Access through the barrier and go down the hill. Take care if it's wet as the slope can become slippery. At the bottom kissing gate turn left and walk along the field headland, then turn right past the large beech trees down towards the railway.

Family Off-road Cycle Route

This trail is approximately 7km (4\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles) long, follows a firm surface and will take about 1\(\frac{1}{4}\) hours, it is waymarked by posts with a cycle symbol. The trail is also suitable for the more robust type of off-road pushchair and four-wheel disabled buggy/scooter.

**WARNING:** This trail uses a short section of public road, the rest is within Norbury Park. Be prepared to meet farm vehicles and timber lorries. Back Drive possesses speed humps.

Start from Fetcham car park (height restriction at entrance) take the track in front of the information board.

The woodland on your right is called The Hazels and in the past has been coppiced regularly - cut down to just above ground level and allowed to regrow - to provide bean and pea sticks. In springtime the woodland floor is covered with primroses, which attract numerous feeding insects.

The woodland in the distance on your left is known as Fetcham Downs. Some 60-100 years ago much of this area was open grassland but left unmanaged it has gradually reverted to woodland.

Longcut Barn on your left was once used as a holding pen for the sheep which used to graze the downland. The woodland to your right is a mixture of softwoods (pine) and hardwoods (beech and oak). When you reach the large open grassland area look to your right and you will see the former gamekeeper's cottage. The trees in the middle of the grassland attract green woodpeckers, which feed on ants and insects. Look out for their undulating flight and listen for their loud, laughing cries.

On reaching the picnic site take Back Drive past the sawmill gates. This route was the tradesmen's entrance to the house so they were not seen using the front drive! Eventually on your left you will come to a fingerpost saying 'viewpoint'. At this point dismount or ride carefully down to the viewpoint, which gives a spectacular view of the Mole Valley.
Rejoin Back Drive and continue until you reach a fork in the road, take the right-hand track to Crabtree Lane car park. This area was badly affected by the storm of 1987 and the beech trees that were lost are being replaced by natural regeneration of ash and sycamore.

From the car park turn right. (Turn left if you want Boxhill station, although the road is steep and used by cars so take care.)

Continue along this road to the cottages at the end. Glance to your left and you will be rewarded with superb views towards Dorking and Ranmore church.

At the cottages follow the bridleway track past the barway. Eventually the track forks, take the right-hand track. Appearing ahead of you is Roaringhouse Farm, so called because of its position in this windy valley. Note the old granary on the right set on pillars. This was done to allow air to circulate and to prevent mice and rats from stealing the grain stored inside.

Continue straight on until you reach Longcut Barn crossroads. From there retrace your tracks back to the car park.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. If you have any comments, the Countryside Ranger for this site can be contacted on 07968 832508.

Surrey Wildlife Trust’s mission is to protect and regenerate Surrey’s wildlife.

The Trust is a registered charity (No: 208123). In partnership with Surrey County Council we currently manage 80 sites covering over 4,000 hectares of land, for nature conservation and public enjoyment. This includes the Trust’s own nature reserves, SCC’s countryside estate and land managed under access agreements with private landowners. A further 3,200 hectares are managed under a grazing contract with the MOD, making Surrey Wildlife Trust, in terms of land managed, the largest Wildlife Trust in England.

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Norbury Park

Norbury Park is made up of an attractive mixture of woodland, chalk grassland and various farmed fields and lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Due to this rich variety of habitats it is an important haven for many plants and animals and a large part of the Park has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

An ancient site, Norbury may have been one of the Mickleham manors mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The Locke family built the present Norbury Park house in 1774 and since that time the house has been altered and changed hands on numerous occasions. Although the house and its grounds are still in private ownership, Norbury Park itself was the first area of countryside purchased by Surrey County Council in 1931, to protect it against development. Today the Park is managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust on behalf of SCC and includes three tenanted farms Bocketts, Swanworth and Norbury Park.

Norbury Park lies mainly on chalk, with a clay ‘cap’ on the higher ground. These soil types support different woodland communities: beech, yew and ash are found on the chalk areas and the clay soil supports oak and chestnut. Areas of hazel and sweet chestnut coppice add diversity and support spring flowers like primroses and bluebells. Look carefully and you may see signs of roe deer and badgers which frequent these woods.

Many of the woodland areas are managed for timber production, some of which is sold, the rest being utilised by the on-site Norbury Park sawmill and workshop to make gates, signs and picnic tables.

Much of the Park features areas of open grassland which are grazed in winter. During the summer months they play host to a wealth of flowering plants, which in turn attract many insects.

The River Mole winds through the eastern part of the Park on its way to join the Thames. Watch quietly for the kingfishers, herons and moorhens which can all be seen in and around the water.
Today many groups and volunteers are involved in the practical management of the site, under the guidance of the Site Ranger. If you would like to become involved with this work please contact the Ranger direct.

Self-guided Circular Trail

This is an easy walk 3.5km (2.2 miles) in length, which should take about 1 1/2 hours. Follow the green marker posts. There are some kissing gates but no stiles. Farming is an important part of our living countryside and care should be taken when crossing fields and using gates. Dogs should be always kept under close control.

Start from Young Street car park (height restriction at entrance), turn left after the information board down towards the river then right through the kissing gate. This stretch of the River Mole is stocked with coarse fish by the local angling club. As you walk along the bank, watch out for a flash of turquoise from a kingfisher as it patrols the river.

Pass under the railway, you are now at the northern end of the Norbury Park Tunnel. The railway between Leatherhead and Dorking was opened in 1867 and was a major feat of engineering. On either side of the path are the remnants of an old box hedge. Note also the large decaying beech butt, which is host to various types of fungi in the autumn.

On reaching the tarmac front drive, climb the hill to pass the front gates of Norbury Park House. A comprehensive history of the house can be found at the picnic site, a little further on.

The picnic site has been created using timber from Norbury Park, which is processed at the nearby sawmill.

Follow the trail into Updown Wood, a mixture of young tree plantations and mature oak and beech trees. This area was badly affected by the Great Storm in 1987. It is hoped that the new trees will eventually refill the canopy. In springtime the woodland floor is a mass of colour, carpeted with primroses and bluebells. Go quietly and you may catch site of roe deer.

On your left look for a large sculpture made from cedar of Lebanon, which was erected in 1992.

On reaching the corner of the woodland, near the bench, go to the field edge and look to your right; on a clear day you can see the skyline of London.
For details of public transport in Surrey call Traveline 0870 608 2608
www.traveline.org.uk

OS Explorer map 146 covers this area.