



Access Statement for The Deepdene Trail

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This document will be regularly reviewed and updated



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Introduction

This statement aims to describe the conditions, facilities and services on The Deepdene Trail for all our visitors to help them make the best of their visit.

The Deepdene Trail explores a fascinating landscape full of history, nature and hidden treasures. Shaped over hundreds of years by influential owners the estate has been repaired, reawakened and reconnected by Mole Valley District Council.

The project to develop the Trail is led by Mole Valley District Council, supported by a generous £1million grant from the Heritage Lottery fund and by a range of partners including: The Mausolea & Monuments Trust, Dorking Museum, Kuoni, Stonegate Homes, Dorking Golf Club, Surrey Wildlife Trust and, owner of Betchworth Castle, Martin Higgins.

The Heritage Lottery Funded project runs until autumn 2017 and aims to engage the local community through the Trail, activities, volunteer work and a range of digital interpretation. The Trail will then be managed by Mole Valley District Council's Parks team as a fantastic addition to MVDC's open spaces.

The key feature of the Trail is the historic garden in the original 'dene' or valley at the heart of the estate. The steep-sided 'dene' gives the estate its name. This area and the adjacent Chart Park are registered as Grade II* under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest. Listing is the act of identifying the most important parts of our heritage so they can receive special protection. We celebrate their significance - and make sure that our history can be enjoyed by present and future generations.

The overall Trail covers around nine circular miles of routes expanding from the central 'dene' and Chart Park out to include Betchworth Park, Betchworth Castle, Brockham and Glory Woods. The majority of this area also lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area's natural topography includes steep and uneven slopes and the Trail provides a mixture of path types.

This natural topography and the historic significance of some of the features has restricted the degree with which the project can alter the site – e.g. the number of outside banisters we can provide and the degree to which we can smooth out the gradient of slopes.

Mole Valley District Council take their responsibilities for providing access very seriously and adhere to the Equality Act accordingly. We have and will continue to work hard over the course of this project and beyond to provide the highest level of access possible within the restrictions of the natural topography of the area and the historic nature of the landscape and architectural features.

Getting here

The main Trail entrance is currently only approachable by a pedestrian route.

The Trail's address is The Deepdene Trail, Deepdene Avenue, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4AZ. Use RH4 1SD for parking.

1. By Car

There is no car parking available on site. For satellite navigation purposes, **if travelling by car do not use The Trail postcode**, as there is no parking on site, use RH4 1SD instead as that takes you directly to Dorking Halls/Reigate Road car park.

The closest car parking in Dorking is available at the following car park, payable via cash or by using the [RingGo service](#):

Dorking Halls/Reigate Road, RH4 1SD – 10-15 minutes walk to The Trail.

The car park is tarmacked and some of the spaces are on a slight incline. It has 254 spaces.

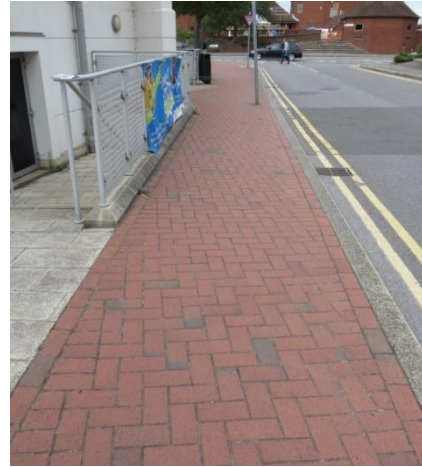
There are blue pedestrian signs in place that show the most direct route to Deepdene Trail entrance from this car park. We have however included on the Trail map, and would recommend, that the safest route from this car park is to cross at the traffic-lighted pedestrian crossings which take you from the car park, round the cockerel roundabout and across to Deepdene Avenue. The pedestrian crossings all include dropped curbs and the overall pavement is even and reasonably level with some slight inclines. Once around the roundabout the route then proceeds as detailed in section **3. Directions from the Cockerel Roundabout**.

Alternative car parks are available at:

St Martin's Walk, RH4 1DX – 15 minute walk to The Trail from the town centre.

Pippbrook, Mole Valley Council Offices (**Evenings and Weekends only**), RH4 1SJ
10 minute walk to The Trail.

