




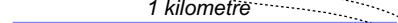
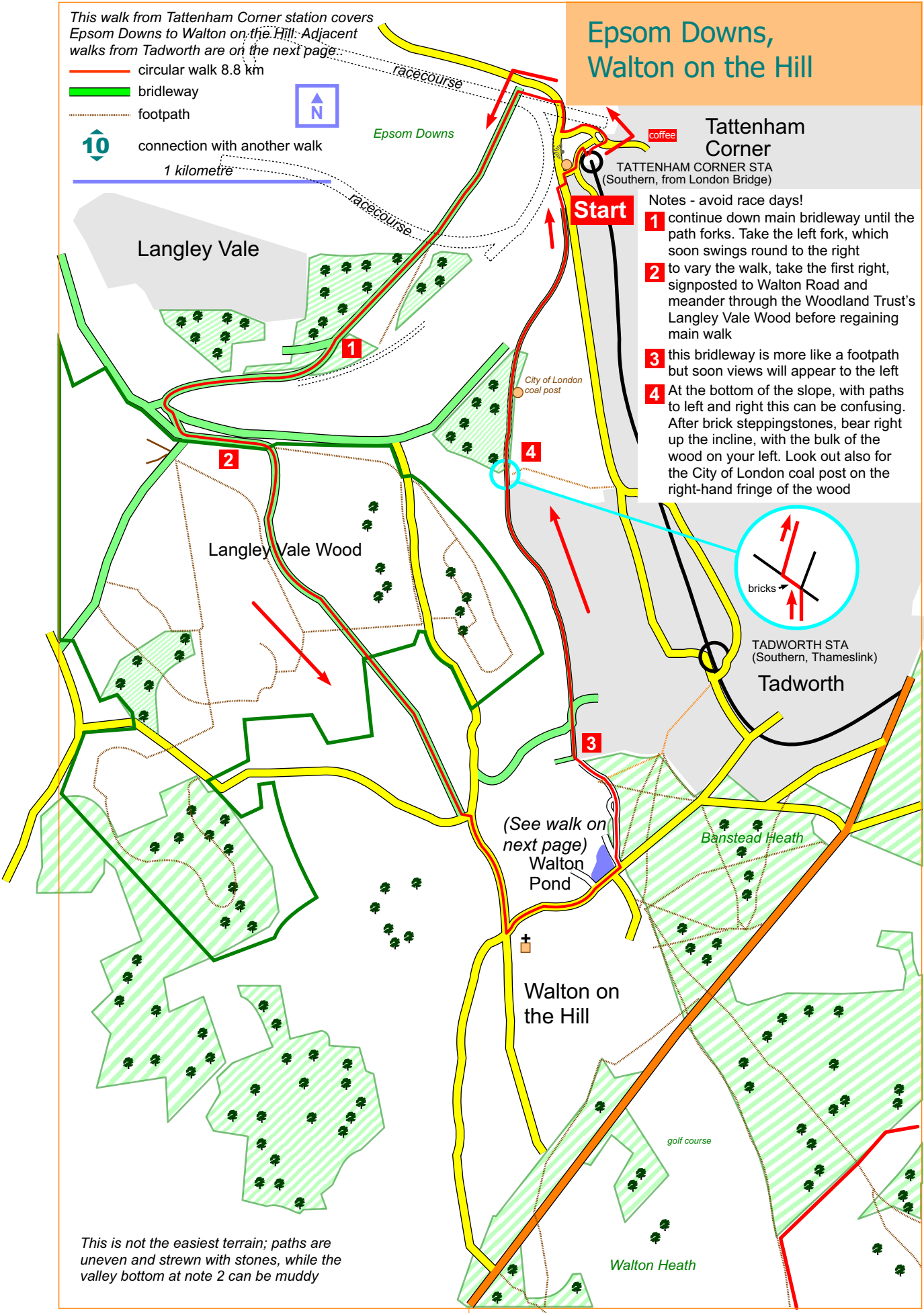


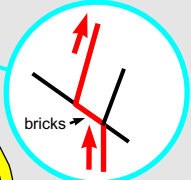
# Epsom Downs, Walton on the Hill

This walk from Tattenham Corner station covers Epsom Downs to Walton on the Hill. Adjacent walks from Tadworth are on the next page.

