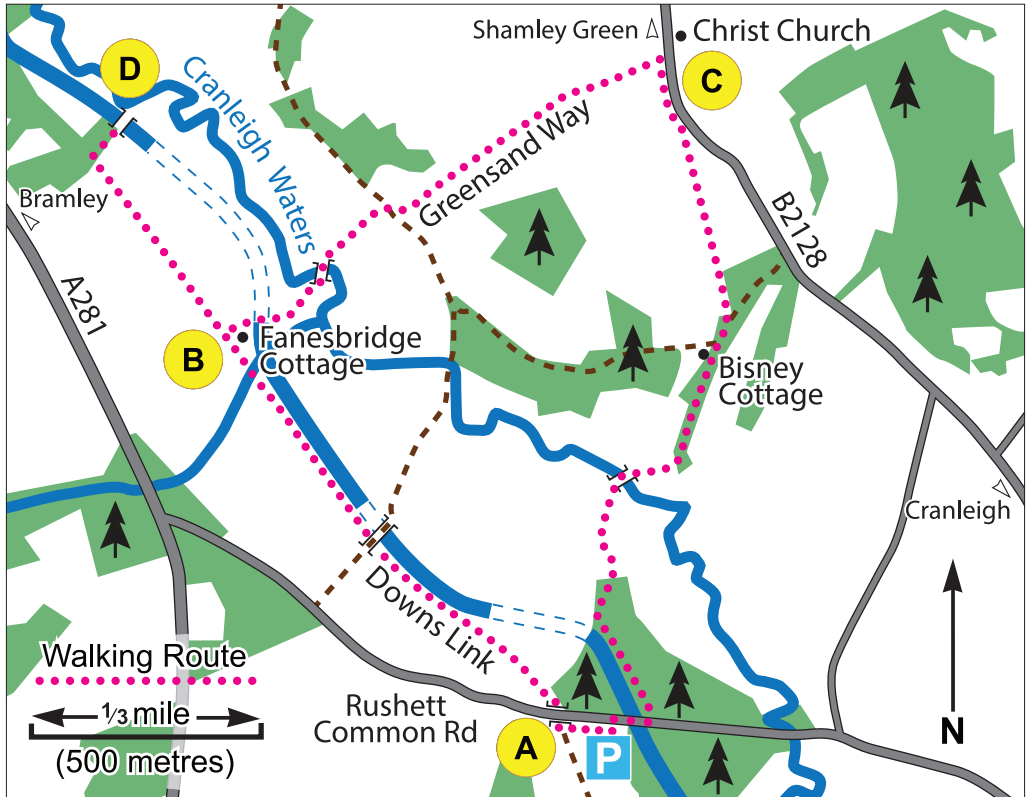


Walks around the Wey & Arun Canal

Run Common to Fanesbridge walk plus optional circular extension (2¼ miles/3.5km or 3 miles/5km)

This walk explores a section of the Wey & Arun Canal north of Run Common, south of Bramley, Surrey. It uses the Downs Link long-distance path for easy access to a number of current canal projects and offers a longer extension to visit the wider area and enjoy views to the Surrey Hills.



To reach the start of the walk from the A281 south of Bramley, take the secondary road signed to Cranleigh (Rushett Common Road). After 0.7 miles the road goes over a new bridge - just beyond, park by the side of the road on the right hand side (south side) opposite a small green sign which says "You are now crossing the Wey & Arun Canal".

Start the walk by walking west along the south (parking) side of the road. Take the informal path which runs parallel to the road and remains level as the road rises on a recently constructed embankment. Follow this path for 200m to reach the Downs Link track at (A) and turn right onto this track passing under a brick bridge. The Downs Link follows the bed of the old railway line from Horsham to Guildford via Cranleigh. Closed in the 1960s Beeching review, it has since become a popular mixed pedestrian/cycle route.

After 200m, the Link crosses over a farm track. Look right here and you can see the start of the canal bed at the base of a telegraph pole about 50m away. There was a bridge over the canal here – it has disappeared and the canal has been filled in to the right. After a further 300m, the Link passes under a brick bridge.

It is possible to detour here to see the other end of the canal bed – to do so head right just beyond the bridge, then left to join the bridleway above – the bed can be seen on the right just before a large bend to the left. There was a bridge over the canal here – it has disappeared and the canal has been filled in to the left.

After another 150m along the Link there is a Canal Trust noticeboard. The canal bed is immediately adjacent to the Link here and the bed is easily seen although not publicly accessible. After another 400m there is a major brick bridge (B) which carries the Greensand Way long distance path over the Link.

From here it is possible to detour to the newly constructed 'Birtley Bridge 1' (D). Continue north along the Link for 400m and turn right through a new gate signposted as a permissive footpath. After 200m reach the bridge, which was constructed by Canal Trust volunteers in 2018-19. The temporary wooden deck here will in time be replaced by a lifting deck capable of supporting farm vehicles. The Birtley Circular Walk runs north from here around this section of canal, which is intended to be put fully in water in due course and used for water activities.

The main walk joins the Greensand Way access - climb up to the road above via a slope and steps then turn left to cross the bridge. Pass the Grade II listed Fanesbridge Cottage on the right, parts of which date back more than 400 years, and descend the slight hill to an open field accessed by a new gate. The canal formerly crossed the track here, although nothing can be seen today.

The land here has been purchased by the Trust with a view to installing a bridge similar to that at Birtley and digging out the canal to join the Birtley section. The canal would also be extended south alongside the Downs Link towards Run Common. 200m south of this point is the site of Fanesbridge Lock, one of 26 on the route of the canal, which would be restored as part of this project. For a shorter walk, retrace your steps to the Downs Link from here and return south along it to the parking area.

To explore the wider area, continue NE along the Greensand Way. Follow the faint track through the field behind the gate – shown as a bridleway on the OS map – to the concrete bridge at the far end on the left. Cross the bridge and follow the path through a gate after 150m. 50m further on cross a metalled road staying on the Greensand Way – turn right and immediately left then through a gap in the hedge signed GW.

Follow the track up the left side of the field which becomes a path after 500m with a hedge to the left and a fence to the right until you reach Christ Church car park (C). If required, Shamley Green has several refreshment options 500m along the main road to the left.

To return to the start, follow the signed footpath on the right between the church carpark and the road. This follows the road for 150m then continues straight ahead across a field – the footpath sign points the route over a gentle hill to the corner of the wood beyond. From there follow the left edge of the field and then left through the hedge to join a track. Turn right to emerge at Bisney Cottage. The public footpath detours slightly to the left here to avoid their driveway.

Cross a stile and turn right to follow a faint path across the field to a concrete bridge then a stile. A clearer path then leads past the ruined Run Farm on the left to reach Run Common Cottage. Turn left onto the access track signed as footpath. After about 50m a footpath to the right takes you to the edge of a final 200m dry canal section which leads back to the parking area.

**If you have enjoyed this canal walk, why not try another?
Please pick up a leaflet from our Loxwood Canal Centre or Shalford
Information Point. The routes are also available on our website.**

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