

# INSPIRING VIEWS

## North Downs Way

NATIONAL TRAIL



## Silent Pool, St Martha's Hill

## and the Optohedron

Allow 3 hours

This walk follows public footpaths and bridleways which cross private and public land. Please respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

### ROUTE DESCRIPTION

#### START TO NORTH DOWNS WAY

From Silent Pool car park, take path which starts between two noticeboards. Follow this path to reach junction with vehicle track (Albury Vineyard entrance to your left). Stay with fence on your right as path leads past Sherbourne Pond. At junction in path you will come to Silent Pool ahead, with a handy bench to sit and enjoy the atmosphere. Turn left up flight of wooden steps to reach T-junction with higher parallel footpath. Turn right along this, with vineyard running on your left. Stay

with mainly chalk path as it climbs steeply up to join North Downs Way (NB path can be very slippery).

#### 1 NORTH DOWNS WAY TO NEWLANDS CORNER

At top turn left to join North Downs Way (NDW) heading west. You will pass a waymarker post with a purple arrow and this Purple Ox Trail (POT) is route you will be following throughout. For this stretch, NDW follows a fairly level wide track, stay on this and you will come to the 'Optohedron' on your left. This artwork was created by Will Nash. It is based

A 6 mile scenic walk around a popular area on the North Downs Way in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Nestling in a hollow at the foot of the North Downs, Sherbourne Pond & Silent Pool are fed by springs. Part of St Martha's church dates back to the Norman period, although several circular earthworks nearby suggest much earlier occupation.

on natural geometry and includes three kaleidoscopic elements. Following your rest stop, head back to the NDW to continue until you emerge alongside a vehicle barrier and junction with A25. Cross over this very busy road with care and enjoy the spectacular views for which Newlands Corner is well-known. Follow stone path to car park. Bear left and walk length of car park to end, passing toilets and visitor centre to right.

#### 2 NEWLANDS CORNER TO KEEPERS COTTAGE

At far end, pass alongside vehicle barrier and continue directly ahead on obvious path running along an avenue within woodland. Continue on woodland track.

Further along track look out for fingerpost on right which marks a permissive horse ride. Do NOT take this, instead keep ahead for 10 metres to reach small waymarker post on your left (POT). Turn left and follow path into trees. Path swings right leading you under several large yew trees. Look for next waymarker and follow arrow onto path swinging steadily left downhill and you will emerge into a parking area.

Cross over and take continuing POT path directly ahead. The stone path swings left. At next waymarker post turn sharp right onto a stone path heading downhill through trees. Keep left at fork and be aware you are approaching a road, after a staggered barrier. Cross over and take steps directly ahead. At top, path swings left to run parallel with road on your left. Stay with this roadside path as it leads you steadily downhill until you reach T-junction with Keepers Cottage ahead - a half-timbered black and white cottage.

#### 3 KEEPER'S COTTAGE TO ST MARTHA'S CHURCH

Turn left alongside gate and then

immediately right onto stone track signed NDW, passing cottage on your right. Soon after fence ends on your right, you will pick up next POT waymarker. Stay with this path leading to major junction, marked with a couple of waymarker posts. Turn right here to join permissive horse ride, marked as POT. Follow main obvious path and as you pick up next waymarker post, stay with POT bearing left heading uphill to reach T-junction. Turn right and you will pass a stone boundary marker dated 1933. 20 metres later, turn left onto sandy path leading you uphill once again. At top of hill you will come to St Martha's Church ahead.

#### 4 ST MARTHA'S CHURCH TO WATER LANE

Turn left immediately before church, joining NDW once again and passing church on your right leading you to southern edge of hilltop. Superb views here. The two villages in valley below are Chilworth (ahead) and Albury (left). Turn left to join wide sandy path with fence and views running on your right. Just as fence ends you will come to a fork, keep right and follow this path fairly steeply downhill. Stay with main path (POT) heading gently downhill, ignoring all side paths. Towards bottom you will pass brick pillbox on your left and, soon afterwards, path leads you directly into St Martha's Hill car park on Guildford Lane.

Cross car park and turn right along Guildford Lane for 50 metres and then turn left to join signed public bridleway (POT). Stay with left-hand fence line, further along path leads you past woodland on your right. Beyond woodland you will come to crossroads with grass track. Go straight ahead through gap in hedge and walk diagonally right across field (about 1 o'clock). As your path reaches right-hand

fence line, fork right between old gate posts to join narrower path into trees and scrub.

Stay with path as it leads steadily downhill and then steeper to reach junction with sunken lane, Water Lane.

#### 5 WATER LANE TO END OF WALK

Turn left and then immediately right to join stone access public bridleway. After passing house on right, keep directly ahead alongside gate and follow path between fields. Simply follow this path climbing steadily and you will reach Timbercroft, house on your right. Continue ahead, passing house and smallholding paddock on left. Beyond this paddock, follow vehicle track ahead and at fork, bear right to join smaller path leading you through trees.

You will come to junction with concrete access track for waste facility site, so take care of any lorries. Cross over and continue ahead on woodland path.

