

WALKING AND CYCLING

NEAR WOODCOTE PARK

Walking Route 3

A circular route via Headley following paths through a variety of countryside 6 miles

- Start at the pedestrian gate at the top of the Captain's Drive, cross Langley Vale. Turn left towards the Epsom Downs sign (with the Holiday Inn on your left).
- Cross Langley Vale Road and follow the public footpath sign to the right (with the grandstands behind you and Langley Vale Road on your right).
- Continue down a gentle slope taking in views of the racecourse on your left. At the bottom cross the sandy/muddy paths and take a left fork walking over grass to another path.
- Turn right onto this path and walk towards the end of the racecourse ('end' is probably the wrong word as races start from here and finish in front of the grandstands!) walking between two thickets.
- Continue on this path passing the racecourse 'end' on your left. At the small signpost do not continue on the path but veer off to the left on a track.
- The track is quite sandy so you may wish to take the path on the right which runs parallel to the track. Continue walking with the houses and white barriers on your right. After about four hundred metres you will reach a small crossroads.
- Take the path on your right, ignoring paths to your left and ahead of you.
- Walk down to the barriers, cross over the sand and continue on the public footpath with the houses on your right.
- After about fifty metres you will see a white post on your left marked CAP 42. These coal-tax posts are boundary markers erected in the 1860s to mark the points where taxes on coal were due to the Corporation of London. After a further few metres you will see a play area with swings and a small outdoor gym on your right.
- Continue on the path, passing a house and gated compound on your right and a turning on your left. Go straight, ignoring these turnings, until you reach a signpost. Pause at this point to enjoy a panoramic view of the Downs with the spire of Headley Church directly in front of you on the horizon.
- Carry on walking straight, ignoring paths to your left and right.
- After crossing a sandy lane, pick up the grassy path leading to the white barriers at the bottom. Cross the barrier over the sand, ignoring paths to your left and right. Go straight to the end and turn left onto a track.
- Walk past the letter box on your right and immediately turn right up the bridleway (noting the sign on your left).
- Follow this bridleway (ignoring paths to the left and right) for about a mile, taking in the views to your right. The bridleway changes into a minor road with houses on your right.
- Continue on this road until you reach a junction. Turn right down Hurst Road and continue for about one hundred metres until you reach a horse sign.
- At this point, turn left down a public bridleway with the Mid Surrey Pony Club on your right. Continue down this bridleway (ignoring paths to your left and right).
- At the bottom, follow the bridleway round to your right, ignoring the path to your left.
- Continue up the hill and go through the tunnel under the M25. Follow the bridleway ignoring the path to your left. You will pass two caravans on your left, unless they have been moved!
- After about another hundred metres you will reach a signpost on your right. Take the public footpath to your right. Walk up this hill, pass through the gate and continue towards Headley Church (St Mary's), which will be in clear view.
- Go through the gate into the churchyard, taking note of the sign. Take the path between the gravestones and follow it round to the main front entrance gate.

- Go through the main gate and walk ahead for about forty metres until you reach a junction. Turn left to find the Cock Inn pub, which, in normal times, provides food and drink. You may wish to stop for a break here as you are now over half way through your walk.
- Return to the main gate of Headley Church and retrace your steps to the gate at the other side of the graveyard.
- Go through the gate and turn immediately left onto a public footpath. The church is now on your left and fields usually containing horses on your right. During this stretch look to your right. On a clear day you will see the racecourse grandstands and parts of London including Wembley Stadium.
- Follow the path round to your right ignoring the path to your left. On reaching the road (Hurst Lane) turn right, with Wingfield Stud on your right, and, later, Saddlecombe Stud on your left.
- Continue on this road. Go under the M25 and then, after about twenty metres, turn left onto a public footpath. The M25 is now on your left.
- After about fifty metres turn right climb over a stile (bit wobbly - be careful) onto another public footpath. Continue with the fence on your left.
- After about forty metres you will come to another stile in front of you on your left. Climb over this stile and continue on the narrow path with fencing to your left and right. You will see pine trees/conifers on your left and horse training stables on your right.
- On reaching the road (Walton Road) cross over and turn left. After about twenty metres turn right at the signpost and walk down a public bridleway and into Langley Vale Wood. This bridleway is known as the 'Sheep Walk'.
- Follow the bridleway, ignoring paths to the left and right. At the bottom you will reach a junction.
- Turn left and then take the right fork, ignoring the track on your left. Continue up the hill, cross the crossroads (ignoring paths to your left and right) and go straight up the bridleway with the white barrier on your left. This path is known as the 'ski slope' to local running clubs.
- Continue going uphill. The cement path changes into an earthier surface. Pause at the Warren notice board on your left. This board displays a 'Living Woodlands' poster.
- You may wish to explore this area although it may add another mile to your walk depending upon the extent of your exploration.
- Continue walking up a gentle hill until you reach a signpost. Turn left onto a public footpath with the views of the Downs behind you.
- Walk about thirty metres and then take the second right onto a bridleway. This is marked by a signpost displaying, in blue, the National Cycle Network.
- Walk up this bridleway with the gated compound behind you. Continue, ignoring paths to your left and right, until you reach the racecourse barriers.
- Cross the racecourse but pause in the middle to imagine the horses galloping from your left towards Tattenhan Corner on your right to finish in front of the grandstands. When you reach the other side pause to view the grandstands and, on a clear day, parts of London.
- Continue down the bridleway towards the grandstands, with the Beefeater pub to your right. During this stretch you may see kite flyers on windy days and model aircraft flyers on calmer days.
- At the bottom you will reach a crossroads. You will see the snack bar hut in front of you across the road (B290). Ignore the path to your right and ahead of you and, instead, turn left onto a track.
- Continue on this track with the stands and racecourse on your right and the Downs on your left. Pass the tunnel on your right and watch out for the small statue of Lester Piggott, also on your right. The first grandstand you will pass is the Queen's Stand and the second the Grandstand.
- Continue on this track until you reach a minor slip road with the Rubbing House pub on your right. Continue on this road with the pub on your right and the racecourse on your left.
- At the bottom turn left onto Langley Vale Road, passing the Holiday Inn on your right. After about two hundred metres cross the road and return at the gate to the Captain's Drive.

Racehorses are exercised daily on Epsom Downs until noon (9.30am on Sundays) so please watch out for them and take care, particularly while crossing the racecourse. Dogs are welcome on the Downs but they should be kept on a lead while the racehorses are being exercised.

