



Friday Street: Severells Copse & Kempslade Farm

Distance: 1-4½ km=0.6-3 miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

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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. The Severells Copse walk can be shortened to 1 km=0.6 miles. These walks can be also 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, **postcode RH5 6JR**. For more details see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

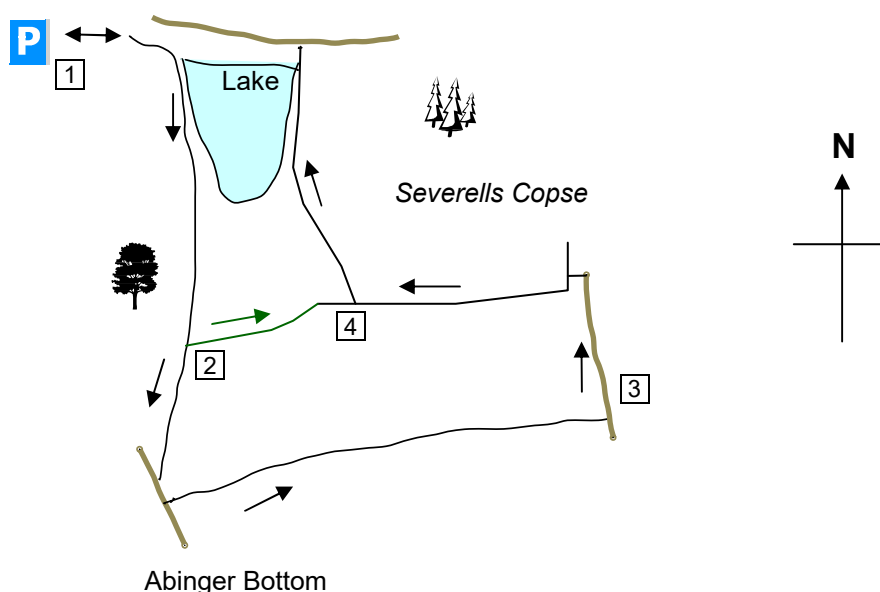


The Walks

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 3 km=1.8 miles or 1 km=0.6 miles



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 mediated between King John, the barons and the Pope, leading to the signing of the Magna Carta.

Continue past a wooden barrier on a path into the woods. (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.) In just over 100m, you will notice over on your left a gap in the bank leading to a little wooden bridge with a rail.

Decision point. If you are doing the very short version of this walk, turn **left** here, going over the bridge, past a National Trust sign for Severells Copse; after 70m, at a fork, keep left, in 20m join a path coming down from the left and re-join the main walk at section 4.