For more information on parking in Dorking's public car parks please see <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16759>

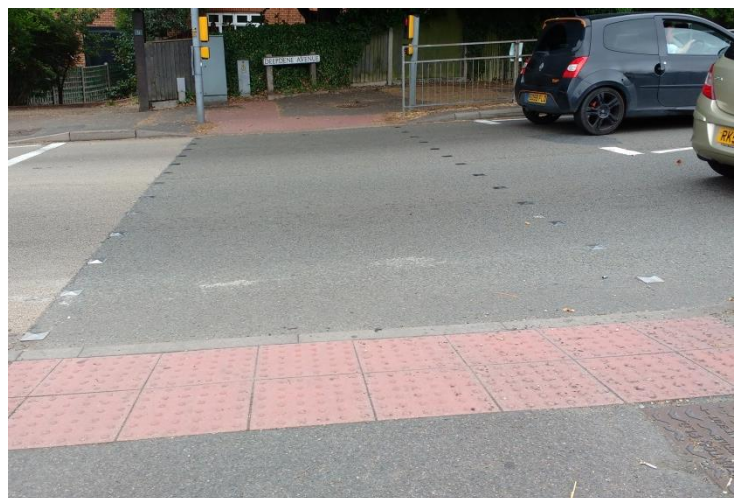
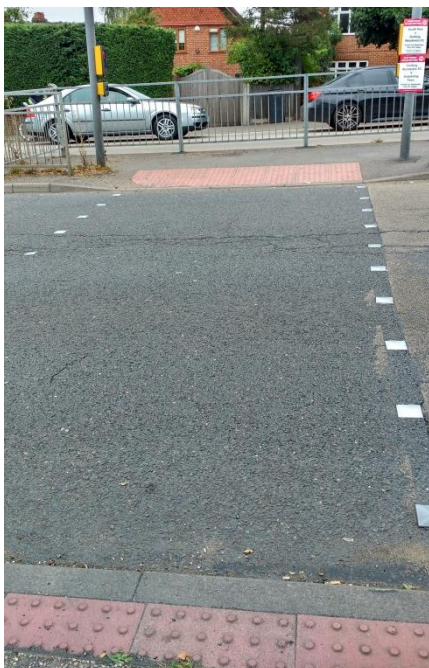


Pedestrian exit from Reigate road car park via dropped curbs and level pavement with brick surface.



Pedestrian crossing to left of Reigate Road car park.

Dropped curb crossing for entrance to Council Offices, Pippbrook car park.



Pedestrian crossings on West side of Cockerel Roundabout



Pedestrian crossing of A24 on North side of Cockerel roundabout

2. By Train

From either Dorking main or Dorking Deepdene stations it is a 15 minute walk to The Trail.

The Dorking Main station has step free access from all its platforms and staff available to help. For more information on access to Dorking Main train station please see (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/dkg/details.html>).

The route from the station is along tarmac pavement, with dropped curbs and a steady incline for a short stretch until you reach the far side of the pedestrian crossing of the Cockerel roundabout where the route continues as described in **3.**

Directions from the Cockerel Roundabout.

Dorking Deepdene station has no step free access or staff to help. For more information please see (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/dpd/details.html>).

The route from the station is along tarmac pavement, with dropped curbs and a steady incline for a short stretch until you reach the far side of the pedestrian crossing of the Cockerel roundabout where the route continues as described in **3.**

Directions from the Cockerel Roundabout.

1. Directions from the Cockerel Roundabout

The entrance to The Trail is via Deepdene Avenue (A24), a few minutes walk south of Dorking from the Cockerel roundabout. You will arrive at the entrance about 100 yards after the Kuoni offices site on your left as you continue along the route in a southerly direction along the A24 Deepdene Avenue from the roundabout.

