

11 Turn right down the bridleway and follow the path to the end. The path is bordered by a private mixed woodland. In wetter areas are alder trees considered uncommon in Greater London.

12 The path emerges at Farnborough Common Road. Turn right and walk along the verge to the traffic lights then turn right returning to Farnborough Village. Continue up Farnborough High Street and turn right between numbers 34 and 38 up to Pleasant View Place and the playing fields beyond.

13 Follow the waymark signs back to the byway. Descend the steps and turn left to return along Tye Lane to the starting point. A short distance from the start is the medieval flint-faced church of St Giles the Abbott. A large yew was planted outside the west door in 1639.



## How to get there...

### BUSES:

358 Orpington to Crystal Palace  
R4 St Paul's Cray to Locksbottom  
R8 Orpington to Biggin Hill

### TRAIN:

Nearest station: Orpington

### CAR:

Turn onto High Street Farnborough B2158, off the main A21, in Farnborough.

### PARKING:

On-road parking in surrounding roads in Farnborough village.

Please check: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) for further details or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

## Additional Information...

This 4.5 mile walk starts in Farnborough village and takes the walker through wooded countryside and parkland. There are several historical points of interest including an Iron Age earthworks and Medieval churches.

### Short route from Point 3:

Take the left turn then cross the open field to the woodland ahead. At the crossroads, take the footpath to the left, immediately before a seat. Walk on through the woodland and continue along the edge of the field. The farmer has left the corner of the field uncultivated for public use. Cross this area and head for the churchyard of St Giles the Abbott, there is a seat at the entrance. Leave the churchyard through the lych-gate and return to the village starting point.

The name Farnborough in Old English is 'Fearnberga' meaning ferns on a little hill. This ancient parish belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster in the reign of Henry III. Its high ground once flourished with coppiced woodland and in the 1800s with fruit and vegetable farming.

# Walks



## around the Borough



Image © David Griffiths

# Farnborough

Life is better outdoors...

**Starting point:** The junction of Church Road and High Street, Farnborough.

**Distance:** 4.5 miles

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Short route:** Point 3 to Point 1

# Farnborough

- 1 Starting at the junction of Church Road and Farnborough High Street, you enter a conservation area in which many of the buildings are listed. A plaque on the village's central island describes its history further. Head for the footpath between numbers 4 and 6 on Church Road and continue, down Tye Lane, an old highway flanked with hedgerows.
- 2 Continue straight on past the steps on your right and at the squeeze posts the lane becomes a footpath emerging onto open fields. Carry straight on and skirt Mill Hill Wood - there are good views across to High Elms Estate. Towards the end of the wood the two routes separate. Continue straight on for the circular walk or turn left for the short walk - see additional information.
- 3 Carry straight on across the field and enter the next belt of woodland called 'The Larches'. This pre-war plantation is now a mixed woodland of larch, beech, ash, oak, cherry and locust tree. Wild flowers include vervain, St John's wort and vetch. Turn left after 160m through the wood and exit. John Lubbock's stone lies along this path. This old boundary marker defined the old Lubbock Estate dating from 1808. The Lubbock or High Elms Estate was transferred to the Council in 1965.
- 4 Emerging from the woodland, walk around the right-hand edge of the field to Shire Lane. Cross the lane with care, to the footpath opposite. Continue across the field to the path junction.
- 5 Turn right descending down a path known as Bogey Lane. This ancient highway is lined with hazel hedges laid in a traditional manner, forming a stock proof barrier. Over parts of the hedge trail old man's beard, so called because of its fluffy seed heads which appear in autumn. At the end of the path turn right into Farthing Street and round a couple of bends returning to Shire Lane.

- 6 Cross again, with care to the field entrance opposite and follow the path to the left, crossing a cow track half way round. There are good views of the magnificent Holwood manor house flanked by two large cedars.
- 7 Leaving the fields of Holwood Farm, turn right and walk up towards Holwood Estate, once the home of William Pitt, Prime Minister from 1785 to 1803. He replanted the already famous and admired grounds. Continue on to the top of the hill arriving at the remains of the Wilberforce Oak. The seat here, erected in 1862, commemorates William Wilberforce who, at this very spot, resolved to abolish the slave trade. Close by lies Caesar's Camp, an Iron Age earth works forming an 100-acre enclosure used by tribes to defend themselves. This site is listed, together with the one at Keston Common, as a scheduled ancient monument. Walk on towards the Common. Beside the path are two ancient pollarded oaks, relics of bygone days when open common ground was grazed by livestock.

- 8 Cross Westerham Road onto the common and turn next right, taking the path along the bank bottom to the car park. The common's thin acid soil supports a different type of heathland vegetation including heather, bracken, gorse, bilberry, broom, birch and oak.
- 9 Carry on straight across the car park, down the steps to Caesar's Well. This spring is the source of the River Ravensbourne and in the 18th century it was used as a public bath for curing rheumatic limbs. The spring flows into Keston Ponds, man-made structures created by John Ward in the 19th century to supply Holwood House with water. The autumn colours at the ponds are spectacular.
- 10 Follow the signs past the ponds to the green at the junction of Fishponds Road and Westerham Road. Turn left onto the pavement and walk 200m beside the main road towards bridleway 220.

