

THE Darnley TRAIL



This 10km circular route links Shorne Woods Country Park with the rolling countryside beyond the A2. Ideal for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, it takes you through highlights including Cobham Park, Ashenbank Wood, Jeskyns Community Woodland and has fantastic views of the North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve. Multiple entry points and shortcuts make it easy to tailor your route. Horse box parking is available at Shorne Woods by arrangement.



SHORNE WOODS COUNTRY PARK



Brewers Road, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3HX
03000 41 47 47
Kentcountryparks@kent.gov.uk
www.kent.gov.uk/kentcountryparks

HOW TO GET THERE

By car

Signposted on the A2 between Gravesend and Rochester, at the Cobham and Shorne junction. Parking charges apply.

By bus

Find the local bus route and which operator you need to use to plan your journey by visiting www.traveline.info

By train

The nearest train stations are Sole Street (2.6 miles, 4.2km) and Higham (3 miles, 4.8km). For rail enquiries visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

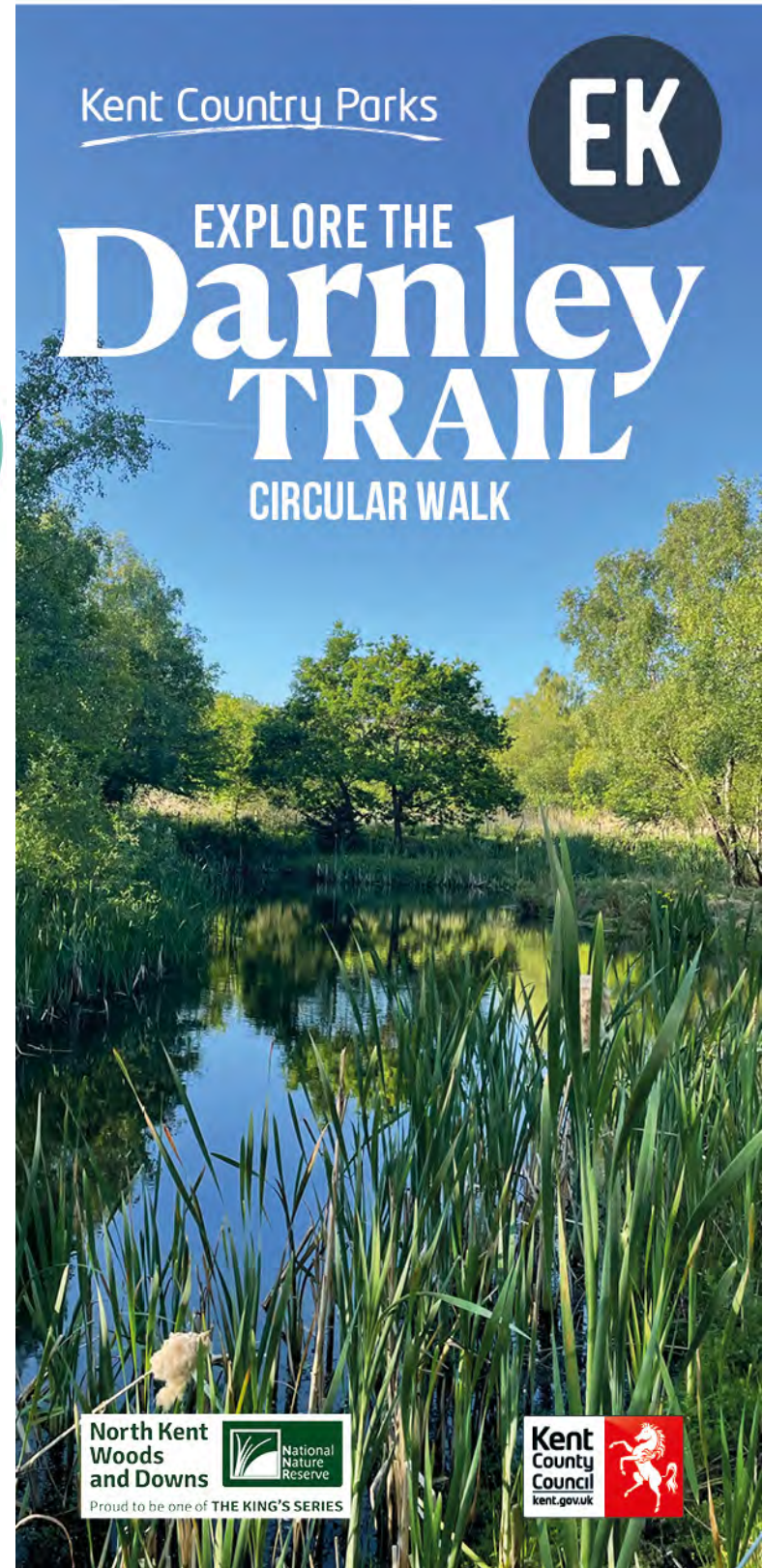
For more information about the best routes to Shorne Woods Country Park download the Kent Connected app.

