

North Downs Way

NATIONAL TRAIL

explore
Surrey

A 6 mile (9.5 km) undulating circular walk from Tilford village passing close to the ruins of Waverley Abbey.

Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery in England, was founded in 1128 by Bishop Gifford of Winchester. Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 much of the building stone was sold, some being used to build Loseley House near Guildford. Some fine ruins remain however.

MEDIEVAL WAVERLEY CIRCULAR NEAR THE NORTH DOWNS WAY

Allow 3 hours

This walk follows public footpaths and bridleways which cross private and public land. Please respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

OS Map Explorer 145: Guildford and Farnham.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

1 START TO SQUIRES HILL LANE

From village green, walk over to north-east corner where you will find East Tilford Bridge, a medieval bridge over the River Wey. Cross bridge using left-hand pavement, heading towards village shop. A few paces later, just before you reach shop/post office, turn left onto

signed bridleway. Follow this path for approximately 540m, to the top where you will reach a T-junction with Squires Hill Lane.

2 SQUIRES HILL LANE TO SHEEPHATCH LANE

Turn left along lane and pass Tilhill House on right. Keep straight ahead on sandy track which leads you into woods. Soon you will come to a

fork at a waymarker post. Take right-hand branch here, signed with a red arrow, a public byway. Follow this sandy track heading uphill which leads you past the property Ebernoe on left and then Sheephatch Farm on right. At staggered T-junction, bear right and follow drive to reach road, Sheephatch Lane.

3 SHEEPHATCH LANE TO OPTIONAL ABBEY DETOUR

Cross over road with care and take track opposite (signed as a public byway). Follow this track between conifer plantations for about 400m. At bottom of slope you will come to a T-junction. Turn left and follow track which later swings right. Waverley Abbey ruins can be seen through trees to your left (depending on season) and Waverley Abbey House stands on hill beyond. Continue ahead to reach T-junction with Waverley Lane, where you could take a detour to abbey ruins (take care on busy road & blind corner).

4 OPTIONAL ABBEY DETOUR BACK TO WAVERLEY LANE

To visit Waverley Abbey ruins, turn left down road. Turn left at T-junction (this is the BLIND CORNER). Cross river and turn left into Abbey entrance. Here you will find information boards and track which leads you to the ruins themselves. Return back to main route, where byway track emerges onto Waverley Lane.

5 WAVERLEY LANE TO CROOKSBURY HILL

Turn right heading uphill along road edge for 230m (taking care of traffic). You will pass entrance to Keepers Cottage Stud Farm on left. Immediately afterwards, turn left onto track signed as a bridleway to Yew Tree Cottage. Follow track steadily uphill, passing Yew Tree Cottage on left and continuing into woodland. At top of slope you will pass blue-trimmed Waverley

Cottages on left and emerge out to a T-junction with Crooksbury Road. Cross over road with care and take signed bridleway opposite, which swings sharp left to run parallel with road on left. Keep left at first fork and then left again at second fork and path will lead you into back of Crooksbury Hill car park.

Turn right within car park, passing between a pair of benches (and passing information board on left), to join waymarked footpath (yellow arrow). Path leads you up hill via a series of wooden steps. At the very top (well done!) you will reach benches and white trig point marking the summit of Crooksbury Hill and enjoy extensive views to South Downs.

6 CROOKSBURY HILL TO THE SANDS (AND LINK TO NORTH DOWNS WAY)

Stand with your back to view and join path directly ahead. After just a few metres, bear right on narrow path to begin your descent. Further down, at fork, bear right again. Continue through staggered barrier, straight over crossroads and past a vehicle barrier towards road. Do NOT continue to road, instead turn left immediately after barrier to join a footpath which runs parallel with road on right. At fork, turn right out to road and then turn left along grass verge passing between houses. Follow road down to crossroads at The Sands.

To join the North Downs Way, turn left at this point and follow the footway alongside the road to Sands Close. Cross the road carefully and continue join the North Downs Way at Farnham Golf Club.

7 SANDS TO FARNHAM ROAD

Turn right past Barley Mow pub on right and follow this road (taking care of traffic) for 230m, passing village boundary signs. Turn right onto long straight track, Long Hill. The lane climbs steadily between

