

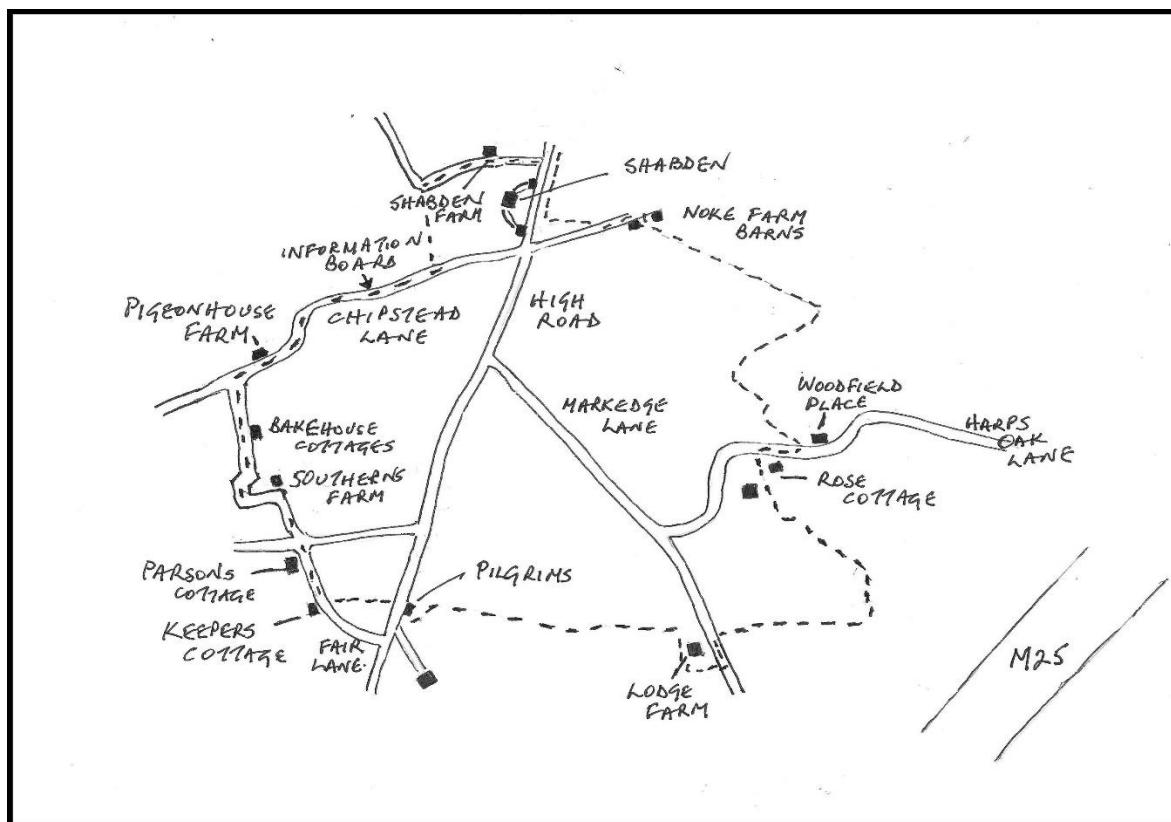


Historical Chipstead walks

4. Eastern Chipstead

Overview

The walk is about four and a half miles long. It starts at Shabden and loops through farmland on the eastern perimeter of the old Parish (mostly following the yellow pilgrim signs for the Shabden & Upper Gatton Circular Walk) and returns along the quiet Fair Lane and the somewhat busier White Hill and across a field. The attraction of the walk is more the spectacular views than the history.



Directions

Park at the entrance to Shabden Park Farm. Walk west along the High Road past the cricket club. Opposite South Shabden Lodge cross the road and take a metal gate into the wooden area known as The Grove.

Walk along the 'Coffin Path' in The Grove and emerge onto Hogs Cross Lane. Turn left, walk for 100 yards and take the drive on the right just before Noke Farm Barns. Continue straight through a gate onto a track.

Follow the track for 100 yards and as it turns to the left take the narrow footpath on the right through some trees for 100 yards until you reach a large field. Follow the

edge of the field 500 yards downhill until you meet a track at the bottom. Turn right on this track into another large field. Walk uphill along the righthand edge of the field and then along its far edge following the tree line.

At the far corner take the path to the right that goes through some trees. After emerging onto some wasteland walk 50 yards and then branch left at a signpost into some trees bordering another large field. Continue along this path until you meet a farm track coming from the right. At this point take the left-hand path, after 20 yards cross a stile and through a field to another stile and then right along the path until it meets Harps Oak Lane.

Turn right on Harps Oak Lane. After about 200 yards take the track on the left past Rose Cottage and then Boors Green Farm. Take a gate on the left into an open field, turn right and cross it and take a gate into another field. Cross this field keeping the trees on your right until you reach a gate. Turn left then after 40 yards turn right following a sign. Walk through some woods for about 200 yards.

At the point that the track starts a steep descent towards the M25. Take the track to the right along the top of the field. After about 350 yards there is a bench on which you can sit and admire the view. The path bends right soon after the bench and you continue along the footpath until you reach Markedge Lane.

Turn left on Markedge Lane and after about 150 yards go through a metal gate on the right and head back towards Lodge Farm (this has been newly built on the site of what was once Fanny's Farm). Skirt Lodge Farm's fence until you find another metal gate. Go through it and cross directly across the field (150 yards). When you reach the treeline turn left, do not take the metal gate straight on. Continue up the side of the field 200 yards to the corner. Cross the stile into the woods.

Follow the footpath through the wood and cross a stile into parkland with views over Upper Gatton Park. Upper Gatton House was once owned by Rev. John Tattershall (owner of the Merstham limestone quarries) but the Georgian building was demolished after the Second World War and its stable block converted into the modern residence. Pass a disused air raid shelter and keep to the right of the parkland (landscaped by Capability Brown in the eighteenth century) for about 400 yards until you reach the High Road alongside Pilgrims which is dated 1872.

Cross High Road opposite Pilgrims and follow the footpath sign ahead of you into a field. Cross the centre of the field for about 400 yards heading towards a building (Keepers Cottage) in the far righthand corner. Take the gate onto Fair Lane.

Turn right on Fair Lane and follow it to the junction with Rectory Lane. On the corner is Parson's Cottage. This seventeenth century house was used by the rector when the Old Rectory was let as labourers' cottages. Continue straight ahead onto Southern's Lane passing Southern's Farm and Bakehouse Cottages (dated 1590) until you reach Chipstead Lane.

Turn right on Chipstead Lane passing first Pigeonhouse Farm (a rather neglected listed building) and then an Information Board about Shabden Park Farm. About 400 yards past the Information Board the road starts to climb. About 70 yards further on there is a footpath sign in the bushes on the left but there is no access to the fields. 80 yards past this there is another sign this time with access through a gate. Enter the field and go straight ahead across it until you reach a gate with a flint track beyond.

Turn right up the flint track. Pass Shabden Park Farm and return to the parking area by the side of the High Road.