Fancy Free Walks *point your feet on a new path*

The Royal Standard of England at Forty Green

Distance: 2½ km=1½ miles — easy walking

Region: Chilterns — Date written: 7-apr-2019

Author: Phegophilos — Last update: 15-jan-2020

Refreshments: Forty Green

Map: Explorer 172 (Chiltern Hills East) *but the map below should suffice*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

Public rights are restricted to printing, copying or distributing this document exactly as seen here, complete and without any cutting or editing. See *Principles* on main webpage.

Historic 900-year-old inn, meadows, woodland

In Brief

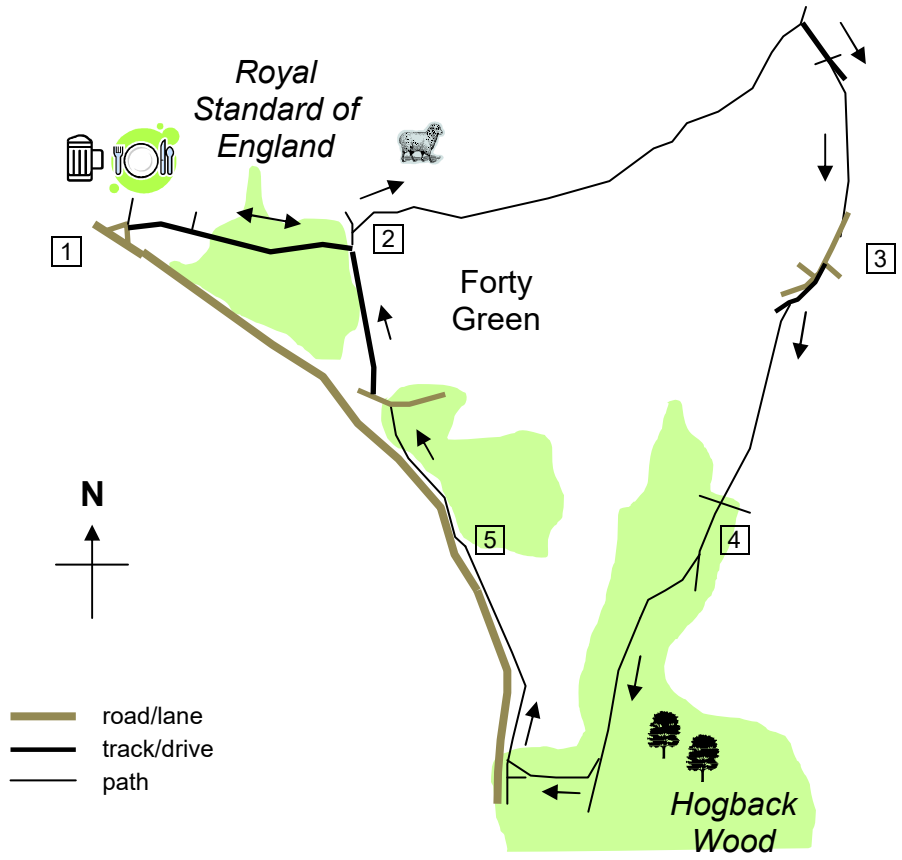
The 900-year-old *Royal Standard of England* is one of the greatest pubs in the whole of England, the oldest freehouse in the country. Be aware that this pub is *incredibly popular* and you will probably need to book if you want lunch (ring: 01494-673-382, or check their very colourful website). Fortunately, the pub is open every day and serves food all day from noon.

The management say you are welcome to park in the generous car park to take a walk, assuming of course you spend some money here! The pub publishes at least one other short walk. It is also central to a fabulous 6-mile walk on this website (see *"Penn Woodlands, Tylers Green, Forty Green"*). This longer walk also contains a long entertaining history of this remarkable historic inn (→ **see other guide notes**).

There are no nettles or scratchy undergrowth on this walk and all the paths are wide and clear, so any sensible clothing is fine. Trainers or walking shoes are adequate. Your dog is very welcome.

The walk begins in the car park of the *Royal Standard of England* pub in Forty Green, near **Beaconsfield**, Bucks, w3w:wipe.deeper.riches, postcode **HP9 1XS**. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



1 Going back from the car park, turn **left** just before the main road on a narrow lane which runs beside the pub on your left. Ignore a footpath on the left immediately after the pub and stay on the lane, now a rough driveway, for around 100m. When you reach a shingle drive by a garage, go **left** through a small wooden gate into a green meadow where there are two possible footpaths ahead, as indicated by waymarker arrows. Take the **right**-hand path, passing a tastefully-converted rustic cottage on your right and going through two wooden gates, out into a sheep meadow.