Kent Country Parks

EK

EXPLORE THE Darnley TRAIL

CIRCULAR WALK



North Kent Woods and Downs



Proud to be one of THE KING'S SERIES



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07/26



EXPLORE COBHAM & SHORNE'S COUNTRYSIDE

Discover some of North Kent's most beautiful landscapes, set within the Kent Downs National Landscape and the North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve. Wander through ancient woodland, bluebell-filled coppice, wide meadows, and newly planted orchards - perfect for peaceful strolls and stunning views.

THE NORTH KENT WOODS AND DOWNS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

This NNR was created in 2025 as part of the Kings Series National Nature Reserves. The reserve is the result of a shared commitment to safeguarding nature, bringing together landowners, conservation groups, and local communities to create a thriving, connected environment. The NNR covers over 20 km² from Shorne Woods to Wrotham Water. This trail is a great opportunity to explore the NNR.

SHORNE WOODS COUNTRY PARK

A Green Flag award-winning haven with 292 acres of woodland, meadows and wetlands. As part of the Kent Downs National Landscape and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, it offers rich wildlife - from dormice and bats to orchids and dragonflies. With accessible trails, an inclusive playground and a Changing Places toilet, everyone can enjoy exploring this diverse park.



JESKYNS

Created in 2007, Jeskyns offers 360 acres of orchards, meadows, ponds and newly established woodland. Nearly 7km of accessible trails make it perfect for families, cyclists and dog walkers. Kids will love the imaginative natural play areas, including the popular tree house.

COBHAM PARK

Home to historic Cobham Hall and the famous Darnley Mausoleum, this picturesque landscape blends parkland, pleasure gardens and quiet woodland. Cobham Wood, cared for by the National Trust, is open year-round. Cobham Hall's gardens open on selected days- please follow waymarked trails and keep dogs under control.

ASHENBANK WOOD

A mix of ancient woodland and historic wood pasture, Ashenbank is rich in wildlife and heritage. Spot veteran trees, Bronze Age remains and relics of WWII. Two waymarked routes guide you through this peaceful Woodland Trust site.



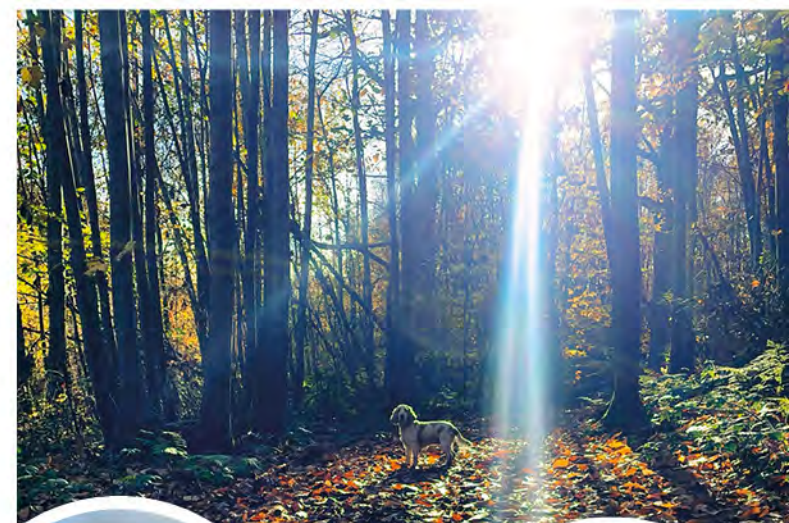
THE Darnley TRAIL



Please note: This is a shared user route so please be aware that cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians all use this path, dogs must be kept under close control. There are steep slopes and in the winter areas can get very muddy so take care.

