



Winkworth

Distance: 18 km=11 miles or 14½ km=9 miles easy-to-moderate walking
or with shortcut: 11 km=7 miles or 6½ km=4 miles

Region: Surrey

Date written: 10-feb-2012

Author: Schwebefuss

Date revised: 13-nov-2015

Refreshments: Bramley

Last update: 22-jun-2018

Map: 145 (Guildford) *but the maps in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Woodland, botanical garden, hills, views

In Brief

This walk takes you through some spectacular areas of woodland in south-west Surrey, followed by easy long stretches in pleasant valleys. Because of the easy wide paths this walk may seem shorter than its given length.



There are some nettles on this walk, so shorts are indivisible. The terrain is dry in summer but, in the winter after or a wet spell, there will be mud on some of the tracks, so boots are recommended. Your dog can certainly come too.

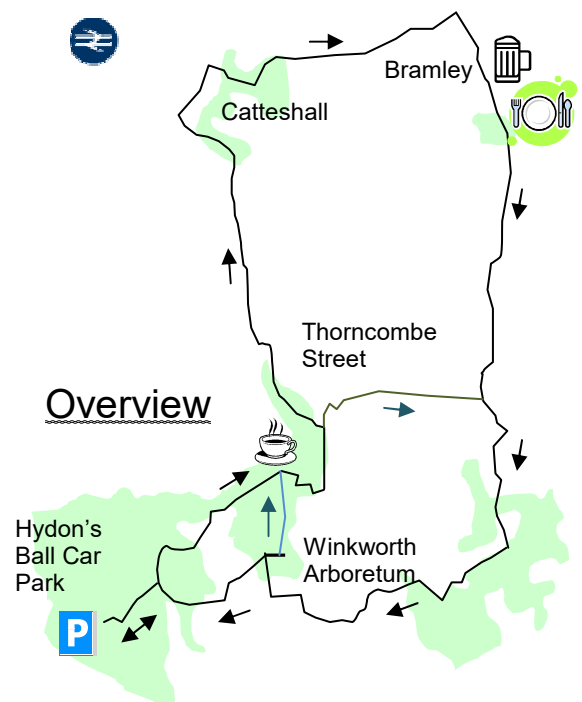
A short cut through Thorncombe Street, reduces the walk by 8 km=5 miles but with no pub break. A further 3½ km=2 miles can be saved by starting at Winkworth Arboretum and using the short cut in Leg 5 section [2]. 2018: a walker has suggested doing the Thorncombe Street Traverse *in reverse* for a “northern walk”.

The walk begins at the **Hydon's Ball car park, postcode GU8 4BB**, which is off Salt Lane just east of Hydestile. You could also start at Winkworth Arboretum, postcode **GU8 4AD** (the car park doesn't open till 10am and may be restricted to visitors and members only in peak times), either as an alternative start or to omit 3½ km=2 miles from the walk (although that would cut one of the best sections of the walk).



Farncombe Station is only 1½ km from the walk (start in Catteshall).

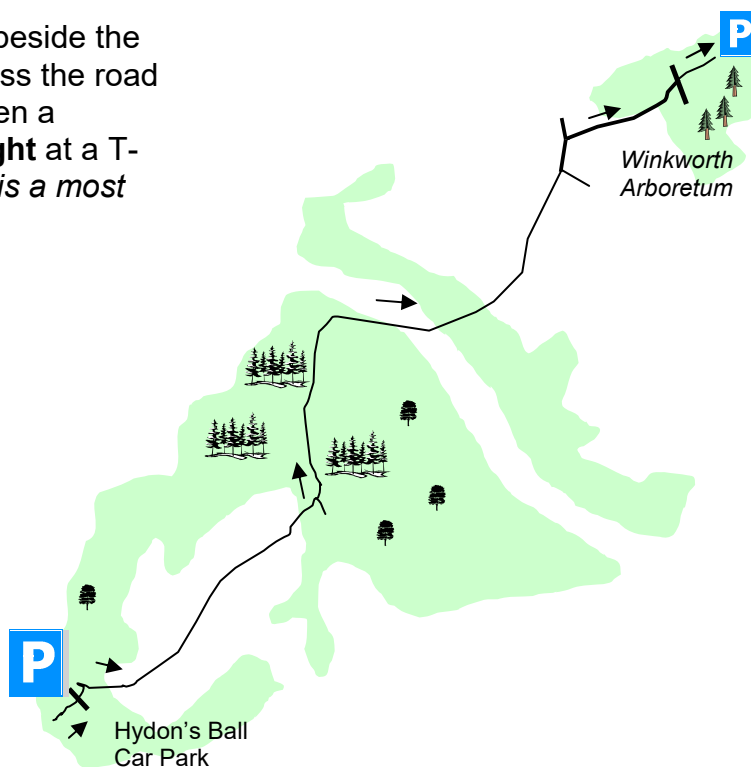
For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

