



SURREY HILLS SOCIETY

The Surrey Hills Society is an independent charity promoting the positive enjoyment and care of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for those who live, work in or visit the area. The Society encourages people of all ages to explore and learn about the area's special landscape.

The Society has been run almost exclusively by dedicated volunteers since it began in 2008 and their passion for the area helps to keep the charity in the public eye. They have become a successful and well-respected organisation, running their own events, signposting and supporting other related activities, giving talks and attending shows.

For more information, take a look at www.surreyhillssociety.org and consider joining the Surrey Hills Society. You can follow them on social media and, of course, they would love to meet you.

 @SurreyHillsSoc

 @surreyhillssoc

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 Surrey Hills Society

Registered Charity number 1125532



Southeast Communities Rail Partnership

The Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC (SCRCP) covers 8 lines, working to connect communities to their railway across Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. They work in partnership with GTR Southern, GWR, SWR, SER and Cross Country on those lines, joining up with community groups, local authorities and local businesses to help them achieve their objectives through the railway and are supported by the Community Rail Network (CRN). GWR's North Downs Line runs through the beautiful Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, providing many points from which to begin walks and cycle rides. Help shape the future of the railway, have your say, and bring your local station into the heart of the community: www.southeastcrp.org

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 46 nationally protected landscapes in the UK, having equal landscape status and protection to a national park. The Hills stretch across a quarter of the county of Surrey and include the chalk slopes of the North Downs from Farnham in the west to Oxted in the east and extend south to the deeply wooded Greensand Hills which rise in Haslemere.

RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

For a safe and fun visit to the Surrey Hills please remember to follow the Countryside Code.

Respect other people – Consider the local community and other people when enjoying the outdoors. Keep to designated paths and bridleways, leaving gates and property as you find them.

Protect the natural environment – Keep dogs on a lead around livestock and wildlife and remember to bag and bin dog poo. Take all litter home and don't have BBQs or fires.

Enjoy the outdoors – Plan ahead, follow advice and local signs.

GETTING HERE

By Rail: Great Western Railway operate the North Downs line from Gatwick to Guildford, then onto Reading. Visit nationalrail.co.uk for details.

By bus: Visit traveline.info for details of services.

CONTACT

Surrey Hills AONB: SURREYHILLS.ORG

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 Great Western Railway

RAIL TO RAMBLE

A SURREY HILLS WALK BETWEEN CHILWORTH AND GOMSHALL RAILWAY STATIONS



Louise Dunkley

 Surrey Hills Society



 Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

RAIL TO RAMBLE

Chilworth to Gomshall

DISTANCE: 9.1 km / 5.7 miles

ALLOW: 3 hours

GRADIENT: 55M

PATHS: Uneven surfaces, some sections can be muddy after wet weather. Take care when crossing or following roads.

This walk can be connected with the Shalford to Chilworth or Gomshall to Dorking routes to create longer explorations.



1. Come out of Chilworth Railway Station towards the Percy Arms Pub. Turn right at the Dorking Road (A248) and follow the pavement along the roadside.
2. After 500m turn right at the Downs Link sign by the bus stop. At the white gates keep right, keeping on the Downs Link bridleway. At a junction of paths by Lingwood House take the bridleway at 11 o'clock. Continue on until brow of hill, then bear right.

3. At the road crossing turn right for 50m along the road, then left onto the bridleway, then veer right. Be careful as there are several paths here in close proximity. Go across a small car park and continue straight ahead (there are some houses to your right). The path opens out into a wooded clearing. There is a cricket pitch clearly visible over to your right. Turn left at post marked as bridleway.

4. Take the bridleway to the brow of the hill with excellent views over to Winterfold. At the sandy crossroads, with a wooden bench on your right, continue straight ahead on the bridleway. Ignore all small paths off to the left and right.



5. At a 4 way junction continue ahead past a finger post marked Fox Way veering slightly right to follow the fence line on your right. As you come to Candleford Cottage on your right, take the left turn, and then bear right on public footpath (ignoring bridleway on left). Cross the stile and continue on with the fence line on your left. At next junction continue straight over. After 150m you come to a tarmac track. Continue straight ahead past Remnants Cottage.