- 1 From Shorne Woods main entrance, cross using the Pegasus crossing and follow the wide track through Brewers Wood. At the crossroads, turn and walk downhill to the boundary at Park Pale Road.
- 2 Exit through the gate then turn left along Park Pale Road.
- 3 Take the first left signed for Cobham Golf Course and cross the A2 across Park Pale Bridge.
- 4 Go under the railway, then turn left through the swing gate. Follow the path between the railway (left) and golf course (right) to the Darnley Trail fork. Take the right fork near the fields.

- 5 With the fields on your left and woodland on your right, cross the narrow grassland area between two fences, then bear right keeping the wire fence close on your right.
- 6 Continue up the steep slope for approx. 300m to the top.
- 7 At the top, cattle grid on your right, continue straight into denser woodland.
- 8 Bear right and follow the undulating trail for 800m, fence on your right. Pass three kissing gates, and look right for views of the Darnley Mausoleum. Descend the steep slope and steps, then take the right hand track at the bottom.
- 9 Continue past a gate and cattle grid. After 650m, pass a beech clearing and keep right by the fence. Continue past an old quarry on your left.
- 10 At the kissing gate, do not go through. Turn left into coppice woodland for approx. 300m.
- 11 Pass through a bridle gate /horse stile, bear right towards the buildings.
- 12 At the thatched cottage (South Lodge) turn left into Lodge Lane. Follow it for approx. 700m to the War Memorial.
- 13 Route Choice at Point 13



Option 1: Through Cobham Village

- 14 Continue straight into Cobham. At 'Owletts' turn right up the public byway into Jeskyns Community Woodland. Please note vehicles may be present on this track.
- 15 To your left in the distance, you can see the tree house and Henhurst Lake with its wooden boardwalk.
- 16 At the brow of the hill (Hollybush Corner), look left to see two 6m high sculptures marking the highest point of Jeskyns.

- 17 Near the bottom of the hill, look right to see two mature trees (an Oak and a Sweet Chestnut) framing a view of Ashenbank Wood in the distance.
- 18 Continue up the track to enter woodland, Chambers Hill Woods to your left and Well Shaw to your right (both privately owned).
- 19 Cross the railway bridge. At the T junction, turn left and cross the A2 bridge.
- 20 Pass 'Inn on the Lake' and enter Shorne Woods via the metal kissing gate.
- 21 Follow woodland path uphill. At the junction turn right and continue through ancient woodland.
- 22 At the next major junction, turn right, then bear left onto the concrete path that's a remnant of the old clay workings in the Country Park.
- 23 At the next path junction there are 2 options:

Option 1: Turn left and follow the arrows eventually onto a wide surfaced track that will lead you up to the visitor centre, car park and café at Shorne Woods Country Park.

Option 2: Turn right and follow the arrows to continue the Darnley Trail (go to 24).