Leg 1: Hydon's Ball Car Park to Winkworth Arboretum 1¾ km=1 mile

- 1 Leave the car park by a narrow path beside the noticeboard, leading to the road. Cross the road directly to a footpath opposite, between a wooden barrier. Turn immediately **right** at a T-junction on a wide gravel track. *This is a most delightful stretch on a grassy path gently down a valley with occasional tall pines.* As the path approaches a thick pine forest, you reach a junction. Veer **left** here on the main path, avoiding a bridleway on the right. In 50m, the path forks. Take the **right** fork uphill, as indicated by the blue arrow. Soon, your path curves right, passing a private path on your right, narrows and widens again. *On your left now is a steep-sided valley.* The path emerges from the woods and crosses a narrow green valley. Now sunken, the path rises beside the entrance to South Munstead Farm. Keep ahead on a rough tarmac drive, arriving at a T-junction with a lane. Turn **right** on the lane, soon reaching the B2130 road. Cross the road directly into the Winkworth Arboretum car park.



Leg 2: Winkworth Arboretum to Catteshall 4½ km=2¾ miles

Winkworth Arboretum was established by dermatologist Dr Wilfrid Fox who lived at Winkworth Farm and acquired part of the Thorncombe Estate in 1937. He converted a simple wooded hillside into a fantastic mosaic of maples, azaleas, mountain ashes, magnolias and cherries. The natural bluebells also make a wonderful splash in late spring. The Arboretum is now run by the National Trust. There is a café at the entrance. There are footpaths through it, indicated by yellow arrows, which you must follow unless you are a member or have paid the entrance fee. Walkers too are invited to pay a contribution.



- 1 **See mini-map overleaf.** Keep straight ahead through a small wooden gate beside a large wooden gate, marked as a footpath, ignoring a footpath on the right, passing *Fox Cottage* on your right. Go past the café, kiosk and toilets (unless you are a ticket holder and would like to wander) and keep ahead on a wide path. As you reach the second of two fingerposts, keep straight ahead on a narrow descending path, as indicated by the yellow arrow. At a junction of paths, turn **left** past a sign for *Fiona Adam Steps* and go steeply down. After a bench seat, the path continues straight down a few more steps to a T-junction in front of a large grassy space. Turn **right** here on a path that skirts the valley. At the end, turn **right** at a T-junction taking you to the lakeside with Rowe's Flash Boathouse, a pleasant vantage point over the lake with its upholstered chairs, a terrace and historical accounts on the walls.

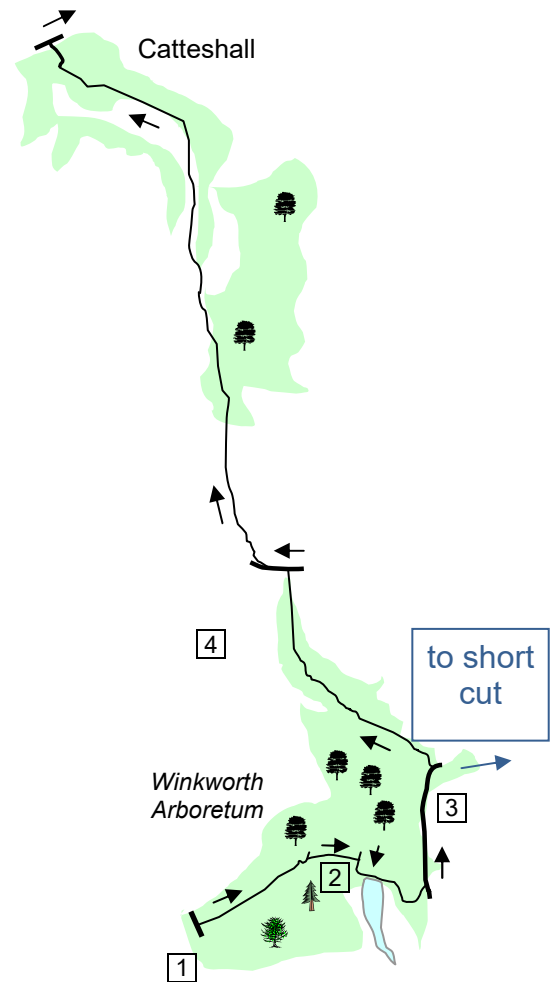
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2 Turn **left** along an embankment with the lake on your right. As you enter a big meadow, you may be confronted by some noisy geese. Turn **left** along the edge of the meadow and, at a post with a yellow arrow, fork **right** across the grass through trees to a small wooden gate to a lane. (2017: there is now a permissive footpath running parallel to the left of the lane, avoiding some of the tarmac.) Turn **left** on the lane. You pass a terrace of pastel-coloured cottages. 200m after them, at a right bend, you reach a signpost on the left with a sign for *Phillimore Cottage*.

