



Reigate Hill and Gatton Park

Distance: 10 km=6 miles, easy-to-moderate walking

Region: Surrey

Written: 30/05/10

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Updated: 09/09/11

Refreshments: Wray Lane, Reigate, Mogador

Map: Explorer 146 (Dorking)

Problems, changes? *We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org*

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High hills, parkland, woodland

In Brief

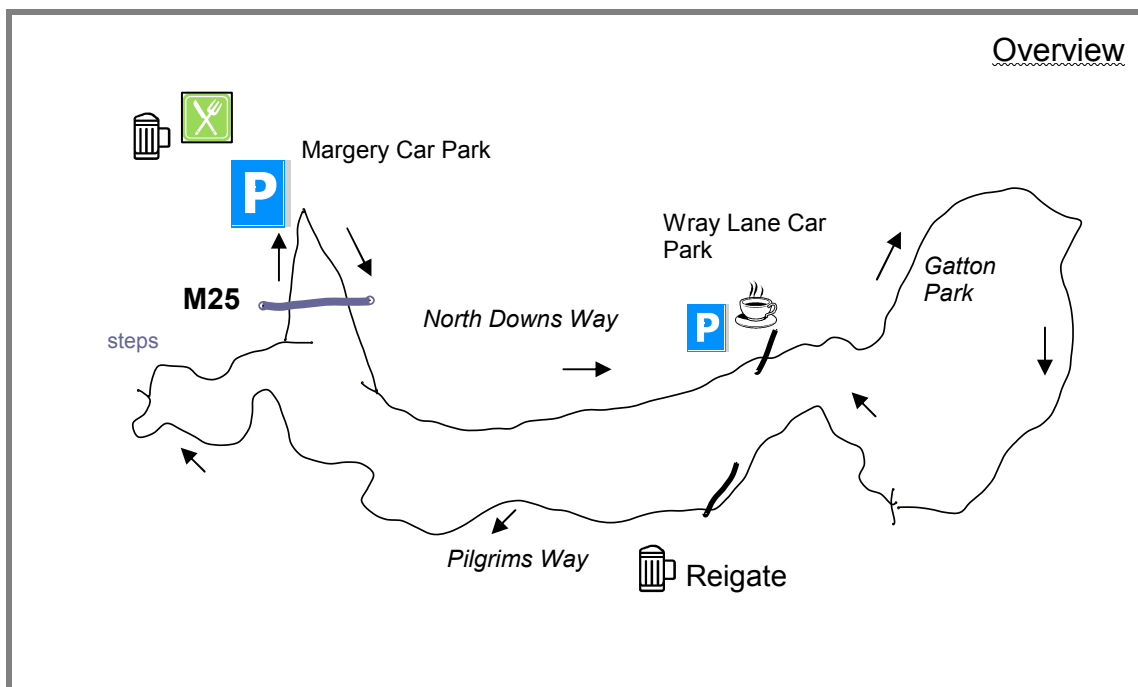
This is a bracing walk over the North Downs with fine views, handsome parkland and deep forest.



There is a one climb, using steps, at the end of this walk, but good walking shoes are fine. There are no nettles. Dogs are welcome.



The walk begins at the National Trust **Margery Wood** car park off the A217 (low cost pay and display) near the M25, postcode KT20 7BD. For more details and for alternative transport and starting points see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

