forks off to the left. **Here you have a choice:**
 - **To continue with the main walk**, veer right here, downhill, and then in 20 metres turn **sharp right** onto a broad path that gradually descends (the **Downs Link**). Continue with paragraph 29 overleaf.
 - For **c) Short cut through the woods**, keep straight on along the main path along the ridge, ignoring paths right and left, and continue with paragraph 54 on page 7.
 - For **a) Shortcut to Newlands Corner**, 1.9km (1.2 miles) versus 5.2km (3.2 miles) by the main walk route, take the North Downs Way fork to the left and follow a clear path down through the woods. In 350 metres, just before a minor road, follow the path to the left past a fieldgate and then immediately right again, with the road now to your right. In 150 metres ignore a way out onto the road to stay on the path in a tunnel of shrubs, with a field left. In 150 metres the path turns left and in another 100 metres or so you are forced out onto the road, down steps. Cross the road and carry on up the NDW

into a wood. In 250 metres you emerge onto an open hillside. You can take the higher or middle path across this. In 550 metres the two paths converge and go into bushes, becoming gravel. Or you can stay to the right of the bushes: it makes no difference because the gravel path soon emerges onto open downland again. In another 120 metres you need to be on the gravel path, however, as it passes again into bushes and after 50 metres curves left uphill to come in 200 metres to the Newlands Corner car park. Here continue with paragraph 75 on page 8.

Downs Link junction to Tillingbourne bridge (1.1km/0.7 miles)

29. After you have turned sharp right in paragraph 27, the path slants downhill through the trees. In 200 metres there are fields visible left (and later 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. The track then begins to rise slightly, and in 60 metres more, just before a metal railed bridge over a larger stream (which is also crossed by a large metal pipe), there is a non-signposted path through wooden barriers to the right.
 - **To continue with the main walk**, go straight ahead across the bridge and continue with paragraph 41 overleaf.
 - For option **d) Diversion to the Percy Arms**, adding 1.4km (0.9 miles) to the walk turn right on the non-signposted path and refer to the next section.

Tillingborne bridge to the Percy Arms in Chilworth (0.8km/0.5 miles)

33. Having turned right on the footpath in paragraph 31, 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 220 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).
36. Cross this footbridge to emerge on a path between two fields. This brings you in 200 metres to a main road, where you turn left. The **Percy Arms** is on the left in 120 metres. After lunch turn right out of the pub and continue with paragraph 38 below.

Chilworth to Tillingbourne bridge (0.8km/0.5 miles)

*This is **e) Starting from Chilworth and the return back to the main walk route after lunch at the Percy Arms.***

37. Come off platform one at **Chilworth station** (the arrival platform if coming from Guildford) and walk 30 metres down to the main road. Cross the road and turn left passing the **Percy Arms**
38. In another 120 metres, just past a school on your right, turn right up 'Vera's Path', a signposted footpath, ignoring a house driveway to the left to carry on up a path between fences.
39. In 80 metres there are fields left and right. In another 120 metres cross a stream on a footbridge. Beyond it, ignore a path to the right along the bank of the stream, and instead veer slightly right for 30 metres to a path T-junction, with picnic tables beyond it. Here go right on a broad path.
40. In 170 metres ignore a fork to the left to keep straight on up a path that in 50 metres brings you to ruined buildings (once one of the biggest gunpowder works in the country). Keep on down the right-hand side of these, with the stream now to your right.

41. In 150 metres more you come to a T-junction with a track. Go right here, across a bridge over the stream.
Continue with directions in the next section.