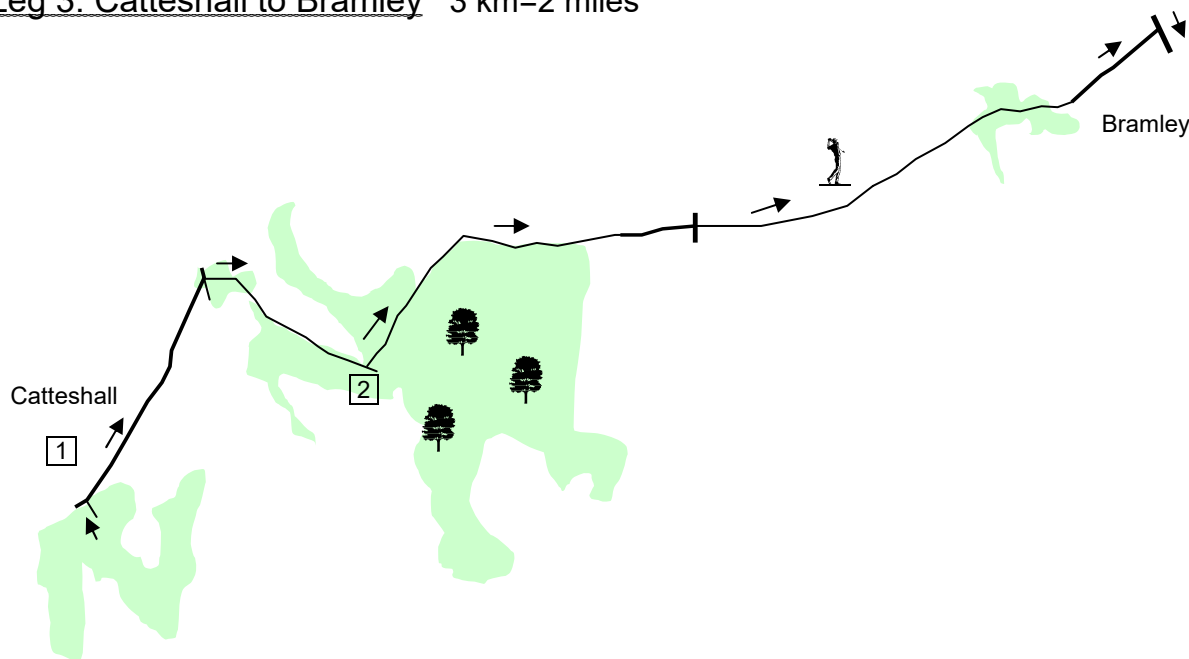
Decision point. If you want to do the short version of this walk, omitting Catteshall and Bramley, go to the end of this text and do the section called **Thorncombe Street Traverse**.

3 Go **left** at the signpost up the house's driveway. Keep left past the cottages between fences and through a wooden swing-gate into a sloping meadow. Turn **left** along the side of the meadow. The path goes over a stile and enters woodland, then goes over a crossing path. In 200m, at a signpost, your path veers right, going past several horse paths and jumps. It then runs between banks, between rows of conifers and finally through a kissing-gate to a lane. Turn **left** on the lane. In 100m, fork **right** at a fingerpost onto a bridleway.