-  circular walk 8.8 km
-  bridleway
-  footpath
-  North arrow
-  connection with another walk
-  1 kilometre scale bar

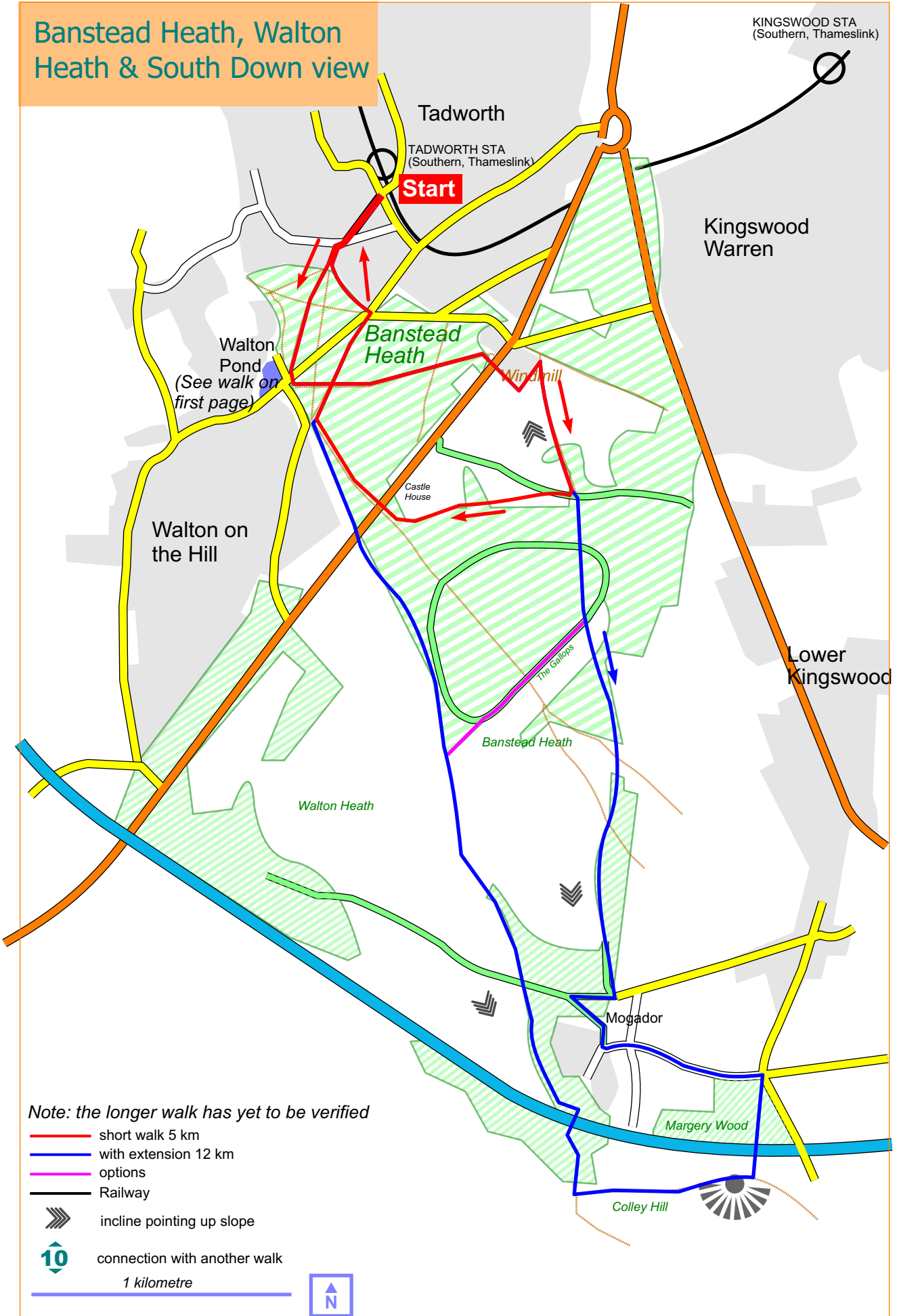


- Tattenham Corner**  
TATTENHAM CORNER STA  
(Southern, from London Bridge)
- Notes - avoid race days!
- 1** continue down main bridleway until the path forks. Take the left fork, which soon swings round to the right
  - 2** to vary the walk, take the first right, signposted to Walton Road and meander through the Woodland Trust's Langley Vale Wood before regaining main walk
  - 3** this bridleway is more like a footpath but soon views will appear to the left
  - 4** At the bottom of the slope, with paths to left and right this can be confusing. After brick steppingstones, bear right up the incline, with the bulk of the wood on your left. Look out also for the City of London coal post on the right-hand fringe of the wood



*This is not the easiest terrain; paths are uneven and strewn with stones, while the valley bottom at note 2 can be muddy*

# Banstead Heath, Walton Heath & South Down view



Note: the longer walk has yet to be verified

- short walk 5 km
- with extension 12 km
- options
- Railway
- incline pointing up slope
- connection with another walk
- 1 kilometre

### **Epsom Downs Racecourse**

Epsom is known for its waters (Epsom salts) on Epsom Common and for its horseshoe-shaped racecourse on Epsom Down, part of the North Downs.

