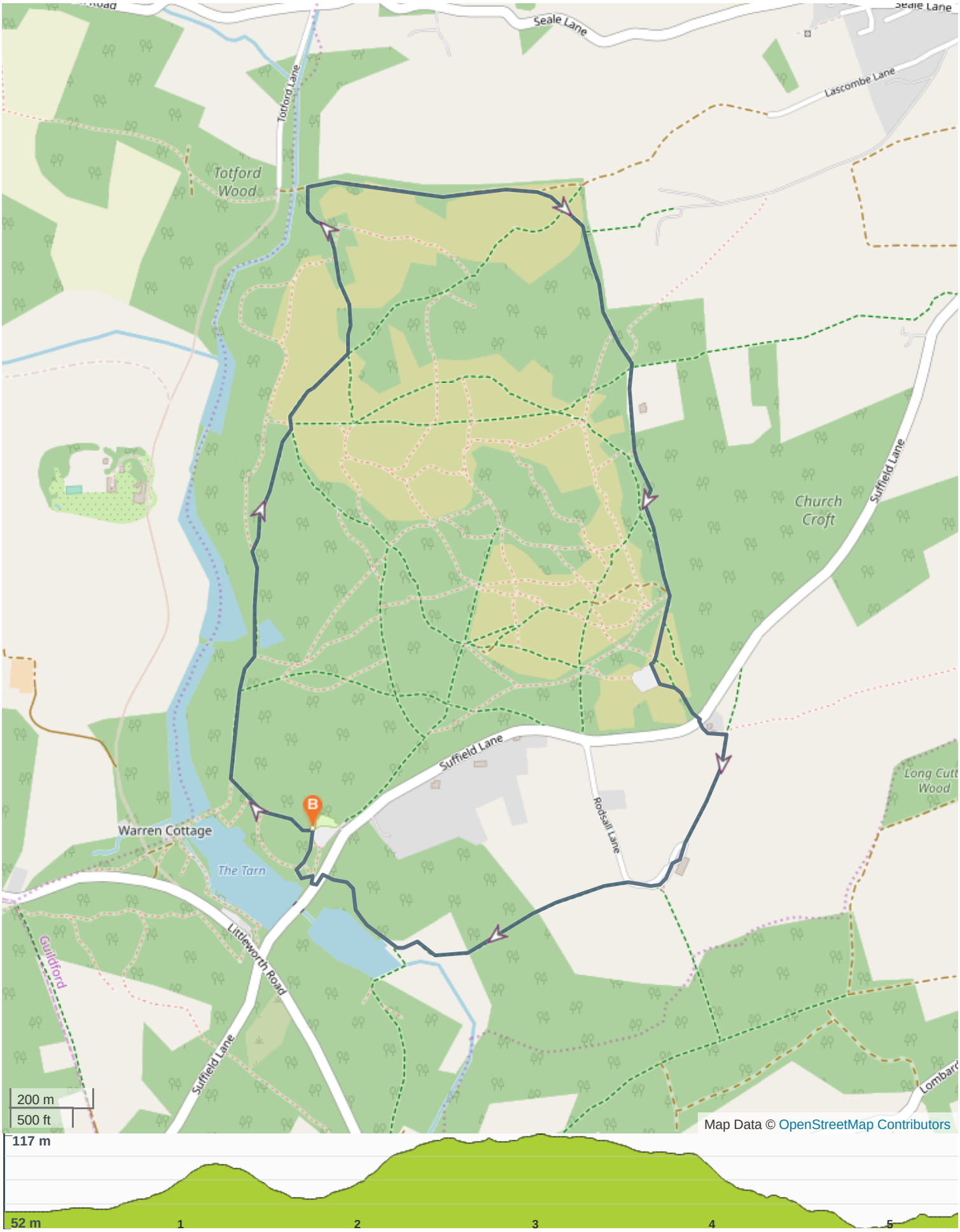
Puttenham Common & The North Downs Way Map