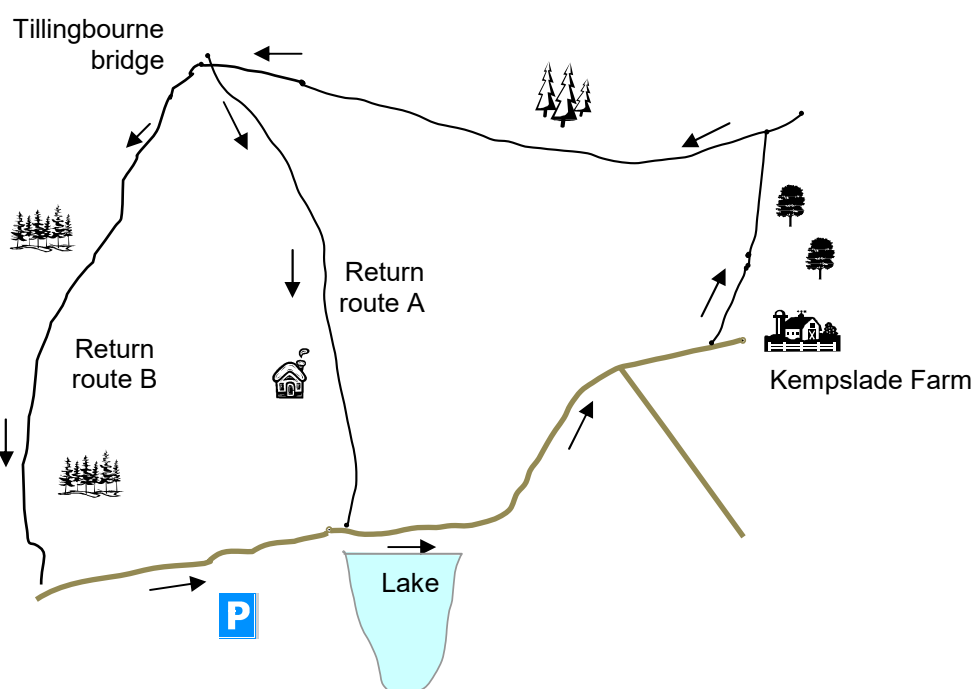
- 2 Continue on the woodland path and follow it for about 1 km. Note the picturesque wooden stepped bridges on your left. You reach the hamlet of Abinger Bottom. Turn **left** here on the minor road. In just 50m, turn **left** over a 3-plank bridge on a signposted footpath. [Dec 2016: the signpost is missing; the footpath is only 20m after a red-tiled house.] The path goes up diagonally left through woods, fairly steeply, and approaches a tarmac lane on the right. Do not join the lane but keep ahead, as signed, between two houses, then on a narrow path, up beside a garden and a wire fence, eventually into an open field, via a metal kissing gate. Keep the same direction along the right hand side of the field. Continue ahead through a gap in the hedge into the next field, on an enclosed path, eventually reaching a quiet tarmac lane. Turn **left** on the lane.
- 3 Walk on the lane for 200 metres until the field on your left changes to woodland. This is Severells Copse, a National Trust wood. Turn immediately **left** into the copse through a gap and up a bank, then **left** and

immediately **right**, so that you are walking close to the field on your left with trees on your right. Stay within sight of the field for 300m, until you come to a junction with an extremely broad path on your right. (As a guide, this path is about 30m before a magnificent stand of tall pines. It may be grassy or covered in beech leaves, depending on the season.) Turn **right** here with the pines on your left and thinner trees on your right. (It is also pleasant to keep straight on through the pines, wheeling right, steeply down and left on the path in the valley.) In 170m turn **left** on a descending path in the valley. As you near the bottom, keep **right** to avoid some minor paths on your left.

- 4 Eventually you see a house and garden on your 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** through a wooden swing-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 **sharp left** here on a pleasant grassy path which, in 250m, 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.

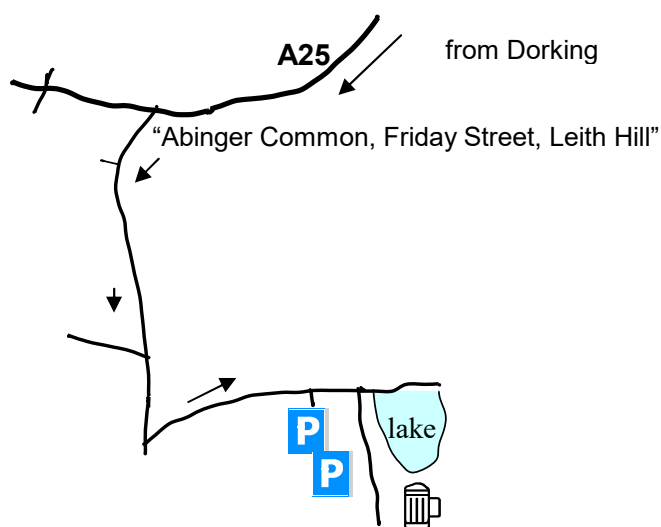
There are two possible return routes:

- A. *The cottage and ford route.* Turn **left** before the bridge. Follow the path past a picturesque cottage on your right with its family of scarecrows, over a small ford bridge, past another attractive house on the left, which has jams and relishes for sale, 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 parallel footpath on the right. This takes you shortly back to the car park.

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Getting there

By car: 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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