**FOUNDERS FOOTPATHS**

A 26 MILE ANYTIME CHALLENGE WALK IN SURREY

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Abbreviations: R=right, L=left, T=turn, F=fork, B=bear, cont= continue, thru=through, RD=road, TK=track, X-TK=cross track, BW=bridleway, FP=footpath, KG=kissing gate, FG=field gate, FB=footbridge, NDW=North Downs Way, NT=National Trust, GW=Greensand Way, m=metres. Compass bearings (the numbers in brackets) are in degrees magnetic. The names of roads & other landmarks in ROMAN CAPITALS are visible en route (but may not always be very obvious). Names in *ITALIC CAPITALS* are not to be seen en route but are to be found on maps.

The route description starts at Denbies Hillside, STEER’S FIELD NT car park (TQ 141504), but this circular route can be started anywhere.

From car park go thru KG by notice board into STEER'S FIELD. *Chris Steer & Alan Blatchford founded the LDWA in 1972. Steer’s Field and Blatchford Down (over which you will pass later) commemorate, in perpetuity, our two founder members*. Keep ahead & at end of hedge on L, over X-path & cont ahead down Steer’s Field. *From here there is a good view of the Greensand Ridge. Over the village of Westcott & due S on the skyline, in a clearing, is Leith Hill Tower on the highest point in SE England (965 feet or 294m).* At STEER’S FIELD NT sign go thru KG & very steeply down thru wood (known informally as Spectacles Wood from its shape), crossing broad TK on the way, thru another KG & ahead over field to cross railway. Cont ahead over two fields, go over stile & BL beside wood on enclosed path. Go over a plank bridge beside gate & ahead along a fenced TK. In 28Om at path junction TL thru KG beside FG & 300m later TR thru KG on enclosed path between fields. Thru KG, over X-TK & ahead to go thru gate over *PIPP BROOK* on FB. BL & in 30m cont on rough drive to busy A25. Cross & go down MILTON STREET. Where tarmac ends go ahead thru KG. In 90m TR over FB & cont on enclosed FP. TR over FB, thru KG & cross field to corner of *MAD HORSE COPSE* (235). Go thru gate & cont on FP beside copse. In 120m go over stile & 220m later join TK to RD. TQ 144473 LOGMORE LANE 2.6 miles

Cross RD & go ahead on hard TK to LOGMORE GREEN. In 560m pass metalled drive to LOGMORE GREEN FARM on your R & cont on 'Private Road to Logmore Farm only'. In 140m after wooden bungalow on R cont ahead thru gate on enclosed BW & in 100m TL on FP. 60m later, when path swings L, TR (ahead) to keep uphill to cross fence. Over X-TK & ahead to BR over byway (*WOLVENS LANE*), between posts & BR down & across TK to TL over stile on descending FP beside *STABLE COPSE*. After next stile TL on wide TK (GW) for 120m then TR over stile onto FP to cross bridge over the *TILLINGBOURNE* between fishponds.

*The Tillingbourne rises on the northern slopes of Leith Hill & joins the Wey at Shalford. In its eleven mile course it has been used to form fish ponds, ornamental canals, cascades, waterfalls & fountains, to flush water meadows & to power trip hammers & corn, fulling, gun-powder & paper mills. Watercress beds followed & have been succeeded by trout farms. The route crosses it & its tributaries nine times.*

Follow FP as it winds, via stile, steeply uphill to go thru KG, across RD (*SHEEPHOUSE LANE*), thru KG & cont on FP. In 150m at TK junction cont with fence on your R. After another 350m the path descends steeply to go thru a gate, across a TK then a bridge over the *FRIDAY STREET STREAM*. Thru KG & in 80m TL on drive. At RD cross to cont on FP opposite. (This path & the next are shown in black on the OS maps). (On this path you will pass thru TQ 123456). In 300m, at junction of five FPs, TR(260) up TK & in 150m FR on narrow FP thru trees to cross RD (*HOLLOW LANE*) to FP & cross green.

*On the green is St James's Well, built by 'William John Evelyn, Lord of the Manor of Abinger, for the use of Abinger parishioners, August 11th 1893'.The nearby house with prominent chimney stacks is Goddards, originally designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1898 as a rest home where hardworked 'ladies of small means' could come for a holiday.It has recently been restored by the Landmark Trust.*

