

Horsell Walks C3: Cheapside Horsell Common and McLaren Park

Time: 2 hours, Distance: 4.5 miles

Extension: McLaren Park Circuit - Time: 2.30 minutes, Distance: 5.5miles

1. Horsell High Street to Chobham Road: Start at the Beijing Restaurant facing Horsell High Street. Turn right and walk past Seymours Estate Agents. Cross Meadway Drive and Thornash Rd until you reach South Road. Turn right. After approx 200m go into Russell Road. On the right side you will see a footpath going between two high hedges, next to number 73. Follow this footpath which emerges into Heather Close: go straight across on the footpath to Viggory Lane and turn right. Keep going across a small bridge onto a woodland path until you reach Horsell Common Road. Cross onto the footpath opposite and in 20 m you reach South Road. Cross onto the other side of South Road turn left until you see "The Plough" pub. Turn right into the car park, past The Plough and onto the rough road "Cheapside" until you reach the busy main Road, Chobham Road (½ mile)
2. Chobham Road to Sandy Track Car Park: Take great care: look both ways when crossing onto the triangular traffic island while crossing Chobham Road then look left to cross the one- way carriageway. Take the narrow footpath immediately opposite until you join the main track. Turn left and go down the track, after 100m turning right into Sandy Track car park.
3. Sandy Track car Park to The Gallops: On entering the car park turn left at the information board into the woodland. Follow round to the right and emerge from the woodland into a wide, open clearing (the former model aircraft field). Go straight on with heather on your right and passing a very regular roundish shaped tree on your left, then back into the woodland after 100m. Keep going straight on an obvious path ignoring any other path then keep straight on onto a brighter, narrow path with young willow and silver birch. Watch for bricks on the ground. Come to a wooden barrier then the path crosses a ditch. Go slightly uphill and bear gently right. Ignore the path to the right and go straight on. At the T junction turn right onto a broad track.
4. The Gallops to Silver birch walk: you are now on the track known as "The Gallops" and it soon gets much wider. Look right ahead in the distance and you will see wooden barriers across The Gallops. Continue straight on and between the first set of wooden barriers, take the path on the left coming to a lovely row of silver birch with heather on either side. Keep to the main path until you reach a fallen log seat on your left. Go left and after 20m keep left on the path through the trees. At the next fork (50m) bear right heading straight for the house which is just visible through the trees. Ignore path off to right.
5. McLaren Park: Soon you will see a couple of semi-detached houses through the trees ahead. Cross the track and take the path next to the high hedge to the right of the house into McLaren Park. Keep on the wide path as it goes gently left into the meadows. You will soon see a pond on your right but take the left fork onto a grassy path going gently uphill with the pond and picnic table and 5 trees on your right. As the path slopes gently downhill you pass a bramble patch on your left, take the path forking to the left. Walk towards a

black notice board and the start of a board walk through a marshy area. Continue on board walk crossing three bridges and finally you get onto the main cross track.

6. *Back to The Gallops and then onto Sandy Tack and the Danewell Gutter Pond:* As you cross the third bridge onto the main cross track, look ahead and cross onto the narrow footpath straight opposite. This goes in to the trees but soon emerges into an open area. Keep straight ahead and at T-junction turn right. Continue for a further 100m and at a cross path turn left. This narrow path after a short distance emerges onto The Gallops by the gorse bushes (see end of para 3) (At this point it is possible to retrace your steps via the model aircraft field but) Turn left onto the Gallops and keep straight on until you reach the barrier where you will turn right onto a track at a sharp angle. The path has heather to the left and after 100. Go across a cross path which goes through the pines, gently curving left and then straight on. The path can be hard to see because of pine needles. After 150m the path emerges at a wide cross path. Turn right
7. *Sandy track to Chobham Road:* You are now on Sandy Track, a long straight track which crosses Horsell Common from South West to North East. After a few meters you will see a large pond on your left called "The Danewell Pond" fed by the Danewell Gutter which drains Horsell Common. Continue straight down this wide track until you reach Sandy Track Car Park. Turn Left out of the Car park onto the main track and walk almost to the very end of this track and take the narrow foot path on the right which cuts the corner between Shores Road and Chobham Road
8. *Crossing Chobham Road to Cheapside:* Caution: make sure you can see one-way traffic coming from your right and cross to triangular traffic island. Now look both ways for two-way traffic (often very busy). Cross and turn right then immediately left into Cheapside.
9. *Cheapside to Horsell High street:* Continue past The Plough pub and take the narrow footpath and cross Morton Road and carry straight on down the footpath into Grobars Avenue. When you emerge from the footpath turn left into Grobars Avenue. At the end of Grobars Avenue turn right into Hammond Road. Follow Hammond Road all the way until you get to Meadway Drive. Turn right into Meadway Drive. At the end of Meadway Drive turn left into Horsell High Street and back to the Beijing Restaurant.
10. *Possible Extension within McLaren Park;* It is possible to wander on the tracks for a much greater distance than this walk provides. You can see the Headquarters of McLaren where world class racing cars are manufactured and tested.