



04 SURREY REIGATE HEATH & BOX HILL

▶ Distance: 12 miles/19km ▶ Time: 6 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



Gaining height towards the North Downs.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP



CHOSEN BY... FIONA BARTROP

This attractive and varied route makes use of two well waymarked trails, the North Downs Way (a National Trail) for its outward leg and the Greensand Way for the return. The former also coincides with a section of the Pilgrims Way on this walk. Both trails go through Surrey and Kent. The high point of this walk is the National Trust owned Box Hill on the North Downs, from where there are extensive views over the Weald.

1 Start

From car park head along grass on W side of road towards A25, keeping ahead along dead-end road when

road curves L. Cross and go up Colley Lane (bridleway) opposite. Turn L at junction past houses and then R up path towards North Downs.

2 1¼ miles/2km

On reaching foot of scarp slope you enter woodland and turn L along footpath which soon becomes route of North Downs Way (NDW). Stay on path at foot of slope on edge of woodland and keep following NDW signs (should a waymark/signpost be missing, it's worth paying attention to the map so you always know where you are). In due course NDW turns L and heads S to a gate. Just beyond this you go R through another gate and continue to B2032.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Reigate Heath – car parks either side of road, RH2 8AB, grid ref TQ239503

Is it for me? Chalk downland, woodland, heath, river valley, minor roads. Two crossings of A25. Route follows waymarked trails; outward leg involves a lot of up and down, return leg gentle

PLANNING

Nearest town Reigate

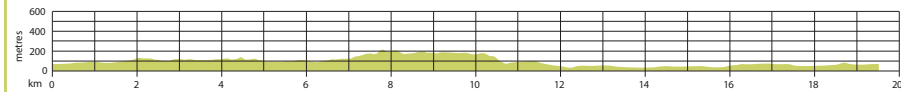
Refreshments Black Horse, Reigate Heath; NT Box Hill café; Royal Oak, Brockham; Grumpy Mole, Brockham; Dolphin, Betchworth

Public toilets Box Hill

Public transport Bus 32 Redhill-Guildford stops at Reigate Heath, Compass Travel (01903 690025). Trains to Reigate

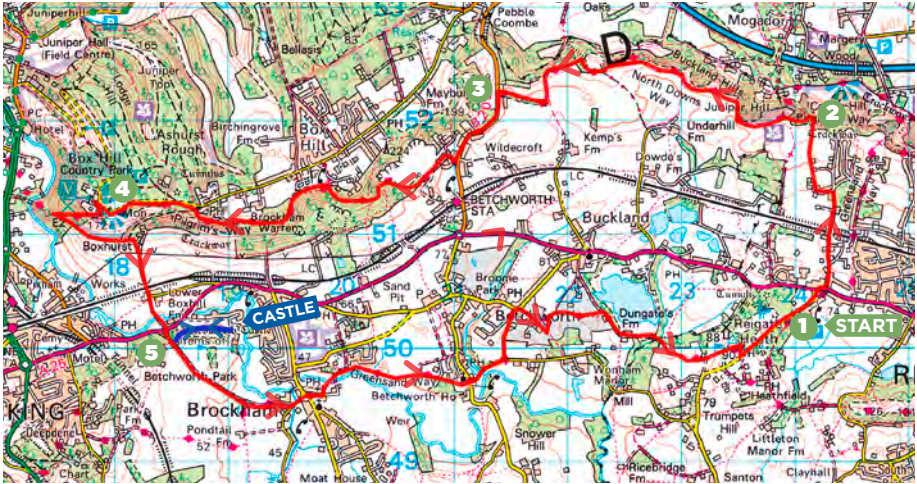
Maps OS Explorer 146; Landranger 187

GRADIENT PROFILE



04 SURREY
REIGATE HEATH & BOX HILL▶ OS Explorer map 146 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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**3** 3½ miles/5.3km

Turn L, cross road and just before bend follow raised path behind trees, which shortly returns to roadside. Fairly soon go R along lane called The Coombe and fork L. Track passes some cottages and becomes a path – bear R at fork. This takes you past former Betchworth chalk quarry and lime works – now a nature reserve (see info panel) – and through Brockham Lime Works site (another info panel). Quarried chalk was burned in kilns to produce quick lime used to make mortar and fertilisers. This area is also notable for its yew trees which thrive on chalky soil. After info board keep ahead uphill. A bit further on, just after you've gone up some steps, there is the gravestone of 'Quick, An English Thoroughbred' up to

your R. Eventually you'll reach Box Hill with its memorial viewpoint and trig point.

4 6 miles/9.7km

For nearby NT café and shop, stay on paved upper path, then retrace your steps to viewpoint. Follow NDW downhill until you reach a gate and turn sharp L (NT Riverside Walk route/pink waymark) downhill beside fence. Turn R along lane, going under railway line and keep ahead as lane curves L. Cross footbridge over River Mole to garden centre car park and A25.

5 7½ miles/12km

Cross with care (via central reservation over to L) and go along drive for Betchworth Park Golf Club. Follow bridleway across golf course towards Brockham. Greensand

Way (GW) joins from R. Bear L at lane, pass pump house on village green, cross road and keep ahead to Grumpy Mole. Soon turn L and follow GW waymarks. These will lead you back via Betchworth (whose church features in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) to Reigate Heath where you pass to R of Golf Club clubhouse and windmill. Turn sharp R down towards road, then along path parallel to road back to car park. NB Around River Mole area there are a considerable number of WWII pillboxes. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING