

First walk check	Second walk check		
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## SWC Walk 139 Tadworth via Headley Heath and Box Hill Circular

<b>Length</b>	Main walk starting / ending Tadworth Station	11.9 miles / 19 km
	Main walk starting Headley Heath car park	7.0 miles / 11 km
	Shorter walk via High Ashurst starting / ending Tadworth Stn.	8.8 miles / 14 km
<b>Longer Options</b>	Morning extension via White Hill	additional 0.7 miles/1km)
	Afternoon extension via North Downs Way	additional 1.7 miles/2.7 km)
<b>Toughness</b>	8 out of 10 (1300 feet/400m of ascent). Mainly gentle inclines over well drained paths, but several steeper ups and downs on Headley Heath and Box Hill	
<b>Transport</b>	Tadworth is in London Travelcard Zone 6 on the Tattenham Corner Line. 2 trains an hour (46 mins) from London Bridge, or from Victoria changing at East Croydon.	
<b>Map</b>	OS Explorer Map 146 Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate	
	OS Landranger Map 187 Dorking & Reigate	
<b>Walk notes</b>	This walk over the National Trust's picturesque Headley Heath ("open heathland, woodland, and chalk downland") to Box Hill (also NT, with a noted viewpoint) feels very remote even though it starts within London Travelcard Zone 6. The main walk returns via Headley Heath, the more strenuous longer option follows the North Downs Way, with views to the south. Drivers can park on the Heath, cutting out the walks to and the station	
	The walk starts at Tadworth, just south of Epsom Downs, and crosses open downland (and under the M25) to Headley (early lunch pub).	
	At the start of Headley Heath, there are a couple of free car parks. The main part of the walk crosses the open heathland - with a mix of partly forested hills allowing nice views for most of the way. There is an option to visit White Hill (a steep climb) with unexpectedly fine views (also visited on the Box Hill Circular	

Walk). Both routes join to head south onto Juniper Top (more views), before following a gloomy forest track to the Box Hill viewpoint (NT cafe, car park), a perfect (if often crowded) picnic spot. Then it's a short stretch of the North Downs Way along the edge of the escarpment to the late lunch pub.

After lunch is a choice. The main walk returns across the Headley Heath along gentle forested paths, or there is a longer but much more strenuous option on the North Downs Way. There is a pub for tea about 20 mins walk before the station

### **Walk Options**

The main walk starts and ends at Tadworth Station KT20 5SP (11.9 miles/19km), car drivers can shorten the walk by starting and ending in the NT car park (7miles/11km) at Headley Heath KT18 6NN.

Via White Hill in the morning (Add 80m/250 feet of ascent, 0.7 miles/1km) Climb up towards Stain Street (a Roman road) with far reaching views.

Via North Downs Way afternoon. (Add 150m/450feet of ascent, 1.7 mile/2.7km) This longer more strenuous option follows the North Downs way along, down and back up the edge of the north downs escarpment (there are no rights of way along the top of the hill), before re-crossing the M25 and heading back over gentle Corporation of London land to the 'tea' pub.

### **Lunch and tea**

The Cock Inn, Headley, 01372 377258. Open all day. Large pub with nice terrace. Mains from £10. This is the early lunch pub after 3.3 km.

Box Hill NT café. Two cafes, one take away, one sit down indoors, both busy and mostly coffee and cake rather than hot meals, mid-way round the main walk

The Tree on Box Hill, 01737 845966 (was The Box). Large 'modern' pub with an emphasis on food, beer garden, open all day. 2 course lunch £12 (£15 on Sunday). This is the late lunch pub after 12.4km. (Well-placed for the Shorter walk via High Ashurst.)

The Bell, Walton on the Hill. Nice old fashioned small pub about 20 mins walk from the station. Open from 5.30 weekdays, all day weekends. This is the tea pub.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

### Main walk

*For the alternative start from Headley Heath carpark see [16] below*

### Tadworth Station to St Mary the Virgin (3.3Km)

1. Coming off the platform where the London train arrives, walk up the steps to the road and turn left into The Avenue slightly up hill towards the shops. In 100m, continue in the same direction on Station Approach Road.
2. Just after Thai Cottage and just before a former Barclays Bank turn half right up a footpath for 230m. Turn right on to The Avenue and in 30m turn left on to a track between houses.
3. In 85m the track splits into 4-ways, take the right most path, your direction 270deg and follow this path through wood for 310m with back gardens visible on your right ignore ways off to the left.
4. As you emerge from the wood continue ahead to a foot path go through a gap between a coal post and a white metal barrier. In 90m ignore a stile and a footpath to the right. The path bends left then right and in 380m comes out on to Ebbisham Lane.
5. Turn left and almost immediately right into Hurst Road. Ignore a track on the right to The Cotton Mills but stay on the road gently downhill for 160m, fork left on to a bridle way to the left of the double metal gates for the Pony Club Ground.
6. Follow the bridle way downhill across between hedges, in 750m another path joins from the left and in further 240m you pass under the M25 in a concrete box tunnel.
7. Continue on the other side of the tunnel, ignore track to the left after 60m but after 240m fork half right at a three-way sign on a footpath between fences your direction 260deg. In 320m you can see London in the distance on the right, here ignore footpaths to the left and right and enter the churchyard of St Mary The Virgin.