Tillingbourne bridge to Albury (2km/1.2 miles)

*This is the continuation of **the main walk route.***

42. 10 metres after the bridge, just after a metal fieldgate to the left, turn half left over a stile and carry on diagonally across a field.
43. In 100 metres cross a stile into the next field and keep on across it in the same direction with a slight ditch to your right.
44. In 180 metres cross a stile and a plank footbridge to keep on along a path with a fence left and a hedgerow right.
45. In 220 metres pass a redundant stile and carry on between fences.
46. In 150 metres you come to a tarmac driveway T-junction. Here go left, with houses to your left and a lake to your right.
47. In 120 metres, where the houses end, carry on along the tarmac drive.
48. In another 180 metres, where the tarmac lane turns decisively left, **go right** up a path between a stream to your right and a pond to your left.
49. In 250 metres you come to a main road. **Cross this with care** and turn left uphill on the far side.
50. In 250 metres, just past the top of the hill, you see Guildford Lane on your left.
- **If you are not planning to stop for lunch in Albury**, turn left up this road (**taking great care** crossing on the **blind bend**: some steps down the bank indicate one place to cross, but it still needs care). Continue with paragraph 65 overleaf.
- Otherwise, **keep straight on** along the main road.
51. In 60 metres ignore Water Lane left and curve right downhill with the main road.
52. In another 100 metres you pass Weston Farm and curve left with the road.
53. In 80 metres you need to cross the road to the opposite pavement. In 100 metres more **The Drummond at Albury**, the recommended lunch pub is on your left.
- I am told that a little way further up the road, "past the house with interesting chimney pots", there are also **picnic tables** behind the village hall.*
- After lunch** to continue the walk refer to paragraph 61 below.

Short cut through the woods (2.1km/1.3 miles to Albury)

54. Keeping straight on in paragraph 28, in 250 metres you come to a multiple path junction, with three paths ahead and one left. On the right of the path is a four-armed signpost. **Take a well-concealed path to the right**, downhill from this signpost, indicated as a public footpath (all the other signs are for public bridleways).
55. The path curves gently left and right downhill, merging with another path from the left in 120 metres, and 30 metres later curving right into a gully, still going downhill.
56. In another 100 metres, at a T-junction in front of a field, turn left, still downhill.
57. In 250 metres the path climbs slightly, then levels out, going across the face of a slope under beech trees.
58. For the next 500 metres or so, the path is level, or climbs and descends only slightly, until eventually it descends past a white house to emerge by a pond.
59. Turn right onto the tarmac drive of the house, with the pond to your left.
60. In 40 metres, where the drive curves right, turn left onto a path between a pond left and a stream right. You now resume the main walk directions in paragraph 49 opposite.

Albury to Newlands Corner (2.1km/1.3 miles)

61. Coming out of the pub, turn right to retrace your steps along the main road.
62. In 180 metres curve right uphill with the road.

63. In 120 metres, as the main road turns left again, ignore Water Lane directly uphill.
64. However, in another 50 metres, **cross the road** to turn right up Guildford Lane (taking **great care** crossing on what is a **blind bend**: some steps down the bank indicate one place to cross, but it still needs care).
65. The road climbs in a deep cutting at first. In 350 metres you emerge from this and pass a house called Fantails on the left
66. In another 100 metres turn right up a track, signposted as a footpath.
67. Stay on this track with a wood to the left and open fields to the right, ignoring ways off.
68. In 350 metres ignore a path left and right (signposted as a bridleway to the right) to carry on along a now somewhat narrower path.
69. In 120 metres pass a farmhouse and farm complex to your right and beyond it keep straight on uphill on a path between two open fields.
70. In 350 metres pass through a kissing gate into an area of scrub.
71. In 30 metres emerge onto open hillside and veer right, diagonally uphill.
72. In 30 metres more cross a car-wide path and pass a footpath post, and keep on up the hillside on a very broad grassy path, heading for a gap in the trees uphill, 70 metres ahead.
73. Pass through this gap to come in 35 metres to an earth track. Go right on this.
74. In another 35 metres the track emerges onto the open hillside and you follow it left uphill. (If you are planning to have a **picnic**, this spot has the best views – better than the top of the hill).
75. In 150 metres you come to a car park. The **Newlands Corner Visitor Centre** is ahead, and the **tea kiosk** is to its right. (To the right of the tea kiosk there are also **toilets**. The visitor centre is being refurbished, but used to have a frieze showing how the landscape hereabouts has changed over the past 125 million years.)

