

NORTH TO SOUTH SURREY WALK

The North to South Surrey walk goes from the most northerly point in Surrey to the most southerly point. Surrey means the 1973 county whose boundaries were formed when Greater London was created and Surrey lost Kingston, but gained Middlesex.

Northernmost Surrey is at Colnbrook at GR 030771 at the end of Laurel Close. The walk starts nearby at the Star and Garter (closed) on the old Bath Road. The southernmost point is at the edge of Haslemere at GR 914312 at the end of Chase Lane on the edge of Blackdown. More conveniently, the walk finishes at the Crown and Cushion by Haslemere railway station.

The distance as the crow flies is 29 miles, but by the route outlined is 41 miles.

This walk from North to South shows the variety of Surrey's countryside. It starts by the flooded gravel pits and interesting bird life in earshot of Heathrow, by the river Thames to Runnymede. On past the Air Forces memorial at Cooper's Hill, through popular and well maintained Windsor Park and Sunningdale to reach the wilds of Chobham Common. Then through mixed pleasant fields, golf and horsiculture to cross the Hogs Back to Compton to the West of Guildford.

Some interesting paths lead to Eashing and the edge of Milford, then by wooded commons and a hidden valley to the woods and summit of Gibbet Hill and down into Haslemere.

Outline description. From the Colne bridge, West into Bucks for 400m and at Colne Valley Way display board L into Drift Way & follow path X fields to Horton. R, past church, L on path by lakes and river, cross railway to Wraysbury. L to Wraysbury stn, just after this, R on path by rail line, later crossing it and by lakes, with wild flowers and birds to reach Wraysbury Road. R on road, keeping R till just before road tunnel under M25, R on path, which joins road by M25 and crosses River Thames (4.8 Miles).

Keep on to roundabout, X A308, then L and alongside A30 with Runnymede Common on R. After 500m, at signposts, take FP X common and up slope to reach Coopers Hill Lane. R, pass Air Force Memorial (6.3 Miles). Continue, soon passing toilets on L, L on road at end, X Englefield Green to PH, R along Northcroft Rd, and at 2nd L bend, take FP on R. Follow, later joining road and reach Sun PH (7.7M).

L along road (care), and at Savill Garden CP, into Windsor Park (only open daytime). Past the Obelisk, L going South, reach Totem Pole, L over edge Virginia Water, then follow on south of Virginia Water to reach and leave park by Blacknest Gate (10.9 M). L on A329, X Rd (Care), then R on path through Coworth Park to Dog and Fireside PH on A30. X Rd (**Care**), then L on Shrubs Hill Lane and path to Onslow Rd and Chobham Rd at Sunningdale. L, X Rd, then rail line. Follow paths on L by edge Chobham Common to reach Queen Victoria's monument (13.3 M).

Follow path on R of monument going South to X minor road and then by tunnel under M3 (969648) to Staple Hill. X Chobham Common to Butts Hill and Graciouspond road at GR 983634. X Rd & on FP X fields, till after going by side wood, L at T junction of paths to reach Chobham Park farm. Down drive to road (A319). Slightly L, then R on path, X Mill Bourne, then S on path to reach Road. X little woodland to A3046, then on path S X Milford green to farm lane. L on this and just after lane on R, R on path through house garden (sign on gate), by R side of house & on narrow path past Cox Hill (16.8 M)

Over lane, through nursery to lane. R on this, R fork at Deep Pool farm & follow path (difficult) to reach road by L of Graylands Farm. R and in few m, L and follow path SW to reach Littlewick Road. R on road, over roundabout, pass Royal Oak (970590) on R (18.4 M).

At next roundabout, straight on Anchor Hill, becoming Broadway, through Knaphill to A322. X, R & L on Sparvell Rd, path at end, through Sheets Heath common keeping L to Brookwood and road. L & cross Basingstoke Canal and under railway (Care - no footway) at GR 943568 (19.8 M).

On Rd and in 400m, L on cemetery road and immediately R on BW. On this, X Rd and in same direction on path becoming road, L fork at end on path, later rough road to Fox Corner (22.8 M).

Along A322 towards Guildford, then after bakers shop, R on FP X Merrist Wood to A323 by Fairlands. R on A323 till take path on L through marshy woods to farm lane. L to Littlefield Manor (25.2M).

Pond on R, then FR, on grass, then lane with hedge on R. 100m past pond, over wooden bridge on R, on path L thro' wooded area, passing bluebells, by narrow copse edge to come into field by stile. R, by edge field to brow, then L, cutting corner to stile, down lane to road & Wood Street. X road carefully, L, pass green and PH (Royal Hart PH) and in 200m reach pond on L. X small open patch on R to track, soon labelled Pound Lane. Continue to cross rail line (956504), continue on path, soon bending L with wood on R to meet Xing path and signs. TR, following wood edge to reach rough grazing and Xing track. Continue on path straight ahead, later becoming clearer to cross Hogs Back at GR 954485 (27.8 M).

Cross very carefully, R 30m & L on FP X stiles, to reach NDW. R and reach road. L & in 100m good café at Watts gallery (957477). Route R on road to Compton, past church, to take FP past Harrow (good PH). Keep by R of small fields till at large field slightly L to stile, where R uphill on path. Then keep by edge wood till inset corner wood, and TR uphill on path to road. X road carefully, down FP opposite, X next road carefully and down path opposite again. At bottom of slope, L on path coming in from R, and continue downhill to pass stone wall on R. Meet path R 5m, then L on BW. Ignore FP on R. Path goes along side hill, later joining concrete track, to reach road at Lower Eashing. L over Wey, pass Stag PH (31.6 M).

In 100m take narrow FP on R. In big field, X field to L of Pylons and L of row of trees ahead. Reach road and continue ahead to Milford. Where joins main road from R (old A3), cross and down snicket opposite. L on road to end, R and opposite road on R, L on track, later becoming lane. At T junction, R and on bridge over new A3 to Mousehill Down (33.8 M).

In 100m, L fork, and continue SW for 1 mile. At Xing track and house, thro' wicket gate, by wire fence on R, and on to T junction (918415). L on track, pass pond on L, later fences on L, just before house, slightly L fork, keep on house boundary on L, over Xing path and in 150m, FR uphill (240°). Uphill and later as reach fence swing R to come out on Thursley Road. L and then R to meet A3 (36.1 M).

X A3 (906394) very carefully and on FP opposite. Slightly R (150°) X field, X 2nd field to little lane, L, then R on lane to T junction. R on muddy farm track to pass Hole House (907385). Reach Xing track and signpost, where TL on BW, past pond on R, and after climbing, take R concrete fork towards Blackhanger farm. Over bridge, then L over stile into field. To top edge of field, over stile into small wood. After this, into large field. Keep on L of field, and at end L thro' gateway and after 50m veer R past remains swimming pool on L. Carry on track with wire fence on L, to reach Begley farm, L over stile and thro' very wet field keeping to R to reach road.

L on road & in 400m, at Boundless farm, TR on footpath steeply up through Boundless Copse. At top reach Celtic cross and Gibbet Hill summit (38.9 M). Down path, later road past Royal Naval School to Crown and Cushion and Haslemere station (41.4 M).

Transport Nearest station to start is Sunnymeads 2.2 miles away. Trains from Staines. Return from Haslemere to Guildford and change for Staines.

The walk was 1st done in 1976 by Surrey Group LDWA in 13 hours. It can be done in stages also, with suggested breaks at Sunningdale and Compton (Guildford).

Keith Chesterton April 1998 (but not checked in full since 2011)