





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.surreyhillsociety.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  @surreyhillsoc

 @surreyhillsociety



Registered Charity number 1125532



Southeast Communities Rail Partnership

The Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC (SCRП) 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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RAIL TO RAMBLE

A SURREY HILLS WALK BETWEEN DORKING DEEPDENE AND BETCHWORTH RAILWAY STATIONS



Louise Dunckley



RAIL TO RAMBLE

Dorking Deepdene to Betchworth

DISTANCE: 8 km / 5 miles

ALLOW: 2.5 hours

GRADIENT: 50M

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 Gomshall to Dorking Deepdene route to create a longer exploration.

1. From Dorking Deepdene Station head to the A24 road. Turn left and walk a short distance before you see a footpath signposted to Pixham. Take the narrow tarmac alleyway between high wooden fences. At the next junction, turn left and go under the railway bridge. Follow this path, which becomes Pixholme Grove, and continue to the junction with Pixham Lane.

2. Cross over the road, go right under the railway bridge and then turn left into Leslie Road beside St Mary's Church. Follow this road for 150m until you spot some modern white flats on your left. Turn left at the signposted footpath just past these buildings and go through the metal kissing gate.

3. Follow this path until you reach Castle Mill. Turn left at the mill, cross the footbridge over the River Mole and continue on the path straight ahead towards Box Hill. Pass through a wooden kissing gate and out into a field. Follow the left hand side of the field, pass through another wooden kissing gate and down some steps.



4. Turn sharp right onto the tarmac road. Take the path over the bridge and continue on the tarmac road to the A25. Cross over and continue ahead, with the Betchworth Park Golf Club sign on your right. Bear left on the drive up towards the Golf Club, signposted as a public bridleway. Pass the Golf Club on your right. Continue straight ahead on the bridleway, signposted to Brockham.

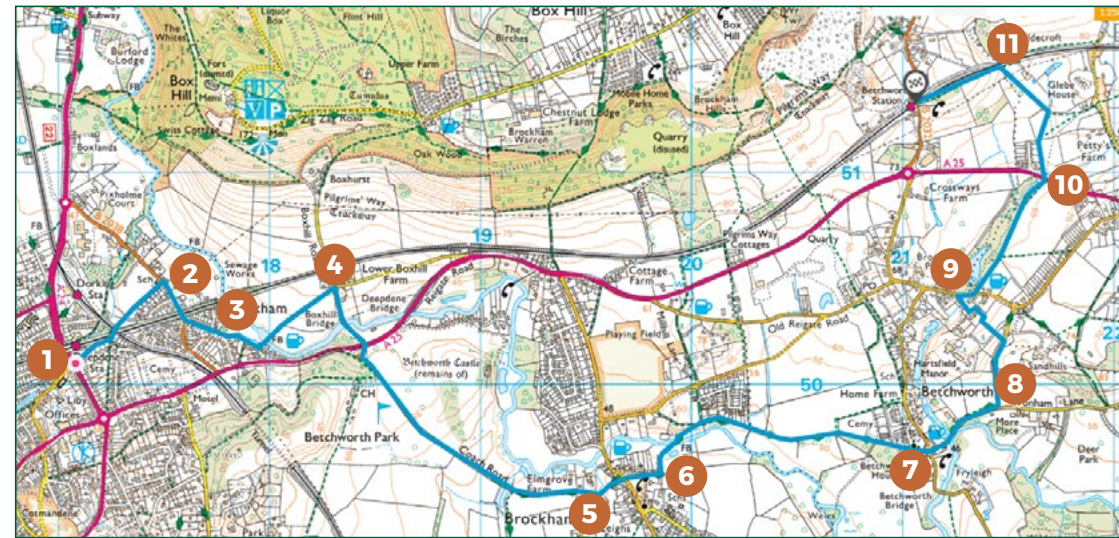
5. After 1.3km, at the T-junction, turn left crossing the bridge over a stream. Pass Brooklands Cottage on your right and continue until you reach Brockham Village Green. *(There are opportunities here for refreshments, food and toilet stop at the Royal Oak and Grumpy Mole Pubs and The Reading Room Café.)* Continue across the Green, past both the pubs, until you reach gates at Brockham Court Farm. *(Note The Pound to the right).*

6. Take the bridleway (marked Greensand Way) on the left hand side of the gates. Cross the stream and then, after 100m, over a second bridge, where the path bears right. *(Note the WWII defensive Pill Box on your right).* Follow the path up the slope. At the top of the rise take the path on the right, staying on the Greensand Way. The path runs parallel to the River Mole, with houses on your left. Stay on the Greensand Way until you reach a tarmac drive crossing over the path. Go straight ahead, through the wooden gates, into the churchyard.