### St Mary the Virgin to High Ashurst (2.2Km)

8. In the churchyard, there is an unusual flint-built grotto containing the old font and using stone from when the church was rebuilt in 1850. Coming out of the church yard there is a small parking area, follow the driveway out to Church Lane where you turn left.
9. In 35m with the Cock Inn on your left (a possible early refreshment stop), turn half-right by the bus stop down a narrow footpath between hedges.
10. Follow this footpath, your direction 210deg, in 320m ignore a footpath on the left and in a further 125m emerge between houses onto Leech Lane.
11. Turn right but instead of staying on this busy road with no footpath, go ahead into Tot Hill Lane. In 160m turn left into Tumber Street and go up hill back to Leach Lane, cross over with care and enter Headley Heath on to a track to a small number of houses.

*The heath is a large area with many more paths on the ground than shown on any map. Stay on the main paths and use a compass if you have one.*

12. Ignore the path on the left by the NT sign, stay on the car track for 120m passing Brown House & Cottage on your left-hand side.
13. Continue up hill on the narrower, stony path to a gate to enter the heath. Follow this well used path for 360m ignoring all ways off, your direction 200deg, until you get to a more open area where it veers a little to the right and then curves left for further 280m to come to a 5-way major path junction at the edge of a ridge, with a bench on the left.

14. Turn half-right to go down a wide stony track, your direction 260deg.
15. In 340m, at the bottom of the valley. ignore steps up on the left (signed 'walkers only') and in a further 60m the track you are on curves left, part-way around the curve take very steep narrow bridle way uphill with a fence on the right to gate at the top (*Continue at [20] below.*)

***Alternative start from Headley Heath car park KT18 6NN (1.3km)***

16. From the car park with the Kiosk on your right cross the open grass area your direction 270deg, in 120m go through a gate and continue following the main path gently downhill.
17. In 220 m curve left and right with main ignoring ways off, your direction now 240deg and in a further 350m by a line of trees turn half right joining a path coming in from the left. In a further 70m you come to a 5-way major path junction at the edge of a ridge, with a bench on the left.
18. Continue straight ahead to go down a wide stony track, your direction 260deg
19. In 340m, at the bottom of the valley. ignore steps up on the left (signed 'walkers only') and in a further 60m the track you are on curves left, part-way around the curve take very steep narrow path uphill with a fence on the right to gate at the top to join the main walk at [20] below.

*For short cut to the lunchtime pub see [52] below*

*For a more strenuous alternative via White Hill see [54] below*

**High Ashurst to Box Hill View Point (3.8km)**

20. Go through the gate, bear left and then turn sharp right on to the lane, go through the former entrance High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre and follow the lane it curves to the left around the Education Centre and begins to descend.
21. After 700m you come to T junction, take the footpath opposite, your direction 250deg. In 30m, you come out into open farmland, stay on the track and in 350m cross over farm track, take the footpath opposite continuing in the same direction.
22. Follow the path into the woods, in 200m bear left with the path and in a further 70m, where another path joins from the left, bear right. In 380m you come out into the open at Juniper Bottom. Turn sharp left
23. Take the broad path up the open grass slope. your direction 115deg. In 470m, near the top of the open grass, take the right fork and enter the woods.
24. Remain on this main path, ignoring ways off, your direction generally 180deg. In 800m, take a right fork with a blue top post on your right and a tree with blue and yellow paint on your left. cross a bridle way and bear right on the footpath your direction 250deg.
25. In 160 m at a 5-way junction bear left with the path your direction 225deg. Remain on this path for 330m, with blue and yellow marks at intervals on trees marking the route, ignore ways off until you reach an open area (Donkey Green).
26. Follow the path into the open, passing just to the left of a prominent NT donation box and aim for a gap in the trees ahead your direction now 200deg. (***For the NT café the direction is 270deg and through main carpark.***) Otherwise cross the open green and cross over the road and in 40m you come to the Box Hill View Point.

