

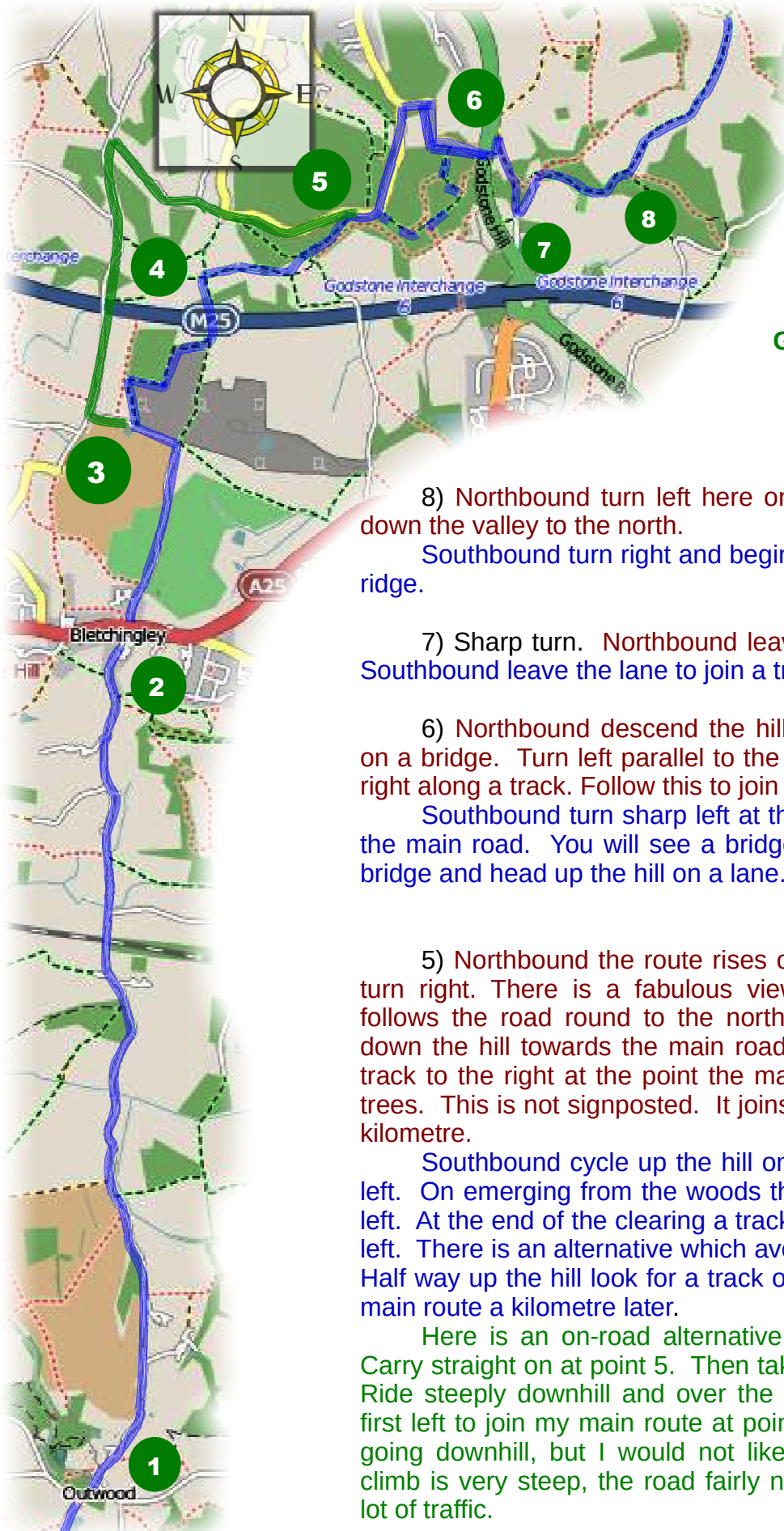
OUTWOOD - NORTH DOWNS

12km, 7.5m

263m ascent going north

193m ascent going south

An ascent or descent of the North Downs and some climbs around the Greensand ridge south of Bletchingley



8) Northbound turn left here on a small road which runs down the valley to the north.
Southbound turn right and begin to descend the downland ridge.

7) Sharp turn. Northbound leave the track to join a lane. Southbound leave the lane to join a track.

6) Northbound descend the hill and cross the main road on a bridge. Turn left parallel to the main road and then sharp right along a track. Follow this to join a lane.
Southbound turn sharp left at the end of the track, next to the main road. You will see a bridge over the road, cross the bridge and head up the hill on a lane.

5) Northbound the route rises on a track to join the road, turn right. There is a fabulous view here. The main route follows the road round to the north. At a junction turn right down the hill towards the main road. An alternative follows a track to the right at the point the main route turns left into the trees. This is not signposted. It joins the main route in about a kilometre.

Southbound cycle up the hill on the road. At the top turn left. On emerging from the woods there is a fine view on your left. At the end of the clearing a track runs down the hill to your left. There is an alternative which avoids the worst of the climb. Half way up the hill look for a track on the left. This rejoins the main route a kilometre later.

Here is an on-road alternative between points 5 and 3. Carry straight on at point 5. Then take the first road on the left. Ride steeply downhill and over the motorway. Then take the first left to join my main route at point 3. This alternative is ok going downhill, but I would not like to do it uphill, since the climb is very steep, the road fairly narrow and there is quite a lot of traffic.

4) 90 degree turn here. Follow route signs

3) Northbound the lane turns 90 degrees left. Then after about 200 metres look carefully for a blue Sustrans route 21 sign by a gap in the hedge on your right. Turn right here up the track. You are now on Sustrans route 21. Our route follows this most of the way to Greenwich. It is generally well signed.

Southbound turn left at the point at which the track meets the road. The route now leaves Sustrans route 21, so do not follow the Sustrans route to your right.

2) Straight across the main road at Bletchely. Bletchley has pubs and a shop. To the north the route is on a narrow lane. To the south the road is wider and carries a little more traffic.

1) Straight ahead at the crossroads at Outwood. The route crosses the impressive Outwood Common with its working windmill. This is the oldest working windmill in the country. It was damaged by storms in January 2012. Outwood has 3 pubs, although only one of them is visible from the road, just north of the windmill.

AN ON ROAD ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN BLETCHINGLY AND THE NORTH DOWNS

This route is all on tarmac, but it is hilly and contains a nasty stretch of main road at the south end. Recommended only if conditions are really muddy and/or you have a very lightweight racing style bike.

Northbound turn right at Bletchingly onto the busy main road. Shortly afterwards bear right on to the D354. At the end of this road turn left and immediately right. At the next junction turn right and immediately left. Keep straight ahead, crossing the A25 at a crossroads. Cross over the A22 and M25 on bridges. At a point where the road bends sharply right keep straight ahead up a lane which climbs the downs to reach the main route at waypoint 8. Turn right here to descend into the valley.

Southbound turn left on reaching the top of the valley and descend on a lane to a junction with a larger road. Follow this road south, crossing the M25 and A22 by bridges. Cross the A25 at a junction. Continue straight ahead. At the end of the road turn right and then immediately left. At the end of this road turn left and immediately right. Continue straight ahead on this road until you join the A25. Keep straight ahead into Bletchingly Village. In the village centre, at point (2) turn left to join the main route