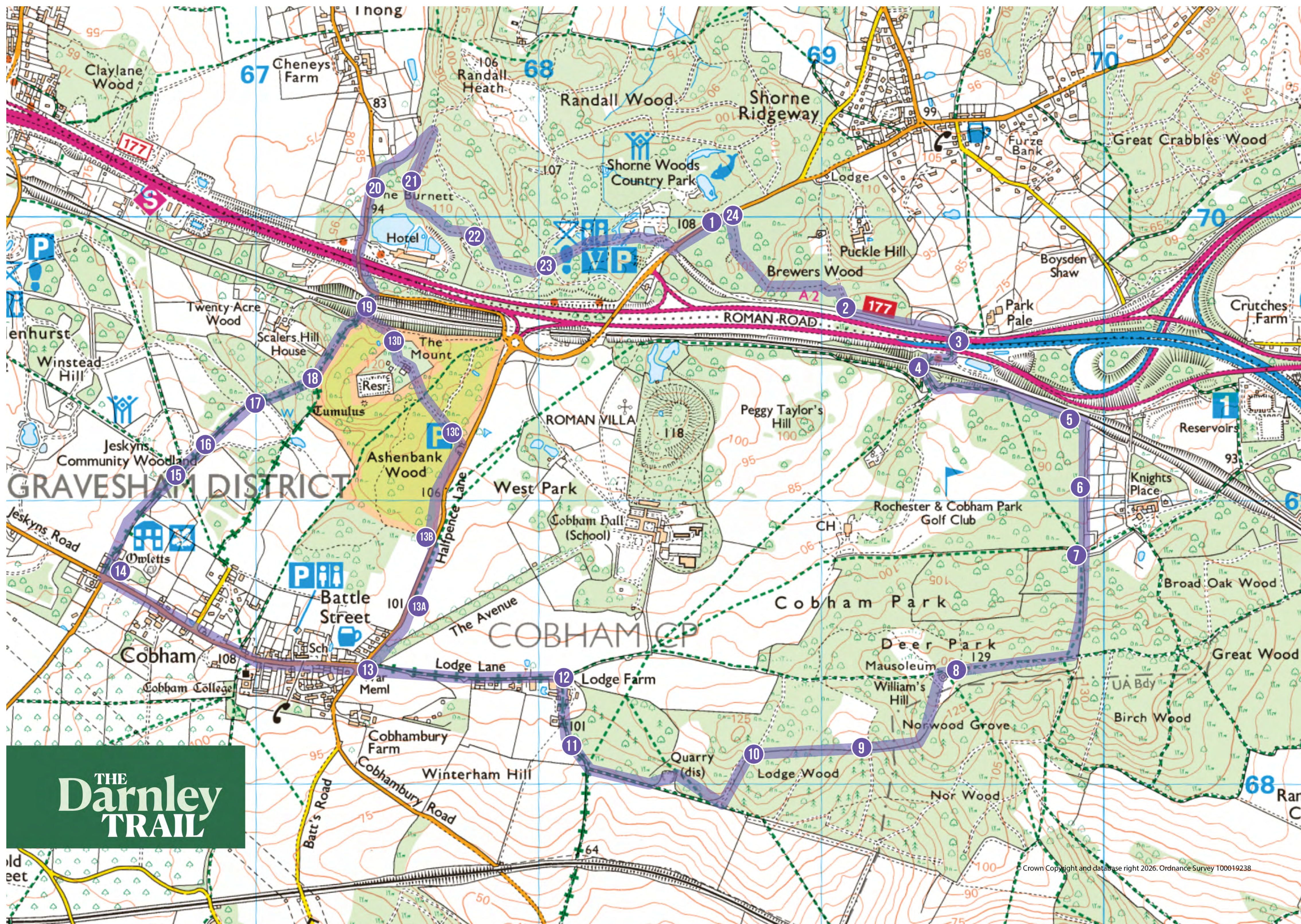
- 24 Follow the waymarkers, turn left before the kissing gate, continue parallel to the road, cross the main entrance drive, and return to the Pegasus crossing (point 1).

Option 2: via Ashenbank Woods (13a – 13d)

- 13A Turn right into the fenced area for about 900m (fence on right, hedge and road on left)

- 13B Enter Ashenbank Wood via the horse stile and continue parallel to Halfpence Lane.
- 13C Turn left onto the public right of way for 50m, then turn right at the wooden 'squeeze gap' fence to follow the waymarked woodland track.
- 13D Go through the horse stile, turn right onto a surfaced track, rejoin at Point 19, then follow directions back to Shorne Woods Country Park.





GRAVESHAM DISTRICT

COBHAM CP

THE
Darnley
TRAIL