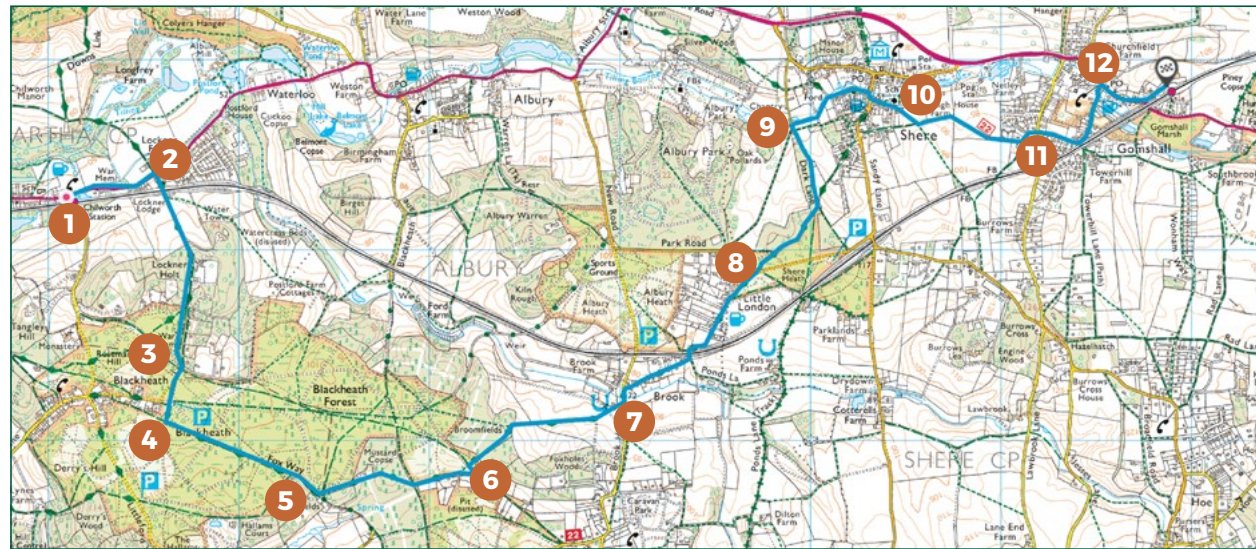
6. Pass Lipscombe Cottage, turn sharp left and then almost immediately right, still on the Fox Way. Keep going forward, ignoring all small paths to the side, continuing through the pine wood. At next crossroads turn right towards open fields going down the hill (still on the Fox Way). Go through metal gate and continue down the hill. At the bottom bear left towards the houses and continue on until you meet the road.



Y-junction of bridleways, veer left continuing downhill. Keep going down the hill to the stream.

7. Turn left for 30m and then right into Brook Lane. Follow this road going under a red brick railway bridge and past the William IV pub on your left.

8. At the T-junction with Park Road cross straight over the green triangular space and pick up the bridleway directly opposite. Bear right at the fork in the path after 20m. Continue on Fox Way (also now signposted as Shere Millennium Trail). At a major



9. Turn right through kissing gate marked Shere Millennium Trail. Continue ahead alongside the stream and through a second kissing gate. At the next gate, continue on the tarmac lane into Shere village. At the village centre bridge, turn right then immediately left towards the church.

10. Pass the church on your left and at the junction with Church Hill take the footpath uphill ahead (Shere Millennium Trail). At the first junction, turn left and follow the path for 600m until reaching The Old Barn. Turn left and reach road at Monks House.



your right, turning left into Goose Green. Pass a recreation ground on your left and at the bottom of the hill you reach Gomshall Mill Pub and Restaurant.

12. Cross over the road (A25) and turn right along the pavement. After 250m you reach the entrance to Gomshall Railway Station on your left.

11. Go straight over towards bus shelter and post box, onto High View Road. Pass Tower Hill Road on





BLACKHEATH

The picturesque village of Blackheath is one of the smallest in Surrey with just over 220 people on the electoral register. Although only 4 miles from Guildford, it is relatively isolated as it can only be approached by 3 narrow lanes. The village

is surrounded by open heathland, much of which is Common land. Part of Blackheath Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



The village itself has numerous magnificent Arts & Crafts buildings, many linked to architect Charles Harrison Townsend (although the cricket pavilion, seen from the route, is a modern structure built in a similar style).



THE TILLINGBOURNE VALLEY

Shere and Gomshall both sit astride the Tillingbourne, a small but historically important river that rises on nearby Leith Hill and flows into the Wey at Shalford. Since medieval times, the water power has been used to drive mills all along its length and it was one of the most industrialised river valleys in 17th century England. At this time there were approximately 50 water wheels, powering 24 known mills. The mills supported 12 different industries at various periods in time, including weaving, tanning, iron-working, paper-milling and gunpowder production. If you are visiting Shere on a weekend afternoon, visit Shere Museum to discover more of this fascinating history.



GOMSHALL

Local industries developed based on the plentiful and constant water supply of the River Tillingbourne. Those that survived into the 20th century, but are now gone, were corn milling, large scale watercress growing and leather tanning. Gomshall Mill, now a public house, was the corn mill.

SHERE MILLENNIUM TRAIL

This 20km loop through Peaslake, Holmbury St Mary, Gomshall and Shere was published in 2000 as part of a Parish Council initiative celebrating the millennium. Our walk takes in part of this attractive route through the heart of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



SHERE is a beautiful, quintessentially English village. It offers visitors charming buildings, a stream with ducks, a small museum, a tearoom, two pubs, The White Horse and The William Bray as well as a 12th century church. This church of St James appeared in the Domesday Book. It contains a tiny enclosed cell in which Christine Carpenter, an anchoress (religious recluse) lived. Her only contact with the outside world was through a grid and an aperture that allowed food to be passed.

Surrounded by stunning scenery, and close to popular scenic sites such as Newlands Corner and the Silent Pool, the village is popular with walkers, as well as being a favourite location for filmmakers with scenes in 'Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason' and 'The Holiday' being filmed here.