TQ 119454 ABINGER LANE 4.9 miles

Cross RD & cont ahead on FP beside PASTUREWOOD COTTAGE. Keep ahead on main TK & after some 900m go ahead on a steep descent. Thru KG & cont ahead to RD (*HORSHAM ROAD*). TL on pavement for 100m. At house with iron gates cross RD to narrow FP. The FP bears L climbing gently. In 100m, just as it reaches the corner of back gardens, TR to go steeply up indistinct & narrow FP thru trees to meet a wider FP on which TR. Immediately FR (300) & keep to FP which, after 160m, starts to descend to cross broad ride & then ascends bearing slightly R. At top keep ahead, bearing slightly L. The path descends slightly, then levels out & swings L to pass car park close to HOLMBURY ST MARY YOUTH HOSTEL on R. Keep ahead (280) & in 100m ignore L fork & then in 40m, with corner of boundary bank with twisted beech boles on your R, bear slightly L & in 10m TR on broad TK which soon bends L downhill & then turns R to pass between ponds. Cont ahead (270) on TK as it ascends briefly in a gully & before long descends to the next valley. At the bottom FR (300) for 60m, then, 20m before a gate with notice 'Private No Right of Way', BL on FP parallel with boundary bank & fence 20m to your R. In 150m FL to cross BW & 30m later TL on next BW. In 30m (15m before waymark post & just before gnarled, twisted tree) TR with green, wire fence over to your R with paddocks & an imposing Neo-Georgian House beyond. Cont on FP with fence on your R until fence ends as the FP descends to *RIDING BOTTOM*.

Cross BW & ascend wide FP opposite. Keep ahead & soon pass thru barriers onto FP between fences. Pass thru more barriers & go ahead along drive. Cross lane & go thru yet more barriers to descend steeply to RADNOR ROAD. TR & cross EWHURST ROAD to *WALKING BOTTOM*, on which BL between THE HURTWOOD INN on your R & a small white building on your L. *This was THE OLD POST OFFICE (now a Cycle Hire Shop. (Hot drinks & food available at Village Store).*

TQ 086447 PEASLAKE 7.5 miles

TL up BW, & immediately after church on your R FL (ahead) on FP. In 200m rejoin BW & pass graveyard on your R. Ascend gently on broad sandy TK for 600m then, at very large triangular clearing with stone cairn, FR (220). Cont gentle ascent & in 750m cross broad TK. At next X-TK keep ahead. Follow TK as it bears round edge of PITCH HILL passing a metal seat at a viewpoint. In 50m FL, thru barrier & cont round edge of hill. Thru second barrier & at GW waymark post on your R keep ahead (L) for 20m to seat & PITCH HILL MEMORIAL TOPOSCOPE. Retrace steps to waymark post & TL to trig point. Pass Hurtwood Control collecting box on your L & follow TK (330) down to car park.

Cross road (MILL HOLLOW) to cont on GW. Up drive opposite for 20m then though gateway on R to cont uphill on eroded FP, to pass windmill on your L. BL on drive (250) & keep ahead to descend on FP crossing 2 drives to RD (*HORSEBLOCK HOLLOW*). Cross RD & FL thru car park, leaving it on GW between Hurtwood Control notices to follow FP via barrier round edge of hill. As FP curves R a renovated bench (LORD JUSTICE JAMES' SEAT) 30m to your L, on a rise, marks a viewpoint. TQ 073423 *REYNARDS HILL* 10 miles.

Cont on FP. In 240m FL & cont on undulating FP (GW) round edge of hill. On first approach to RD BL 20m before reaching it & cont down FP to join RD in 250m at head of *JELLEYS HOLLOW*. Cross RD & follow signposted BW. At fork keep ahead (L). 15m before FG BL & then FR on BW descending to house on your L (WINTERFOLD COTTAGE) (TQ 064431). Follow hedge (on your L) round to join drive. FL just before RD, cross & cont on BW opposite. After 170m pass FP sign on your R & where TK bears R keep ahead up bank on narrow FP (not shown on Landranger map; shown as black dotted line on 1:25000 maps). TL on byway & after 100m TR on TK to pass house & stables. At end of paddock on R, BR (ahead). Cross byway & cont ahead (10) on FP with fence on your R. In 160m over stile & cont ahead up L edge of field, thru gap & on to top. 20m over the ridge TL over stile next to metal gate. Cont with fence, & view, on your R. (This path is shown as a black dotted line on the 1:25000 maps). *Soon the view extends to Blatchford Down & round R to Steer's Field (below Ranmore Church spire on the skyline) & beyond.*

At meeting of sandy TKs TR between plantations with fence on your R (330). At X-TK soon after the fence ends take the wide BW ahead (330) & keep ahead (340) at the next X-TK. At RD (*FARLEY HEATH ROAD*) cross & TR to go parallel to RD for 120m to site of Romano-Celtic Temple with information board. TQ 051449 FARLEY HEATH 12.5 miles