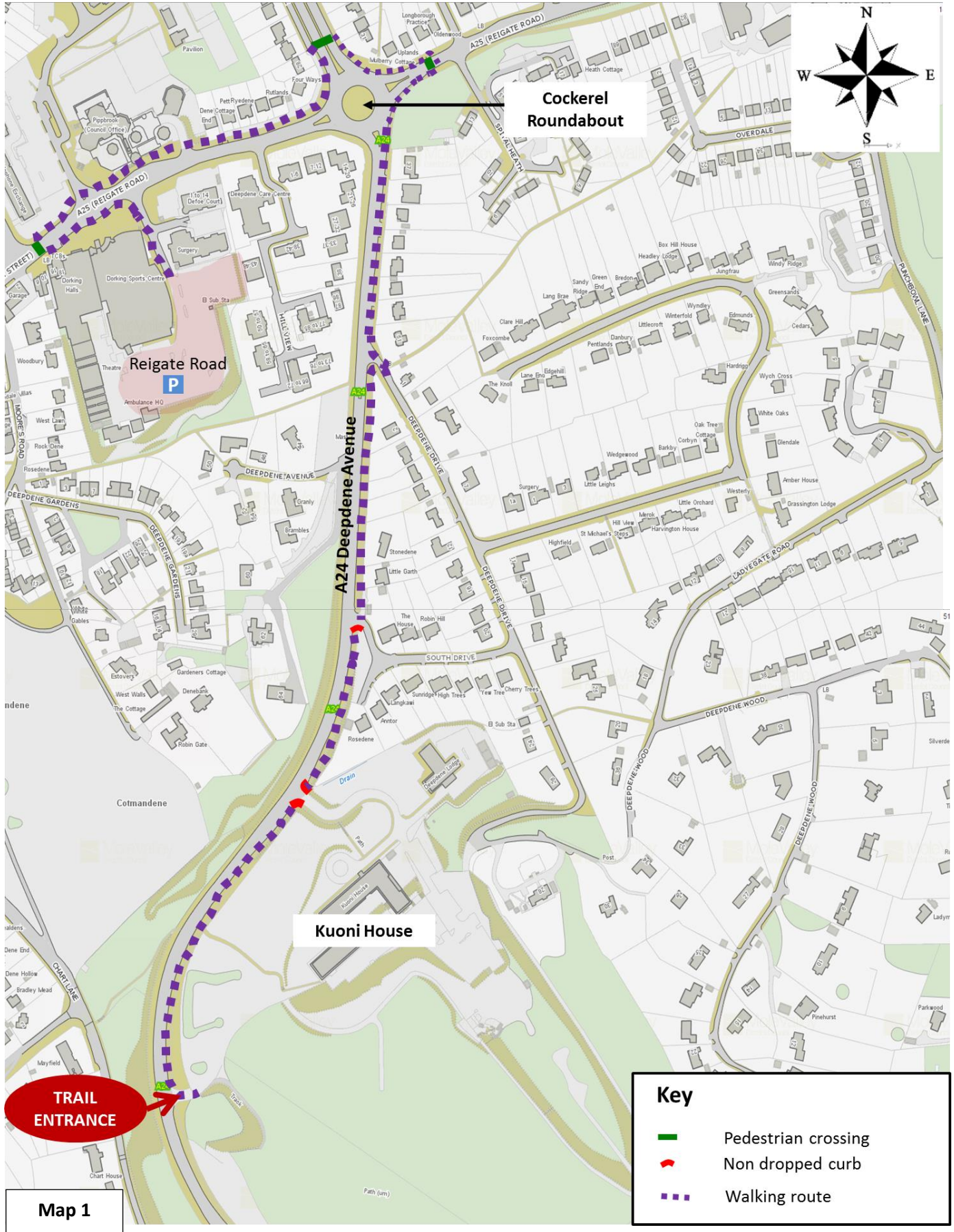
The route from the roundabout to the entrance is along pavement with a tarmac surface. It is occasionally rough and bumpy. There are three points where you cross the entrance to a side road. The curbs are not dropped at South Drive and the entrance to Kuoni House. The overall route is at a slight incline.



Above: the tarmac has some narrow and bumpy sections and has some steady incline.

Below: Non-dropped curbs at South Drive and Kuoni entrance.





Map 1

Trail Routes

Deepdene Garden Discovery

Enter our enchanting Deepdene Gardens and be transported into an elegant and peaceful retreat. Discover how the Estate has changed over time from the early gardens of Charles Howard, through Hope's significant transformations and the impact of war.

Round trip from Trail start: 0.7 miles 30 - 40mins, moderate walk on pavement, gravel paths and grass, contains some steep slopes.

