



North Downs Way - Section 1: Farnham to Guildford

11 miles (17.5 km) allow 6 hours

A relatively easy introduction to the NDW with no major hills to climb. This is a very peaceful and rural section but with good options for refreshments and exploration.



River Wey bridge at St Catherine's

How to get there -

Parking: Farnham Station, Shalford Park car park Guildford (Mon-Fri) or town centre car parks

Train: Nearest stations: Farnham, Guildford, Shalford (limited service)

Bus: 4 / 5, 17 / 18, 19 all serve Farnham; 46 Farnham – Godalming – Compton – Guildford; 65 Alton – Farnham - Guildford

S	Start	Farnham Town Centre Postcode GU9 8AH
///	what3words	title.clutches,gagging
F	Finish	Shalford Park GU4 8AA
///	what3words	claims.bucket.slug
 	Gates	8
□	Stiles	1
▬	Steps	3
▲	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, fields.
☀	Views	Great views from the Downs
☕	Refreshments	Farnham and Guildford town centres, pubs inPuttenham

Route description

1. Facing the NDW metal sculpture, go left for 140m to the first NDW sign (on your right). The track immediately bends left. Continue on this track with the River Wey on your left. Track bears right past 'The Kilns'.
2. Go under the railway bridge into open country. Keep left on the main track. Turn right through a wooden gate passing a wooden bench featuring an orchid. Continue on this path until you reach a wooden gate and a road. Turn left along the road (no pavement).
3. Turn left into Moor Park Lane. At Moor Park House go through metal kissing gate at side of large metal entrance gates on your right. Turn immediately left over a stile, up three steps. After a short distance, re-join the road and continue up the hill (no pavement).
4. At the brow of the hill look for NDW sign to your left, near a house called 'High Moor'. Follow this narrow footpath for 400m. Go through a wooden kissing gate to enter Runfold Nature Reserve. After 300m take three steps down to a T-junction.
5. Turn right and then after 150 m turn left. Continue ahead until you reach a road by a sign for 'Hunters Lodge'. Turn left for 25m then right through a wooden barrier onto a small track running between two fence lines to reach another road at 'Swiss Cottage'.
6. Go through another wooden barrier. Turn right and follow the road (no pavement). Turn left at Farnham Golf Club Clubhouse into Blighton Lane. Continue along the road for 450m then turn right over small wooden bridge. Follow footpath with the golf course on your right to reach another road.
7. Cross straight over and continue ahead. At a split on the path, keep right. Continue through a series of fields to a kissing gate and the next road (Elstead Road). Turn right and almost immediately left through a second kissing gate and continue ahead on the footpath through woodland.
8. Go through the kissing gate and turn right into wide open fields. Pass through a second kissing gate and then a third one. Continue ahead through woodland until you come out by the entrance to Hampton Estate.
9. Turn left and then almost immediately right (10 m), signposted 'Totford Hatch' carpark. Continue ahead for about 1.4km until you reach a field gate and view over Puttenham hop gardens. Track becomes a wide hardcore one which takes you down to a junction with Lascombe Lane and Seale Lane.
10. Bear right and continue along the main street in Puttenham, past The Good Intent Pub on your left and St John the Baptist church on your right. At T-junction (and entrance to Puttenham Priory) turn right and continue ahead towards the Jolly Farmer pub.
11. Cross the road at the Jolly Farmer. Turn right and almost immediately left onto a wide tarmac track with the entrance to Puttenham Golf course up to your right. Continue ahead on a wide track, ignoring footpaths to the left and right.
12. As the path splits take the left hand (narrower) path continuing straight ahead. Continue up the slope and along until you come out at a road. Turn right along the road and under two bridges. (Note the sculptural cross on the bridge). Follow the road to its end. Turn left.
13. After 40m cross the road OS Ref by the pond and entrance to Watts Gallery. Continue up the wide track with Watts Gallery on your left. The path narrows as you ascend the slope. The path levels off at the next junction. Continue straight over.
14. The path becomes wider and bears left and immediately right. Continue on the main sandy track. At the next T-junction turn left on wide track and then follow it around two sides of the field and past farm buildings.
15. Where the path splits, keep straight ahead on the narrower (left hand) one. At the end of the path at a T-junction with a road, turn left and follow the pavement down to 'Ye Olde Ship Inn'. Cross the main road and turn right.
16. Turn left into Ferry Lane. (Optional detour to visit St Catherine's Chapel on the hill beside the road). Cross the railway bridge. The road becomes very steep at this section, as it descends to the River Wey.
17. Turn right at the river and continue for 50m. Take 13 steps up and over the wooden bridge spanning the river and 11 steps down the other side.
18. After 50m bear right then continue ahead through Shalford Water Meadows until you come out at Shalford Sports Fields. Follow the path straight across the playing fields to reach the Guildford Gateway sign at the A281. (Toilets available 150m to your left).

Directions to Guildford Station

The railway station is about 1.8km from the end of the walk at Shalford Sports Fields.

