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## Newlands Corner, Secret Woods

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Distance 7½ km (5½ miles) or 6½ km (4 miles) easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: Newlands Corner

Map: Explorer 145 (Guildford)

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*Secret woodland, views, quiet paths*

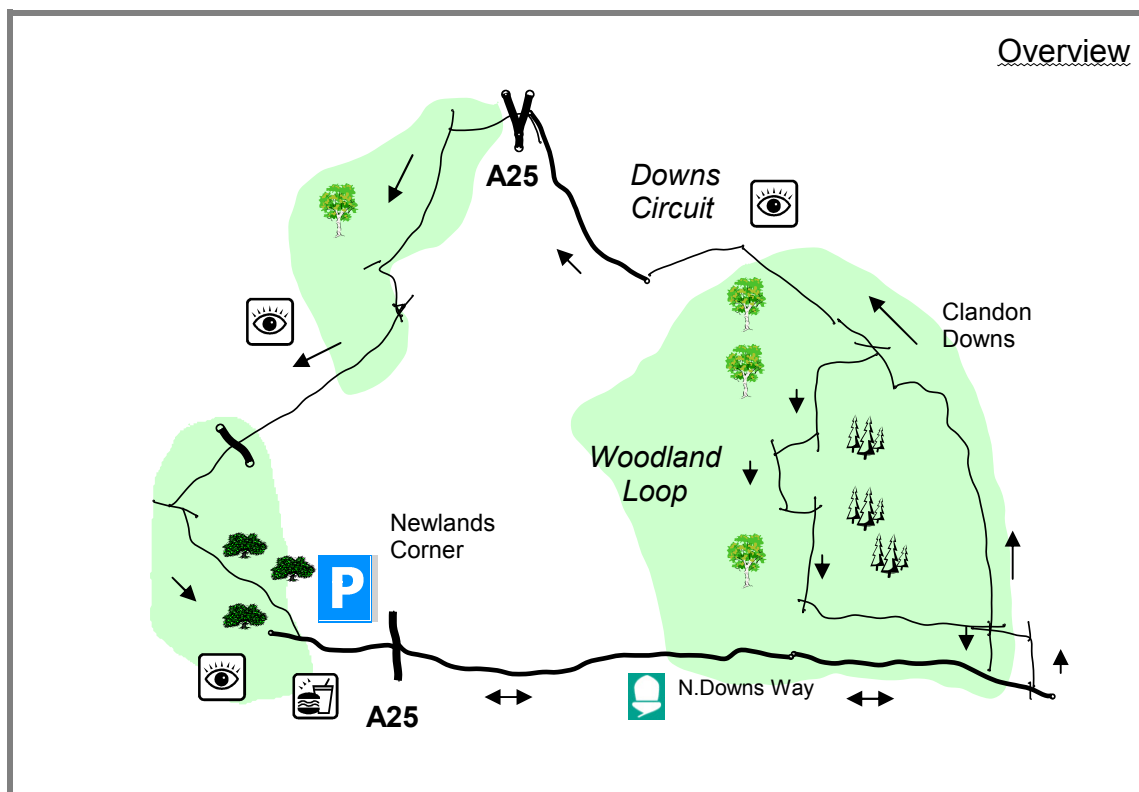
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### In Brief

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Newlands Corner is a tip-top favourite place for families and for very polite motorbikers. Many people just walk over the Downs, enjoying the views. There are good walks south to Blackheath (see e.g. *Gunpowder and Profound Silence* in this series). These two walks, in contrast, take you through some lesser-known paths in the woods over Clandon Downs. The *Woodland Loop* takes you through the secret woods and back the same way. The *Downs Circuit* goes a little further over the Downs. (It is also possible to explore more of the secret woods before finishing the Downs Circuit.)