4 Follow this earthy path between hollies and where, after 300m, it meets a crossing track, go straight over, between a fence and a tennis court. Continue onwards between fences, through a small wooden gate, to a road. Go straight over the road down a stony track, going past *Lane Cottage* on your left. You are now on an easy pleasant path running beside a very long meadow on your left. After a while, the path becomes quite sandy. After a long easy trek, you pass the entrance to Catteshall Farm on your left and the surface is now hard. As you pass the picturesque timbered *Springfield Farm*, you reach a right-hand curve where Catteshall Manor, invisible up on the hill, is on your left. At a T-junction turn **right** on a residential road, going past the *Old Cider House*. *This was once the legendary Ram Cider House that sold over thirty types of cider before it fell victim to fashion and officialdom.* [2018: a walker recommends turning **left** here, down to the river and Farncombe Boat House. Drop in to *Hectors* for coffee (if *not* Monday or Tuesday). Go along the towpath to the bridge just before *the Manor* (another refreshment stop but not so good). Note: by going away from the bridge, you find the Broadwater the Golf Club which does a good breakfast. Cross the River Wey on the bridge to pick up the official walk again at Leg 3.]



Leg 3: Catteshall to Bramley 3 km=2 miles



- 1 Where the residential road ends, keep ahead on a bridleway, gradually uphill. At a marker post, ignore a drive on your right and continue uphill, now a bit steeper. As you pass a gate on your left, you have a good view of the Wey valley, now quite heavily populated. You reach a junction of several paths by a fingerpost. Take the second path **right** which is signed avoiding the unmarked path sharp right. On your left now is steep-sided Bunker Hill as your path ascends between banks. Where the meadow on your left ends, you meet a post with a yellow arrow showing the emblem of the Guildford circular walk, the *Fox Way*. Turn **left** here and keep straight on up, avoiding side paths, as you ascend Farley Hill.
- 2 Keep straight on, avoiding other paths that turn off. Your route flattens out and runs by some old fencing, then along the edge of a wood. Avoid a signed footpath on your right. You pass a house and continue on its drive to a road. Cross straight over the road into the green space of Bramley Golf Club. *Because the path keeps to the side, sheltered by trees, and does not cross the links, it is quite soothing to listen for the “tink” of the ball as a player launches it towards the hole, a good walk unspoilt.* Keep to the right-hand edge, soon avoiding a signed footpath off to the right and several other paths that would lead you away from the golf, including a signed footpath left. Finally the path descends between banks and discharges onto a driveway. Continue between properties along Clock House Lane. Note the helicopter weathervane. At a main road, the A281, turn **right** into Bramley.

Bramley, whose name means “clearing in the broom (bushes)”, was a comparatively large town in the Middle Ages and its manorial lands stretched to the Sussex border. There were two mills, on tributaries of the River Wey. Bramley had a station (with Wonersh) on the Guildford-Horsham railway before it was dismantled. Bramley church of the Holy Trinity is originally Norman but it was vastly changed and widened with an unusual screened-off chancel. Bramley boasts two pubs, the “Jolly Farmer” and the “Wheatsheaf”, both serving food and some real ales. There are also some ethnic restaurants here.

