

FOUNDERS FOOTPATHS

A 26 MILE ANYTIME CHALLENGEWALK IN SURREY

Abbreviations: R=right, L=left, T=turn, F=fork, B=bear, Cont=continue, RD=road, TK=track, BOAT=byway open to all traffic, 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 are in degrees magnetic. The names of roads and 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 E on path in front of houses for 150m to see NDW shelter with LDWA plaque. Retrace steps for 20m, TL through KG. This is STEER'S FIELD. At NDW finger post continue ahead (link to GW) down Steer's Field. From here there is a good view of the Greensand Ridge. Over the village of Westcott and due S on the skyline, in a clearing, is Leith Hill Tower on the highest point in SE England (94m/965ft). At STEER'S FIELD NT sign go through KG and very steeply down through wood (known informally as Spectacles Wood from its shape), crossing broad TK on the way, through another KG and ahead over field to cross railway. Cont ahead over two fields, go over stile and BL beside wood on enclosed path. Go over a plank bridge beside gate and ahead along a fenced TK and through a KG. In the valley bottom TL through KG. In 150m go over stile and ahead across field. Cross next stile and TR over PIPP BROOK on FB; BL and in 30m cont on rough drive to busy A25. Cross and go down MILTON STREET. Where tarmac ends go ahead through KG. In 90m TR over FB and cont on enclosed FP. TR over stile and another FB and cross field to corner of MAD HORSE COPSE (235). Go over stile and cont on FP beside copse. In 120m go over another stile, then in 220m go through KG to join TK to RD. TQ 144473 LOGMORE LANE

2.6M Cross RD and go ahead on hard TK to LOGMORE GREEN. In 560m pass metalled drive to LOGMORE GREEN FARM on your R and cont on 'Private Road to Logmore Farm only'. In 140m after wooden dwelling on R cont ahead through gate on enclosed BW and in 100m TL on FP uphill to go through barrier. Cont uphill round one stile, across another and through young plantation. Cross stile ahead and in 20 m ahead across second stile and over BOAT (WOLVENS LANE). TR downhill on FP for 20m then TL over stile on 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.

Follow FP as it winds steeply uphill to go through KG and across RD (SHEEPHOUSE LANE).

Cont on FP. In 150m at TK junction cont with fence on your R. After another 350m the path descends steeply, thru KG and cross TK and then bridge over the FRIDAY STREET STREAM. After 80m TL on drive. At RD cross to FP. (This path and the next are shown in black on the OS maps). (On this path you will pass through TQ 123456). In 300m, at junction of five FPs (CHECK) TR on winding FP (260 initially, 265 overall). In 400m cross RD (HOLLOW LANE) to FP and cross green. TQ 119454 ABINGER LANE

4.9M Cross RD and cont ahead on FP beside PASTUREWOOD COTTAGE. Keep ahead on main TK and after some 900m go ahead on a steep descent. Through 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 before it reaches the corner of back gardens, TR to go steeply up indistinct and narrow FP through trees to meet a wider FP on which TR. Keep to FP which after 160m starts to descend to cross broad ride and then ascends bearing slightly R. At top keep ahead, bearing slightly L. The path descends slightly, then levels out and swings L to pass car park close to HOLMBURY ST MARY YOUTH HOSTEL on R (with Hurtwood Control notice on L). Keep ahead (280) and in 100m ignore L fork and then in 40m, with corner of boundary bank with twisted beech boles on your R, bear slightly L and in 10m TR on broad TK which soon bends L down and then turns R to pass between ponds. Cont ahead (270) on TK as it ascends briefly in a gully and 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 and fence 20m to your R. In 165m FL to cross two BWs which converge a few m to your R and BR through a dip in a low bank near a fence corner on your R. Go ahead on an indistinct path and in 40m join a wider FP which runs parallel to fence on your R with paddocks and 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 and ascend wide FP opposite. Keep ahead and soon pass through barriers onto FP between fences. Pass through more barriers and go ahead along drive. Cross lane and go through yet more barriers to descend steeply to RADNOR ROAD. TR and 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). TQ 086447 PEASLAKE

7.5M TL up BW, and immediately after church on your R FL (ahead) on FP (signposted). In 200m rejoin BW and pass graveyard on your R. Ascend gently on broad sandy TK for 600m then, at very large triangular clearing, FR (220). Cont gentle ascent and in 750m cross broad TK. At next junction keep ahead. Follow TK as it bears round edge of PITCH HILL passing a waymark post where GW joins from L then a metal seat at a viewpoint. In 50m FL through barrier and cont round edge of hill. At next GW waymark post keep ahead (L) for 20m to seat and PITCH HILL MEMORIAL TOPOSCOPE. Retrace steps to waymark post and TL to trig point. Pass Hurtwood Control collecting box on your L and follow TK (330) down to car park.