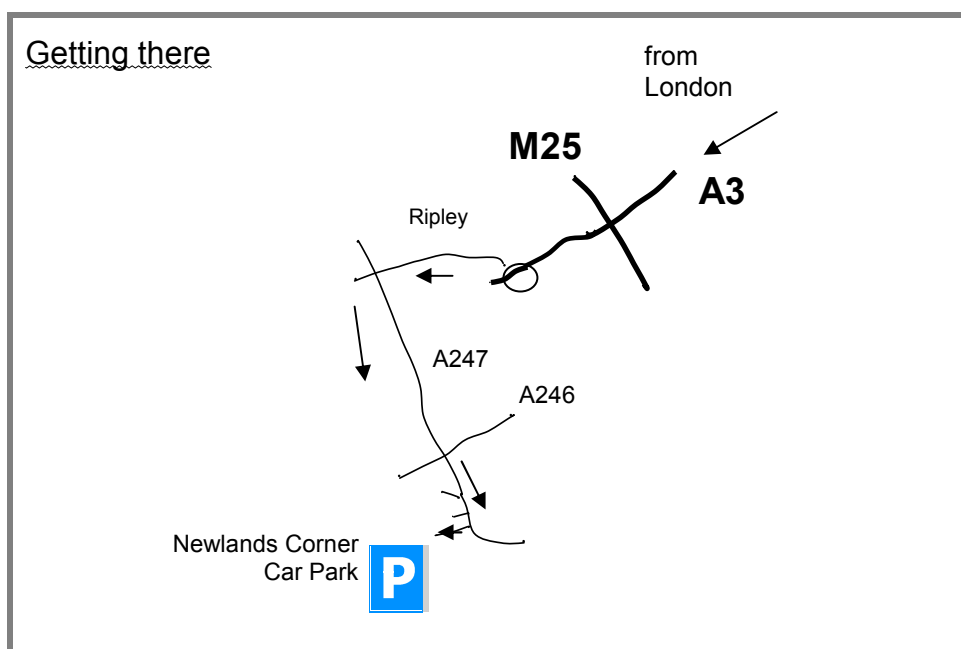


These are good walks even in winter because of the green of the pine and yew trees. There is very little mud and no nettles. These particular walks are not ideal for dogs though generally the walks from Newlands Corner are absolutely perfect for them. There's a good hotdog stall in the Visitors' Centre.

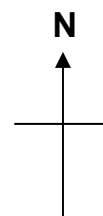
## Getting there

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Park in the **Newlands Corner car park**. To get there from the London area, take the A3 towards Guildford and turn off after Wisley onto the B2215, signposted Woking, through Ripley and, 2 miles (3 km) after the village, turn left at a roundabout on the A247 signposted West Clandon. Follow the road through the village, past the entrance to Clandon Park and the church, to major traffic lights on the Leatherhead-Guildford road. Go straight over, uphill. The car park is at the top on the right.

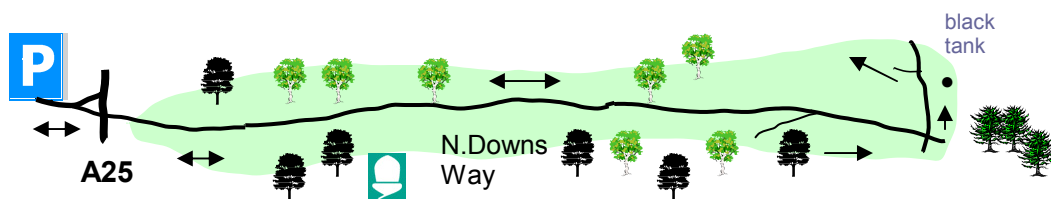


***Note on the maps.** Each mini-map below is accurate but not all the mini-maps are to the same scale. North is always up.*



