



North Downs Way - Section 4: Merstham to Oxted

8.5 miles (13.6 km) allow 4.5 hours

Enjoy views over the Surrey Hills and London skyline as the route traverses up and down the North Downs ridge passing historic quarries and the ancient church of St Katherine.









View at Caterham, point 7 on the route

How to get there -

Parking: Merstham station car park, Elice Road car park in Oxted

Train: Nearest stations: Merstham and Oxted

Bus: Merstham station: services 405 and 430/435. Oxted station: services 410 and 594/595.

S	Start	Near Merstham station Nearest postcode RH1 3BD
///	what3words	garden.bets.party
F	Finish	Near Oxted, postcode CR3 7AE
///	what3words	garden.bets.party
	Gates	7
	Stiles	0
	Steps	9
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, fields.
	Views	Great views from the Downs
	Refreshments	The Harrow pub in Chaldon, town centre shops and cafes

Route description

1. From the Merstham NDW Gateway, keeping cricket pavilion on your right, go forward to the junction with Quality Street. Turn left and continue to the end of the street, where you bear right on the marked footpath. Continue ahead and cross the bridge over the M25.
2. Continue ahead at St Katherine's Church, walk up the steps and through the churchyard. Turn right at the road. Cross the road and continue, turning left into Rockshaw Road.
3. Turn left onto footpath opposite Noddyshall Cottage. Follow the path turning right through the underpass and continue up the slope through fields.
4. Turn right at the crest of the hill. At Hill Top Lane cross over and continue on unpaved track, past Hill Top Farm. Continue straight ahead all the way to Willey Park Farm.
5. Turn right by interpretation board with views on left over to London skyline. Continue forward on wide track until you come to War Coppice Road. (Optionally, visit The Harrow Pub by turning left at road – pub is 150m on the right).



6. Cross over. Continue ahead passing the ruined Whitehill Tower on your left. Follow the road for 900m. At Hextalls Lane take the footpath on the right, running parallel to the road. Bear left up the slope (ignore Cycle Path 21 on right) until you reach road.

7. Turn right, continuing up the slope following the road to the Caterham Viewpoint. (Admire view from picnic spot on your right).
8. Turn right at signpost at far end of picnic area. Follow footpath into woodland. Where path splits, take the lower path to the right. Take the 16 steps down and then down a second flight of 10 steps. Continue ahead.
9. Turn right at a road junction onto a footbridge over the A22 (signed as National Cycle Route 21). Continue ahead.
10. Turn right at the T-junction onto a wide track then look for smaller path bearing left. Continue on this footpath down the slope. Go down 13 steps to pass a small industrial estate on your left. Cross the road and continue with path on other side going up 13 steps.
11. Turn right at T junction onto concrete track. The track becomes a footpath. Continue on with the vines of Godstone Vineyard on your right. You come out at the entrance to Woldingham School (Do not enter the school drive).
12. Take road to the right and then almost immediately left up a footpath signposted Marsden Park, ascending the hillside beside a field. Continue ahead, going down 4 steps to cross Gangers Road and keep on for about 350m.

13. Go down 3 steps, then a kissing gate and 2 steps up. Continue on steep footpath parallel to the road. Up 11 steps. After a steep climb, the path comes out at a road junction.
14. Turn right and continue along side of the road. After 100m turn onto footpath that runs parallel to the road. (Enjoy viewpoint at Oxted Downs as you pass).
15. Go down over 100 steep steps to where path turns left. Follow the narrow path until you turn right through a kissing gate then after 70m go through a wooden gate and continue downhill.
16. Bear left at the bottom of the hill and follow the field edge running parallel to M25. Go through Kissing gate and continue until you meet road. Turn right along roadway for short distance. (Be careful - no footpath!).
17. Cross over road at signed footpath and continue ahead up 5 steps. Bear left up the slope through a kissing gate. Continue up the slope until it levels out. Follow the path for 450m and through another kissing gate. Shortly afterwards you will come to the Gateway for end of this section.



Back to Station

From Gateway, head downhill following the Greensand Way along the edge of a field. Near the bottom, turn right through a kissing gate. Follow the path parallel to the field with M25 on your right. Cross over motorway bridge. Veer left, following path across field (keep to right). Continue to bottom of field and follow round to kissing gate. Continue on following a fenceline until you come out at a road. Go straight ahead. Turn right at next junction (Bluehouse Lane) then left into Gresham Road. At the end, turn right into Station Road East to access Oxted railway station or Ellice Road car park.

Points of interest

1. Quality Street



Quality Street took its name from a J. M. Barrie comedy (He is best known as the author of 'Peter Pan'). Actors Ellaline Terris and Seymour Hicks were in the play and lived for a time in the 15th century Old Forge (shown in the photo) at the end of this street.

2. St Katherines Church



The parish of Merstham is mentioned in documents dating from AD 675. The picturesque 13th century church of St Katherine's is thought to rest on an earlier pre-Conquest church. Fragments of Romanesque stone carving have been found built into the walls, and these are now preserved in the church.

4. View from near Hilltop Farm



There are a number of viewpoints along this route but this is one of the most interesting southerly facing views and is a good chance to take a breather soon after the climb up from Merstham.

6. Whitehill Tower



The Tower was built by Jeremiah Long in 1862. His youngest son, was drowned whilst bathing and legend suggests that Long erected the tower in his memory. However, a plaque states that the tower was erected to enable him to 'have a rich view of the country'.

