

First walk check	Second walk check	Third walk check	
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SWC Walk 139 Tadworth via Headley Heath and Box Hill Circular

Length	Main walk starting/ending Tadworth Station	12.1 miles / 19.5 km
	Main walk starting Headley Heath car park	7.0 miles / 11 km
	Shorter walk via High Ashurst starting/ending Tadworth Station	8.8 miles / 14 km
Longer Options	Morning extension via White Hill	additional 0.7 miles/1.0km
	Afternoon extension via North Downs Way	additional 1.7 miles/2.6 km
Toughness	6 out of 10 (460m of ascent). Mainly gentle inclines over well drained paths, but several steeper ups and downs on Headley Heath and Box Hill	
Transport	Tadworth is in London Travelcard Zone 6 on the Tattenham Corner Line. 2 trains an hour (46 mins) from London Bridge, or from Victoria changing at East Croydon.	
Maps	OS Explorer Map 146 Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate	
	OS Landranger Map 187 Dorking & Reigate	
Walk Notes	This walk over the National Trust's picturesque Headley Heath ("open heathland, woodland, and chalk downland") to Box Hill (also NT, with a noted viewpoint) feels very remote even though it starts within London Travelcard Zone 6. The main walk returns via Headley Heath, the more strenuous longer option follows the North Downs Way, with views to the south. Drivers can park on the Heath, cutting out the walks to and the station	
	The walk starts at Tadworth, just south of Epsom Downs, and crosses open downland (and under the M25) to Headley (early lunch pub).	
	At the start of Headley Heath, there are a couple of free car parks. The main part of the walk crosses the open heathland - with a mix of partly forested hills allowing nice views for most of the way. There is an option to visit White Hill (a steep climb) with unexpectedly fine views (also visited on the Box Hill Circular	

Walk). Both routes join to head south onto Juniper Top (more views), before following a gloomy forest track to the Box Hill viewpoint (NT cafe, car park), a perfect (if often crowded) picnic spot. Then it's a short stretch of the North Downs Way along the edge of the escarpment to the late lunch pub.

After lunch there is a choice. The main walk returns across Headley Heath along gentle forested paths, or there is a longer but more strenuous option along the North Downs Way. There is a pub for tea 800m before the station.

Walk Options

The main walk starts from Tadworth Station KT20 5SP, car drivers can shorten the walk by starting/ending in the NT car park at Headley Heath KT18 6NN.

Via White Hill in the morning (Add 80m/250 feet of ascent, 0.7 miles/1km). Climb up towards Stane Street (a Roman road) with far reaching views.

Via North Downs Way afternoon. (Add 150m/450feet of ascent, 1.7 mile/2.7km) This longer more strenuous option follows the North Downs Way along, down and back up the edge of the North Downs escarpment (there are no rights of way along the top of the hill), before re-crossing the M25 and heading back over gentle Corporation of London land to the 'tea' pubs.

Lunch and Tea

The Cock Inn, Headley, 01372 377258. Open all day. Large pub with nice terrace. Mains from £10. This is the early lunch pub after 3.3 km.

Box Hill NT Cafés. Two cafés, one take away, one sit down indoors, both busy and mostly coffee and cake rather than hot meals, mid-way round the main walk.

The Tree on Box Hill, 01737 845966 (was The Box). Large 'modern' pub with an emphasis on food, beer garden, open all day. This is the late lunch pub after 12.8 km. (Well-placed for the Shorter walk via High Ashurst.)

The Kiosk in Headley Heath's Car Park. This is a perfectly placed refreshment option, coming after 14.9 km. Open 9-17.00 daily, in all but the worst weathers.

The Chequers, Walton-on-the-Hill. A Young's pub, open all day with food all day, about 2.0 km before the station.

The Blue Ball, Walton-on-the-Hill. Large food pub on a village green, about 1.3 km before the station.

The Bell, Walton-on-the-Hill. Nice old fashioned small pub 800m before the station. Open from 5.30 weekdays, all day weekends.