Path types

Refer to map 2 over leaf

The dotted paths in blue are all on compacted gravel surfaces with occasional loose stones. There is one steep short incline at the start (about 4m long) and occasional steady short inclines within the Gardens.

A newly reopened historic path down through the rhododendrons connecting to the parterre has now been surfaced in compacted gravel with a short shallow flight of steps at one end. This path can be reached avoiding the steps via a short section of grass slope shown in dashed red on the map overleaf. The dashed path in red down the centre shows an alternative route to the parterre via a reasonably steep descent and ascent over grass through the Gardens. There is no exit at the bottom of the hill in the parterre area so visitors will need to return the way they came back up to the grotto and round the path to exit the garden. The parterre consists of a circular compacted pathway with a smooth even surface around the lion statue.

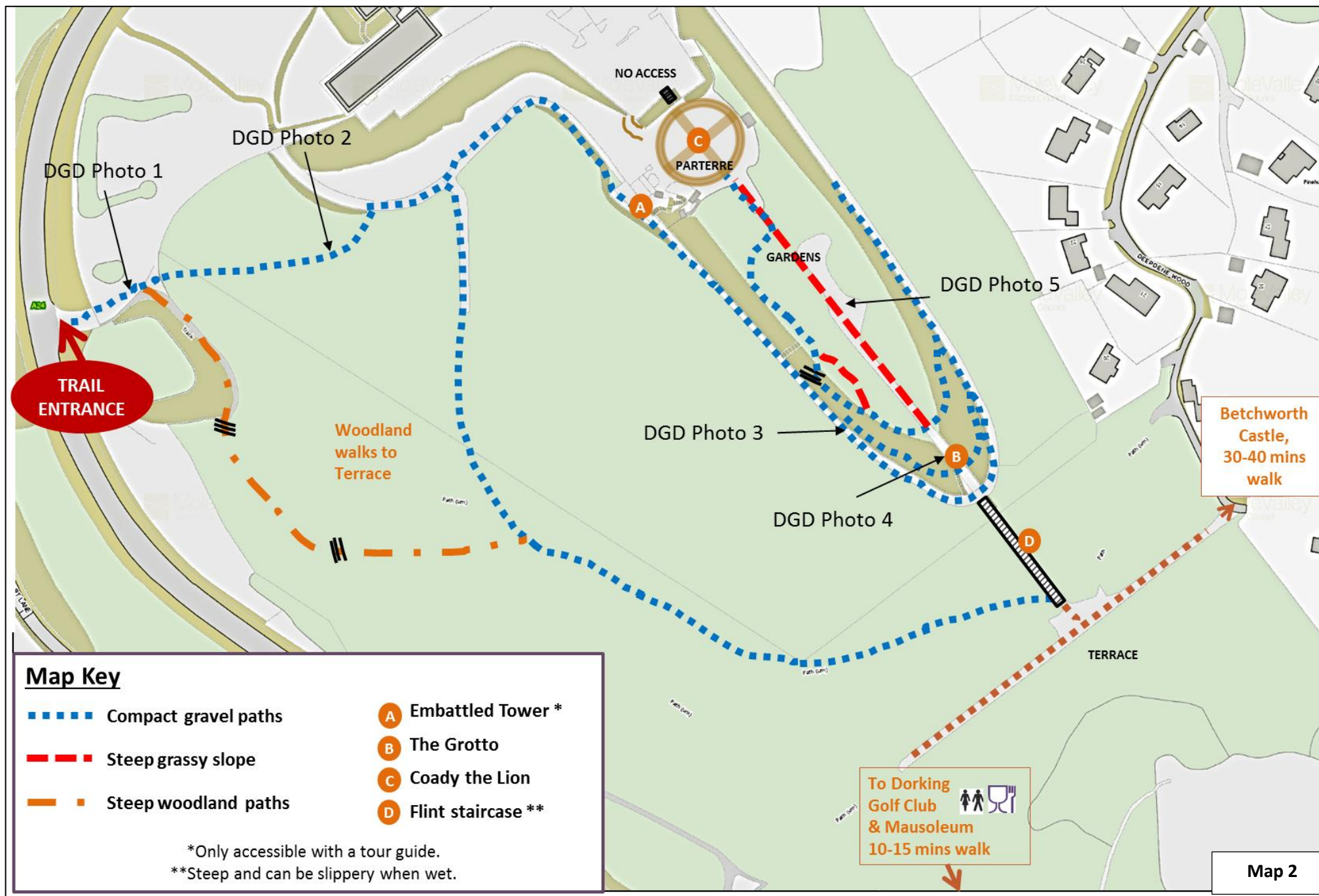
The historical feature known as the embattled tower has a flight of flint steps connecting the paths to the parterre that are currently closed to the public without a guide due to its steepness, height and lack of hand rail. However this historical feature will have a railing installed and be open to the public by the end of July 2017. From that point on the tower steps will be open to visitors throughout spring, summer and autumn and only remain closed in the icy winter months.

