

## NORBURY PARK EASTERN LOOP



*Challenging Terrain*

**4 km**  
**Circular**  
**1.5 hours**

290415



### Access Notes



1. *The walk includes several climbs and descents throughout including a few reasonably steep gradients.*
2. *The route follows paths through woodland and clay fields which can get very muddy.*
3. *You will need to negotiate some steps and kissing gates but there are no stiles.*
4. *One of the fields may be holding livestock so take particular care with dogs.*
5. *The walk is waymarked by posts with green arrows.*

**A slightly challenging walk of 2.5 miles (4km) around Norbury Park, a mix of woodland, chalk grassland and farmed fields.**

If you are looking for refreshments, there are cafe and toilet facilities at Bocketts Farm near to the start of the trail. Alternatively there is a picnic site along the route should you wish to bring your own food. Information is included for your interest, but please respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

## Getting there

Norbury Park is located just to the west of the A24 between Leatherhead and Dorking. The walk starts and finishes at the Young Street Car Park accessed from the A246 Young Street (NOTE: there are two car parks on Young Street so make sure you go to the correct one). From the A24, turn onto the A246 and follow this over the river. Immediately before the rail bridge overhead, turn left under the 2m height restriction barrier to enter Young Street Car Park.

Nearest post code **KT22 9BS**.

## Walk Sections



**Start to Stone Track**



To begin the walk, walk to the far end of the car park (away from the road). Keep ahead to pass the Norbury Park Surrey Wildlife Trust information board on the left. Immediately after the information board, turn left (signed

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with the first of the green arrow waymarkers which mark this self-guided trail).

At the bottom of the slope turn right through the metal kissing gate and keep ahead on the grass path with the River Mole running on the left. This stretch of the River Mole is stocked with coarse fish by the local angling club. As you walk along the bank, watch out for a flash of turquoise from kingfishers patrolling the river.

Follow the path across the centre of the field with the River Mole across to the left and the railway embankment across to the right. Soon, the river swings right to run directly alongside your path once again. The path swings left to become a stone track.



against development and is now managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Keep ahead and you will come to a junction with a triangular picnic site just ahead/left. Turn right through the kissing gate into Updown Wood. Immediately, you will be faced with a fork. Take the right-hand branch.

This area was badly affected by the Great Storm of 1987. New trees are starting to refill the canopy. In springtime the woodland floor is a mass of colour, carpeted with primroses and bluebells. You might catch sight of roe deer and a whole array of woodland birds. Much further down the hill on the left, look out for a sculpture carved from Cedar of Lebanon. Erected in 1992, the sculpture is now in a state of a little disrepair.

The path now swings left to reach a fork. Keep left here and follow this path swinging left along the woodland ridge. You will come to the corner of the woodland with a bench ahead. Take a moment to walk to the bench to enjoy the views. On a clear day, if you look to the right, you will be able to see the skyline of London in the distance.

## 1 → 2 Stone Track to Norbury Park House



Follow the track down the slope and through the gateway then keep straight ahead following the line of the wooded railway embankment on the right. Where the track swings left (with a cottage ahead) turn right through the kissing gate. Follow this track which leads you under the railway bridge.

Continue up the hill. The railway between Leatherhead and Dorking was opened in 1867 and was a major feat of engineering. On either side of the path are the remnants of an old box hedge from the Norbury Estate.

Keep straight ahead at the crossroads and continue your steady climb. Further along you will pass a very old fallen tree on the left; the remains are home to a wide array of mosses, ferns and fungi.

Keep left at the minor fork and follow the path more steeply uphill (take care). Go through the staggered barrier to reach a junction with a tarmac access drive. Turn right along the drive. Ignore the signed bridleway off to the left, simply keep ahead and you will pass the entrance gates for Norbury Park House on the left.

## 2 → 3 Norbury Park House to Viewpoint

Norbury Park and Manor has been here for centuries, it is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The present Norbury Park House (today a private residence) was built by the Locke family in 1774. Since then it has had many owners, one of the most famous being Dr Marie Stopes, a pioneer in family planning clinics. Norbury Park was the first area of countryside purchased by Surrey County Council (in 1931) to protect it

## 3 → 4 Viewpoint to End



When you have finished admiring the view, retrace your steps for a few paces back to the path and then turn sharp left passing a wooden gate to join the footpath (signed with the green arrow). Keep straight ahead and the path soon narrows between hedgerows to lead you fairly steeply downhill. Take care as this can be quite slippery when wet.

At the very bottom of the slope you will come to a kissing gate ahead. Pass through this (note: the field may be holding livestock) and turn left, following the fence line on the left. You will come to a waymarker post (this is at the point that a line of trees begins in the middle of the field). Turn right here, heading downhill across the centre of the field (passing the end of the line of trees on the left).

At the bottom of the field, follow the path a few paces left and then turn right through the kissing gate and down the (sometimes slippery) steps to pass under the railway. This path will lead you back to the car park (on the left) where the walk began.

This walk is part of the Explore Surrey collection, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and Surrey County Council.

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**Disclaimer**

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held for responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

**Walking Safety**

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

