



North Downs Way - Section 5: Oxted to Otford

12 miles (19.3 km) allow 4.5 hours

Stroll high above the Darent Valley on top of the North Downs chalk ridge. Pass the Greenwich Meridian Line and ramble from Surrey into the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.









View from the start point

How to get there -

Parking: The Ridge car park (0.5 miles from start) or Otford Station

Train: Nearest stations: Oxted and Otford

Bus: No buses between Oxted and Otford

S	Start	Near Oxted Nearest postcode CR3 7AE
///	what3words	garden.bets.party
F	Finish	Otford station TN14 5QY
///	what3words	tend.pans.limp
	Gates	30
	Stiles	1
	Steps	8
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, chalk.
	Views	Great views from the Downs
	Refreshments	Plenty of options in Oxted and on arrival in Otford

Route description

1. With the woods on your left walk straight following the edge of the field. Pass through 2nd gate, down steps and turn left onto a woodland track leading uphill for 0.5 miles.
2. Pass through gate at top of hill, turn right passing roundabout. Where the path ends cross road, bear right into woods for 0.5 miles. Turn left up steps, continue straight then turn right along wooded footpath to a road.
3. Turn right crossing the road then immediately turn left through gap in trees, continue straight. Walk up steps through gate left across field. Continue along edge of field, turn right through gap in hedge passing through a gate. Follow path which will turn to gravel underfoot, continue ahead (views on your right).
4. Pass through a large wooden gate and on to a second on the left. Continue up steps which lead to a road. Cross the road when safe and turn right. Take the road in the middle called Chestnut Avenue. Follow this surfaced tarmac road through the woods. Continue straight for 0.5 miles.
5. Turn right onto The Avenue and continue straight for 1 mile to a road. Take care when crossing. Go through the gap, down the steps turning left along the field edge uphill. Continue into woods through a gate. The woodland will open into a field. Continue straight turning left into the woodland.
6. Continue straight up the steps, through a gate. Walk uphill with electricity pylons on your right. Pass through another gate and bear right. Turn right on a track and continue through the gate into a field and another gate keeping right. Continue straight keeping the open field to your right and woodland on your left.
7. Turn right at the top of the field, continue straight until you reach a gate at the edge of the field (electricity pylons on right). Through two gates, bear left into field. Keep close to the tree line on your left. After a short distance you will see a gate on your left.
8. Pass through the gate and turn right onto a narrow footpath with a fence either side. After a short distance the path will fork, continue straight ahead through the gate. The footpath will weave through the woods until it reaches a gate and waymarker.
9. Turn right before the gate and through a small gap into a field. Keeping the fence on your left continue across the field. At the bottom of the field turn left through the gate and follow the edge of the field passing through another gate until you reach a road.
10. Walk through a wooden gate, cross the road and through a second wooden gate into a field. With the trees on your left continue straight through a wooden gate leading onto a small country road. Cross this road and through another wooden gate into a field.
11. Continue straight passing through two more gates before you reach a third in the top corner of the field. Walk through this gate and turn right along the edge of a field with trees on your right. Continue straight for 500 metres, passing a tall hedge field boundary.
12. At the second field boundary turn left. At the boundary line turn a sharp right, follow footpath around this corner and continue straight through the gap. In the next field follow the field edge straight ahead to the end of the field and turn left, along the top edge of the field.
13. Look for a gap in the hedge on your right and pass through, cross the lane and through a gate opposite into a field. Continue straight, pass through a gate into woodland. Stay on this path through woods. The path will bear left then right. After this continue straight until you reach a metal gate.
14. Go through the gate and turn right. Follow path around the edge of the field. You will soon reach a wooden gate, look to your right and you will see a view to Chevening House. Continue straight passing through a metal gate and on until you reach a small lane.
15. Pass through the gate and turn right onto the lane. After 10 metres then turn left through a wooden gate and walk straight across a field with the field boundary on your left. Pass through the gate and bear right following the path straight through a section of woodland.
16. At the gate turn right to cross this field diagonally (do not turn sharp right here and do not pass through the gate 20 metres away) Follow the path with the tree line on your right and across the field is Starhill Road. Keep on this path with trees either side until you reach a wooden gate with panoramic views ahead.
17. Pass through gate, bear left and follow the footpath with the trees on your left. Below is the Darent Valley. Follow this path to the bottom of the hill you will reach a metal rambler gate with chains, pass through and bear left around edge of field. You will soon reach a road.

WARNING: The next section of road is very busy with fast cars. There is no official footpath.
18. Climb over the stile, cross road and turn left. The embankment is the safest place to walk. Continue straight to the roundabout. Turn right and cross the M25 Motorway. After 1/2 mile turn left at Rose and Crown Pub on London Road. 200 metres on right is Donnington Manor Hotel.
19. Turn right on path before hotel and continue straight for 1 mile passing through woodland, under electricity pylons and straight across a field, through a gate, over a railway line, straight ahead onto Telston Lane. At the intersection with Hale Lane continue straight until you reach a T-junction with Pilgrims Way West.
20. Turn Right onto Pilgrims Way West and walk straight for 0.5 miles until you reach a Roundabout. Continue Straight with Otford Roundabout duckpond on your right. On your right after 300 metres you will see Station Approach and a sign for Otford station. The walk finishes here.

Directions from Oxted Station to Starting Point

Exit the station on to Station Road East and turn right and walk downhill. Turn left onto Gresham Road and continue to follow this road until you reach a crossroads. Turn right onto Bluehouse Lane.

After a short distance turn left onto Park Road and continue to the top where you will see a track leading to a school with gates. Follow the footpath to the right of the gates. The footpath will follow a fence on your left, pass through a gate at the end and follow the footpath as it bends around the field boundary with trees on your left.

This will lead to a bridge across the M25 Motorway, continue across and as soon as you finish crossing stay on the narrow footpath on your immediate left (do not enter the field here). Pass through a gate and join the field here uphill to a gate. Your walk will start here.

Points of interest

1. Greenwich Meridian Line

As your walk along the first footpath, look out for the Greenwich Meridian Line Plaque. It will be hidden in the trees on your left. This plaque marks the point where the Greenwich Meridian Line crosses both the North Downs Way and the Vanguard Way.



14. Chevening House View

Look down a narrow avenue of trees past a fire beacon to the Darent Valley below. If it is a clear day you will see Chevening House which is a Grade 1 listed country house usually occupied by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.



16. View of Darent Valley from Star Hill






A highlight viewpoint from the gate at the top of Star Hill. You are looking out across the Darent Valley here.



20. Otford Duckpond

The duckpond in the middle of the roundabout is the only duckpond in England to be granted listed status.



-  Start
-  Gate
-  Steps
-  Viewpoint
-  North Downs Way