Visitors who want to go a bit further can take a woodland route to the Terrace or climb the historic flint steps* which are due to be opened by the end of July 2017.

The flint steps are steep and can be slippery when wet. They are a historical feature and do not comply with modern safety standards so we recommend serious caution and care is taken if using the steps especially on the descent.

The main woodland route to the Terrace has now been surfaced with compact gravel. It is still a reasonably steep path and suitable footwear is recommended. The route nearest the road is the steepest, the first section in orange is unsurfaced and also has two small sections of steps.

*Currently closed for repairs 8/9/16



DGD photo 1:
incline at entrance.



DGD photo 2:
garden paths



DGD photo 3:
garden paths with
slopes



DGD photo 4:
grassy slope
towards parterre



Temple, Terrace and Tragedy

Visitors taking this route add to the Garden Discovery trail and climb through wooded pathways to the stunning views of the Terrace. Then venture south to Chart Park where you will uncover the tragic tale of the Hope Mausoleum – our hidden gem.

Round trip from Trail start: 2.2 miles, 1hr 30mins - 2hr, moderate hike on pavement, gravel paths and grass, contains steep slopes, sturdy shoes recommended.

Path types

Refer to map 2 (p10) and map 3 overleaf.

Visitors who want to go a bit further than the Garden can either take a woodland route to the Terrace or climb the flint steps* which are due to be opened by the end of July 2017.

The flint steps* are steep and can be slippery when wet. They are a historical feature and do not comply with modern safety standards so we recommend serious caution and care is taken if using the steps especially on the descent.