7. Continue ahead, with the church on your left, through the metal gate at the other side of the churchyard and out onto The Street. Cross into Wonham Lane, with the Dolphin Pub on the left. After about 150m you may prefer to take the footpath up to the left, which runs parallel to the narrow road until it reaches Sandy Lane. *(You may wish to continue a further 50m along Wonham Lane to enjoy the view over historic More Place).*

8. Turn left up Sandy Lane. After 300m, take the first footpath to the left which looks like a private driveway. Go straight ahead up the steps, where you will spot another footpath sign. Keep going and cross a tarmac drive. Pass through a metal kissing gate on a narrow path, which runs down the side of a horse pasture field. The path bends right and quickly left. Go through another metal kissing gate. Cross over the next tarmac drive and keep ahead on the path between two wooden fences. The narrow path pops out on Old Road.



9. Turn right along the road towards the Red Lion Pub. *(This is the last place for refreshments and toilets before the end of the walk).* Follow the footpath which runs up the side of the pub, past the pub's car park, and keep going straight ahead. At the fork in the paths, keep left, heading towards the A25, following the edge of the field. After about 450m look for a gap in the hedge to your left, by a power pole. Take this path down the gully and up the steps, which brings you out on the A25.

10. Cross straight over and take the footpath on the other side of the road, with a petrol station on your left. Cross a bridge and then bear left following the stream. Go through the metal kissing gate. Keep to the left of the field. At the end of the field, go left through the gate over the stream. Keep going straight ahead across the middle of the field, with the railway line ahead of you. Do not go towards the tunnel under the railway line, but keep straight ahead. Bear left and head for the left hand corner of the field where you will find another metal kissing gate, close to the railway line.

11. Follow this path which runs parallel to the railway line for 450m all the way to Betchworth Station for your journey home. *(Note: There are no facilities at this station).*

PIXHAM is a village on the edge of Dorking. Sitting at the steep foot of the Box Hill stretch of the North Downs the village includes a number of interesting buildings, some dating back to the 17th century. The early 19th Century saw the construction of two watermills – Pixham Mill on the Pippbrook built in 1837 on the site of an earlier mill – and Castle Mill on the River Mole. Both mills and the adjoining houses are Grade II listed. St Mary's Church, a chapel of ease to Dorking parish church is in the centre and was designed by the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1903.



COACH ROAD – a 19th century route from Dorking to Brockham – early maps give it equal or superior status to the modern Reigate to Dorking Road. It runs close to the ruins of Betchworth Castle.



BROCKHAM

Perhaps this village's greatest claim to fame is the annual Guy Fawkes Night bonfire celebrations. These have been a regular feature on the local calendar for many years and are now established as a local tradition! The spectacle is, perhaps, the greatest bonfire night celebrations in the South East of England. A fantastic firework display, which is always better than the one the year before, ensures massive crowds and the proceeds from the evening are donated to local charities.



GREENSAND WAY

This walk follows the Greensand Way from Brockham to Betchworth. This long-distance walking route was created in the 1980s by connecting up a sequence of paths to produce a 108 mile (173km) route from Haslemere in south-west Surrey to Hamstreet in Kent. Further details can be found via www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/countryside



BETCHWORTH CHURCH is unusual in that the Greensand Way runs right through the churchyard. Dedicated to St Michael, the structure is Grade I listed. The south aisle chapel became known as the Hope Chapel after Henry Thomas Hope (owner of the famous Hope Diamond). More recently, the church was used for the first scene of Richard Curtis' 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' (1994).



MORE PLACE, previously known as Le More and Aglonds More, a Grade II listed 15th century house, was bought by the Lord of the Manor of East Betchworth from the manor of Wonham in the 18th century. All subsequent occupants were tenants until the freehold was sold in 1981 following the death of the Lord of the Manor, Major General Goulburn.