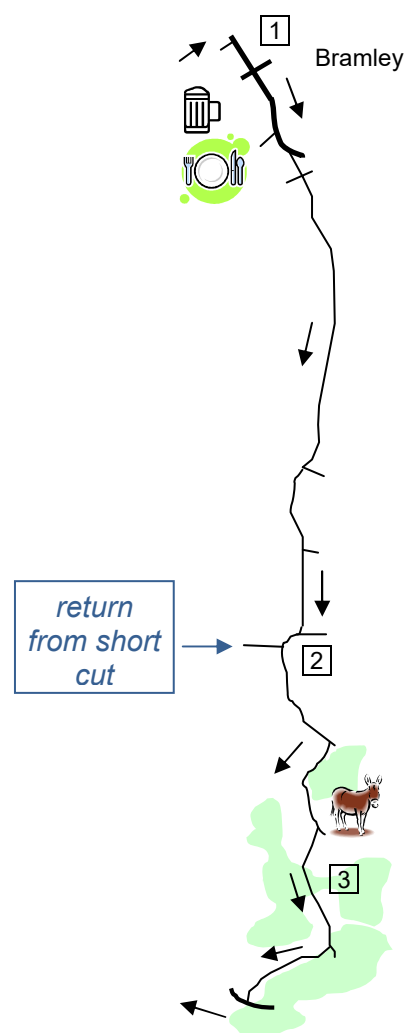


Leg 4: Bramley to Scotsland Farm 5 km=3 miles

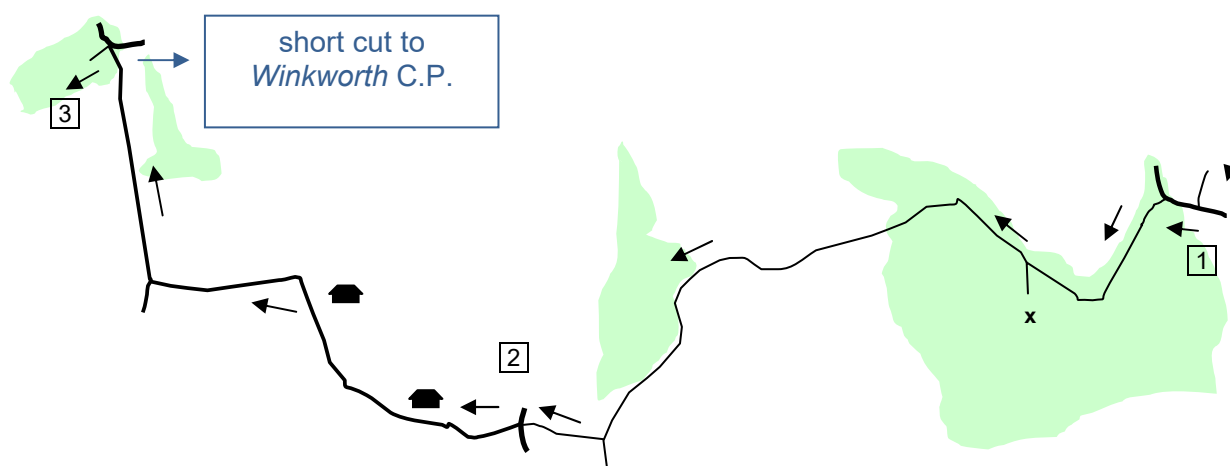
- 1 Continue along the main road through the village. You go over a delicate stream, almost unnoticed, the same as the one that runs through Winkworth. Just after a car dealership and after the junction with Mill Lane, the footpath leaves the road and re-joins it. 30m further, just past a small green, take the signposted bridleway forking **right**, Woodrough Lane. Continue ahead on a residential road, cross over another road and take the bridleway opposite at a fingerpost. The steep-sided gully leads uphill and then the path runs beside a large horse pasture, over a track by a barn and between more pastures. At the other side, you walk beside some woodland on the left. Stay next to the fences on your right as you reach a white house *Daneshill*. Avoid a right turn here and keep ahead, quickly right-left, along the drive. Your path now follows a narrow finger of woodland between sheep pastures. It descends to a bend in a gravel path. Turn **right** on the path shortly passing the building at *Upper Bonhurst*. The path continues between willow banks and comes to a T-junction at a fingerpost. Turn **right**, thus joining the Greensand Way (GW) and immediately coming to another junction. Turn **left**, ignoring a footpath on the right, thus regaining your original direction.

The short cut re-joins the main route at this point.

- 2 After a narrow section, the path becomes a wide farm track. After *Keepers* the track becomes even wider and leads you into the hamlet of Gatestreet Farm. *Gate Street Barn, just ahead, has been converted into a wedding venue*. At the corner of the building, at a fingerpost, turn **right**, still on the GW, going through a wooden gate beside a cattle grid. Follow the track along the edge of a big pasture, going through a wooden gate. It bends left and passes a low barn, going over another cattle grid (or stile). Follow the main drive, passing on your left a small meadow used by donkeys. In 40m you will see a marker post on your right. Fork **right** here up the side of the grassy meadow and straight on, passing a little summer house, to a small wooden gate visible on the other side in trees. The path crosses a gravel drive and descends a grassy slope to a bend in a track. Follow the curving track uphill through wooden gates and up into a meadow. Keep straight ahead across the centre of the meadow on a clear grassy track. *The land belongs to the Wintershall Estate and the open-air theatre on your left is used by them to stage Christian dramatic productions*.
- 3 About 20m before a fence ahead, veer **left** through a wooden swing-gate down into the woods. The path runs just inside a wood which was obviously once an old coppice with, on your right, a sheep field. After going between two posts, the path narrows through bracken near a wire fence on your right and eventually comes down to a lane. On your left is the exquisite *Scotsland Farm*, complete with converted barn and willows. However, your route is **right** on the lane.