Turn left and follow the A281 on the path running parallel to the road, passing the changing rooms and toilets on your left. At the end of the path you come to a tarmac access track to the Guildford Rowing Club. Continue ahead on path running parallel to the A281. Pass the Weyside pub on your left and then a large car park before passing the Yvonne Arnaud theatre. Continue ahead until you reach pedestrian traffic lights and turn left over the town bridge. (The main High Street is to your right.)

Turn right at end of the bridge and take the path running parallel to the river and through an underpass. Continue ahead, taking the stairs up opposite the "1913 Electricity Works". Follow the pavement then go down more stairs, through an underpass, and come out near the entrance to Guildford Railway Station.

Points of interest

9. Puttenham hop garden view



For several centuries Farnham and its surrounding area were famous for the quality of their hops and they secured a premium price. This 24 acre site which forms part of the Hampton Estate is planted with Fuggle hops and is the last commercial hop garden in Surrey.

12. Sculptural Crosses on Road Bridge at Compton



These crosses were commissioned by GF & Mary Watts and designed by the famous Arts & Crafts architect Edwin Lutyens. The Watts wished to highlight the significance of the track as a pilgrimage route.

13. Watts Gallery



Founded in 1904 as the first gallery in the UK devoted to a single artist, the Grade II listed Watts Gallery – Artists' Village offers a unique insight into the life and work of 'England's Michelangelo' George Frederic Watts and the designer and artist Mary Watts (his second wife).

16. St Catherine's Chapel

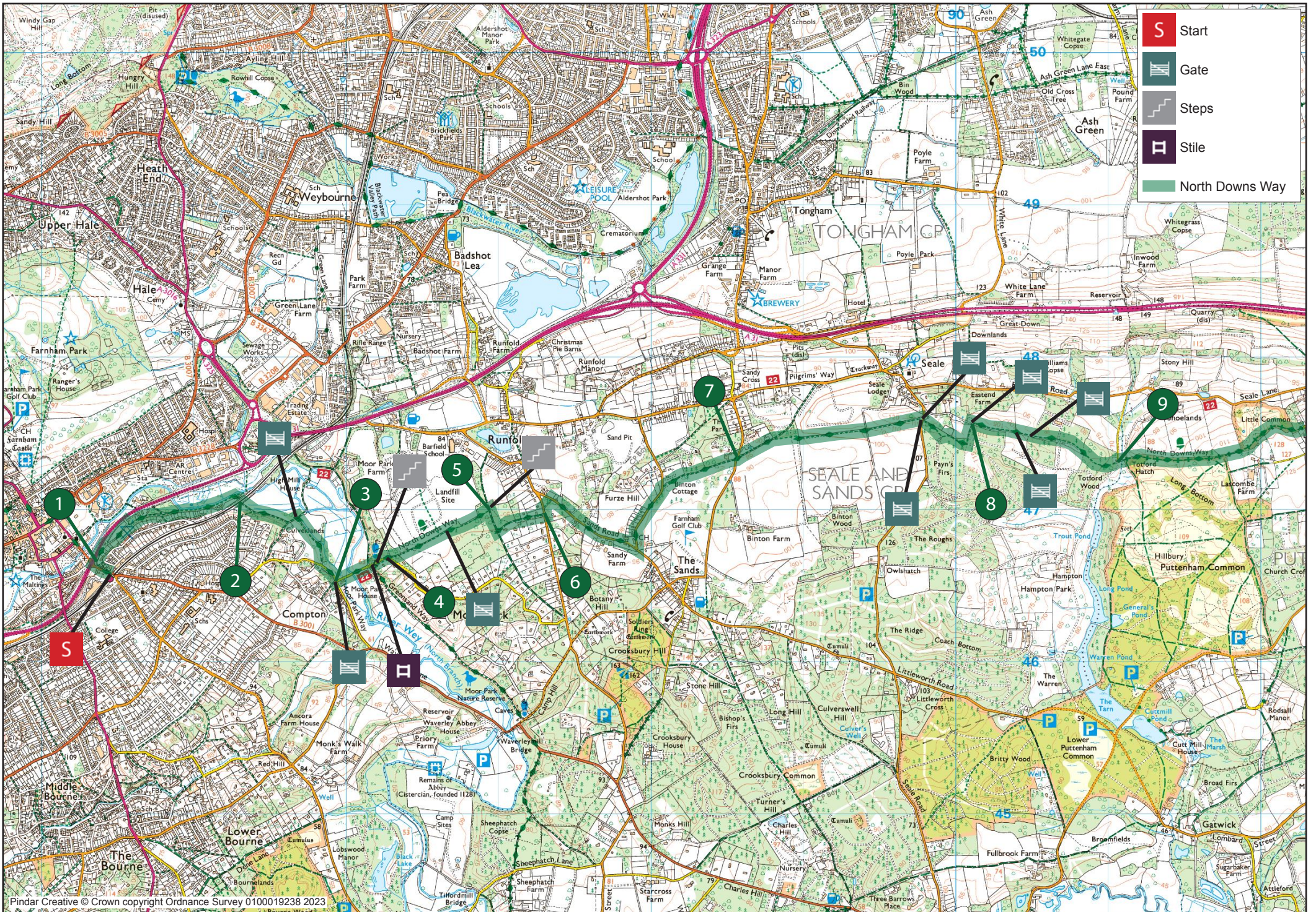


This chapel was built around 1317 on the site of an earlier one but use had ceased by about 1546. The adjacent hillside was the site for an annual fair for many years – a scene which is captured in a famous picture by J.M.W Turner.