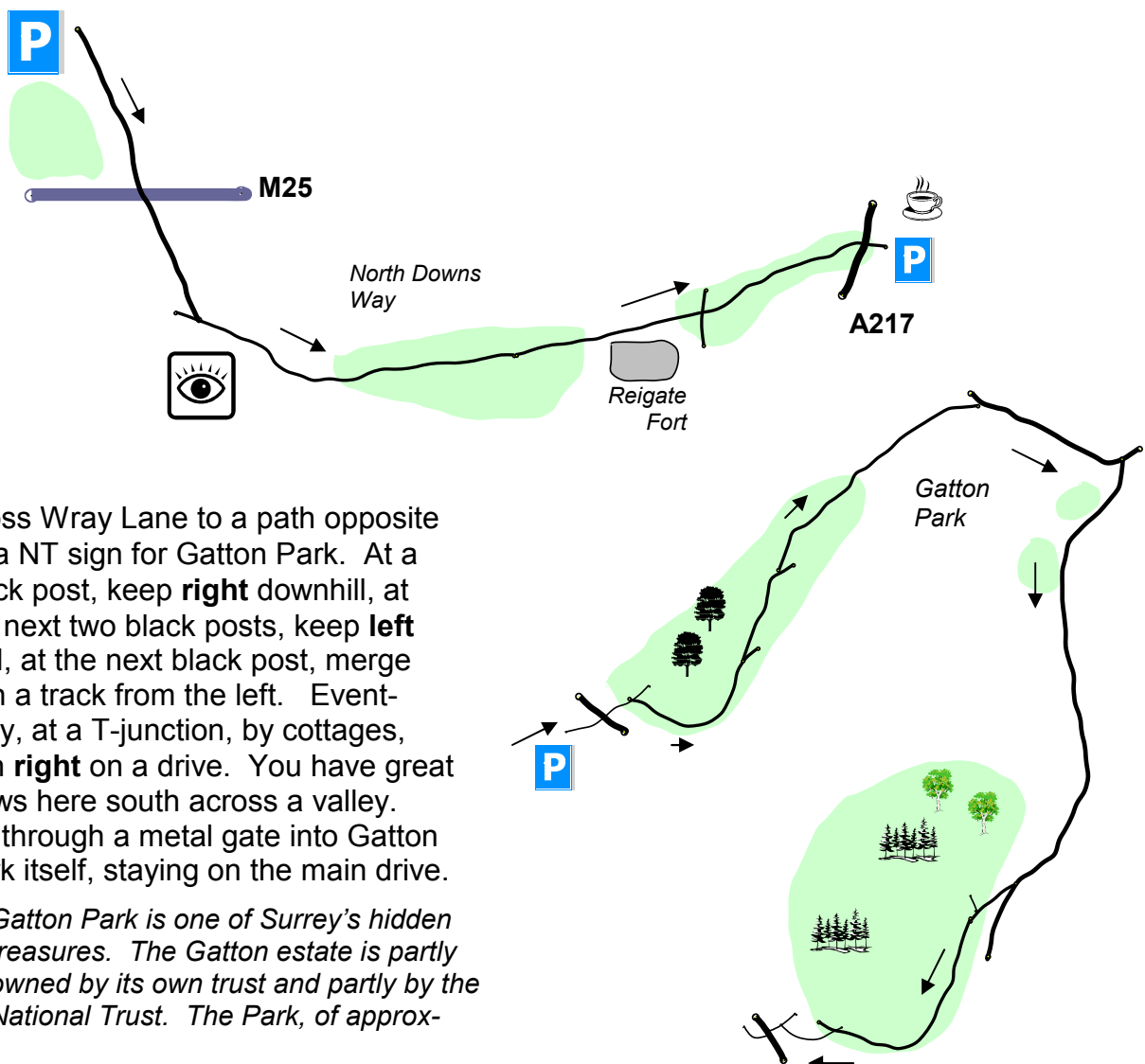


The Walk

- 1 Leave the car park at the entrance by which you came in and turn **right** on a tarmac driveway signposted as a bridleway. This takes you across a bridge over the M25 and finally through a wooden gate onto the open hillside of Colley Hill. *At once you have a terrific view south into Sussex and west to the other hills. Leith Hill is over on the right, the town of Reigate on the left and ahead in the distance the South Downs.* Turn **left** along the broad track. You are on part of the North Downs Way (NDW), a long-distance footpath running from Farnham to Dover. The track runs past the Inglis monument and through a gate. Soon you pass the National Trust Reigate Fort.