Newlands Corner to St Mary's church (7.3km/4.5 mi)

76. **To continue the walk**, turn right along the edge of the car park towards the main road.
- **If you want to visit the Plucky Pheasant cafe**, carry on to the main road and **cross it with care** to find it on the opposite side. Coming out of the cafe, turn left along the main road. In 70 metres turn left up the North Downs Way, passing a car-blocking barrier.
 - **If not visiting the Plucky Pheasant cafe**, 50 metres before the main road, veer half right up a bridleway marked by a blue arrow on a post. In 40 metres cross a gravel track and keep straight on to the main road in another 50 metres. **Cross the main road with care**, and on the far side go past a car-blocking barrier and on up the North Downs Way.

The biggest mystery of crime writer **Agatha Christie's** life was not the plot of one of her novels, but what happened to her on eleven days in the winter of 1926. On 3 December that year she disappeared from her home in Sunningdale, Berkshire and the following day her car was found abandoned at Newland's Corner, with her coat on its back seat.

The area was exhaustively searched. There were reports of "an agitated woman near the Chilworth gunpowder factory" - the ruins of which are passed on option **d) Diversion to the Percy Arms** - but Agatha was nowhere to be found. The press went wild with speculation. Was it a publicity stunt? Had she committed suicide? Suspicion of murder also fell on her husband, Colonel Archibald Christie, who had fallen in love with a younger woman - Nancy Neele - and told Agatha he wanted a divorce.

Eventually Agatha was found registered in a hotel in Harrogate in Yorkshire under the name of Mrs Neele. She claimed to have lost her memory. She and Archibald got divorced and in 1930 she married archeologist Max Malloran. To the day she died - in 1976 - she never explained what she was doing in those missing eleven days.

77. Stay on this bridleway, ignoring ways off, until in **2.6km (1.6 miles)** you come to a car park and then a road. There is a sometimes a **tea van** here at weekends.
78. Cross the road and carry on up a path on the far side into the trees, signposted North Downs Way.
79. In 180 metres emerge onto a another road. Go straight ahead (ie left) down this. **Take care of traffic** on this road, which at times comes a bit too fast.
80. In 300 metres the road starts to curve to the left. In another 250 metres, just before it curves back to the right, **take an easily missed bridleway to the left**, with a wire fence to your right.
81. In 150 metres curve to the right with the path, still between fences.
82. With fences either side of the path, the way is not now in doubt for 850 metres, even though you turn left and right along the edge of several fields.
83. At the end of these you emerge into a farm/housing complex. Go straight ahead here down a tarmac lane, ignoring tarmac lanes left and right.
84. In 80 metres, where the lane divides near the end of the houses, fork left uphill, with a hedge soon to your left.
85. In 40 metres cross a concrete track and keep straight on up a track, passing stables left, and with a field to the right.
86. In 70 metres, where the track veers left to gates, keep straight on down a path, with fields still to your right.
87. The path gently descends with a wood to your right in 80 metres. The path follows the wood edge, but in 220 metres veers right into it. (Ignore a path through a kissing gate to the left here.)
88. In 180 metres you pass a concrete barn on your right, and just in front of a wooden fence turn right on a concrete track, a signposted bridleway.
89. In 70 metres more follow the concrete track to the left downhill.
90. In 100 metres you come to a tarmac lane and **go right**, uphill.
91. In 100 metres turn left up a tarmac driveway to Chalkhill, a signposted bridleway.
92. In 100 metres, just before a wooden fieldgate marked Private, turn left between concrete posts onto a permissive bridleway.
- (At the start of this path on a clear day you get a **distant view of West London**. You can see the arch of **Wembley Stadium** on a bearing of about 20 degrees, and the long low buildings of **Heathrow** due north (with binoculars you can see the new control tower rising above the vast length of terminal five)*
93. Follow the permissive path down across the field, ignoring a track forking right (*unless the permissive path is withdrawn, in which case the track is the public right of way, a bridleway, the one you merge with in the next paragraph.*)
94. In 250 metres, at the far end of the field, turn left downhill to merge with a bridleway.
95. In 50 metres this brings you out onto a road. Go left here, and then in 5 metres turn right at a road T-junction, still downhill, passing houses.
96. In 120 metres, where the houses end, fork right off the road up a bridleway, marked by a rather hidden signpost.
97. In 100 metres, at a path T-junction, go right.
98. In 100 metres a path merges from the left. In 20 metres ignore a path forking right and in 20 metres more you come to a junction with a three-armed footpath sign left and a two-armed one right. Keep straight on here, slightly uphill.
99. In 60 metres ignore a fork right. In 10 metres more there is a green space (a picnic area) to the right.
100. In 100 metres more, at the end of this space, ignore paths right and left.
101. You can stay on this path (which veers very slighty left down into the trees) all the way to St Mary's church in paragraph 110. But **the recommended route** is to **fork right** off it towards a brick viewpoint.
- On a clear day from this viewpoint you can see the **City of London**, including the **Shard**, through a gap in the trees ahead left (a bearing of 40 degrees).*