Retrace steps for 45m, TR along edge of car park & in 50m TR again (340) on TK just before BW post on R. In 100m FL (ahead) & 220m later join TK from L. Pass house in garden just visible on your R & descend on wide & often muddy TK. Cont on sandy TK keeping ahead (350) over X-TK. In 200m pass paddock & houses beyond seen thru trees to your R. Over X-TK & ascend on BW. In 300m, at marker post, over X-Tk & 60m later, at BW post, keep ahead over X-TK. In 50m, at third X-TK, cont ahead with cleared area on your L. Over unmarked X-TK then ignore BW on your R. In 220m at junction of five paths keep ahead (320) on wide path thru trees (2nd path from L). In 180m over X-TK & cont ahead (280). In 50m path descends in gully to X-TK at valley bottom. TR & in 200m TL on farm TK to pass POSTFORD FARM COTTAGES. Over stile & cont on TK for 700m with the *LAWBROOK* valley on your R, passing large house with stepped gables on your L. Thru KG & across field (300) with view of *ST MARTHA'S HILL* with church to your R. Under barrier & ahead between fences. At LOCKNER LODGE BR on lane to follow DOWNS LINK signs over railway bridge to cross A248 & cont on lane (LOCKNER LANE). In 400m lane crosses bridge. *The watercourse is a leat which served the great Chilworth Gunpowder Works (1625-1920). There is an information board 10m to your L.* In another 80m the lane crosses the *TILLINGBOURNE*. Cont & ascend on broad TK. In 120m at BW junction TR & follow the DOWNS LINK for 800m to its junction with the NDW. TR to pass World War II pillbox on your L & in 40 m join broad sandy track from your R. In 150m BL towards car park, pass to R of barrier & TR with information board on your R & follow narrow FP to RD. TQ 036485 GUILDFORD LANE 15.8 miles

Cross to follow BW between fences. In 500m cross TK, ahead thru gap & cont on BW up field (110). In 250m, past oak tree, go thru gap to cont on enclosed BW which soon descends to TK (*WATER LANE*). TL & in 10m TR on TK to pass cottages on your R. In 600m pass a lone cottage (TIMBERCROFT). Keep ahead past metal FG. In 100m FR (ahead) on FP. Cross concrete access road to sandpit & landfill site & cont on FP. Cross stile & cont ahead with fence on your L. Thru KG, cross stream & then, with great care, though KG & cross A248 & ascend FP with church on your R.

The stream, the Sherbourne, is the only tributary of the Tillingbourne to rise from the chalk of the North Downs. The church was built for Henry Drummond, then owner of Albury Park, a banker. He was a member of the Catholic Apostolic Church, a sect convinced that the Second Coming was imminent. The first service was held in 1840, the last in 1950. The village of Albury was gradually moved out of Albury Park between 1780 & 1842. Drummond completed the process by having the old parish church (sometimes to be glimpsed thru the trees to the right) closed by Act of Parliament & building the new Italianate parish church in the hamlet of Weston Street, now known as Albury.

*The ditch you cross just before the next KG is the remains of a 800m leat which brought water from Sherbourne Pond to the Albury Park Terrace.*

Keep ahead thru KG & in 100m cont with fence on your R & then thru KG beside FG. Keep ahead thru wood (*SILVER WOOD*). On emerging from wood go thru KG & cont along field edge with fence on R.

*Thru the young trees on your R you may see the great wall of Albury Park Terrace, part of the garden planned by John Evelyn, the diarist, in 1660, which includes a 'crypt', or tunnel, 'thirty perches in length' thru the hill you have just walked over.*

Cont with fence on your R across field & over drive to KG. Descend to TR on lane (*CHANTRY LANE*) past CHANTRY COTTAGE. Cross *TILLINGBOURNE* on FB. TL thru KG (Vicky’s Gate) & follow FP beside *TILLINGBOURNE*. Pass thru another KG & cont on TK which in 150m goes thru KG to join RD. Keep ahead on RD (LOWER STREET) in SHERE. *Note the Old Prison on your right after 70m. Shere must have looked quite pretty before the invention of the internal combustion engine.* Cross MIDDLE STREET to THE SQUARE (a triangle) & cont beside the church. *The war memorial cross & the lychgate are both by Lutyens*.

TQ 074478 SHERE CHURCH 18.5 miles

Just beyond CHURCH HILL BR thru gate up enclosed FP. At X-TK TL on BW along field edge & in 190m cont between fences. BL on gravel drive to RD. Cross & cont ahead along a second road, HIGH VIEW, opposite. TR onto TOWER HILL under railway bridge & in 20m TL onto BW with TOWER HILL FARM on your R. After farmhouse FL on BW with fence on your L. TR on hard TK to pass TWIGA LODGE. Where TK bends R TL on BW to cont ahead with SOUTHBROOKS FARMHOUSE on your R & in 40m BR for 25m & then BL on enclosed path. In 160m join concrete TK. Cross the *TILLINGBOURNE* & cont to A25. TR on pavement. In 200m cross RD at ABINGER HAMMER.