Leg 5: Scotsland Farm to Hydon's Ball Car Park 4 km=2½ miles

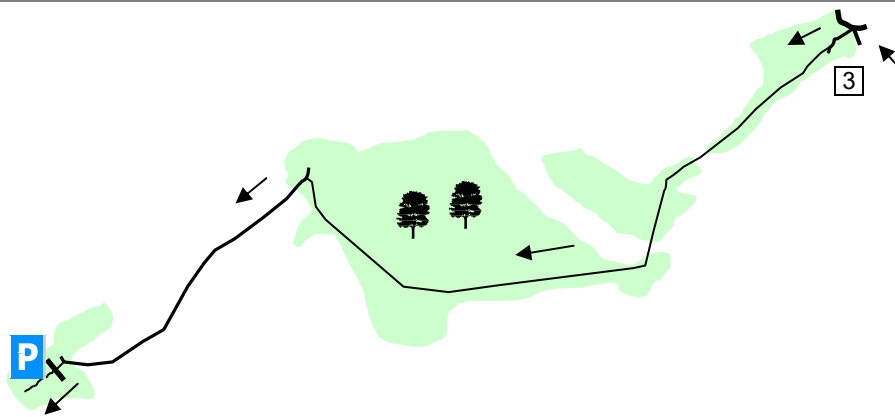


1 In 30m, leave the lane by forking **left** on a signposted bridleway. The path runs under trees and bends **right** on a deep sunken path with pines on the left. As it levels out, you come to a post with arrows where the GW bends away to the left. Leave the GW here by veering **right**, ignoring a small wooden gate. The path bends immediately left down into woods and gradually descends, reaches the corner of a pleasing patchwork of horse meadows and runs along the right-hand side of them. The path runs past *Langhurst Farm* on your right with its beautiful converted barn. Eventually, after a long meadowside walk, you arrive at a three-way junction by a multitude of metal gates and old shacks. Veer **right** here, soon reaching a road.

2 Cross carefully straight over the road to a drive opposite, signed as a bridleway. Ignore private drives leading off left and, after *Leybourne Cottage*, continue ahead on a sunken gravel path uphill with pines and a garden on your left. At the top, you pass *High Winkworth* and some other rather grand houses and the drive bends left. You arrive at a T-junction with another tarmac drive. Turn **right** on the drive. A long straight stretch with tall pines leads to the main road.

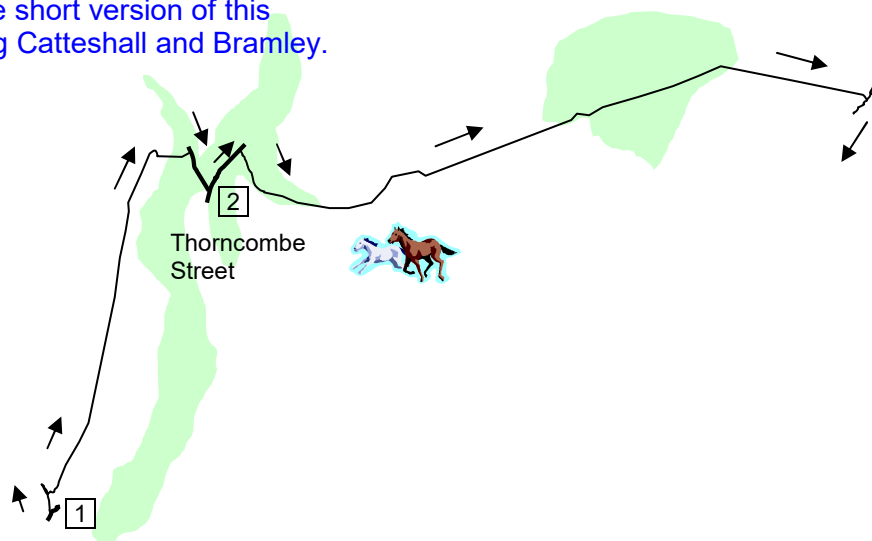
Decision point. If you parked at Winkworth Arboretum and you want to return there directly, whilst swapping a beautiful stretch of woodland for a short stretch of busy road, do as follows. Turn **right** carefully on the main road. In 120m, where the road starts to descend, immediately before the entrance to *Eden House*, turn **left** on a narrow signposted footpath between fences. After some distance between more fences, you arrive back at the car park.