There's a long tradition of recreation on Epsom Downs, including wrestling, cudgel-playing, hawking and foot racing, hare coursing in addition to horse racing and an associated fair.

Although racing dates back to before the Commonwealth banned it, the first formal race meeting took place in 1661 in the presence of His Majesty King Charles II.

In 1773 the 12th Earl of Derby bought the Oaks, a country house at nearby Woodmansterne. He and his friends in 1779, inaugurated 'The Oaks' - a race for three year-old fillies. Spurred on by the success of the new race, the following year he founded a flat race for three-year-old thoroughbred horses to be held annually in late May or early June, to be called the Derby. It now takes place on the first Saturday in June. It is Britain's richest flat horse race, and the most prestigious of the five Classics.

To begin with there were minimal facilities, and the 18th-century crowds simply gathered on the hill. The first permanent grandstand was proposed by Charles Bluck of Doncaster. In 1829 he took out a ninety-year lease from the Lord of the Manor on a one acre plot of Downs' land to create a relatively small and simple building. However, a group of Epsom locals had bigger ideas and set up the Epsom Grand Stand Association (EGSA). They persuaded Bluck to sub-let the land and raised the capital by issuing £20 shares for a stand for up to five thousand spectators together with refreshment rooms.

The building lasted for almost a century, until the site was redeveloped in 1927. The new Queen's Stand, added in 1992, also includes facilities for conferences, dances and corporate hospitality. The 1913 Epsom Derby, the 134th running of the Derby, sometimes referred to as "The Suffragette Derby", is remembered for the death of suffragette Emily Davison, who was killed when she ran out in front of King George V's horse, Anmer. The horse struck Davison as she tried to grab the horse's reins, the injuries she received proved fatal as she died 4 days later. Davison was a member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and campaigned throughout her life for votes for women in the United Kingdom.

### **Coal Posts**

On the route of the walk are two white-painted cast iron posts with the City of London coat of arms. There are over 200 of these 'coal posts'

around London. The cost of rebuilding after Great Fire of 1666 was so enormous that a levy was imposed on coal brought into the City. It took until 1834 to repay the debt, after which the revenue helped to fund drainage improvements in the capital. Originally the tax was collected in the Port of London from sea coal, but with the growth of road and rail transport, cast iron posts were erected in 1861 to mark the taxation boundary. The levy was discontinued in 1890.

### **Walton on the Hill**

The Romans are known to have settled here in the 1st century AD. A substantial villa has been excavated in Sandlands Road, and is believed to have been inhabited until around 400 AD. In Saxon times it lay within the Copthorne hundred, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The manor house has features from the 14th century onwards, though it was remodelled in the 16th and the late 19th century and has been much reduced. Some of the tile-work is in the technique of Norman Shaw.

To the south of the village are large detached houses on private roads built in the early to mid-20th century and include designs by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and his followers. Prime Minister David Lloyd George owned Pinfold Manor, on Nursery Road. In 1913, the building was bombed by the Women's Social and Political Union, a militant suffragette group led by Emmeline Pankhurst. The house was repaired and still stands today.

### **Langley Vale Wood**

Langley Vale Wood at 641 acres is the largest of four First World War Centenary Woods being created by the Woodland Trust as a living memorial to those who sacrificed so much in the First World War.

The site's existing woods consist of ancient semi-natural woodland. The three biggest - Great Hurst Wood, Little Hurst Wood and Downs View Wood - are Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. In total, 380 species have been recorded in Langley Vale Wood, including 37 ancient woodland indicators.

Great Hurst Wood, on the southern edge, is ancient woodland with ash, oak, beech, and sweet chestnut, and has an excellent bluebell display in spring. Little Hurst Wood and Downs View Wood are mainly of a similar composition.

Round Wood is mainly hazel coppice and elder with a rich ground flora, including early purple orchids which grow by the paths. Gillettes Wood is mainly ash, cherry and oak.