The Clockhouse, with its blacksmith sounding the hours, took its present form in 1909. Hammer in the name of the village refers to an eight hundredweight (400kg) trip hammer of a sixteenth century forge.

Go up RD between the Abinger Cookery School & the Clockhouse (HACKHURST LANE). After 550m, having passed BW on your R at top of rise, & then HACKHURST FARM COTTAGE on your L, TR on TK, passing HACKHURST FARM on your L. Beyond the farm buildings BR with the TK & in 80m FL to go east, parallel with the downs. As the TK swings L the steep open area of BLATCHFORD DOWN lies ahead. Cross the railway & pass NEW BARN FARM on your R. Pass FG & cont on TK (due N). In 220m FR, over stile beside FG with NT BLATCHFORD DOWN sign on your R. TL & ascend on indistinct FP (40) to remains of redundant stile, then BL (10) to meet broad grassy path near two benches. This is the NDW. TL for 50m to BLATCHFORD DOWN information board. *Blatchford Down commemorates Alan Blatchford who, together with Chris Steer founded the LDWA.*

*The view from here of the Greensand Ridge extends on the R to Gibbet Hill & Blackdown, the highest point in Sussex (919 feet or 280m).*

TQ 103488 BLATCHFORD DOWN 21.1 miles

Retrace steps to cont (NDW) with wood on your L. The acorn markers are infrequent. After 800m, go thru KG beside FG & cont on NDW, which bears L & enters an area of scrub, for another 200m but then, where the NDW turns R to descend to RD, cont ahead on narrow FP (shown by a black dotted line on the 1:25000 maps) which curves L round the edge of an ancient pit. Ignore a narrow FP over a bank to the R & cont ahead to leave the pit edge on a narrow path with another ancient pit soon on your R. In 110m join TK coming in from your L, then BL (340), with it & swing L to pass beside railings of a reservoir. TR on broad TK & in 50m TL on TK which, after crossing a BW, straightens a bit. Keep ahead (340), ignore LT, cross a byway (*SHEEPWALK LANE*) & cont ahead on FP between trees & thru KG to RD, Cross & go down drive opposite. TQ 111501 DUNLEY HILL FARM & DUN HILL COURT. 22.7 miles

In 100m TR at FP sign before gate. Follow TK as it bends L then go ahead on narrow FP between fence & building. Over the stile TR (70) to go to stile beside FG at far corner of field. Cont across next field on the same bearing to a KG that becomes visible as you approach it. 5m after the KG TL on FP winding thru wood. FR 10m before RD (*CRITTEN LANE*) & cross to go thru KG. Follow faint FP up slope, soon with fence on L over stile & then with fence on L. Cross a second stile, then a third & cont on drive. Cross RD (*HIGH BARN ROAD*). Go ahead on drive opposite (signed Haneys) & when drive bends R cont ahead on FP initially between fences & later on TK. Cross next RD (*STONYROCK ROAD*) & descend TK opposite. (From here to Tanners Hatch the route follows FPs on Ranmore Common shown with black dashes on the Landranger sheet and, more accurately, with single or double black dotted lines on the 1:25000 maps). In valley bottom cross byway (*HOGDEN LANE*) & cont on FP ahead. Cross TK at top & descend to 5-way junction in next bottom where BL (to second ride on L, (40)) & go round barrier. Keep ahead on forest glade (40), bearing L where TK swings R. Pass barrier & cross drive to LONESOME COTTAGE diagonally (20) to join grass path which bears R among trees. Over X-TK crossing TK & cont on path. In 70m, at waymark, BL beside fence post & cont ahead on wide TK between beech trees descending gently to cottage. In 12m TR on TK descending more steeply before rising to give view of *POLESDEN LACEY* on your L.

*Richard Brinsley Sheridan, dramatist & politician, lived at Polesden Lacey for more than 20 years & greatly extended the terraced walk. After his death in 1816 the house was demolished & a Regency villa built on the site. Despite much remodelling after 1906, Polesden Lacey retains a Regency air. It is now the Southern Regional Office of the NT. Nine rooms with a collection of works of art are on view.*

Cont ahead to the ALAN BLATCHFORD MEMORIAL SEAT.

TQ 140515 TANNERS HATCH YOUTH HOSTEL

*The Youth Hostel, a cottage on the National Trust's Polesden Lacey Estate rescued from dereliction in the 1950s by volunteers, has been a hive of activity.* 25.1 miles

From memorial seat retrace steps for 5m, FL on TK & in 20m FL again (yellow arrow waymark). Ascend on TK for 1100m to emerge beside *FOX COTTAGES*. Pass barrier & TL on roadside grass. In 200m TR to cross RD to NT car park.

26 miles TQ 141504 STEER'S FIELD