

TADWORTH HORSES AND DOWNS



Challenging Terrain

**9.5 km
Circular
3 hours**

190716



Access Notes

1. *The walk has several gentle, but very long, climbs and descents throughout.*
2. *Many of the bridleways can get very churned and muddy in places so good boots are a must.*
3. *You will need to negotiate 6 stiles (all have which have fence gaps alongside that most dogs should be able to squeeze through) plus several staggered barriers and a kissing gate.*
4. *There are a couple of sections walking along country lanes, so take care of traffic at these points.*
5. *Most of the paths are enclosed with fences, but you will need to cross one field which may be holding horses.*
6. *You are likely to be sharing the bridleways with lots of horse riders too so take care with dogs.*

A 9.5km (6 mile) circular walk from Tadworth rail station, exploring the rolling hills of this beautiful area which is dominated by all things equestrian.

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

If you are looking for refreshments, you will pass The Bell pub (which is dog friendly and serves bar snacks only in terms of food) in Walton-on-the-Hill twice, at about the 0.5 mile and 5.5 mile points. Alternatively, you will find The Cock Inn pub and the Village Stores in Headley village about half way round (just after the church at waypoint 4). Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 146 Dorking, Box Hill and Reigate. This walk follows public footpaths and bridleways which cross private and public land. Information is included for your interest, but please respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

Getting there

The walk starts and finishes at Tadworth rail station. For help with planning your journey by public transport please visit <http://journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info>. It is best to arrive by public transport, but if you are coming by car please note that the rail station does not have a car park. There is some roadside parking available after 9.30am, but please comply with all the local parking regulation signs.

Approximate post code **KT20 5AE**.

Walk Sections



Start to Motts Hill Lane

Leave Tadworth rail station via the exit on Platform 2 and you will emerge onto The Avenue, with St John's church directly opposite. Cross over the road and turn left along the pavement, passing the church on your right. Follow the pavement up the hill to the road junction. Keep ahead for another 30 metres and then turn right onto the fenced tarmac path, signed as a public footpath.

At the end of this path you will meet a junction with a residential road. Cross over, turn right along the pavement and then, opposite Spindlewoods on your right, turn left to join the signed public bridleway. Follow

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this gravel track which narrows to a tarmac path and leads you to the edge of a section of woodland, Banstead Heath. Just a few paces in you will be presented with a choice of four paths. Take the furthest right-hand path, an unmade track signed to The Bell.

Keep right at the first fork, and left at the second fork (in effect going straight ahead). Now simply keep ahead on this woodland path and you will emerge out into the parking area of The Bell pub. Turn right to join the stone track signed as a public footpath, passing the small beer garden on your left. Pass through the staggered barrier and a few paces later you will come to a fork.

Take the left-hand path and continue just until you reach a stile on your right. Cross this and continue on this next section of fenced path. At this point the views open up to your right and, on a clear day, you will have a good view of Epsom Downs Racecourse on the far side of the valley. In fact, the majority of the land here is dedicated to all things equestrian. Cross over the next stile to reach a crossroads with a restricted byway, Motts Hill Lane.

1 → 2 Motts Hill Lane to Nohome Farm



Go straight ahead, passing through the staggered barrier to continue on the public footpath. Follow this, passing a number of horse paddocks on your right, and you will emerge to a junction with a quiet tarmac lane. Cross diagonally right to reach the next stile. Cross this (you may come across horses in this next field) and walk ahead through the wide grass clearing, keeping close to the line of trees and hedgerow on your left.

At the far side of the field you will meet the next stile. Cross this to reach a T-junction with a tree-lined path. Turn right along this path. As the trees on the left end, you will be rewarded with magnificent views to the north and west. Simply stay with this path, gradually descending for about a mile. At its end, the path swings left to become a vehicle track, passing Nohome Farm on your left.