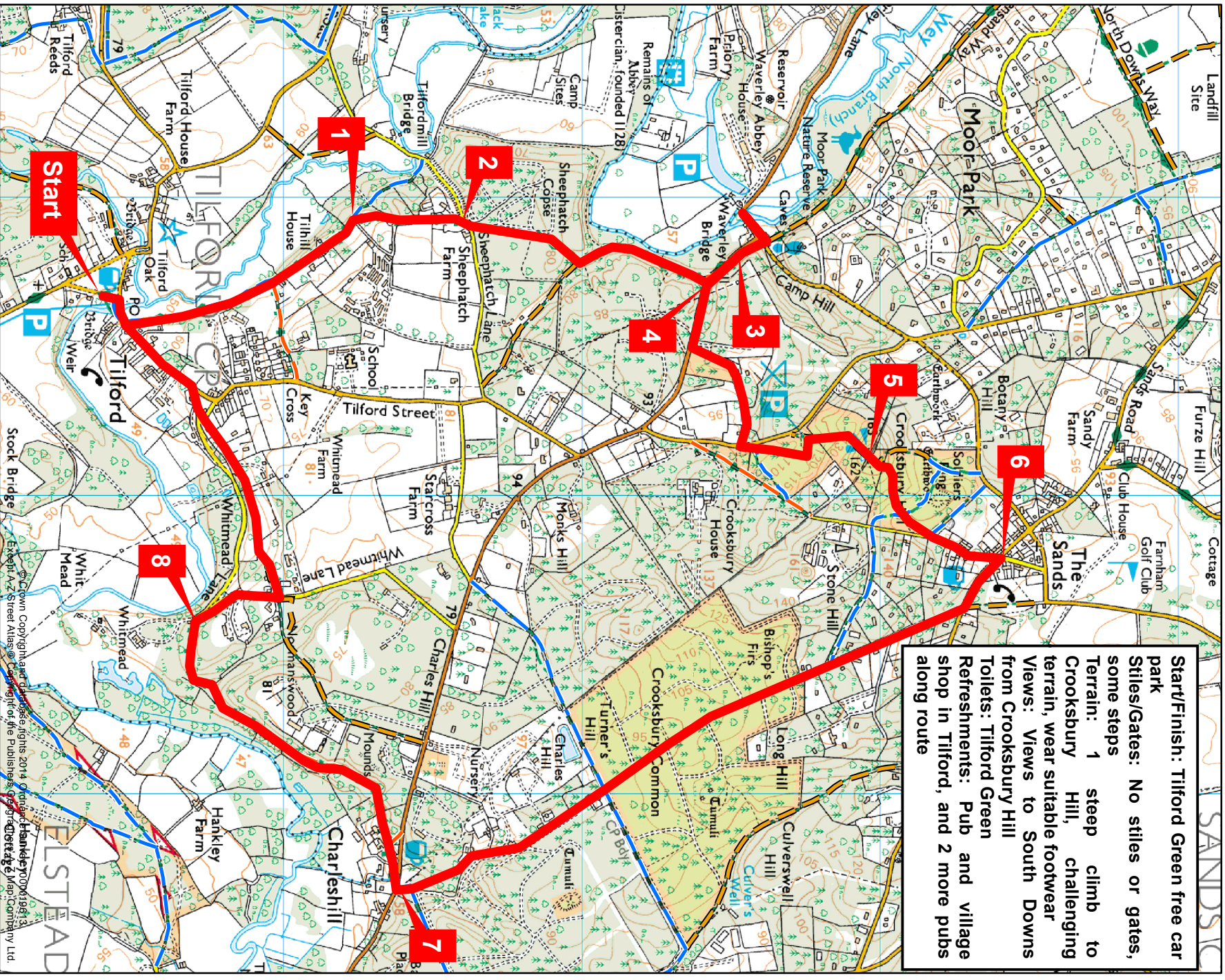
properties and then leads you down past a vehicle gate to enter Crooksbury Common. Keep ahead on sandy track, a public bridleway, across Crooksbury Common for 720m. At common edge, continue ahead on track past houses. Eventually, track leads you out to a T-junction with road, Farnham Road.

8 FARNHAM ROAD TO WHITMEAD LANE AND END

Cross over road with care and turn right down entrance lane leading to The Donkey pub. Continue on track which leads you past pub on left and then begins to climb. You will pass Riversleigh Farm on left. Just beyond this you will come to a staggered crossroads. Turn left (passing Ravenswing on left) and stay on this track for 1.1km to emerge out to a junction with road, Whitmead Lane.

Turn right and follow road uphill. After 300m, just after passing a house on left (and by a post box on right), turn left to join a narrow fenced path between gardens. Stay on this path, following fence line on right, and it will lead you between horse paddocks and then along a ridge. At end of path, keep ahead to merge with residential access drive. Keep ahead along this drive to reach a junction. Turn left and then immediately right (NB traffic) and this lane will lead you out to T-junction with main road. Cross main road and then turn left along pavement, this will lead you past village stores and back over river bridge to reach village green in Tilford where walk began.

Fully illustrated walk directions
to download at
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/
selfguidedwalks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/selfguidedwalks) or download
the app at ifootpath.com



HOW TO GET THERE - GU10 2BU

By car: Free car park on Tilford Village Green.
By bus: Route 46 to Tilford village from Farnham station. For help planning your journey visit: <http://journeys.travelmartsurrey.info>.



1:17,500

RIGHTS OF WAY

-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  BOAT
-  Restricted byway