When you reach stile, cross it into field (NB may be holding livestock, keep dogs on leads) and walk straight ahead following left-hand fence line. Another of Albury's churches (the gothic Apostolic church) is ahead and to your right. At far side cross stile and then go through kissing gate to reach A248. Cross over with care and turn left along pavement, which is separated from road with hedge. You will come to junction with A25 dual carriageway. Use designated crossing point to cross dual carriageway and you will come to Silent Pool car park.

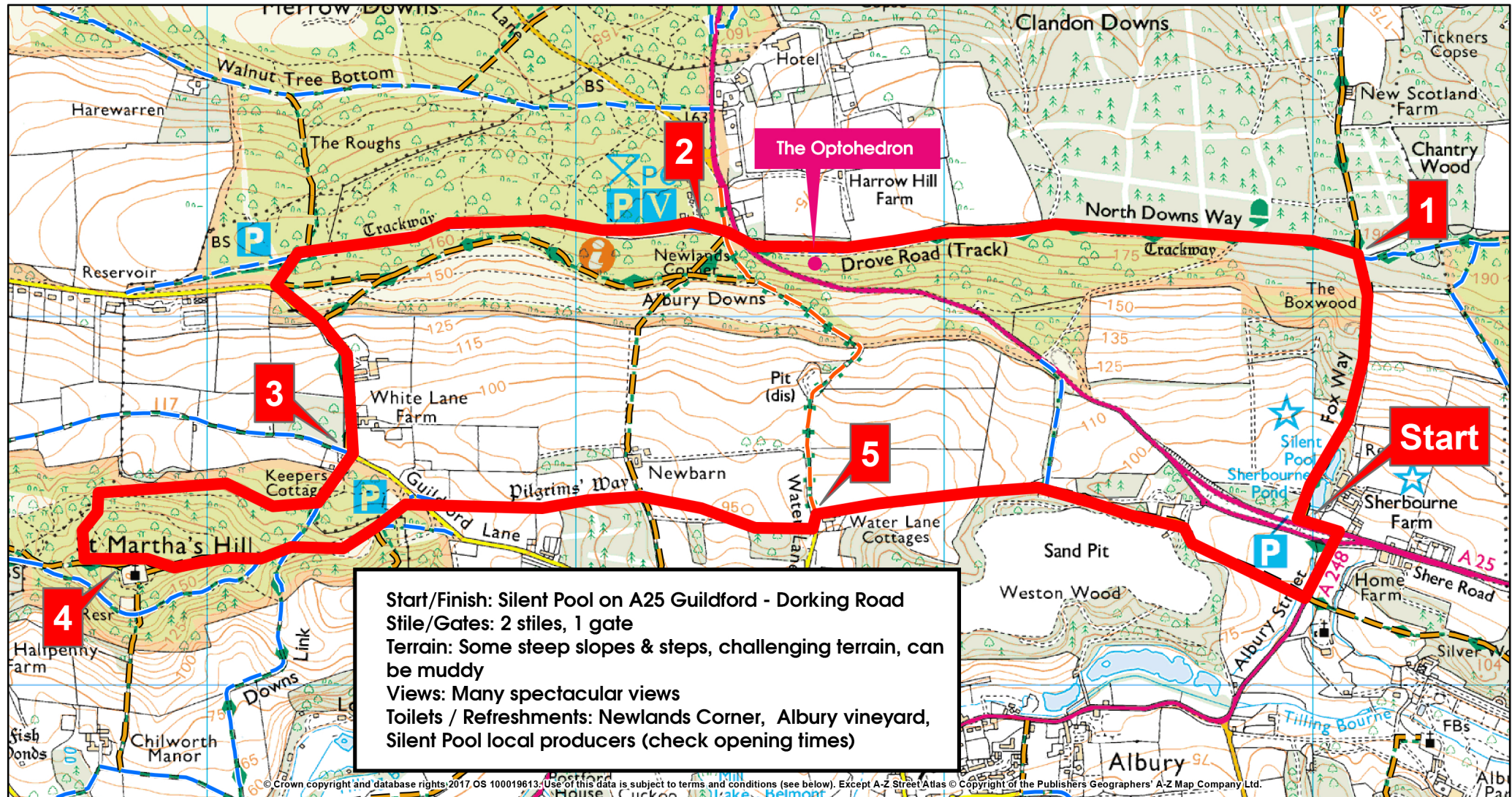
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SURREY

# Silent Pool, St. Martha's Hill and the Optohedron Walk



1:15,000

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## HOW TO GET THERE - GU5 9BW

**Car** - Silent Pool free car park (cars only, due to width restriction), about 5 miles SE of Guildford on A25, opposite junction with A248.

**Bus** - Route 25 serves Guildford to Newland Corner, at point 2 of this walk.

**Train** - Chilworth Station about a mile from point 4, St Martha's Church.

For help planning your journey by public transport, please visit: <http://journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info>

## RIGHTS OF WAY

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- BOAT
- Restricted byway