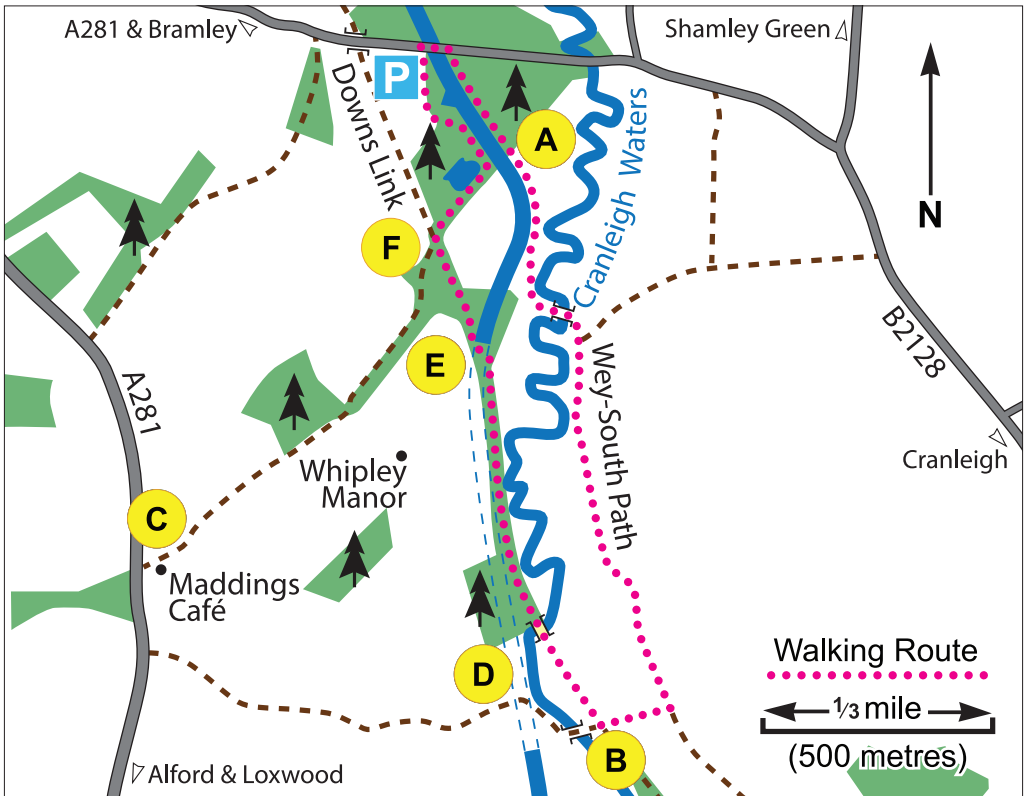


# Walks around the Wey & Arun Canal

## Run Common to Whitley Manor Circular Walk (2 miles/3.5km)

This circular walk explores a section of the Wey & Arun Canal south of Run Common, south of Bramley, Surrey. It uses two long-distance paths - the Downs Link and the Wey-South path and offers easy walking with views to the Surrey Hills as well as a number of canal features.



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 a very short distance along the road across the deep trench on both sides which marks the line of the canal bed. On the far side of the trench, turn right down the footpath, signposted Wey-South Path, and follow the path along the side of the canal bed.

The canal soon widens at the site of the “Navvies’ Hole” where boats could be turned. After the canal closed this became a popular place for swimming and recreation. After 275m from the road the canal bottom can be accessed on stepping stones at (A).

Return to the Wey-South Path and after 100m cross a stile to the left and emerge onto farmland. The path heads right across the field here and crosses a bridge after a further 300m. Turn right onto the signed route. After 50m go over the stile behind the gate on the left, then follow the path round to the right – still signed Wey-South Path. Cross a bridge after 200m, then take a left fork to follow a wide path heading slightly right fenced on both sides. Go slightly uphill across fields and after 350m turn right over a stile and along a fenced footpath across a field. Cross the stile at the end of the footpath and emerge onto the Downs Link at (B).

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.

Cross the Downs Link and follow the path across a wooden bridge and along the right hand side of a wood for 250m to the Palmers Cross Bridge (D). This is now a wooden footbridge – it gives a good view of the canal bed in both directions.

If you are thirsty at this point, the Maddings café lies 1.2km away on the A281 marked (C). Follow the track along the right hand side of the field to a bend after 200m, then follow the footpath sign to the left of the tree line until you reach a small wood to the rear of Whiplely Manor Farm. Follow the path through the wood to the road, then go 150m north to the Farm.

Enter through the gate – the café is in the compound to the right. To rejoin the main route, follow the tarmac drive signed to Whiplely Manor for 550m to a right hand bend. Then turn left and right to follow a path to the left of a hedge and then through a metal kissing gate into a wood. Beyond the wood emerge onto the Downs Link; follow it for 200m to the right to visit the Railway Bridge described below. Note the café is closed on Mondays.

If not going to the café, retrace steps to the Downs Link and turn left on it. Cross a bridge over the Cranleigh Waters after 250m and continue north. Note that the canal bed is out of sight in this area beyond an area of woodland at the bottom of the railway embankment. This woodland is private and should not be entered. Through the trees to the left catch glimpses of Whiplely Manor which dates back to the 17th century.

After a further 600m you reach a brick wall on the left (E). This wall is part of a structure built to allow the railway to cross the canal, which required complex engineering because the narrow angle between the railway line and the canal. A Canal Trust notice board at the end of the wall provides further information. The end of the structure is marked by a wall on the right after 50m.

Continue along the Downs Link for another 300m to a signposted crossroads (F). Turn right through a gap in the fence between two concrete posts. Go straight on at a junction to pass a large pond on the left. At the end of the pond turn left – the path soon emerges into an open field – follow round the right hand edge to return to the main road and the car park.

There is another 200m of canal bed to the north of the road you might wish to explore; alternatively our Fanesbridge walk starts from here if you would like a longer excursion.

**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.**

*The Wey & Arun Canal Trust, Northern Office  
Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford GU4 8EQ, Tel: 01483 505566  
email: support@weyandarun.co.uk. Website: www.weyarun.org.uk*