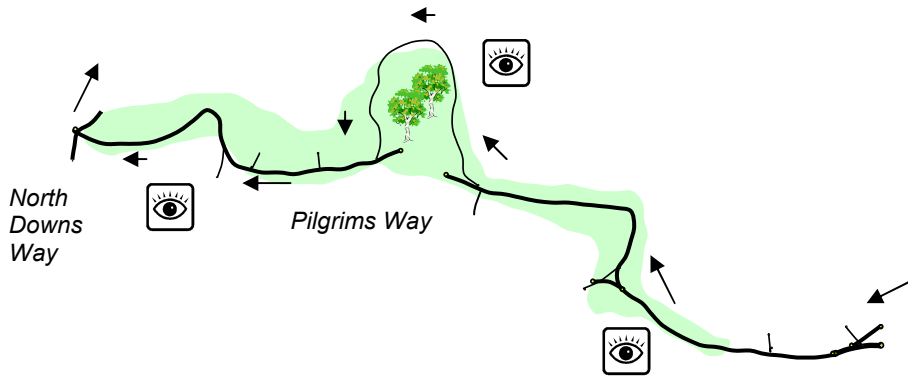
Reigate Fort was one of thirteen 'mobilisation centres' built in the 1890s to protect London from invasion. The 'entente cordiale' was not yet in effect and the French had been building up their navy, so they were perceived as the major threat. In 1945 a US Flying Fortress plane crashed just near here. The seat in memory of the nine airmen is nearby. The fort is open most days.

Continue on the main track and, after some houses, keep ahead at a 4-way junction, still on the NDW and the Millennium Trail. Eventually, the path crosses the main A217 road via a cast-iron bridge and reaches the Wray Lane National Trust car park (an alternative starting point). *Here there are some good refreshments, such as Mövenpick icecream, and some colourful deckchairs.*

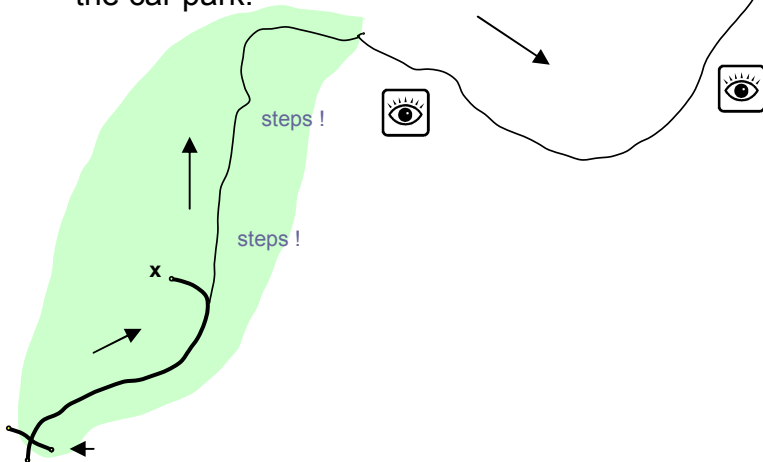
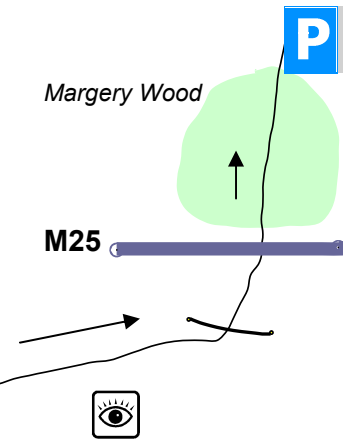


- 2 Cross Wray Lane to a path opposite by a NT sign for Gatton Park. At a black post, keep **right** downhill, at the next two black posts, keep **left** and, at the next black post, merge with a track from the left. Eventually, at a T-junction, by cottages, turn **right** on a drive. You have great views here south across a valley. Go through a metal gate into Gatton Park itself, staying on the main drive.