3 **See mini-map overleaf.** Do not cross the main road but turn sharp **left** almost looping back. This drive leads to houses (*The Old Dairy* and *High Barn*) just before which your route veers **right** on a darker signposted straight path. Stay on the path as it curves round a lovely valley and rises again. The path gradually drops to the bottom of a wooded valley, after about 1 km total. Continue until you meet a very wide gravel path at a bend under tall pines. This is the path you took on the outward route. Turn sharp **left** on the path which leads gently up the beautiful shallow valley. As the path bends right at the top, turn **left** at a post with a yellow arrow to a road. Cross the road to a narrow unmarked path opposite. This path quickly leads you back to the Hydon's Ball car park where the walk began.



The Thorncombe Street Traverse 1½ km=1 mile

Take this short cut if you have decided to do only the short version of this walk, omitting Catteshall and Bramley.



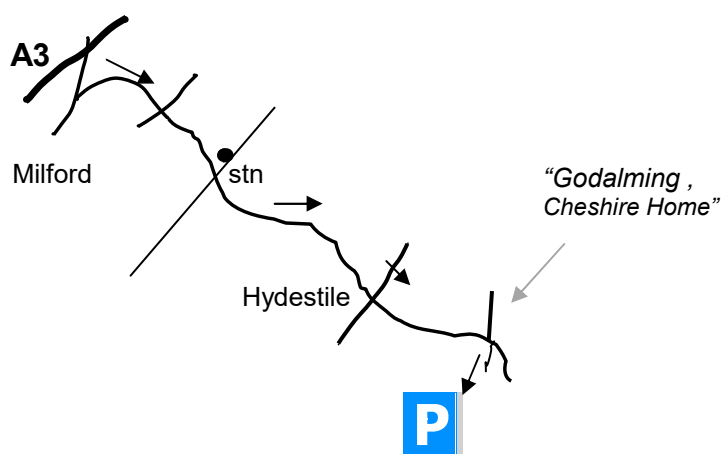
- 1 Go **left** at the signpost up the driveway of *Phillimore Cottage* and immediately turn very sharp **right** and up four steps by a wooden shed onto a path that runs along the right-hand side of a meadow. You pass some converted farm buildings on your right. At the corner, go through a farm gate and continue similarly along another larger meadow. In the far corner, go past a redundant stile and follow the path between wire fences. The path veers right and down a dirt track to a lane. Turn **right** on the lane and over a stream to a T-junction in the village of Thorncombe Street.
- 2 Turn **left** at the T-junction, passing the little derelict wooden village hall, and, 30m further, turn **right** on a signposted track. About 10m before a metal farm gate, fork **left** on a good newly-restored (in 2016) path through undergrowth. This path takes a rather dark and sunken course through trees and shrubbery with the horse pastures visible on your right. You meet two stiles, one redundant, one skitable. The path becomes quite steep in parts as it ascends under hollies. Finally at the top, go up four steps and over the remains of a stile onto a level path between fences and later a tight holly hedge, with great views left to Chinthurst Hill. The path now goes over an (avoidable) stile and into woodland, veering a fraction right under young oaks and along the right-hand edge of the wood. After nearly 300m of pleasant walking, the path then takes you over a stile and across the centre of a large meadow. You have fine views ahead to Pitch Hill in the distance. At the other side, go over a stile and, at a junction by a fingerpost, turn sharp **right** on a path. This is part of the Greensand Way (GW).



Now resume the main walk from Leg 4 section 2.

Getting there

By car: The car park is near a junction on Salt Lane near Hydestile, Surrey. To get there: take the A3 through Guildford (if coming from the north) and later turn off for Milford. At the first traffic lights in Milford, turn sharp **left**. Along this road on your left is Secretts, a huge farm shop which sells an astonishing range of delicacies as well as organic produce. At the mini-roundabout turn **right** and then immediately **left** signposted *Milford Station* and *Hydestile*. Continue on this road for 1½ miles ignoring all turnings off. Cross a major road at Hydestile and continue for just over a mile. Immediately after a junction on the left marked *Godalming, Cheshire Home*, turn **right** by a National Trust sign on a dirt track leading to the car park.



By bus/train: bus Arriva 63 from Guildford to Bramley . Check the timetables.

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