



Shere and Shere Heath: a village stroll

Distance: 3½ km=2¼ miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: Shere

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

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

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Village, meadows, views, woodland

In Brief

This is a classic walk, well known by every resident of the village of Shere. Some even do it every day. Unless you actually live here, there is a chance you haven't done it yet. You will be surprised by the variety of terrain on such a short walk. Although there is nothing very taxing – no steep ascents, no rough ground – you will see one of the best views in Surrey. There are no ploughed fields as this is largely horse breeding country with grass pastures. A long sojourn in the famously pretty village of Shere will make up the rest of your day (although the more dedicated hikers can combine this walk with the Shere-Gomshall walk in this series).

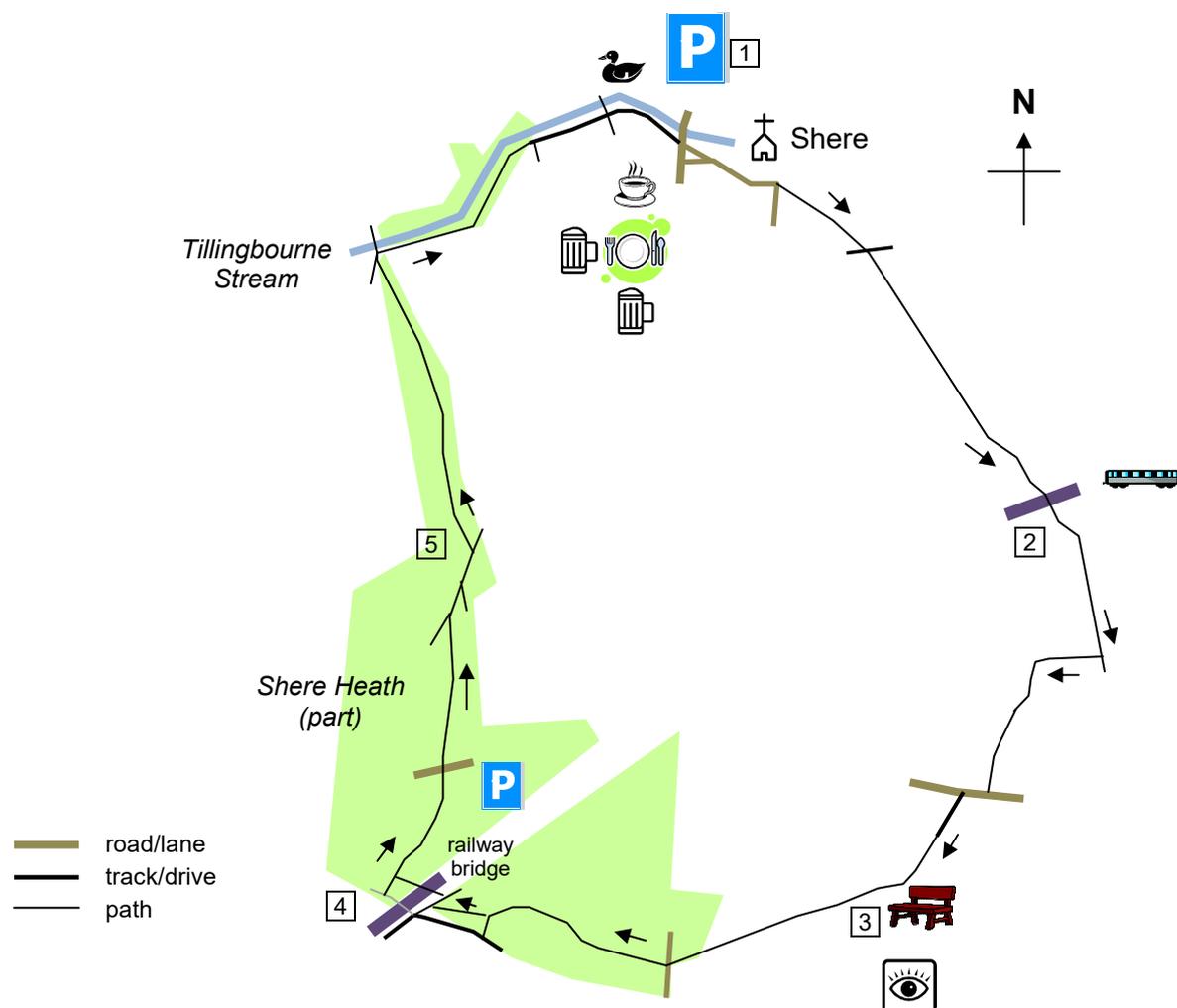


There are no nettles and very few brambles on this walk. Underfoot the conditions are generally dry, so any sensible attire and footwear are fine. Your dog will enjoy this walk too.