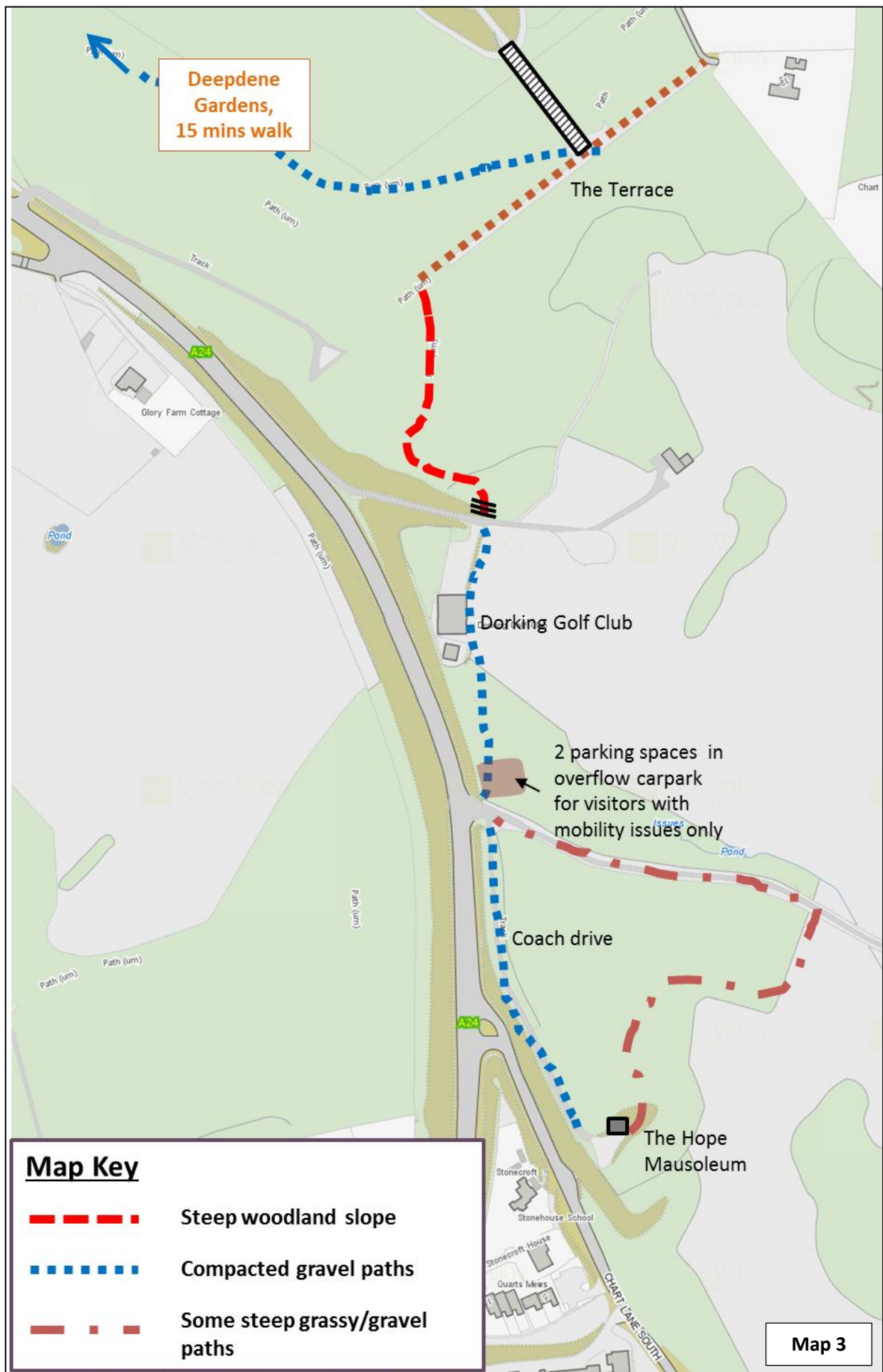
The woodland routes to the terrace (shown on map 2, p11) are along reasonably steep paths. The main route from the Gardens has now been surfaced with compacted gravel. The route nearest the road is currently unsurfaced at the start so can be soft and spongy in places and has two small sections of steps. Suitable footwear is recommended.

Once on the Terrace visitors can then descend through Dorking golf course out to the Mausoleum in Chart Park (See map 3 overleaf). The Terrace avenue is reasonably level with a grassy surface.

The red dashed line indicates the section of the route that is a reasonably steep descent and is an unsurfaced woodland route so can be soft and spongy in places. There is a small section of shallow steps at the end of this descent to the Golf Club.

When crossing the section through the golf course in front of the Club House please be respectful of golfers and aware of flying golf balls. The Coach drive to the Mausoleum is a compact gravel surface.

The orange dot and dash loop from the Mausoleum back to the Golf Club involves a reasonably steep short climb on a grassy path and descent on a rough grassy path and a short stretch of rough gravelled unsurfaced road.



Explore the Estate

Meander through woodland on hilltops and valleys on the wider Trail and discover the Deepdene as it was at its peak. Along the way, discover a dramatic castle ruin and the pretty, historic, village of Brockham.

Round trip from Trail start: 9 miles 4 - 5hrs, challenging walk on pavement, gravel paths and grass, contains steep slopes, sturdy shoes recommended.

Paths

See maps 1-4

The full Trail explores a wide area of countryside and contains a selection of different paths. Visitors can explore the Garden Discovery route, The Temple Terrace and Tragedy route and then head out into Betchworth Park as shown on map 4. Approached from the Terrace this part of the path begins with a descent through the hilly private tarmacked road of Deepdene Wood – following the line of the existing Greensand Way. There is no pavement so visitors must take care of cars.

Once at Punchbowl Lane visitors must cross the road and follow the edge along to the entrance to Betchworth Park - again there is no pavement so visitors must take care of cars.

Once in Betchworth Park the woodland route is along a reasonably level path with very few steep inclines. The path is unsurfaced but compact and reasonably even.

