

Linking the Downs at Bramley

There's plenty of interest along this easily followed old railway trail.

Distance	4.8 miles (7.7km)
Minimum time	2hrs
Ascent/gradient	82ft (25m)
Level of difficulty	Easy
Paths	Bridleway following railway track, can be muddy after rain
Landscape	Gentle, well wooded river valley
Suggested map	aqua3 OS Explorers 134 Crawley & Horsham, 145 Guildford & Farnham
Dog friendliness	A great walk, but scoop the poop or pay the fine!
Parking	Stocklund Square car park, entrance off High Street
Public toilets	Cranleigh's leisure centre car park
Notes	Park at end of walk, then catch bus 53 or 63 to Bramley

1 Walk back out of the car park, turn right, and catch bus 53 or 63 to Bramley from the bus shelter just in front of the large public clock in Stocklund Square. The bus will drop you 100yds (91m) short of the former level crossing, so continue in the same direction until you reach the wooden gate onto the old trackbed. The line has now been converted into a bridleway, and the Downs Link and the Wey South Path both share the route here.

2 As the track pulls clear of Bramley, look out for an open field on your left. The old Wey and Arun Canal runs in the trees on the far side of the field, and soon you'll see it at the foot of the embankment on your left. The two old rivals run side by side for a time, until the railway enters a cutting and the last of the road noise dies away. A little further on, a track from Rooks Hill Farm crosses overhead on an impressive, brick arched bridge. Then, 300yds (274m) beyond a Downs Link marker post, you'll come to a large Wey South information board on your left hand side. There's some interesting canal history here, and just behind the board lie the muddy remains of the canal itself.

3 Two brick arches further on, the Run Common road crosses overhead. Just beyond the bridge, a 200yds (183m) diversion along the waymarked Wey South Path will bring you to Run Common itself. You can explore the canal towpath here if you wish, though frankly there's not very much to see. Now the railway runs straight, climbing imperceptibly onto an embankment. After 750yds (686m), look out for a low brick wall on the left of the track, as the old canal crosses the line at an oblique angle. A little further on, the canal emerges beyond a matching brick wall on your right hand side.

4 Continue across the railed bridge over Cranleigh Water, and through the next brick arch, which carries the B2130 overhead and heralds the outskirts of Cranleigh. New houses sidle up to the line on your left, followed by a small industrial estate and a fork in the track. Turn left here, straight into the car park where your walk began.