The walk begins in the car park in **Shere, Surrey**, postcode **GU5 9HF**, www.w3w.co/orange.spit.wipes. The car park tends to get rather crowded (with no space to circulate), together with the new charge in 2024, max 6 hours for £6, so you may prefer to park in the Shere Heath car park, www.w3w.co/organs.closed.jokes, approximate postcode **GU5 9DG** or **GU5 9QL**, grid ref TQ070470, which is only 100m from the walk and gives you a mid-walk break in the village. (To start from this car park, take a path leading down a slope across the heath and shortly, at a Y-junction, turn very sharp **right** to meet the road in section 4.) For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

For some very detailed information about Shere, its history and its wonderful church, see the other walk in this series: "Shere and Gomshall: Two Tillingbourne Villages". Shere has two pubs plus several restaurants, tea houses and an icecream parlour.



If you are starting the walk at the **Shere Heath** car park, do as follows: Cross the road, slightly right, to a narrow unmarked path into the woods. In 20m, turn **left** at a T-junction. Follow this knobby path for 150m to a crossing with a wider path. Turn **right** on this path. This is the "path across the heath" described in the middle of section **4**, where you now join the walk.

- 1** From the car park in Shere, turn **left** and then **right** onto Middle Street. Continue straight ahead to the centre of the village and turn **left** towards the Church of St James. Follow the lane to the right of the church. Just after the last house and after Church Hill, go **right** through a small wooden gate onto a sheltered footpath, leading uphill between fences. At the top, you reach a wide crossing path. Go straight over on a path between meadows and wire fences. At a junction with four metal farm gates, keep ahead on a narrower path with a band of trees on your right. A robust footbridge leads you over the railway.

2 Your path leads you through a barrier, into a field where construction is in progress on your left. At the end of the field, avoid a footpath on your left and keep straight ahead on a path between wire fences. At the end of the meadow on your right, just before a garden wall, at a 3-way fingerpost, turn **right** on a path under trees. Your path runs down to a T-junction. Turn **left**, soon passing to the left of a large white house. A short driveway leads out to a road. Turn **right** on the road for a very short distance and go **left** on a wide signed footpath between fences. After a metal gate, you pass a grassy promontory. Here you have a magical view of the countryside, with Black Heath visible beyond. [This is one of Surrey's favourite viewpoints: little copses, green rolling countryside and horse pastures make a delightful picture.](#)



3 Keep **right** on a path between wire fences. *Note the giant amphora in the garden.* About 30m further along, under an oak tree, there is a new bench where you can rest to admire the view. The path leads out to a road. Cross straight over to a narrow unsigned path across Shere Heath. Follow this winding but very clear woodland path, avoiding narrower side paths and branching paths, soon passing close to a green pumping station on your right ("*Albury Borehole No 4*"). 20m after the pumping station fork **right** on a sandy path. Just before the railway, go **right** and **left** over the pedestrian bridge to a junction of paths.

4 [\(The first path on the right leads to the Shere Heath car park if you began there.\)](#) Keep straight ahead on the main path. In 50m, at a major crossing of paths, turn **right** and immediately fork **left**. This path leads out shortly to a road. Cross straight over to a footpath opposite, marked by a thick post. Follow this path across the heath, always keeping straight on, ignoring all turn-offs. Various paths join as you descend. Eventually you can see your path running fairly steeply down on a deep sunken course, marked by a waymarker with blue arrows.



5 Follow this sunken path downhill. This path comes out finally beside a house at a junction by the Tillingbourne Stream. Turn **right** with the stream on your left. The path takes you through a wooden swing-gate, across a wide grassy strip and through another wooden swing-gate. After a dirt track, keep straight on along a tarmac lane in the village, passing cottages on your right and a kitchen garden on your left (sadly the scarecrow has flown). The lane passes a grassy bank with benches and ducks on the Tillingbourne, leading back to the centre of the village where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: Shere is just off the Dorking-Guildford road (A25). There are two side roads signposted *Shere*. Park in the main car park which is signed with a blue **P** symbol near the T-junction at the centre of the village.

Alternatively, the *Shere Heath* car park is just off the road called Little London, south of Shere. It is also known as *Hurtwood Control car park No. 7*. To get there, the best way is to take the A25 to just west of Shere and turn onto the A248 road, marked *Godalming, Albury*. At a junction where the A248 bends sharp right, keep straight ahead on a road signposted *Albury Heath, Farley Green, Peaslake*. In about ½ mile=800m, take the first road on the left, Park Road, signposted *Peaslake, Ewhurst*. Follow the road for ½ mile=800m and go past a triangular junction with Little London. The car park is about ¼ mile=400m further, on the right.

By bus: Nos. 22, 25 or 32 from Guildford to Shere. Check the timetables.

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