Right by Tadworth Station: A Fish & Chips, a Grill & Meze Bar and a Coffee House.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Main walk

For the alternative start from Headley Heath car park see [16] below

Tadworth Station to St Mary the Virgin (3.3Km)

1. Coming off the platform where the London train arrives, walk up the steps to the road and turn left into The Avenue slightly uphill towards the shops. In 100m, continue in the same direction on Station Approach Road.
2. Just after Thai Cottage and just before a former Barclays Bank turn half right up a signposted tarmac footpath for 230m. Turn right on to The Avenue and in 30m turn left on to a track between houses.
3. In 85m the track splits into 4-ways, take the right most path, your direction 245deg initially, and in 60m fork right (290deg) and follow this path through wood for 250m with back gardens visible on your right (ignore ways off to the left).
4. As you emerge from the wood bear right to pass between a coal post and a white barrier in 50m, where you bear left, ignoring a first right turning footpath, and in 90m another one over a stile to the right. The path bends left then right and you continue in the same direction at a crosspaths. Eventually you come out on to Ebbisham Lane.
5. Turn left and almost immediately right into Hurst Road. Ignore a track on the right to The Cotton Mills but stay on the road gently downhill for 160m, fork left on to a bridleway to the left of the double metal gates for the Pony Club Ground.
6. Follow the bridleway downhill across between hedges, in 750m another path joins from the left and in further 240m you pass under the M25 in a concrete box tunnel.
7. Continue on the other side of the tunnel, ignore track to the left after 60m but after 220m fork half right at a three-way sign on a public footpath between fences your direction 260deg. In 320m you can see West London in the distance on the right (due N), here ignore footpaths to the left and right and enter the churchyard of St Mary The Virgin.

St Mary the Virgin to High Ashurst (2.2Km)

8. In the churchyard, there is an unusual flint-built grotto containing the old font and using stone from when the church was rebuilt in 1850. Coming out of the church yard there is a small parking area, follow the driveway out to Church Lane where you turn left.
9. In 35m with the Cock Inn on your left (a possible early refreshment stop), turn half-right by the bus stop down a narrow footpath between hedges.
10. Follow this footpath, your direction 210deg, in 320m ignore a footpath on the left and in a further 125m emerge between houses onto Leech Lane.
11. Turn right along the road but where it turns left, instead of staying on this busy road with no footpath, go ahead into Tot Hill Lane. In 160m turn left into Tumber Street and go uphill back to Leech Lane, cross over with care and follow the gravel Crabtree Lane.
12. Ignore the signposted footpath on the left by an NT sign and stay on the car track for 120m. Turn right with the track between Broom House & Cottage on your left-hand side and Foxglove Cottage on the right and continue uphill on the now narrower, stony path to a gate 100m away to enter Headley Heath.

The heath is a large area with many more paths on the ground than shown on any map. Stay on the main paths and use a compass if you have one.

13. In 60m [!] fork right along the minor path and in 20m ignore a path from the left, then fork left with a bridleway marker post, immediately crossing another path, to continue more or less in the initial direction across the heath (200 deg). The path goes through a dip and in 150m at the bottom crosses another track, then goes through another, minor dip, where a path joins from the left behind. You get to a more open area where it curves left and in 150m at an oblique 5-way junction you continue in the same direction on the main path.
14. In another 80m, at a 6-way junction at an edge by a drop into a valley and with a bench on the half left, you turn right to go down the second path on the right, a wide stony track with the drop on your left, your direction 260deg.
15. In 340m, at the bottom of the valley, ignore steps up on the right and then up on the left (signed 'walkers only') and in a further 30m curve left with the track, and in 50m, part-way around the curve, take a very steep narrow bridleway uphill with a fence on the right to a gate at the top (*Continue at [20] below.*)

Alterative start from Headley Heath car park KT18 6NN (1.3km)

16. From the car park with the Kiosk on your right cross the open grass area your direction 270deg, in 120m go through a gate and continue following the main path gently downhill.
17. In 220 m curve left and right with main ignoring ways off, your direction now 240deg and in a further 350m by a line of trees turn half right joining a path coming in from the left. In 70m you come to a 6-way major path junction at the edge of a ridge, with a bench on the left.
18. Continue straight ahead to go down a wide stony track, your direction 260deg
19. In 340m, at the bottom of the valley, ignore steps up on the left (signed 'walkers only') and in a further 60m curve left with the track, part-way around the curve take very steep narrow path uphill with a fence on the right to gate at the top to join the main walk at [20] below.