### **Box Hill View Point to “The Tree” pub (3.0km)**

27. From the view point turn left and follow the main path eastwards towards the woods, in 70m ignore a path forking left (North Downs Way) and continue for 400m on open hillside with views down to Dorking below.
28. At the end of the open hillside and just before a gate into woods turn left, uphill for 30m to re-join the North Downs Way. Turn right and go through a gate into the woods. Stay on the main path ignoring ways off for 240m.
29. At cross paths, bear right and in 40m descend a few steps and cross over a track to remain on the NDW. In 380m turn left with path up a flight of steps, at the top of the steps turn right with the path. In 400m follow the path as it curves to the right and descends a long flight of steps.
30. At the bottom of the steps turn sharp left to follow a bridle way up hill. In 220m by a sign post, fork right with the NDW.
31. In 240m you pass the grave on your left of the thoroughbred race horse ‘Quick’ 26/9/36 to 22/10/44. In a further 100m and next to a bench with view on the right, descend a short flight of steps turn left uphill leaving the NDW.
32. In 70m, a drive joins from the right. Follow the drive to the main road, cross over and turn right. In 180m you pass Ashurst Drive on your left.
33. In a further 400m you come to the late lunchtime pub ‘The Tree’

### **“The Tree” pub to Headley Heath Kiosk (2.0km)**

*For an alternative longer ending via the North Downs Way go to [54] below*

34. Otherwise from “The Tree” turn left out of the pub, walk along Box Hill Road (best on the right-hand side at the end of the pavement) for 330m. Then turn left on a bridle way also signed Boider Hurst (but only visible on the back of the sign).
35. In 360m ignore the entrance to Boider Hurst on left and in a further 240 m enter Headley Heath through a gate to the right of a wooden field gate.
36. Ignore paths left and right just inside the fence and in 160m ignore cross paths, go straight on, your direction 10deg. Remain on this wide bridle way for passing a pond on the left after 220m. Ignore paths on the right leading to a minor carpark, but remain on the bridle way for a further 700m, until you come to the gate just before the main carpark. Go through a gate to the right of a barrier and take the middle of three paths towards the carpark and refreshment kiosk.

### **Headley Heath Kiosk to Walton Hill Meer Pond (3.45Km)**

37. From the behind the kiosk take the grassy path ahead bearing 300deg and follow this as it winds through the trees and bracken for 200m to a cross path where go straight over on a faint path towards a white house until you come to a car-wide track, turn right on the track and in 170m reach a road (Leach Lane) cross this with care.
38. Continue ahead on a gravel track and bear right into Nut Ash Lane. In 50m, at the T junction with Church Lane cross over on to a gravel track, turn left and in 50m follow the track towards the house at the end. Follow the path which has been diverted around the left-hand side of the house.
39. In 160m, ignore a footpath on the left, cross the stile on your right and follow the path with the fence now on your left-hand side your direction 80deg.

40. In 130 m cross a style and in a further 30m go through a gap in the electric fence. Turn left onto a broad farm track.
41. In 140m just after a large black farm building take the right fork with woods on your left. In 440m cross under the M25 motorway in a box tunnel.
42. On the other side of the tunnel in 40m the path divides, the left fork is a private farm track, take the possibly overgrown right fork up hill, in 70m turn left with the path with a fence now on your right.
43. In 140m, buy a two-arm sign, turn right over a style into a field. Cross the field towards a clump of trees, your direction 100deg.
44. In 140m cross a style and continue for another 130m where the path bends left with the fence line. Cross another style and follow the path to the next style your direction now 55deg.
45. Cross this style and go to the kissing gate where you turn right on to a narrow bridle way, follow this for 180m where it becomes Queens Close and in a further 75m you reach a T-junction with Chequers Lane.
46. Turn left, follow the road round to the right, past a car service garage, and in 80m turn right to cross the green on a tarmac path, then in 55m cross-over Beech Lane to go into St Peters churchyard ahead. Follow the path round to the right of the church and continue on the path for 160m to reach Meadow Walk your direction 90deg.
47. Continue along Meadow Walk for 240m to reach Deans Lane where you turn left. In 70m where the road bears left continue onto the green on a tarmac footpath for 50m and then turn left on a grassy path across the grass left towards the Meer Pond with Blue Ball PH on your left.

#### **Walton Hill Meer Pond to Tadworth Station (1.15Km)**

48. Cross over the main road and take the track to the right of the Meer Pond. In 45m, by the 'Withybed Corner' road sign, take the right fork and in 340m you come to The Bell, a possible refreshment stop before the station (Allow 20 minutes from the bar to the platform). Otherwise, turn right onto a path through the woods.
49. Coming out of The Bell cross the parking area to take the path into the woods your direction 60deg. (Sign post 'The Avenue ¼ m') In 250m, you come to the point where you entered these woods this morning.
50. Bear left between the houses and turn right at the road, which you cross, and in 25m fork left down the narrow path between houses.
51. Turn left on Station Approach and almost immediately turn right over the rail bridge with the old station building on your left hand side. Turn left and follow the signs down the long ramp to the London-bound platform.