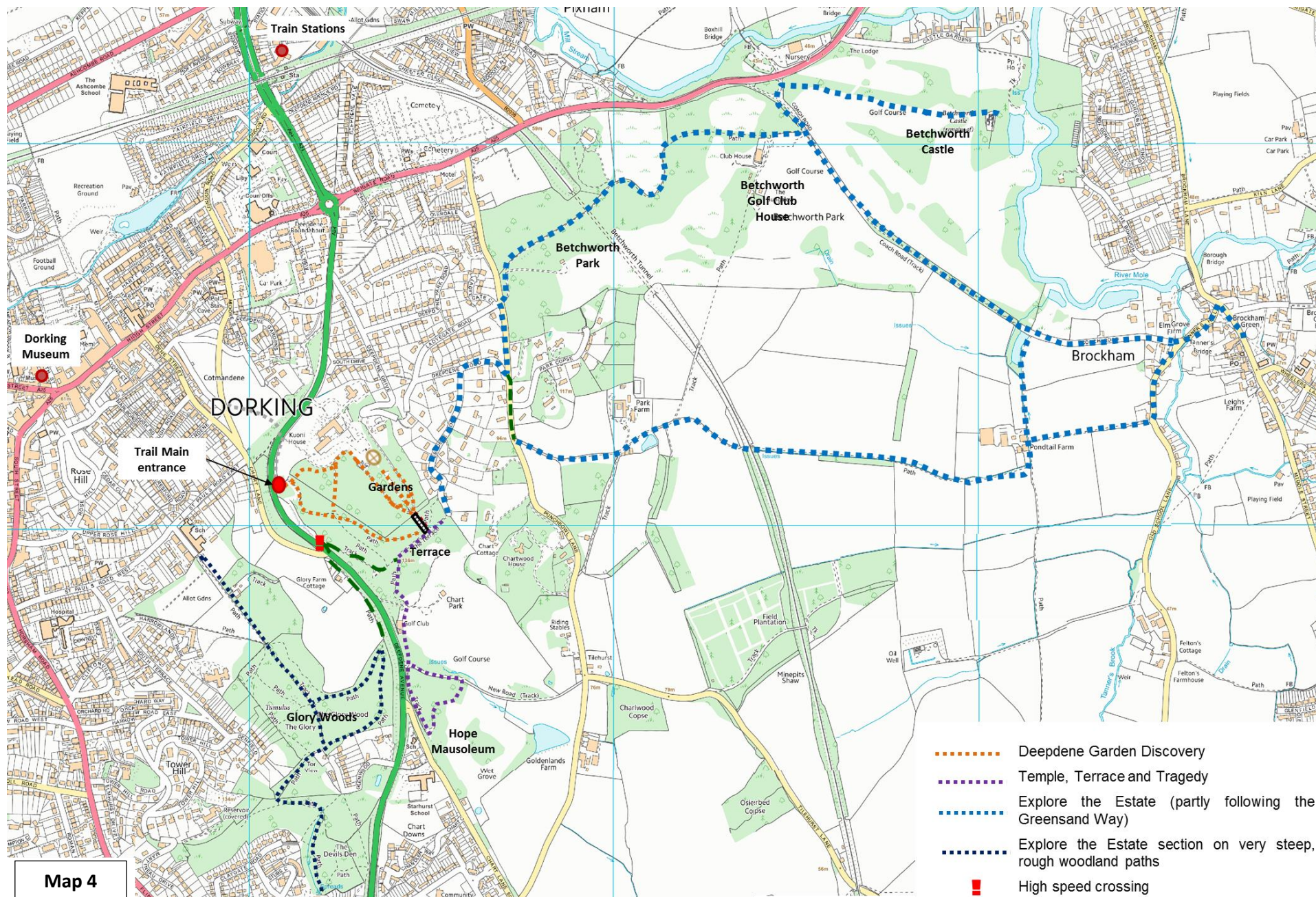
Once exiting the park near Betchworth Golf Club House visitors can take the path up to Betchworth Castle. There is a gate at the bottom of the slope but visitors can avoid this by entering through a narrow opening to the left. There is then a broad unsurfaced road up to the Castle. The surface is uneven in places and follows a steady slope up with some steep climbs. Around the Castle there is an ironstone path leading to a viewpoint.

Visitors can also travel right from the exit from Betchworth Park by the golf club, and take the Coach Road to Brockham. This road is mostly level but is unsurfaced, just compacted earth and can be rough and bumpy. Once exiting into Brockham paths are on pavement.