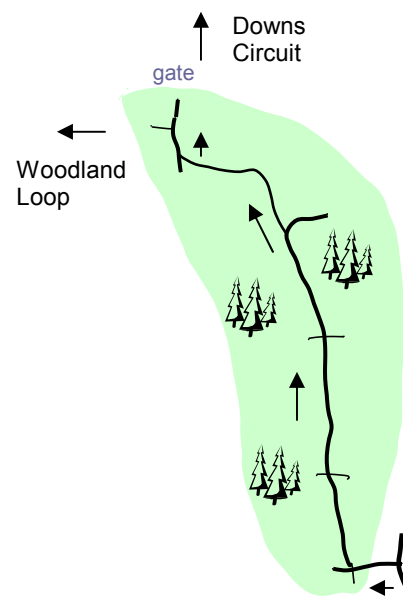
## The Walks

- 1 From the car park, walk **back** towards the road and fork **right** on a path with a post and a blue arrow to a fingerpost just before the road indicating the North Downs Way. Continue straight on and cross the main road, re-joining the North Downs Way on the other side. *The North Downs Way is a long-distance footpath from Farnham to Dover.* Continue for just over 1 km. (In the mini-map below, the two-way arrows show how you return by the same return route in case you are doing the Woodland Loop.) In about 1500m you are joined on the right by a permissive horse ride and, soon after this, there is the first definite crosspaths, just before a darker area of yew trees. A fingerpost indicates a path to the Silent Pool on the right but the route here is sharp **left** on a good path through a gate. In about 100 metres or so, you pass a black tank on the right. Shortly after, turn **left** into the woods. These are the secret woods of Clandon Downs. *Not long ago there was a waymarked nature walk here, now disrupted by forestry work.*

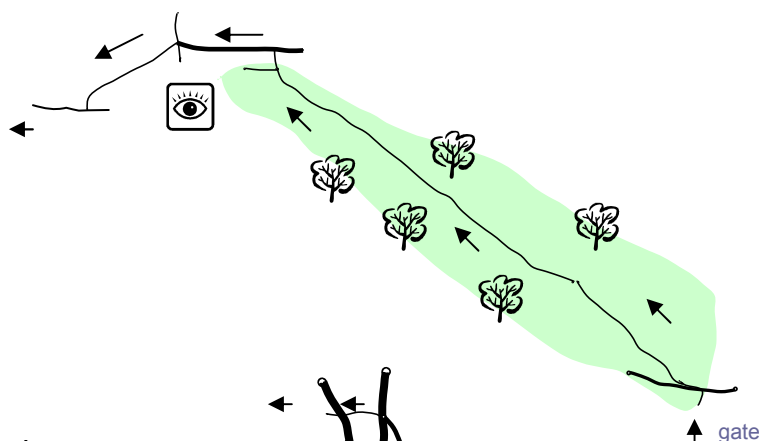


- 2 In about 100m, at the first junction, turn **right** on a wide path. Stay on the path over three crossing paths. When the main path wheels right, keep ahead on a narrower path that descends through woods and swings left. At a T-junction turn **right**. The path goes under wires and goes up towards a small green metal gate.

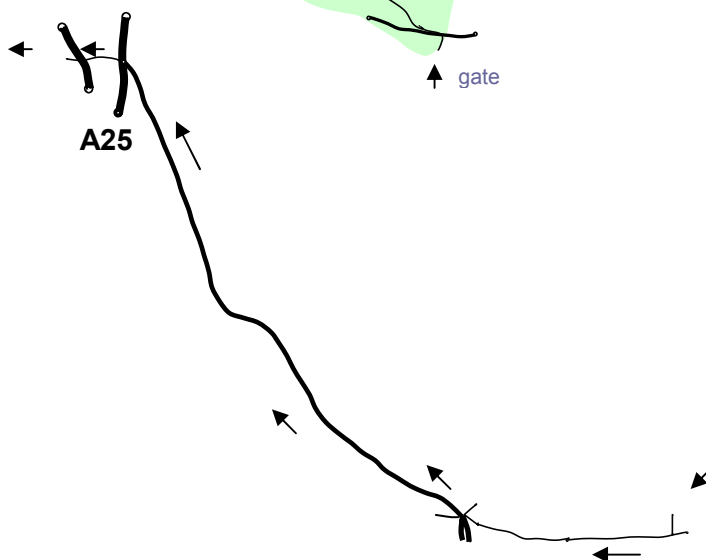
**Decision point.** If you are doing the **Woodland Loop**, go to that section near the end of this text. If you are doing the **Downs Circuit**, continue with the next section.



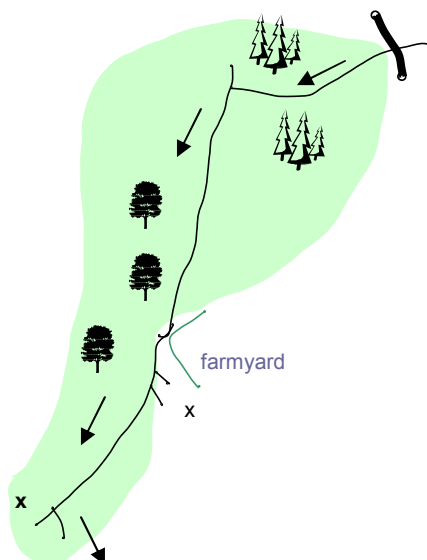
- 3 Go through the metal gate and in 10m turn **left** on a path at a T-junction. In 12m, branch off **right** on another narrow straight path leading gently uphill through a coppice. In about 300m, the path runs next to a clearing. Ignore all minor paths leading off until the path veers right to a T-junction with a wide track. *(In fact one of the small paths leading off is an official footpath but the route described here is better for the views.)* Turn **left** on the track. In a short distance there are fine views at a junction by the corner of a field. Ignoring paths left and right, continue across the centre of the field, aiming for the far left-hand corner. In the corner, exit the field **left** and turn **right** on a path running alongside a fence.



