



Friday Street: An Easy Circuit

Distance: 2 km=1¼ miles

very easy walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 18-nov-2011

Authors: Schwebefuss

Last update: 4-jan-2022

Refreshments: picnic or later in Abinger Common

Map: 146 (Dorking) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Lake, cottages, stream, quiet charm

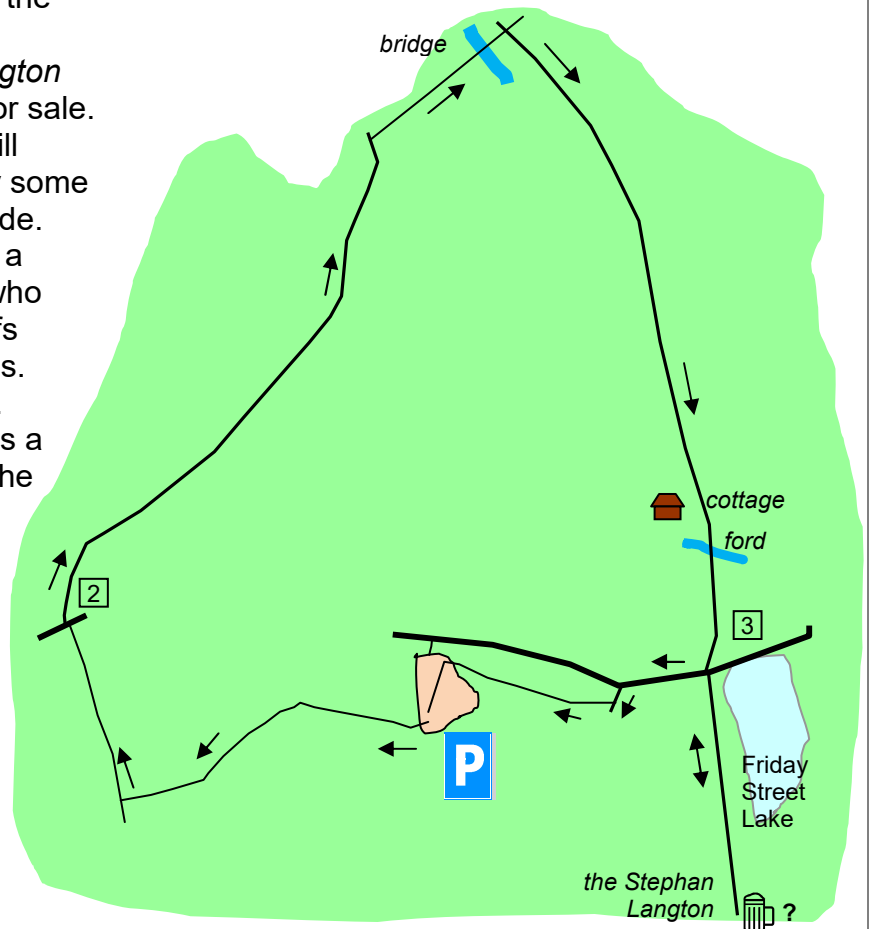
In Brief



This easy walk is a gentle stroll around the most tranquil hamlet in the southeast, full of surprises. Any clothing and sensible footwear is fine and your dog will love it too.

This walk was previously called the *Friday Street Pub Walk*. Unfortunately, the *Stephan Langton* was closed recently and is up for sale. It's greatly to be hoped that it will remain a pub and consequently some notes will be retained in this guide. The pub was reborn in 2011 as a gastropub, thanks to a couple who previously worked as head chefs elsewhere in the Home Counties. The beer was Fullers + a guest. The pub (if it remains a pub) has a spacious interior and tables at the front.

The walk begins at the **Friday Street car park, postcode RH5 6JR**. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

- 1 With your back to the entrance to the car park, go to the far right-hand corner of the car park. About 10m before the earth bank that marks the back of the car park, turn **right** on a narrow path, avoiding the path that goes straight ahead. This path winds a bit through undergrowth and passes two pits on your left, probably old saw pits that were used long ago by woodsmen. The path goes downhill through more trees and reaches a T-junction with a wider path just before some overhead wires. Turn **right** here on a path running parallel to the wires. You soon reach a lane (the same lane by which you arrived). Cross straight over the lane and turn **right** on a gravel drive signposted as a footpath.
- 2 Go through a wooden gate marked *Pugs Corner*. The drive bends left before approaching a house. Immediately after a wooden gate on the right, at a fingerpost, turn **right** on a wide path. Your path takes you through a swing-gate and over a picturesque bridge over the Tillingbourne stream. *This is a delightful spot where people always pause to gaze at the water-meadows and the water trickling from the weir under the bridge.* You immediately arrive at a 4-way junction. Turn **right** here and follow the wide track. You pass *Yew Tree Cottage* with its scarecrow family and go over a ford by means of a little bridge. Just before you reach the lane, *Pond Cottage*, on your left usually has jams and relishes for sale.
- 3 Cross straight over the lane onto a tarmac lane running beside the Friday Street lake on your left. In under 200m, you reach the building that used to be the *Stephan Langton* pub. Whence this odd name for a pub?

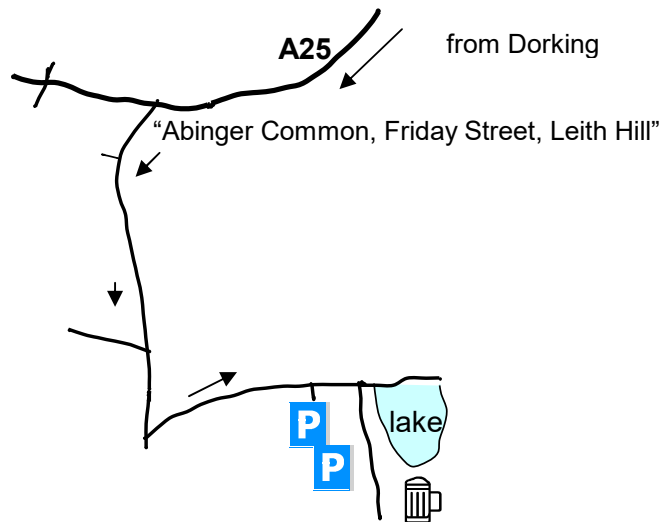
Stephen (or Stephan) Langton (1150?-1228) was apparently a local man who became Archbishop of Canterbury from 1207 till his death. He was a central figure in the dispute between King John and Pope Innocent III, which ultimately led to the issuing of Magna Carta in 1215. His carved head can be seen, alongside that of King John, around the porch door of nearby Wotton church.

Retrace your steps to the junction by the lake. Turn **left** on the lane. In 50m, turn **left** on a dirt track and immediately **right** up some steps. Follow the path alongside the railing on your right, shortly reaching the car park where the walk began.

[Alternatively, you could combine this walk with another walk in this series: *Friday Street and Severell's Copse* or *Friday Street, Coldharbour, Leith Hill*.](#)

Getting there

By car: park in the **Friday Street car park**. To get there, go to Dorking, take the main Guildford road and after about 5km=3 miles take a left turn marked *Abinger Common, Friday Street, Leith Hill* on the aptly named Hollow Lane. After exactly 2 km (1.2 miles) through a rather dramatic cutting, after a road on the right and just after a garden and large house appear on the right, take an extremely sharp left turn signposted "Friday Street". The signpost is somewhat hidden in the trees and this turn is very easy to miss. After less than 1 km, before the lake, look out for the car park on the right.



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