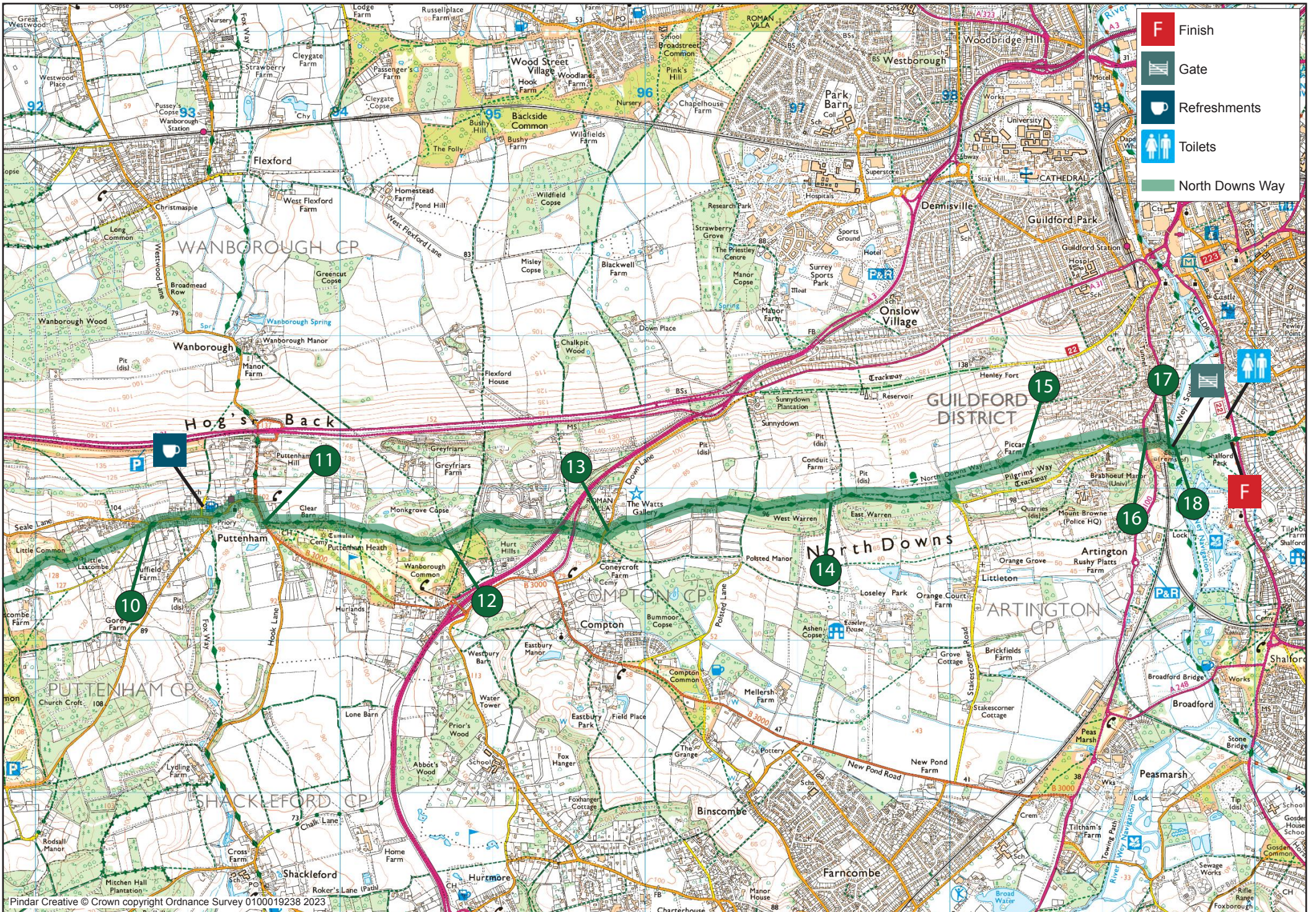
17. Guildford's "Golden Sands"



The current bridge stands close to the site of a former ford across the River Wey. The brightly coloured "golden" sand which forms a cliff here is said by many to be the origin of the name "Guildford" - derived from the ancient "geld" or "gilt" meaning golden.



- Start
- Gate
- Steps
- Stile
- North Downs Way



- F Finish
- Gate
- ☕ Refreshments
- ♿ Toilets
- North Downs Way