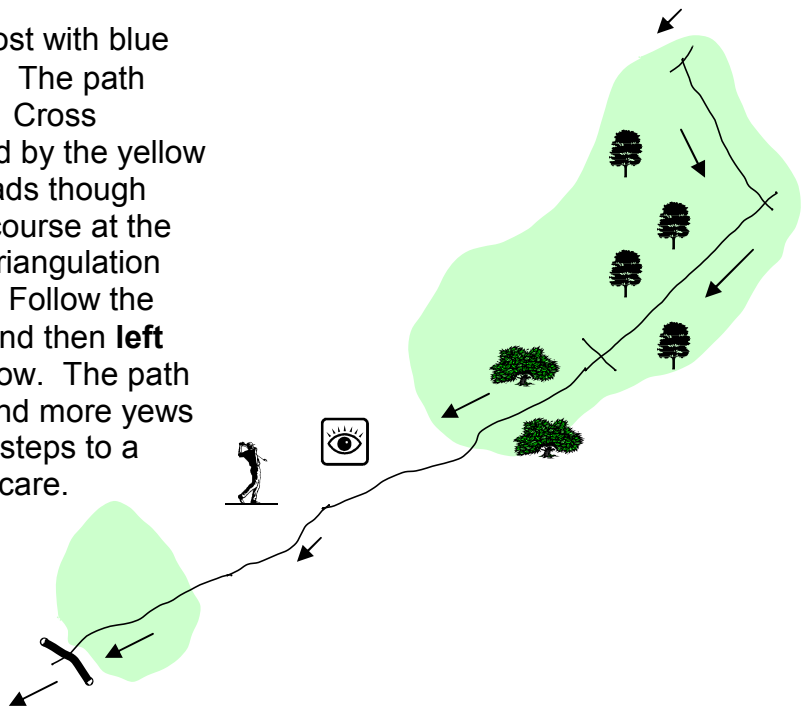
- 4 The path soon reaches a junction of drives. Veer **right** on the main drive. The drive eventually leads down to the main road, the A25, at the point where it divides. Carefully cross straight over both carriageways via a small grassy path and on the other side take an unmapped but well-defined narrow path up through the trees, just to the left of some fencing.



- 5 Follow the narrow path through the forest. If it is unclear, just walk at right angles to the road. The path goes within 25m of a mobile phone mast on the right and curves a little right round it. It eventually ends at a T-junction with a wider, very straight, path. Turn **left** here. The path reaches the corner of a field and curves right-left round it. Soon there are two minor paths forking off left towards a fence. Ignore both of them and continue through the coppice. In 150m turn **left** at a crossing path.



- 6 At another crosspaths by a post with blue and yellow arrows, turn **right**. The path soon reaches a sunken path. Cross straight over here as indicated by the yellow arrows. The footpath now leads through yew trees and up to the golf course at the top of Merrow Downs with a triangulation pillar and more views ahead. Follow the path to the right of the pillar and then **left** as indicated by the yellow arrow. The path now leads through bracken and more yews and out rather abruptly down steps to a road where you need to take care.



- 7 Cross straight over the road up steps to a path opposite. Always following the yellow arrows, cross first a wide bridleway and then a narrower path. Finally, at a fingerposted T-junction, turn **left** on a wide track. In 50m, turn **right** on a path uphill. On meeting a path coming from the right, veer **left** and, at the top, turn **left** at a T-junction onto a wide track. In a short distance, go straight across at a junction and follow this track through fine woodland for some distance, ignoring all crossing paths and minor branches. Eventually the track reaches the west side of the Newlands Corner car park. Turn **left** here, back to the starting point.

