



## North Downs Way - Section 3: Dorking to Merstham

**9.5 miles (15.2 km)** allow 5 hours

A challenging section with numerous heritage features plus stunning vistas from various viewpoints which make climbing Box Hill and Colley Hill well worth the effort.









View from Box Hill

### How to get there -

**Parking:** Dorking Station or Merstham Station

**Train:** Nearest stations: Dorking mainline, Dorking Deepdene or Merstham

**Bus:** Dorking station: services 32, 93 and 465.  
Merstham station: services 405, 430/435.

<b>S</b>	Start	London Road nr Dorking Postcode RH5 6AE
<b>///</b>	what3words	month.lazy.fall
<b>F</b>	Finish	Near Merstham RH1 3BB
<b>///</b>	what3words	hoping.stuff.gain
	Gates	8
	Stiles	0
	Steps	6
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, fields.
	Views	Great views from the Downs
	Refreshments	Denbies Vineyard, Box Hill cafe, Wray Lane cafe, pub in Merstham

## Route description

1. From Gateway sign at Denbies Vineyard head towards the dual carriage way. Cross the road and pick up the NDW sign on the opposite side (slightly to your left). This access track leads into a National Trust car park.
2. Continue ahead to reach the Stepping Stones across the River Mole. Cross the river. (If the river is in flood, return to the car park and take the other footpath. Cross a wooden bridge. Continue ahead to reach a T junction. Turn left to re-join original route).
3. Follow path to the Box Hill steps. WARNING: There are about 275 steps up the hillside in flights of up to 60 steps per section. Climb upwards ignoring side paths. Take your time!
4. Turn right at the T-junction, through a wooden gate. Continue ahead. Climb 12 steps to Salomon's Memorial viewpoint (For National Trust café and toilets turn left and follow the path). From the viewpoint continue ahead keeping the road on your left and the open view to your right.
5. At a signpost, where the path bears slightly left, look for a path directly left up a slope, signposted NDW. The path opens out to a wide track through woodland with road on your left. Continue on through a gate.
6. After 100m go through another gate The path bears right down 4 steps and up 4 steps. After 20m there are another 4 steps down and 2 up as you cross another path. Continue ahead. The path turns left up 18 steps and 13 more.
7. Turn right at the top. The path is quite narrow here but then opens out onto a wide avenue of trees. Continue ahead.
8. Bear right down 49 steep steps. then bear left up the hillside. When the path splits take the right fork. You eventually pass the grave of an English thoroughbred horse called "Quick". Take the 7 steps down, then turn right continuing down the slope.
9. Follow the path as it undulates along the hillside until you come to views of the abandoned Brockham Lime Kilns on your right. Continue until you reach a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue along wide access track down to a road.
10. Turn left into Pebble Hill Road and walk on pavement up the hill. Where pavement ends look for a footpath up the slope to your left through a yew copse. Keep the road on your right.
11. At the end of the footpath re-join a pavement by the road. As the pavement runs out cross over the road and continue ahead on the other side until you pick up the NDW signpost at the end of the pavement.
12. Turn right to follow the footpath which widens out through woodland until you reach a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and turn immediately left through another wooden gate and continue up the slope on the bridleway.
13. Turn right at a sign indicating Dawcombe Nature Reserve, passing through wooden barriers to leave the bridleway. Follow this footpath up the slope to a T-junction, just past a second wooden barrier and onto a Byway (Buckland Lane). Continue down the slope through a Yew copse.
14. Turn left OS Ref at signpost, up 11 steps and continue ahead. At the next fork, take the path with the fence line on your left. Continue ahead (ignoring side paths) up the hillside with open fields to your right. Keep going. Pass a wooden barrier down to crossroads.
15. Turn left OS Ref up the slope. Bear right at the top, beside 'Mole Place', onto a wide track. After 30m turn right onto small footpath through woodland. Pass through a metal gate onto Colley Hill. Continue ahead on wide track until you reach the Inglis Memorial [POI]
16. Go through another metal gate and continue ahead on the wide track with views over Reigate on your right. Pass Margery Water Tower on your left and then Reigate Fort on your right. Cross over the footbridge to arrive at Wray Lane carpark with a café and toilets.
17. Go through the carpark and out onto the road, crossing over to the other side and picking up the NDW signage straight ahead. Follow the path through Gatton Park down a gradual slope.
18. At the next T-junction with a tarmac track, turn right and continue down the slope. Pass the Millennium Stones. Keep following the tarmac road as it bears left, with school buildings on right and sports pitches on left. At multi-way junction by hall, bear left down main drive.
19. Bear right at Gatehouse onto road. After 100m, turn left down tarmac track. Bear right onto a footpath. At far end of footpath go through kissing gate. Follow along the edge of a golf course with M25 to your left.
20. Cross OS Ref over a tarmac access road and continue ahead. Continue straight ahead across open field and down a slope to the Merstham NDW Gateway sign.

## Directions to Merstham Station

Continue past the Gateway sign with cricket pavilion on your right onto an access track, which takes you out onto Quality Street. Turn right towards main road. Cross over the road at 'The Feathers' pub and take a footpath beside the right of the pub. Continue through a carpark and out onto another road opposite Merstham Village Hall. Turn right down to Merstham Station. Café at station, toilets beyond ticket barrier.