#### **Shorter walk via high Ashurst (A short cut to the lunchtime pub)**

*This option saves about 5km and the steep hill up to Box Hill.*

52. Go through the gate, bear left, then turn left on the lane your direction 170deg for just over 1km to reach a small parking area on the left. In 25m take the left fork and follow this lane (Ashurst Drive) for 700m to the road.
53. At the main road, turn left and in 400m you come to "The Tree" pub on the left-hand side. Re-join the main walk instructions at [34] above.

### **A more strenuous alternative from High Ashurst to Juniper Bottom via White Hill**

This option adds about 1 km involves an additional climb and a steep descent.

54. Go through a wooden gate and in 15m, just before you reach the lane at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, turn right by a post on to a bridle way. Follow the bridle way round to the left, where in 70m it diverts away from the lane and descends through woods and across a field with fences on both sides.
55. In 420m you emerge on to Headley Lane with a flint cottage (Cockshot Cottage) on your left hand side. At the road, turn left and then immediately right to take the bridleway very steeply up hill.
56. In 500m at a T-junction at the top of the hill, turn left on to a bridle way your direction 260deg. In 60m, emerge onto open ground with an NT sign for Mickelham Downs and an information board on your right hand side.
57. Continue straight on taking the left-most of the three parallel paths on the level open ground with Ranmore Church spire visible ahead on the horizon.
58. After 750m, you pass a bench on your right-hand side and in further 130m and about 50m before the end of the open area, turn left at an unsigned path crossing to enter the woods on a well-used footpath.
59. Follow the path through trees as it bends right and in 250m at an indistinct T-junction, turn left downhill. In 60m, by an old metal fence post bear right with the path and in 40m emerge into an open area with a bench on your right hand side.
60. From the bench continue ahead following a much clearer, level path your direction 240deg. In 180m the path curves left and descends steeply downhill soon with steps.
61. Cross the road at the bottom, go through the NT White Hill parking area.
62. Take the main track, slightly uphill, into the woods and in 40m fork left through a wooden gate off going more steeply uphill. In 50m, the footpath emerges from the trees and in further 150m (your direction 130deg); it reaches the broad grass slope up Juniper Hill where you can re-join the main walk instructions at **[23]** above.

### **An alternative ending from "The Tree" pub via the North Downs Way to Walton Meer Pond**

This option adds about 2.6 km involves an additional descent and steep climb.

63. Coming out of the pub (The Tree) turn left cross the road, and almost immediately turn right through a gap to the left of a wooden field gate. Follow the track with fence on the right and woods on the left for 170m, then turn left at a three-way sign post your direction 80deg.
64. Remain on the path as it descends steeply in places through the wood until in 540m you come to the corner of a residential road where you turn half-right.
65. In 160m, turn left on to Pebble Hill Road, stay on the pavement on the left-hand side for 300m then take the foot path on the left that runs alongside the road for 450m. Re-join the road, cross carefully to the pavement on the other side and continue for 100m where you turn right on a footpath signed North Downs Way (NDW).
66. Follow the broad path along an avenue of trees your direction 110deg for 450m to a kissing gate where you turn left with the NDW. Go through another gate to left of a metal field gate and follow the path gently uphill for 210m between hedges to enter a wood.
67. In 50m leave the North Downs Way as it forks right and continue uphill your direction 30deg. In 350m, cross over a sunken track and bear half-right.

68. Follow the path through the woods for 275m your direction 100deg, curve right and then left with the path to emerge into an open field.
69. Take the left fork on a permissive path straight across the field for 300m towards a bench your direction 80deg.
70. Pass the bench following the path as it curves left, go through a gap to turn left uphill. Follow the path round the right with woodland now on your left and views on the right. In 150m, just after a viewing bench, turn left on foot path up some steps into the wood.
71. Ignore a farm track on the left and another on the right follow the path through the woods your direction 30deg and in 380m cross over the motorway on a footbridge.
72. On the other side of the motorway bear left with the track. In 140m at a T junction turn left on to wide track and almost immediately fork right into the woods your direction 320deg.
73. In 360m at a junction turn sharp right almost back on yourself your direction 110 deg. In 250m you emerge from the wood on to the Walton Heath Golf Course. ***(Walton Heath Golf Course is unusual in that it is on public land and you have the right roam anywhere. However, this route follows designate footpaths and you will still need to keep an eye out for golfers).***
74. Remain on this broad clear path for 600m to enter a belt of trees followed by a fairway. Cross the fairway and enter the woods then in 30m turn sharp left your direction 340deg.
75. Follow this path just inside the woods, ignore all paths to the right which take you away from the golf course. You will pass several coal posts along this boundary.
76. After 1.8km you reach the Dorking Road (B2032) the cross over with care and take the foot path on the other side by the drive way to Walton House.
77. Follow the path through the woods and in 400m emerge on to a green. Continue across the green and bear left towards the Meer Pond your direction 330deg and re-join the main walk instructions at **[48]** above.