For shortcut to the lunchtime pub see [52] below

For a more strenuous alternative via White Hill see [54] below

High Ashurst to Box Hill View Point (3.8km)

20. Go through the gate and bear left immediately, ignoring a right turning path, but in 40m turn hard right through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a double wooden car gate (signed on the gatepost on the right as the 'Footpath to Mickleham') to continue along a car wide lane to the right of the former High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre and follow the lane as it curves to the left around the Education Centre and begins to descend.
21. After 700m you come to T junction with the drive to Bellasis House on the left and take the footpath opposite uphill, your direction 250deg. In 60m, at the top of the rise, you come out into open farmland, stay on the track (soon on tarmac) and in 350m cross over a farm track, take the footpath opposite continuing in the same direction along the fence on the right.
22. In 80m you have some woods on the left, and in 120m bear left with the path into the wood and in a further 70m, just before another path joins from the left, you bear right. In 30m turn right at a T-junction and in 160m ignore a right turn downhill and go over a stile. In 230m you come out into the open at Juniper Bottom. Turn sharp left uphill.
23. Take the broad path up the open grass slope, your direction 135deg initially. In 470m, near the top of the open grass, take the right fork and enter the woods through a wooden gate.
24. Remain on this main gravel path, ignoring ways off, your direction generally 180deg. In 800m, take a right fork with a blue top post on your right and a tree with blue and yellow paint on

your left. You soon cross a bridleway heading down to the right and immediately bear right on a second bridleway, on the level, your direction 250deg.

25. In 170 m at a 3-way junction, you veer left with the path your direction 240deg, ignoring a right turn. Remain on this path for 300m, with blue and yellow marks at intervals on trees marking the route, ignore ways off until you reach an open area (Donkey Green).
26. Follow the path into the open, passing just to the left of a prominent NT donation box and aim for a gap in the trees ahead your direction now 225deg. **(For the NT café follow the path through the main car park.)** Cross the open green and on the far side cross over Zig Zag Road and in 40m you come to the Box Hill View Point.

Box Hill View Point to “The Tree” pub (3.0km)

27. From the view point turn left and follow the main path eastwards towards the woods, in 70m ignore a path forking left, this is the North Downs Way (NDW) and continue for 400m on open hillside with fine views along the valley below.
28. At the end of the open hillside and just before a gate into woods turn left uphill for 30m and turn right through a gate into the woods, now back on the NDW. In 75m ignore a left turn but in another 125m turn left. In 20m bear right with the path through a stepped dip and in another 20m go through another stepped dip to continue past a NDW marker post.
29. In 380m turn left with path up a flight of steps, at the top of the steps turn right with the path. In 400m follow the path as it curves to the right and descends a long flight of steps.
30. At the bottom of the steps turn sharp left to follow a bridleway uphill. In 220m by a signpost, fork right with the NDW.
31. In 340m, just past to a bench-with-views on the right, descend a short flight of steps to a T-junction.

For a more strenuous but quieter and tarmac-free route, see [63] below.

32. For the less strenuous route along a busy road, turn left uphill leaving the NDW. In 70m, a drive joins from the right. Follow the drive to the main road, cross over and turn right. In 180m you pass Ashurst Drive on your left.
33. In a further 400m you come to the late lunchtime pub ‘The Tree’

“The Tree” pub to Headley Heath Kiosk (2.0km)

For an alternative longer ending via the North Downs Way go to [68] below

34. Otherwise turn left out of the pub, walk along Box Hill Road (best on the right-hand side at the end of the pavement) for 330m. Then turn left on a bridleway, also signed Boidier Hurst (but only visible on the back of the sign).
35. In 360m ignore the entrance to Boidier Hurst on the left and in a further 240 m enter Headley Heath through a gate to the right of a wooden field gate.
36. Ignore paths left and right just inside the fence and in 160m go straight on at a crosspaths, your direction 10deg. Remain on this wide bridleway for passing a pond on your left after 220m. Ignore paths on the right leading to a minor car park, but remain on the bridleway for a further 700m, until you come to the gate just before the main car park. Go through a gate to the right of a barrier and take the middle of three paths towards the car park and its refreshment kiosk at its far end (open 9.00-17.00 daily, weather permitting).