Beyond the viewpoint carry straight on downhill across an open space. There

is a profusion of wildflowers and butterflies here in summer.

102. In 180 metres, at the bottom of the hill, fork left at a grassy path junction, and turn left along the valley bottom. **Almost immediately fork left again**, to stay on the downhill path.
103. In 100 metres the path enters a wood and veers right a bit.
104. In 100 metres go straight on at a crosspath, emerging into an open space in 30 metres.
105. Keep on along a broad grassy path on the left edge of this open space, ignoring ways off.
106. In 200 metres pass a footpath sign and a somewhat hidden bench and merge with a path from the right to enter a wood.
107. In 80 metres emerge into another open space and keep on down its left-hand edge
108. In 180 metres exit the open space in its far left-hand corner (*the path that goes **through** the corner, **not** an apparent one straight ahead past a bench*) and in 20 metres go through a gap to the left of a car-blocking barrier. Ignore paths left and right to go straight on a car-wide path/track, with a field to the right.
109. In 200 metres merge with a tarmac drive coming from the left.
110. In 120 metres you come to a main road, with **St Mary's church** to your left. **Cross the road with care**, taking especially care of the blind hill to the right.
111. **Here you have a choice.**
 - **To continue with the main walk**, continue with the next section.
 - For **f) Alternative ending via the Barley Mow pub**, refer to paragraph 124 overleaf.

St Mary's church to Horsley station (2.7km/1.6 miles)

112. Turn right on the road. In 100 metres ignore the entrance to West Horsley Place left, but in 80 metres more turn left up a track marked 'Deliveries and large vehicles only', a signposted bridleway.
113. In 220 metres ignore a road to the left.

114. In 80 metres fork left to come to the car park in 30 metres.

- 30 metres to the left here is the entrance to a grassy area, with a courtyard to its left, at the end of which you will find the **Tiger Lily pop-up cafe**.

West Horsley Place was inherited in 2014 by the broadcaster Bamber Gascoigne and now owned by a trust. It is the home **Grange Park Opera**, relocated here from its original location in Hampshire in 2017.

115. **Your onward route**, however, is to turn right along the edge of the car park, passing two barns on the right and one on the left. (**Coming from the tea kiosk**, keep along the right-hand edge of the car park, passing these barns.)
116. 10 metres beyond the barn on the left, fork left up a gravel track between two parking areas.
117. In 60 metres this track enters a wooded strip and in 20 metres curves left along it.
118. In 200 metres you emerge into the open, with a rough grass area to your left.
119. In 500 metres the track enters a wood. Ignore a path to the right here.
120. In 170 metres the track curves left.
121. In 70 metres more there is an open space to the right. Turn right diagonally across this on a grassy path.
122. In 170 metres, at the end of the field, veer left to join a tarmac path along the rail line (with the rail line to your left).
123. In 300 metres you emerge onto a road by East Horsley Village Hall. Carry on down this road for 300 metres more to the junction with the main road.