Cross road (MILL HOLLOW) and cont on GW, on drive for 20m then ahead uphill on eroded FP. BL on drive (250) to pass windmill on your L. In 60m keep ahead to descend on FP crossing 2 drives to RD (HORSEBLOCK HOLLOW). Cross RD and FL through car park, leaving it on GW between Hurtwood Control notices to follow FP round edge of hill. As FP curves R a bench (LORD JUSTICE JAMES' SEAT) 30m to your L, on a rise, marks a viewpoint. TQ 073423 REYNARDS HILL

10.0M Cont on FP. In 240m FL and cont on undulating FP round edge of hill. 20m before RD BL down path with RD on R. In 250m join RD at head of JELLEYS HOLLOW. Cross RD and follow signposted BW. At fork keep ahead (L). 15m before FG BL and 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 and cont on BW opposite. After 170m pass stile on your R and 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 BOAT and after 100m TR on TK to pass house and stables. At end of paddock on R, BR (ahead). Cross BOAT and FL (ahead, 10) on FP. In 50m pass to R of permissive BW sign and in 80m go over stile. Cont ahead up L edge of field go over stile or through FG and on to top. 20m over the ridge TL over stile next to metal gate. Cont with fence, and 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 and round R to Steer's Field (below Ranmore Church spire on the skyline) and beyond.

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

12.5M Retrace steps for 45m, TR at car park and in 40m TR again due N on waymarked BW (sign may be rather hidden in trees). In 400m pass house in garden just visible on your R and descend on wide and often muddy track.

Cont on sandy TK keeping ahead (350) over crossing TK. In 200m pass paddock and houses beyond seen through trees to your R. Cross waymarked FP and ascend on BW, then keep ahead across two horse TKs. At third TK junction look for waymark post on your L with the numbers 230 and 232 cut into it. Cont ahead and in 150m (after crossing two more horse TKs), TK swings L crossing one BW with waymark post on your R and in 30m another with waymark post on your L. Cont on TK (300 veering to 330) (shown as black dotted lines on 1:25000 maps). In 180m, at cross TK, cont ahead (340). In 150m at another junction cont ahead (310) on FP which after 50m descends in gully. In valley bottom TR on FP. In 200m at farm buildings TL on TK past POSTFORD FARM COTTAGES. Over stile BL and cont for 700m with the LAWBROOK valley on your R. Pass large house with stepped gables on your L, through KG and cont on FP (300) across field with view of ST MARTHA'S HILL with church to your R. Over stile and ahead to BR on lane at LOCKNER LODGE, following DOWNS LINK signs over railway bridge to cross A248 and 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 and ascend on broad TK. In 120m at BW junction TR and follow the DOWNS LINK for 800m to the information board at junction with NDW. TR to pass World War II pillbox on your L and in 40 m join broad sandy track from your R. In 150 m BL towards car park, pass to R of barrier and TR with information board on your R and follow narrow FP to RD. TQ 036485 GUILDFORD LANE

15.8M Cross to follow BW between fences (oxhead waymark). In 500m cross TK, ahead through gate and cont on BW up field (110). In 250m, past oak tree, go through gap (BW sign) to cont ahead on BW which soon descends to TK (WATER LANE). TL and in 10m TR on TK to pass cottages on your R. In 600m pass a lone cottage (TIMBER CROFT). Keep ahead over stile beside metal FG. In 100m FR (ahead) on FP. Cross concrete access road to sandpit and landfill site and cont on FP. Cross stile and cont ahead with fence on your L. Cross stream and then, with great care, cross A248 and ascend footpath (Fox Way waymark) with church on your R.

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

Cont on same line (125) across field and over TK to KG. Descend to TR on lane (CHANTRY LANE) past Chantry Lane Cottages. Cross TILLINGBOURNE on FB. TL through KG (Vicky's Gate) and follow FP beside TILLINGBOURNE.