Headley Heath Kiosk to Walton Mere Pond (3.45Km)

37. Leave the car park in its far-left corner to the left of the kiosk and continue in the previous direction along a clear grassy path (300deg) and follow this as through the trees and bracken for 150m to then cross a path and continue along a faint path to a white house in 30m (Heath Lodge). At a T-junction with a car-wide track, turn right and in 80m cross Leech Lane with care.
38. Continue ahead on a gravel track and in 40m turn right along Nut Ash Lane. In 50m, at the T junction with Church Lane cross over on to a gravel track, turn left and in 50m follow the track to the right towards the house at the end of it (ignore a narrow footpath paralleling the road). Follow the path which has been diverted around the left-hand side of the house.
39. In 160m, ignore the more obvious left turn of the path and cross the stile on your right and turn left in a paddock to continue in the previous direction (80deg).
40. In 130 m cross a stile and in a further 30m go through a gap in the electric fence. Turn left onto a broad farm track.
41. In 140m just after a black farm building take the right fork with woods on your left. In 440m cross under the M25 motorway in a box tunnel.
42. On the other side of the tunnel in 70m the path divides, the left fork is a private farm track, take the right fork uphill, in 40m turn left with the path with a fence now on your right.
43. In 150m, by a two-arm sign, turn right over a stile into a field. Cross the field uphill towards a clump of trees on the brow of the field, your direction 100deg.
44. In 140m cross a stile and continue along a fence for another 130m, where you bend left with the fence. Cross another stile and follow the path to the next stile your direction now 55deg.
45. Cross this stile and go to the kissing gate where you turn right on to a narrow bridleway, follow this for 180m where it becomes Queens Close and in a further 75m you reach a T-junction with Chequers Lane in Walton-on-the-Hill. The Chequers PH is 50m away to the right.
46. Turn left, follow the road round to the right past a car service garage, and in 80m turn right to cross the green on a tarmac path, then in 55m cross Beech Lane to go into St Peter's churchyard ahead. Follow the path round to the right of the church and continue on the path for 160m to reach Meadow Walk your direction 90deg.
47. Continue along Meadow Walk for 240m to reach Deans Lane where you turn left. In 70m where the road bears left continue onto the green on a tarmac footpath for 70m and then turn left along a grassy path with the Blue Ball PH away on your left. You reach a road junction by a restaurant on the left (Spaghetti Tree) and with Mere Pond across the road.

Walton Mere Pond to Tadworth Station (1.15Km)

48. Cross over the main road and take the track to the right of the Mere Pond. In 40m, by a 'Withybed Corner' road sign, take the right fork and in 340m you come to The Bell, a possible refreshment stop before the station (it's 800m from the bar to the platform). Otherwise, turn right onto a path through the woods (signed 'Footpath to The Avenue').
49. Coming out of The Bell cross the parking area to take the path into the woods your direction 60deg (signed 'Footpath to The Avenue'). In 250m, you come to the point where you entered these woods this morning.
50. Bear left between the houses and turn right at the road, which you cross, and in 30m fork left down the narrow path between houses.
51. Turn left on Station Approach and almost immediately turn right over the rail bridge with the old station building on your left hand side (Fish & Chips as well as The Bridge Grill & Meze Bar). Turn left (opposite the road is The Coffee House, open 8.00-18.00 Mon-Fri and 9.00-15.00 Sat) and follow the signs down the long ramp to the London-bound platform.

Shorter walk via High Ashurst (A shortcut to the lunchtime pub)

This option saves about 5km and the steep ascent up to Box Hill.

52. Go through the gate, bear left, then turn left on the lane (your direction 170deg) for just over 1km to reach a small parking area on the left. In 25m take the left fork and follow this lane (Ashurst Drive) for 700m to the road.
53. At the main road, turn left and in 400m you come to "The Tree" pub on the left-hand side. Re-join the main walk instructions at [34] above.

A more strenuous alternative from High Ashurst to Juniper Bottom via White Hill

This option adds about 1 km and involves an additional climb and a steep descent.

54. Go through a wooden gate and in 15m, just before you reach the lane at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, turn right by a post on to a bridleway. Follow the bridleway round to the left, where in 70m it diverts away from the lane and descends through woods and across a field with fences on both sides.
55. In 420m you emerge on Headley Lane with the flint Cockshot Cottage on you left hand side. At the road, turn left and then immediately right to take the bridleway very steeply uphill.
56. In 500m at a T-junction at the top of the hill, turn left on to a bridleway your direction 260deg. In 60m, emerge onto open ground with an NT sign for Mickelham Downs and an information board on you right hand side.
57. Continue straight on taking the left-most of the three parallel paths on the level open ground with Ranmore Church spire visible ahead on the horizon.
58. After 750m, you pass a bench on your right-hand side and in further 130m and about 50m before the end of the open area, turn left at an unsigned path crossing to enter the woods on a well-used footpath.
59. Follow the path though trees as it bends right and in 250m at an indistinct T-junction, turn left downhill. In 60m, by an old metal fence post bear right with the path and in 40m emerge into an open area with a bench on you right hand sided.
60. From the bench continue ahead following a much clearer, level path your direction 240deg. In 180m the path curves left and descends steeply downhill soon with steps.
61. Cross the road at the bottom, go through the NT White Hill parking area.
62. Take the main track, slightly uphill, into the woods and in 40m fork left through a wooden gate off going more steeply uphill. In 50m, the footpath emerges from the trees and in further 150m (your direction 130deg); it reaches the broad grass slope up Juniper Hill where you can re-join the main walk instructions at [23] above.