2 → 3 Nohome Farm to M25 Underpass



Keep directly ahead on the main track, signed as a public footpath to Langley Vale. 300 metres along you will come to fingerposts on each side of the track, marking a junction. Turn left onto the bridleway signed to Walton Road. Follow the main woodland track steadily uphill and you will pass the entrance gate on your left for Langley Vale, alongside a Woodland Trust sign. The rolling fields here are being planted with saplings to create a lasting memorial woodland, marking the centenary of the First World War.

Stay with the woodland bridleway (which is popular with horse riders) and eventually you will emerge out to a junction with a quiet lane. Turn left along the lane and then, as soon as the fence on your right ends, turn right to join the narrow public footpath between fences. The path leads you between stables and a horse menage to your left and a gallop course to your right.

Some way along, cross the stile ahead and continue straight on, following the fence on your right. At the end, cross the next stile and turn left along the tarmac track. At the bottom you will emerge onto Hurst Road. Turn right and follow the pavement leading you under the M25.

3 → 4 M25 Underpass to St Mary's Church



Beyond the underpass the pavement ends, so take care of traffic from this point. Follow the lane uphill, passing Gasston Stables on your left. Stay with the lane as it swings left and continues gently uphill for about 300 metres, until you reach a vehicle barrier on your left (alongside a gate for Wingfield Stud). Turn left to join the signed public footpath here.

Follow this fenced footpath between paddocks to reach a crossroads. Turn left and you will come to the back of St Mary's

Church on your right. Turn right through the kissing lychgate to enter the churchyard and follow the narrow stone path with the flint church on your left. Leave the churchyard through the gates at the front of the church.

4 ➔ 5 St Mary's Church to Hurst Road



Walk directly ahead, passing a pond on your right and following the access lane between properties. You will come to a T-junction with the main village lane in Headley, with the Old School House opposite and The Cock Inn on your left. Turn left along the village road, taking care of traffic. Immediately after the pub building, cut into and walk along the length of pub car park. At the far end, go ahead down the steps and you will pass the Village Hall and Stores on your left.

Beyond the village hall, a pavement begins alongside the village road. Keep ahead along this and, just after the property called Badgers Run, turn left onto the stone track signed as a public bridleway. Soon this track leads you back into the classic terrain of this route, with rolling fields holding horses each side. Stay with the track as it leads you through sections of woodland and then back under the M25.

At the far side continue on the obvious fenced path ahead, passing Great Hurst Wood on your left. The woodland comprises mainly coppiced hazel and has a beautiful show of bluebells in the spring. At the end of the woodland, the path swings left to reach a fork. Take the left-hand branch and follow this steadily uphill for some distance, passing the pony club eventing fields on your left. At the top you will emerge out to a junction with Hurst Road.

5 ➔ 6 Hurst Road to End

Turn right along the road, taking care of traffic. As you draw level with the 30mph signs, swap to the left-hand road edge (this is for your safety as you approach the bend and junction). Fork left into Ebbisham Lane and then, just before the entrance gate for Pilgrims, turn right through the staggered barrier to join the signed public footpath between fences.

At the crossroads in the path go straight ahead and, further along, stay with the path as it swings first left and then right. At the end, bear right through the staggered barrier and follow the stone track ahead which leads you back to The Bell pub. From this point you will be retracing your steps back to the station. Walk ahead (with the pub on your right) just until you reach the second pub door. Turn left here to join the woodland path, signed to The Avenue.

Simply keep ahead along this woodland track until you reach



the grass clearing with fingerposts at the far side. Turn left along the tarmac path and follow it to reach the residential road. Turn right along the pavement and then, with the gates for Tanglewood (number 12) on your right, cross over the road to turn left into the tarmac footpath. At the end of this you will emerge to Station Approach. Turn left along the pavement, heading downhill, and you will come to Tadworth rail station on your right where the walk began.

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Surrey is the ideal place to explore the outdoors on foot. Whether you're an adventurous walker or someone who prefers a short stroll, there's a walk to suit you.

If you would like to know more about Explore Surrey and find more walks please visit

www.surreycc.gov.uk/explore

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.