La Meridiana Italian restaurant - a possible tea or drinks stop - is to the left on this corner, while the **Sainsbury** store is to the right. The **Quaich** coffee shop is 100 metres to the right (*its name plate is currently missing, but it has a blue facade and is just beyond the bakery*), on the opposite side of the main road.

The way to **Horsley station** is up the slip road to the left on the far side of the road.

Alternative ending via the Barley Mow (3.2km/2 miles)

124. Having crossed the road from **St Mary's church**, go through a gap (a broken kissing gate) and curve left with the path beyond it.
125. In 30 metres take the right fork keeps to the right-hand edge of the field.
126. In 100 metres carry on down a broad grassy track between fences. (*To the right on the next section you can see **West Horsley Place** - in winter at least. See panel on page 10.*)
127. In 500 metres, at the end of the field, ignore a track to the left to keep on up a path between hedges/trees, with a field visible to the left at times.
128. In 170 metres you emerge into another field. Carry on up the right-hand edge of this.
129. In another 170 metres pass through gap in the trees and turn left for 30 metres and then right with the fence around the left-hand edge of another field.
130. In 150 metres the path turns left with the hedgerow, in another 80 metres turning left alongside a road audible on the other side of the trees.
131. In another 50 metres you come to a road, with a railway bridge and embankment and bridge ahead. **Here you have a choice:**
 - **To go to the Barley Mow pub**, *turn sharp left* on the road, to find it on the right in 250 metres. **After leaving the pub** retrace your steps to the railway bridge and turn right onto a tarmac path along the railway line just before it. Continue with paragraph 132 below.
 - **To carry on with the walk without stopping at the pub**, *turn right* along a tarmac path along the railway line just before the bridge.
132. In 900 metres you emerge onto a road by East Horsley Village Hall. Carry on down this road for 300 metres more to the junction with the main road.

La Meridiana Italian restaurant - a possible tea or drinks stop - is to the

left on this corner, while the **Sainsbury** store is to the right. The **Quaich** coffee shop is 100 metres to the right (*its name plate is currently missing, but it has a blue facade and is just beyond the bakery*), on the opposite side of the main road.

The way to **Horsley station** is up the slip road to the left on the far side of the road.

Guildford to the Downs Link junction via Pewley Hill (4.6km/2.9 miles)

*This is **b**) Shorter start via Pewley Hill*

133. 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.
 134. Turn left into the tunnel and on the far side of it go right, up the ramp.
 135. 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.
 136. 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.
 137. In 80 metres turn right down Quarry Street, the first turning right.
 138. In 150 metres turn left up Castle Street.
 139. In 50 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 143 overleaf.
- 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 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.
140. Once through the gate turn left to follow a path uphill, with the castle uphill to your right.

- 141.** 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.
- 142.** Beyond this gate turn left and in 25 metres, after another gate, turn left again to come to a road in 40 metres.
- 143.** 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.
- 144.** Climb this steep hill for 400 metres all the way to the top. Halfway up turn round to get a fine **view** of Guildford and its modern cathedral.
- 145.** 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**.
- 146.** 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.
- 147.** From the plinth walk onwards along the ridge for 100 metres 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.
- 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.
- 148.** In 220 metres the path enters a wood and levels off.
- 149.** 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.
- 150.** You soon emerge onto a long path between hedges and open fields that slants downwards into the valley bottom.
- 151.** In 650 metres, at the edge of the wood, cross a car-wide track to carry straight on up a path which climbs gently uphill just inside the left-hand edge of a wood of pine trees.
- 152.** In 220 metres more you come to a three-way path junction. Go left here.
- 153.** In 100 metres you come to a road, where you turn left.
- 154.** In 30 metres turn right off the road up a path, signposted North Downs Way, which passes to the left of a white house. *Now continue with paragraph 24 on page 5.*