An alternative route to "The Tree" pub avoiding Box Hill Road

63. Turn right downhill with the NDW, initially down a sunken path between trees. In 150m you emerge into the semi-open by a green-ringed marker post on the left and with a steep slope on the left (Brockham Hills on the OS map). In 50m you have fine views on the right down to a disused quarry and in 150m continue between trees again along a sunken path.
64. In 80m – just before the trees discontinue on the left – [!] by an unmarked and easy-to-miss crosspaths, you [!] turn left through a minor dip and then steeply up the wooded flank (i.e.: if you come to a large info panel on Brockham Lime Works, you have missed the turning!).
65. The prolonged ascent eventually loses its steepness and you walk parallel to some garden fences 25m away on the left. Ignore any faint paths off and you will come out in a clearing by a long bench-with-views on the right (towards Horley, Gatwick Airport and Crawley).

66. In 50m at an indistinct fork, fork left across grass (ignoring the earthen right fork) and head towards the left of the large concrete water tower visible ahead. You have a mobile homes park on the left and in 60m pass a footpath marker post on the left. The path continues past the water tower and then picks up the drive leading from it.
67. Turn left with the drive and in 25m ignore a signposted footpath on the right. In 150m you reach Boxhill Road by The Tree PH. Re-join the main walk instructions at [34] above.

An alternative ending from “The Tree” pub via the North Downs Way to Walton Mere Pond

This option adds about 2.6 km involves an additional descent and a steep re-ascent.

68. Coming out of the pub, turn left cross the road, and almost immediately turn right through a gap to the left of a wooden field gate. Follow the track with a fence on the right and woods on the left for 170m, then turn left at a three-way signpost your direction 80deg.
69. Remain on the path as it descends steeply in places through the wood until in 540m you come to the corner of a residential road where you turn half-right.
70. In 160m, turn left on to Pebble Hill Road, stay on the pavement on the left-hand side for 300m then take the foot path on the left that runs alongside the road for 450m. Re-join the road, cross carefully to the pavement on the other side and continue for 100m where you turn right on a footpath signed NDW.
71. Follow the broad path along an avenue of trees your direction 110deg for 450m to a kissing gate where you turn left with the NDW. Go through another gate to left of a metal field gate and follow the path gently uphill for 210m between hedges to enter a wood.
72. In 50m leave the NDW as it forks right and continue uphill your direction 30deg. In 350m, cross over a sunken track and bear half-right.
73. Follow the path through the woods for 275m your direction 100deg, curve right and then left with the path to emerge into an open field.
74. Take the left fork on a permissive path straight across the field for 300m towards a bench your direction 80deg.
75. Pass the bench following the path as it curves left, go through a gap to turn left uphill. Follow the path round the right with woodland now on your left and views on the right. In 150m, just after a viewing bench, turn left on foot path up some steps into the wood.
76. Ignore a farm track on the left and another on the right follow the path through the woods your direction 30deg and in 380m cross over the motorway on a footbridge.
77. On the other side of the motorway bear left with the track. In 140m at a T junction turn left on to wide track and almost immediately fork right into the woods your direction 320deg.
78. In 360m at a junction turn sharp right almost back on yourself your direction 110 deg. In 250m you emerge from the wood on to the Walton Heath Golf Course. ***(This course is unusual in that it is on public land and you have the right to roam anywhere. However, this route follows designate footpaths and you will still need to keep an eye out for golfers and balls).***
79. Remain on this broad clear path for 600m to enter a belt of trees followed by a fairway. Cross the fairway and enter the woods then in 30m turn sharp left your direction 340deg.
80. Follow this path just inside the woods, ignore all paths to the right which take you away from the golf course. You will pass several coal posts along this boundary.
81. After 1.8km you reach the Dorking Road (B2032) the cross over with care and take the foot path on the other side by the drive way to Walton House.
82. Follow the path through the woods and in 400m emerge on to a green. Bear left towards the Mere Pond your direction 330deg and re-join the main walk instructions at [48] above.