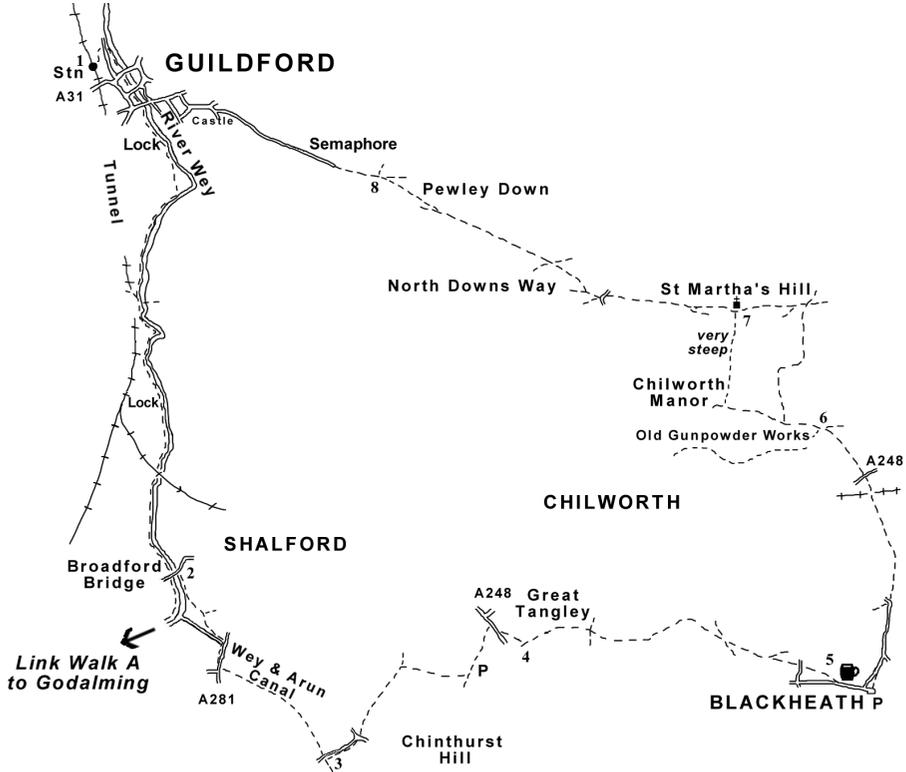


Circular Walk 2 – Guildford & Chilworth

Visiting: The River Wey, The Wey & Arun Canal, Chinthurst, Blackheath, Chilworth, St Martha's Church and Pewley Down

Distance approximately 10 miles/16km

**The walk starts and ends at Guildford Station;
refreshment at Blackheath or Guildford town centre.**



- 1 From the down line entrance of the station (nearest the town) turn left, then shortly turn right down steps to the River Wey (next to a pedestrian bridge over the river). Turn right (upstream) and follow the towpath. Pass under a road bridge. Note a metal sculpture of a boatman throwing a rope from a wharf on the other side of the river. Just after crossing the pedestrianised approach to another bridge into town, turn left in front of the *White House* pub to return to the riverside. Note the sculpture of Alice, her sister and the White Rabbit on the grass, celebrating Guildford's connection with Lewis Carroll. Cross a metal footbridge to arrive at Millmead Lock. The river is navigable up to Godalming. Keep following the river path upstream, past St Catherine's lock to Broadford Bridge.

If you are proceeding to Godalming (Walk A), cross the road with care and carry on straight ahead along this same bank of the river.

Walk 2

- 2 To continue with circular Walk 2, cross the bridge, then the road, and take the path past new industrial buildings along the other bank. It passes an old gunpowder wharf (more about that later) then diverges from the river. Just past a house on the right, bear right along a footpath by a brick pillar to arrive at a main road. There is a crossing island a few yards to the right – use this and follow the Downs Link trail opposite along the track of an old railway line. It also follows the course of the Wey & Arun Canal, which it is hoped will be restored to navigation some day.



Canal bridge and Railway bridge

- 3 After passing under an impressive old brick railway bridge, turn left across a canal bridge (see above) overlooking the dry course of the canal. Turn left, still following the Downs Link, going up a short piece of road before taking a bridle path straight ahead at the road T-junction. The path can be muddy as it rises to a stile – from here there is a view across the Tillingbourne valley to St Martha's Church on its hill. You are heading for it, but by a more devious route. Turn right in front of the stile to continue along the Downs Link. Go past a car park (for Chinthurst Hill and its folly, up a track to the right) then cross another main road, taking the track opposite which cuts diagonally through light woodland before joining a metalled lane serving Tanglely Manor and Farm.
- 4 Carry straight on, following the Downs Link uphill. About 250 yards after crossing a track, look for a narrow, sunken bridleway forking right by a blue-topped post and take this. Cross a road and take the bridleway opposite through light woodland, coming out by *The Villagers*. This is a walkers' pub and can be recommended for a stop.
- 5 From the pub, turn left and follow the road to its end in a car park. Take the bridleway halfway down the car park to the left. Follow this through woodland to where it joins a surfaced lane and stay on the lane as it passes houses

and drops downhill to a left-hand bend. Turn right along a narrow path between fences (the Downs Link again) which broadens out into a separated footpath and bridle path for a while. Cross a modern railway bridge, then cross a main road and follow the farm track ahead. As you cross the Tillingbourne stream, look for the old Chilworth gunpowder industry site on your left, with an interpretation board. Worth a visit if you have time.

- 6 To continue the walk, carry straight on and uphill to a T-junction of paths. For the more direct route from here to St Martha's Church, you could carry straight on, turn right before Chilworth Manor and take the old path straight up the hillside. This is VERY STEEP and not recommended unless you relish a long and arduous scramble (though there is a welcome seat halfway up!) For an easier climb, turn right following the Downs Link sign to meet the North Downs Way at the top of the hill – then turn left to arrive at the church.



St Martha's Church on top of the hill

- 7 There are plenty of seats surrounding St Martha's Church, and by this time you may well feel in need of using them. To continue the walk, go west along the North Downs Way. About 50 yards after it crosses Halfpenny Lane, take a bridleway diagonally to the right. This first falls, then rises in a straight line between hedges. At a splitting of tracks, take the footpath straight ahead to reach the open space of Pewley Down at the top.
- 8 Follow the track to the left across the open space, taking the exit in the north-west corner into a residential road. Follow this road past the old semaphore straight down into the centre of Guildford, and find your way back to the station by one of various routes through the town shopping centre.