Gatton Park is one of Surrey's hidden treasures. The Gatton estate is partly owned by its own trust and partly by the National Trust. The Park, of approx-



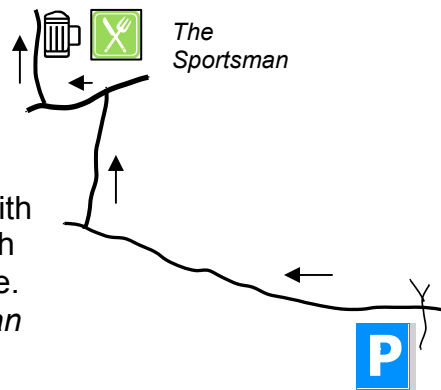
- 5 Where the NDW turns left by a wire fence, **leave it** by going up a bank and steps on a narrow path directly ahead. After a level section, there are many more steps. Eventually, at the top of the steps, the path bends right and goes through a wooden gate. You are now on the exhilarating open hillside once again. Keep straight ahead along the sharp edge of the hill, admiring the views south. The edge of the hill rises gently, curves left and passes a bench. 150m after the bench, just before an odd square brick tower bristling with antennae, turn **left** across a track and through a wooden gate. This leads over the M25, through the beautiful Margery Wood, thick with bluebells in spring, and takes you back to the car park.



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Refreshments in Mogador

For a final refreshment stop, if your legs have a little strength remaining, the *Sportsman* at Mogador, one of the great pubs of the region, is easy to reach from the Margery car park (800m or ½ mile). Exit the car park and turn sharp **left** on a bridleway beside a meadow with the car park on your left. Eventually you reach a lane beside *Laurel Cottage*. Turn **right** here. At the end, turn **left** on a road. The *Sportsman* is down a lane, next on the **right**.



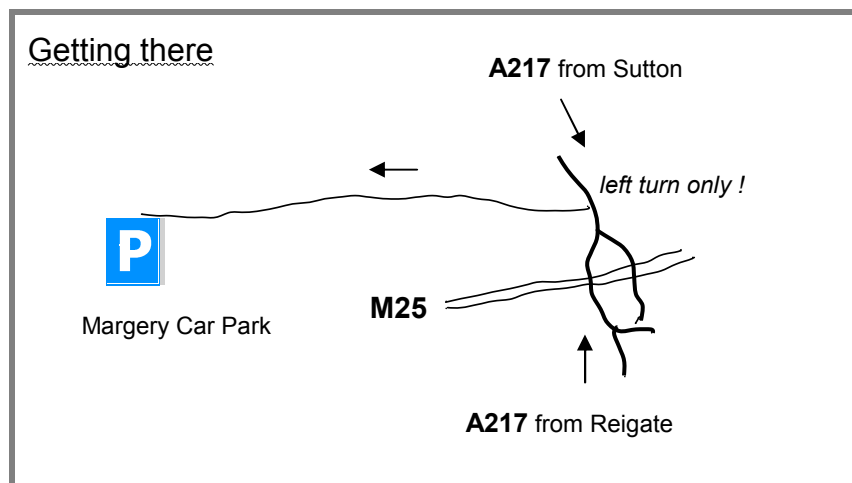
In a peaceful site just on the edge of Walton Heath, dating from 1532, the Sportsman was once a hunting stop-off for the royal family. It has recently been thoughtfully renovated. It is famous for its out-of-doors atmosphere which is so welcoming for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and families. The beer too is good and includes the delicious Otter brew and Sharp's Doom Bar.

Getting there

By car: the **Margery Wood** car park is accessed from the A217 (Reigate-Sutton road). It is the **first** turning left, only about 100m, going **north** from the M25 roundabout. To access it from the M25, go north on the A217 and take the first small road **left**. If coming from the Sutton direction, you need to go *all the way round the roundabout* and back on the A217 for 100m. For the car park, go as far as you can (about 1km) until the tarmac finishes.

An alternative car park is the free Wray Lane NT car park. The walk would miss the lovely Margery Wood however.

By train: begin at Reigate station from where the walk is easily accessible.



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