Pass through another KG and BL on TK which in 150m goes through gate 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) and cont beside the church. The war memorial cross and the lychgate are both by Lutyens. TQ 074478 SHERE CHURCH

18.5M Just beyond CHURCH HILL cont on CHURCH LANE BR through gate onto FP. After next gate BL on BW along field edge and in 190m cont between fences. BL on gravel drive to cross RD and cont L along a second road, HIGH VIEW, opposite. TR onto TOWER HILL under railway bridge and in 20m TL onto BW with TOWER HILL FARM on your R and cont on path beside 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 and immediately BR for 12m and then BL between fences and in 160m join concrete TK. Cross the TILLINGBOURNE and cont to A25. TR on pavement. In 200m cross RD at ABINGER HAMMER.

Go up RD between the Abinger Arms and the Clockhouse (HACKHURST LANE). After 550m, having passed BW on your R at top of rise and cont with HACKHURST FARM COTTAGE on your L, TR on TK, passing HACKHURST FARM on your L. Beyond the farm buildings BR with the TK and in 80m FL to go east, parallel with the downs. As the TK bears L the steep open area of BLATCHFORD DOWN lies ahead. Swing L with the TK to cross the railway and pass NEW BARN FARM on your R. Cont on TK (due N) and in 220m FR. Over stile or through gateway with NT BLATCHFORD DOWN sign on your R. TL and 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.

The view from here of the Greensand Ridge extends on the R to Gibbet Hill and Blackdown, the highest point in Sussex (919 feet or 280m). TQ 103488 BLATCHFORD DOWN

21.1M TR on grassy TK to follow the NDW. The acorn markers are infrequent. (The current Landranger and 1:25000 maps all show a former route of the NDW from Blatchford Down to the RD. The present route, as waymarked, is shown on the Pathfinder sheet by a black dotted line and on the Explorer as a public footpath). After 800m, go through wicket gate beside FG and cont on NDW, which bears L and 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 and cont ahead to leave the pit edge on path (320 veering to 360) with another ancient pit soon on your R. In 110m join TK from your L, then BL (340) with it and swing L to pass beside railings of a reservoir. Then TR on broad TK and in 50m TL on TK which, after crossing a BW, straightens

a bit. Keep ahead (340), cross a BOAT (SHEEPWALK LANE) and cont ahead on FP between trees to RD, which cross to go down drive opposite. TQ 111501 DUNLEY HILL FARM and DUN HILL COURT.

22.7M In 100m TR at FP sign before gate. Follow TK as it bends L then go ahead on narrow FP between fence and 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 only becomes visible as you approach it. 2m after the stile TL on FP winding through wood. FR 10m before RD (CRITTEN LANE) and cross to go through KG. Follow faint FP up slope, soon with fence on L over stile and then with fence on L. Cross a second stile, then a third and cont on drive. Cross RD (HIGH BARN ROAD). Go ahead on drive opposite (signed Haneys and when drive bends R cont ahead on FP initially between fences and later on TK. Cross next RD (STONYROCK ROAD) and descend TK opposite past garages. (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 BOAT (HOGDEN LANE) and cont on FP ahead. Cross TK at top and descend to 5-way junction in next bottom where BL (to second ride on L, 40) and go round barrier. Keep ahead on grassy glade (40), bearing L where another broad glade joins from the R. Go through barrier and cross drive to LONESOME COTTAGE drive diagonally (20) to join grass path which bears R among trees. Pass through barriers each side of a crossing TK and cont on grassy glade. In 70m BL through another barrier and cont ahead on wide TK between beech trees descending gently to cottage (PROSPECT LODGE). In 12m opposite Yew Tree Farm Walk/Prospect Lodge Walk at finger post on L TR on TK descending more steeply before rising to give view of POLESDEN LACEY on your L.

Cont ahead to the ALAN BLATCHFORD MEMORIAL SEAT (the original of which was replaced by the Surrey Group in 2008). TQ 140515 TANNERS HATCH YOUTH HOSTEL The Youth Hostel, a cottage on the National Trust's Polesden Lacey Estate rescued from dereliction fifty years ago by volunteers, has been a hive of activity.

25.1M From memorial seat retrace steps for 5m, FL on TK and in 20m FL again (yellow arrow waymark). Ascend on TK for 1100m to emerge beside FOX COTTAGES. Cross barrier and TL on roadside grass. In 200m TR to cross RD to NT car park. 26 miles. TQ 141504 STEER'S FIELD