surreywalks

Puttenham Common & The North Downs Way - 5.4km

Source: All Trails

Start to General's Pond

Standing in the car park with your back to the vehicle entrance, walk diagonally left across the car park to reach the far left-hand corner. Here you will find a Surrey Wildlife Trust information board explaining the flora and fauna of the area. You will also see a waymarker post with white, green and purple arrows for the common's self-guided trails. We will be following the purple trail for the first half of this walk. Keep ahead along the signed narrow sandy path, passing between oak and birch trees. You will reach a staggered T-junction, keep right to cross a marshy area via the low embankment bridge. Keep ahead up the short slope and continue ahead. A little further along you will come to a fork, keep left here and the boardwalk of sleepers will lead you to the edge of General's Pond.

General's Pond to North Downs Way

Bear left, passing the pond on the right. Keep ahead along the obvious path through the woodland (still marked with the purple arrows), ignoring any smaller paths off left and right. Across to the left (beyond sight) are a series of ponds that have been created from the local stream. The ponds are very popular with wildfowl and you may be able to hear the call of geese through the trees. The path climbs steadily between several pretty old oak trees and emerges out of the trees to a minor crossroads at the edge of heathland. Keep left for a few paces to reach a second staggered crossroads. Keep ahead here on the bridleway (still marked with the purple arrow).

Follow this path onto the brow of open heath and grassland. Here you will have fabulous views to the north, including the ridge of the North Downs. Evidence has been found of a hill fort here on Hillbury, which probably dated back to the Iron Age. The path begins to descend and emerges to a staggered crossroads. Turn left onto the bridleway, signed again with the purple arrow. Follow the bridleway steadily downhill and keep left at the fork. You will emerge alongside a vehicle barrier to reach a T-junction with a wide track, part of the North Downs Way.

North Downs Way to Murtmoor

Turn right along the North Downs Way. Follow the rocky path as it climbs steadily. The North Downs Way long distance path was opened in 1978 and runs from Farnham (just to the west) all the way to Dover. You will come to a point where the track levels a little and a large grass clearing opens up on the right. Fork right here onto the grass track which crosses the clearing diagonally (marked again with the purple arrow). Across to the left you will pass a red and white mansion with multiple red brick chimneys. Keep directly ahead on this path which leads you back through Puttenham Common. At the brow of the hill a set of power lines passes overhead and the path begins its steady descent. Under the bows of an old sweet chestnut tree, ignore the wooden kissing gate off to the left. A few paces further along, go straight ahead at the small crossroads. The path becomes a stone vehicle track and leads you past the impressive red brick property, Murtmoor, on the left.

Murtmoor to End

Stay on the stone track for some distance. Some way along, through a gap in the trees you will see the common's other car park, Top Car Park. Beyond this there are great panoramic views to the south. Walk through the car park and you will emerge, alongside the car park entrance, to a T-junction with Suffield Lane. Cross over and take the path which continues opposite, passing immediately to the right of the yellow sandstone and brick, Rodsall Cottage. The path swings behind the cottage and then leads you down a short flight of steps to reach a T-junction with a bridleway. Turn right along the sunken bridleway, passing between the steep banks. As you emerge from the sunken track, keep ahead to pass the pretty Rose Cottage on the left. Where the manor's garden wall finishes, ignore the bridleway off to the left. Instead stay on the tarmac lane which swings steadily right. Just before the track swings right again, fork left onto the narrow signed bridleway (passing the gate for Rainbow's End on the right). Follow the pretty sunken path steadily downhill and continue on through the small belt of woodland to emerge alongside Cutt Mill House. Keep ahead along the tarmac access drive, passing the house on the left. The drive swings right and then left, passing between several converted outbuildings. Ignore the bridleway signed off to the left, simply stay on the tarmac drive which swings right again. On the left you will pass the impressive Cutmill Pond. You will come to a T-junction with Suffield Lane. Cross over to reach the lay-by opposite. Take the left path which leads you up a slope through the woodland as it curves right. At the top of the slope continue straight and it will lead you back to Middle Car Park where the walk began.