The return loop through Betchworth Park to Punchbowl Lane is a rough countryside route on unsurfaced paths. There are stiles to cross. The route follows the existing Greensand way.

Visitors can also explore the wider estate through Glory Woods. From the Terrace they can follow the Greensand way down towards the A24, Deepdene Avenue. There are steps on the descent from the Terrace in this direction. The crossing of the A24 is high speed and whilst there is a traffic island, extra care must be taken when crossing. Once on the far side you can enter Glory Woods along the public footpath.

Glory Woods is full of paths to explore, we have suggested a circular route but there are many paths to take. The paths are woodland, unsurfaced and can be muddy. The woods are on a very steep hill and all routes involve a steep ascent or descent.



Toilets

There are no facilities directly for the Trail however there are toilets for Trail visitors at the following nearby locations:

Dorking Golf Club – Ladies and Gents - indicated on the official Trail Map.

Dorking Halls – Ladies, Gents and accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available.

Food and Drink

Dorking Golf Club House can provide visitors with drinks, snacks, cakes and ice cream, whilst taking in the stunning views – indicated on the official Trail Map.

Interpretation

- Displays

There are 16 information panels spread throughout the Trail to provide historical background for visitors. The text has been aimed at an audience who are not experts in history or nature, families definitely, but we are not expecting young children to directly engage with whole panel.

- App

Our App includes family focussed features to encourage and improve engagement with a younger audience with audio, video and two interactive quizzes.

To support visually impaired visitors our App provides audio versions of the text of the panels.

- Trail map

These A3 maps folded into trifold leaflets are available at the Main Entrance, the Golf Club, Dorking Museum, Dorking Halls and the Council Offices. It is also downloadable from our website (www.deepdenetrail.co.uk). The direct link is <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=30754>.

This will allow visitors to guide themselves around the Trail.

- Virtual Tour

This virtual recreation of the landscape as it was in 1825 will be available at Dorking Museum. It is presented as an interactive game and visitors will be able to use a controller to explore the landscape.

/visitors who struggle with the steep landscape of the Trail can use this tour to get a taste of the Deepdene and increase understanding of the estate or all.

In the future we aim for a version of it to be available for loan out to schools in future on memory sticks that will be available as part of loan boxes from Dorking Museum to increase access to this great resource.

- Guided tours

Dorking Museum will also run guided tours for group bookings and for the public. Expert volunteer guides will guide visitors round the heart of the Trail and allow visitors into the interior of the Hope Mausoleum.

Additional Parking

Whilst we recommend starting the Trail at the main entrance, you can visit parts of the Trail from a range of locations and there are some small areas that offer additional parking closer to features of the Trail.

- The Hope Mausoleum: There are two rural parking spaces set aside in the overflow car park at Dorking Golf Club for visitors (shown on map 3) that have mobility issues. These spaces are in much closer proximity to the Mausoleum. From the car park, there is a reasonably steep short incline to cross onto the coach road leading to the Mausoleum. The car park and coach road have compacted gravel surfaces.
- Betchworth Park: At the Punchbowl lane entrance, there are spaces for up to 5 cars on a rough gravelled and grassed surface.

Visitors with Dogs

Well behaved dogs are very welcome on The Trail but we have some top tips to make sure everyone enjoys The Trail responsibly.

Keep your dog close to you and on a lead where required

This helps to minimise the disturbance caused to local wildlife or other visitors.

When visiting the **Garden area**, crossing **Dorking Golf Course** and approaching **Betchworth Castle** through Betchworth Golf Course, dogs **must be kept on leads**.

Always pick up after your dog

Dog mess is not only an unsightly health hazard for other visitors, it promotes the growth of invasive plants and discourages the growth of wildflowers. Please pick up after your dog and take your waste home with you.

Be aware of ground nesting birds

Ground nesting birds may present on areas of The Trail from May to September and we ask dog owners to keep to paths during this time to minimise disturbance and protect eggs.

Be Aware of Grazing Animals

Some areas of wider Trail pass through farmland which at times may host grazing animals. Please keep your dog on a lead in these areas to avoid distress to the livestock. Look out for and take note of signs on sites where cattle are present.

Contact Us

Email thedeepdenetrail@molevalley.gov.uk

Call us on 01306 885 001

Or write to us at The Deepdene Trail, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SJ