



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).

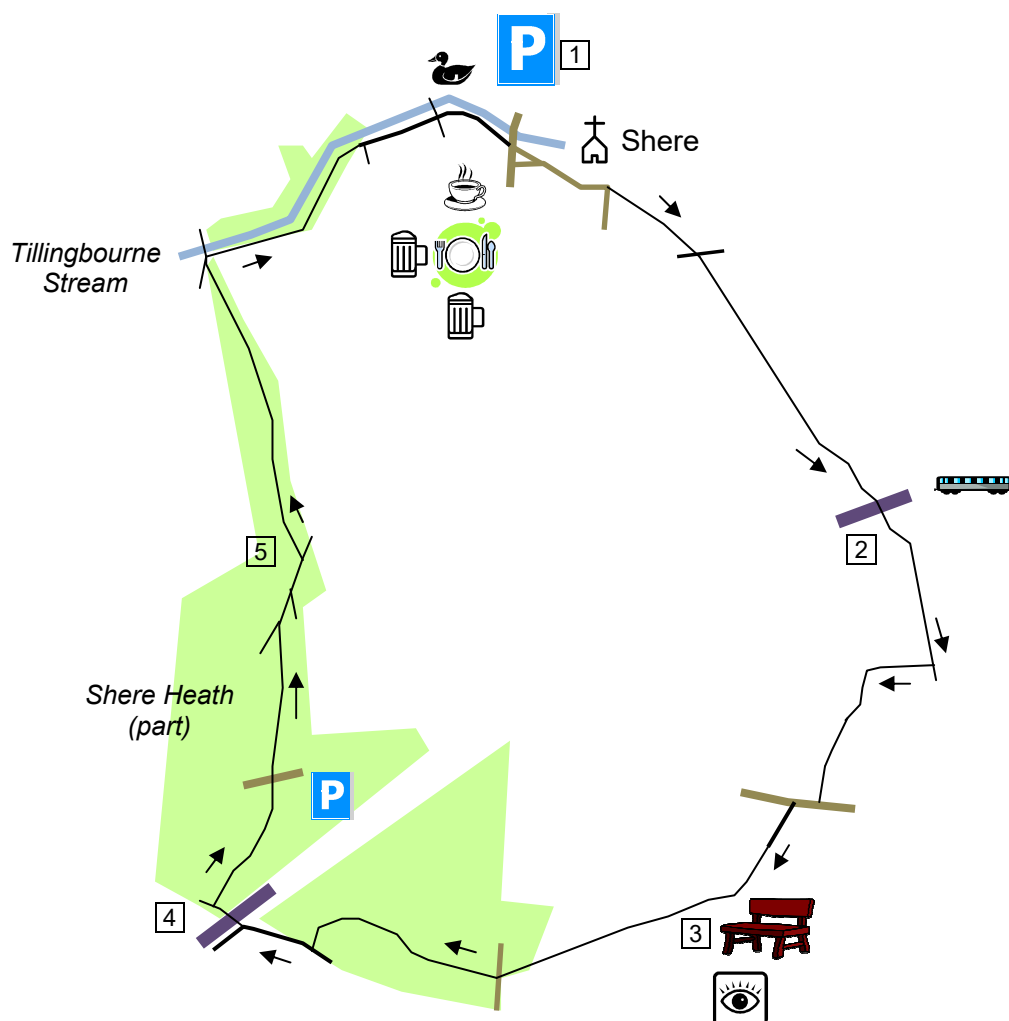


There are no nettles and very few brambles on this walk. Underfoot the conditions are generally dry, so any sensible attire and footwear are fine. Your dog will enjoy this walk too.

The walk begins in the car park in **Shere, Surrey**, postcode **GU5 9HF**. The car park tends to get rather crowded (with no space to circulate), so you may prefer to park in the Shere Heath car park, 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.



- 1 From the car park in Shere, walk up Middle Street 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. After a small wooden gate, keep left on a 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 another meadow. Avoid a footpath on your left here and keep straight ahead, soon on a narrow path between wire fences. At the end of the meadow on your right, just before a garden wall, turn **right** on a good but unsigned path. Your path veers left down a slope and curves right, passing to the left of a 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 reach a grassy promontory with two seats and a magical view, with Black Heath 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.* 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 side paths, soon passing close to a green pumping station on your right. Your path curves left to meet a track. Turn **right** on the track, soon passing several houses on your left. As the track bends left by more houses, you will see on your right a white gate and a railway crossing. Go **right** through the gate and cross the line carefully, looking and listening for trains.
- 4 On the other side you are on a wide woodland trail. Almost immediately, at a marker post with blue arrows, turn **right** on another path, going up a shallow slope. You come to a distinct fork in the path: take the **left**-hand path, the narrower option. (The right-hand path quickly leads to the Shere Heath car park.) You shortly come to a road. Cross straight over to a signed footpath opposite. Follow this path across the heath, ignoring all turn-offs. Your path descends to join a path coming down from the left and shortly one from the right too. Almost immediately after, your path forks at a waymarker with blue arrows.
- 5 Ignore the higher right fork and choose the **left** one, a sunken path leading 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 (complete with scarecrow). The lane passes a grassy bank with benches and ducks, 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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