



Friday Street: Severells Copse & Kempslade Farm

Distance 1½-4½ km=1-3 miles, easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: Friday Street

Map: Explorer 146 (Dorking)

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Lake, village, woodland

In Brief

Here are two easy short circular walks starting in Friday Street, a lakeside village in Surrey near Dorking. They can be combined into a single walk.

Refreshments are at the Stefan Langton pub (open all day Sunday) which offers an extremely imaginative menu and several real ales. There are no nettles or muddy patches and dogs are welcome.

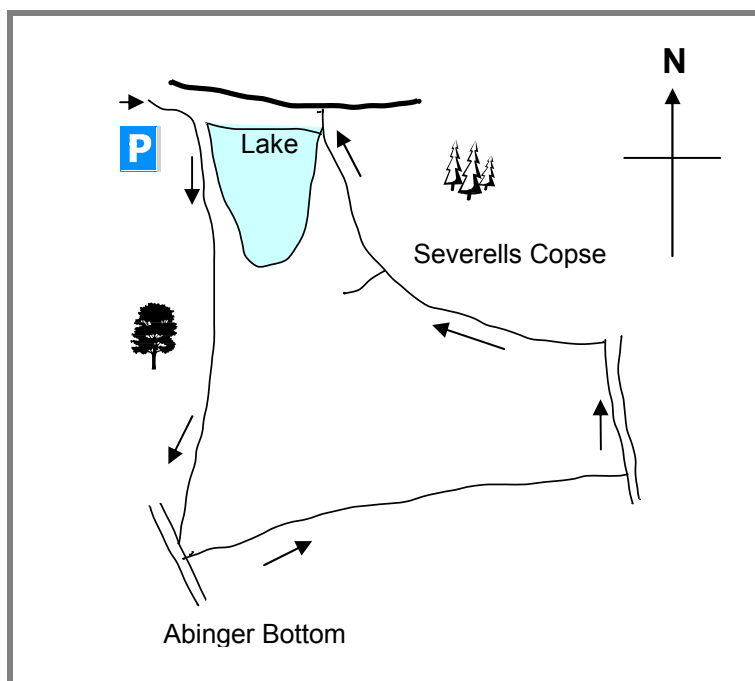
The walk begins at the Friday Street car park. For more details see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walks

For **both** walks: from the car park, proceed along the narrow path that runs above the road by some railings and joins it after about 50m, reaching Friday Street lake shortly after.

Each walk is now described in detail overleaf.

The Severells Copse Walk: 3km=1.8 mile



Note on the maps. Each map below is accurate but not all the maps are to the same scale. North is always up.

- 1 From the lake, turn **right** with the lake on your left. Walk past the Stefan Langton pub.

Stefan Langton was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1207 to 1228 who ultimately prevailed in a struggle with King John, leading to the signing of the Magna Carta.

Continue through the woods for about 1 km. (You can take a higher path on the bank to the left for most of the way, also giving you a sight of the gurgling stream.) Note the picturesque wooden stepped bridges on your left. You reach the village of Abinger Bottom. Turn **left** here on the minor road. In just 50m, turn **left** on a signposted footpath. The path goes up half left through woods, fairly steeply, and approaches a road on the right. Do not join the road but keep ahead, as signed, between two houses, then up beside a garden and eventually into an open meadow, via a metal swing-gate. Keep the same direction along the right hand side of the meadow. Continue ahead through a gap in the hedge into the next meadow, via another swing-gate, on an enclosed path, eventually reaching a quiet lane. Turn **left** on the lane.

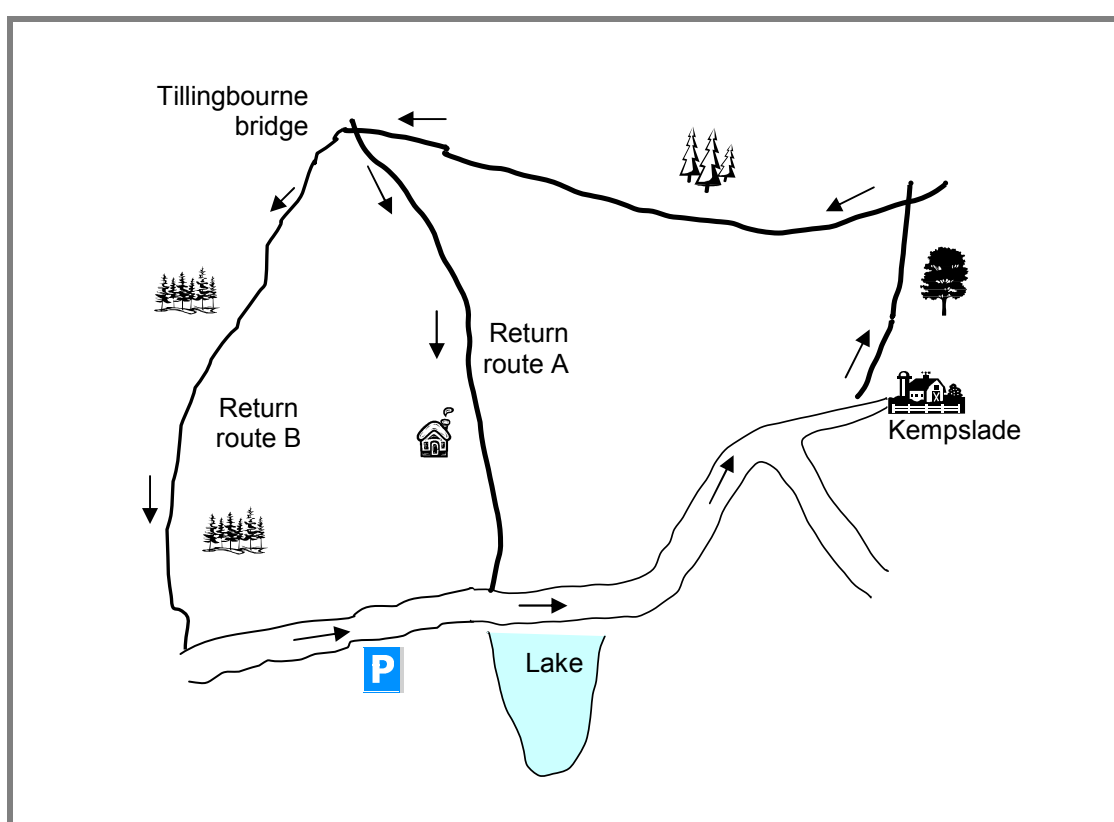
- 2 Walk on the road for 200 metres until the meadow on your left changes to woodland. This is the beautiful Severells Copse (National Trust). Turn **left** into the copse through a gap in the bank (the wooden gate being no longer serviceable), then **left** and immediately **right**, so that you are walking close to the meadow on your left with the depths of the wood on your right. This path takes you back to Friday Street, but you may need some care not to lose the winding path. Stay within sight of the meadow on your left until the path begins to veer right deeper into the woods and a magnificent stand of