2 Follow the path down the right-hand edge of the meadow. When you reach the boundary hedge, go through a small wooden gate and continue next to a small tree garden which is being lovingly planted. Another wooden gate leads past some well-tended back gardens and, after yet another gate, you reach a waymarked junction where the path veers away to your left. Leave the path here by going **right** through a wooden swing-gate next to a larger gate into a superior housing village. Very soon, as you cross a shingle drive, keep to the right-hand side to take a narrow path straight ahead between fences. This path runs past some high-class allotments and finally leads you through a wooden gate onto a road.

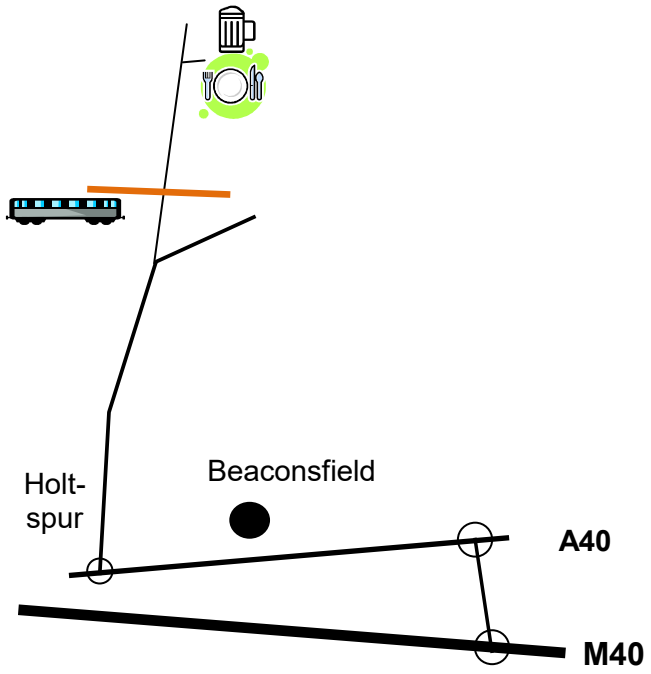
3 Turn **right** on the road. When you come to a road junction, keep straight ahead but keep **left**, thus leaving the main tarmac road which forks right downhill. You are on a tarmac drive, marked as a footpath. Beside the entrance to *Westridge House*, take a wide footpath running beside a brick wall on your right. This path goes between high garden fences and finally leads out, via an avoidable stile, into the National Trust's Hogback Wood, a local nature reserve.

4 Keep to the main path straight ahead for about 20m, passing a second avoidable stile. Almost immediately after the stile you reach a marker post indicating a choice of route. The rising left fork leads round on a wider circuit and is well worth exploring, especially in late spring when bluebells are on show. But this walk takes the **right** fork, going downhill. After about four minutes' pleasant walking in the wood, look for another waymarker. Disregard the arrow here (it points straight on) and instead turn **right** on a narrow path. (You can of course follow the arrow and take the longer trail.) Shortly before a T-junction, fork **right** and turn **right** at the junction on a wider path which runs along the edge of the other side of the wood. This path quickly leads through a wooden swing-gate and follows a course between a tarmac lane on your left and a horse pasture.

5 At the end of the pasture, your path takes you through a wooden swing-gate and zigzags right-left on a woodland path. Finally, your path winds its way up through a wooden swing-gate to a tarmac road. Turn **left** and immediately **right** on Brindle Lane, a residential road. Before a gate and a garage, which may be familiar from your outward journey, turn **left** on a rough driveway, leading back to the pub where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: if coming from the M40, one way to Forty Green is as follows. Come off at exit 2 *(Beaconsfield)* and turn onto the A40 in the direction *Beaconsfield*. Go 2 miles, bypassing Beaconsfield, to a roundabout with a sign for **Holtspur**. Turn **right** here onto Holtspur Top Lane. Go 0.7 mile, leaving the built-up area, as far as a fork in the road where the main road (now called Gregories Lane) curves right. Leave the main road here by taking the **left** fork (Holtspur Lane, though not signed here), a narrower road, passing an end-of-speed-limit sign. The lane goes under the railway and reaches the pub in ¾ mile.



By train?: this walk is doable starting at **Beaconsfield railway station**, which is only 1 km=⅔ mile from Hogback Wood which is on the route. You will need to follow the Explorer map to find your own way along local roads.