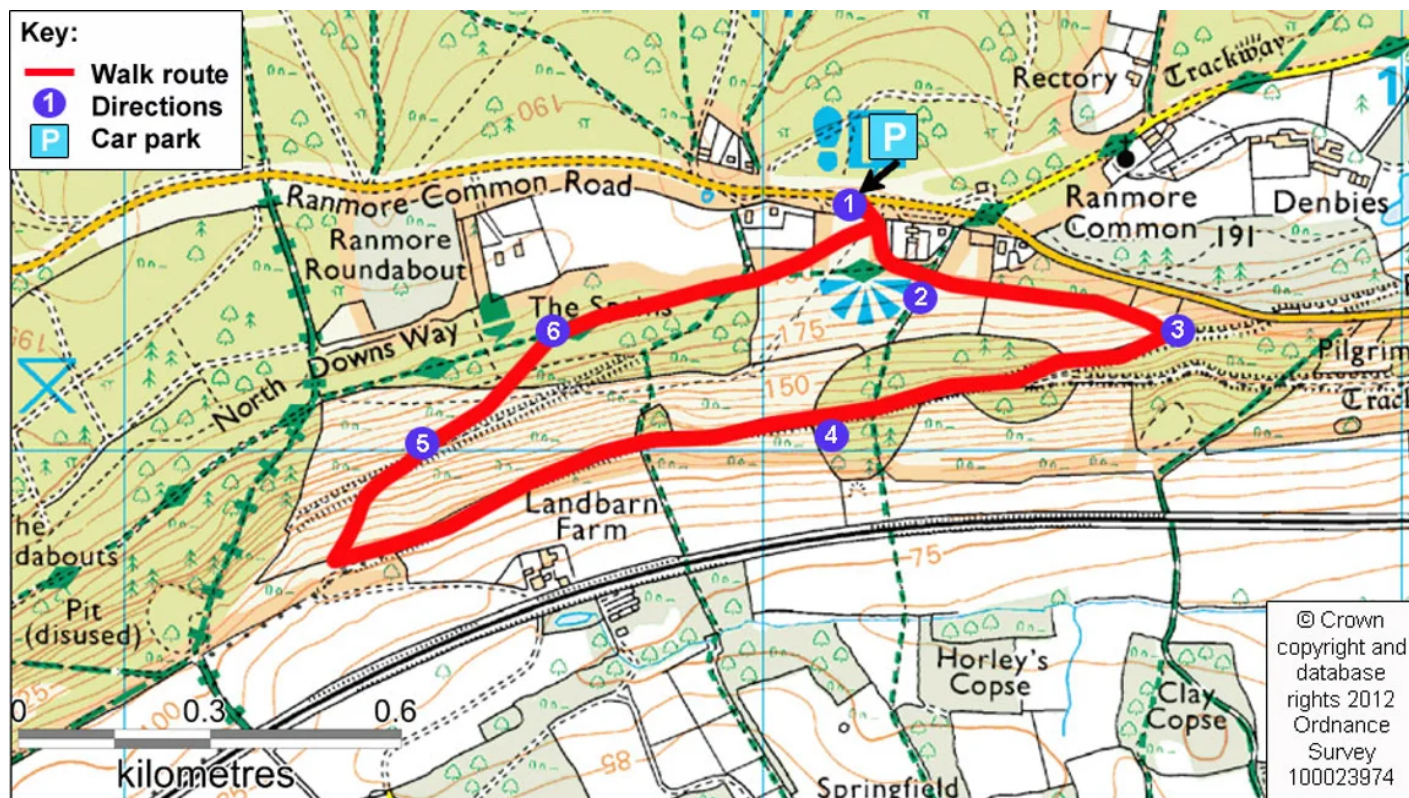


SURREY

Denbies Hillside nature walk

Enjoy this invigorating walk across Denbies Hillside, which takes you along part of the North Downs Way National Trail, across grassy chalk downland and down through dappled woods. Look out for the Belted Galloway cattle quietly grazing, the British bee orchids amongst the grassland, and other plentiful wildlife along the way.



Information

Address: Ranmore Common Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6SR

OS map: Landranger 187; Explorer 146

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Moderate terrain with fairly steep ascent back to car park. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome. Please keep them on leads when livestock are grazing.

Full trail: Miles: 2 (km: 3.2)

Duration: 2 hours

Terrain

Moderate terrain with a fairly steep ascent back to the car park. Well maintained but naturally uneven paths, which may become muddy and slippery after wet weather.

Total steps: 6

Start point: Denbies Hillside car park, grid ref: TQ141503

1. Leave the car park and walk south through the marked opening into Steers Field. This field opens to impressive views across to Leith Hill, with Dorking to your left and Holmbury Hill to your right.
2. Following the orange waymarkers for the Denbies Hillside nature trail, go through the gates into the woodland.
3. At the bottom of the wooded slope, turn right onto a section of the Carriage Road. Walk along the road fringed with various trees including yew, horse chestnut and laburnum. At the T-junction at the end, turn left and retrace your steps towards Dorking.
4. If you fancy a rest then turn left at the post and into the small wood, where you can enjoy the cool shade and listen to the birds up in the canopy. Return to post 4 and continue along the Carriage Road. At the bend where the road swings left towards the railway line, turn right.
5. You're now following the Denbies nature walk. The path goes up the hillside and through a kissing gate into the Big Field. Here you'll find a mixture of scrub – including dogwood, hawthorn, elder and dog rose – which provides an excellent location for nesting birds. Continue the steady climb up along the south-facing scarp slope. This path is known as Fox Lane, after the Fox Inn, now a private residence. Make sure to stop every now and then to admire the views.
6. At the top of the field, pass through the kissing gate back into woodland. Continue to walk uphill through beech, yew, hazel coppice and wild alder. At the top of the ridge, turn right to join the North Downs Way. You'll soon come out of the wood, through a gate and you're back in Steers field at the top of Denbies Hillside.

End point: Denbies Hillside car park, grid ref: TQ141503