tall pines comes into view. As you approach the pines, fork **left** on a narrow path, following a dark route through hollies, and wheeling to the right around the pines with a bank on your left. Your path is level at first. It then descends fairly steeply, veers left to join a path coming down from the right, and levels out again. Avoid some minor paths on your left. Eventually you see a house and garden on the left and the lake soon comes into view. Continue along the right bank of the lake, through a barrier to the road.

Decision Point

If you would like to continue with the (very short and picturesque) **Kempslade Farm walk**, turn **right** on the road. Otherwise, turn **left** back to the start of the walk.

The Kempslade Farm Walk: 1½ km=1 mile



If you have **not** just done the Severells Copse walk then, from the lake, keep **straight on** along the road with the lake on your right.

The road rises and, nearly 200m from the lake, comes to a junction. Avoid the sharp right bend and keep straight ahead on the lesser road, marked *Kempslade Farm*, also a signed footpath. Continue until ahead of you is the entrance to the immaculate Kempslade Farm. Shortly before the farm, turn **left** at a signpost through a wooden gate. The path runs upwards by hollies and reaches a pleasant level tree plantation, where it continues straight on to a junction of wide paths. Turn **very sharp left** here on a pleasant grassy path which later descends quite steeply. At the bottom is a wooden swing gate and another crossing of wide paths. Just ahead is an attractive weir bridge that holds back the waters of the Tillingbourne and allows it a gentle flow into the water meadows.

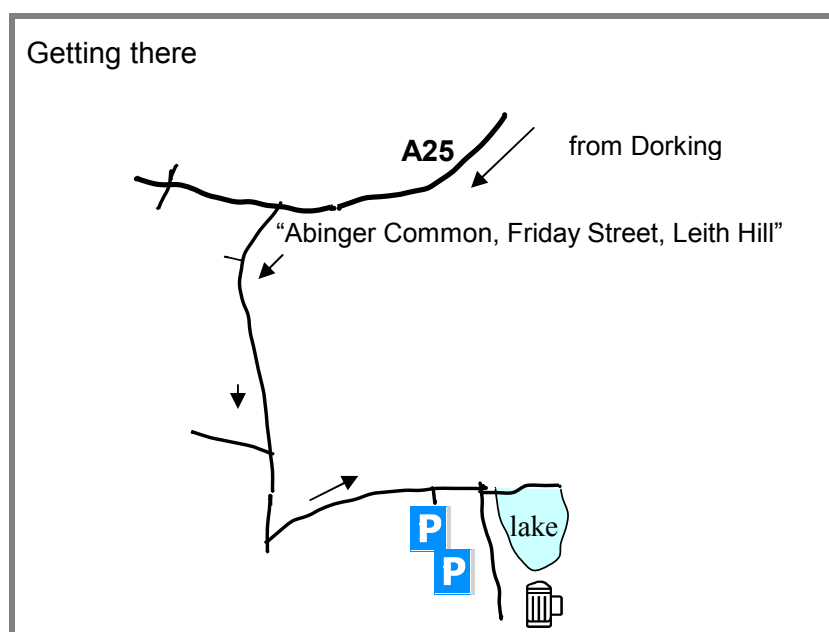
There are two possible return routes:

- A. *The cottage and ford route.* Turn **left** before the bridge. Follow the path past a picturesque cottage on your right, over a small ford bridge, past another attractive house on the left and back to the road where you began.
- B. *The woodland route.* Cross the bridge and continue straight on, joining a driveway coming from the house on the right. The driveway meets a road. Turn **left** on the road and shortly join a small “sidewalk” parallel footpath on the right. This takes you shortly back to the car park.

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Getting there

Park in the Friday Street car park. To get there, go to Dorking, take the main Guildford road and after about 5km=3 miles take a left turn marked *Abinger Common, Friday Street, Leith Hill* on the aptly named Hollow Lane. After exactly 2 km (1.2 miles) through a rather dramatic cutting, after a road on the right and just after a garden and large house appear on the right, take an extremely sharp left turn signposted “Friday Street”. The signpost is somewhat hidden in the trees and this turn is very easy to miss. After less than 1 km, before the lake, look out for the car park on the right. (You could also park at the Stefan Langton pub by turning right at the lake, if it’s not too crowded, in which case you must spend money at the pub.)



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