## Points of interest

### 4. Salomon's Memorial viewpoint



Leopold Salomon was a city financier who bought nearby Norbury Park in 1890. In 1914 he purchased 230 acres of Box Hill to protect it from development and subsequently donated it to the National Trust.

### 15. Inglis Memorial



The Inglis Memorial on Colley Hill was donated to the Borough of Reigate in 1909 by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Robert William Inglis, Chairman of the London Stock Exchange. Originally a drinking fountain for horses at the top of the original main route over Reigate Hill, it now houses a topograph.

### 9. View of Brockham Lime Kilns



Brockham Lime Works were active until 1936. Chalk from the cliffs was burned in kilns using coal brought in by standard gauge railway from Betchworth Station. The lime left the same way. Narrow gauge railways ran within the works for moving materials around. Only one kiln is now left standing.

### 16. Reigate Fort

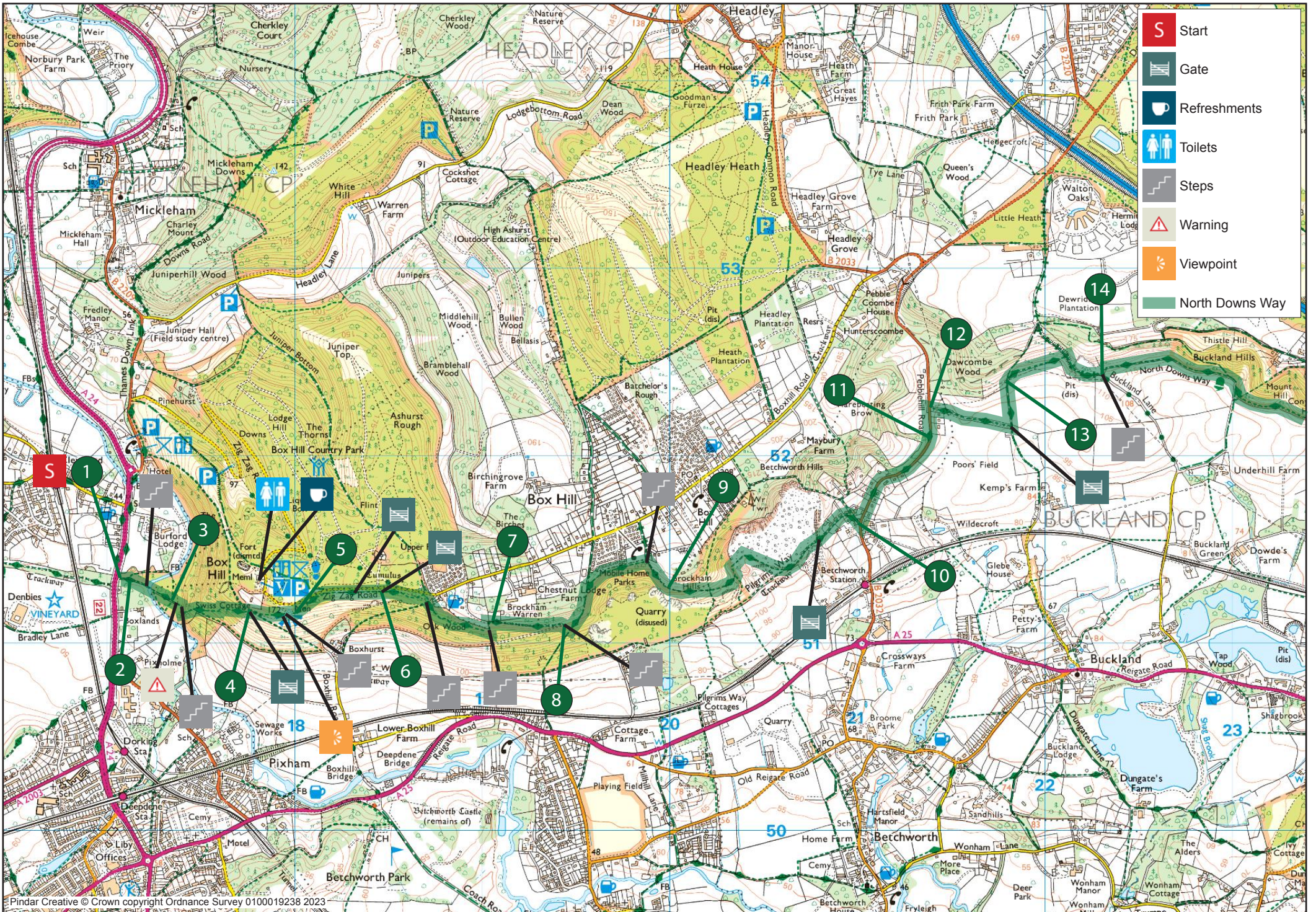


Reigate Fort was built on top of Reigate Hill in 1898 as one of 13 military installations forming the London Defence Scheme, a 72-mile defensive chain stretching from the North Downs to Essex. It was a mobilisation centre holding ammunition, cutting tools for clearing trees and digging tools for entrenching.

### 18. Millennium Stones



The Millennium Stones, in the National Trust managed part of Gatton Park, are a modern stone circle created by sculptor Richard Kindersley. Marking the double millennium it was installed by the Jerusalem Trust. Each of the 10 stones represents a 200-year period and bears an inscription from that era.



# REIGATE AND BANSTEAD DISTRICT

- Finish
- Gate
- Toilets
- Viewpoint
- North Downs Way

