



Kingsley and Lindford Broxhead Common, River Wey, Bordon Inclosure

Distance: 9½ km=6 miles

easy walking

Region: Hampshire

Date written: 18-aug-2020

Author: Botafuego

Last update: 6-feb-2022

Refreshments: Kingsley, Lindford

Map: Explorer 133 (Petersfield) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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Long woodland trails, heath, river, nature trails, ponds

In Brief

Here is a walk through some spectacular heath and woodland, in an area of East Hampshire which should be much better known. Along the way, you cross the River Wey twice, each time in a picturesque wooded spot.

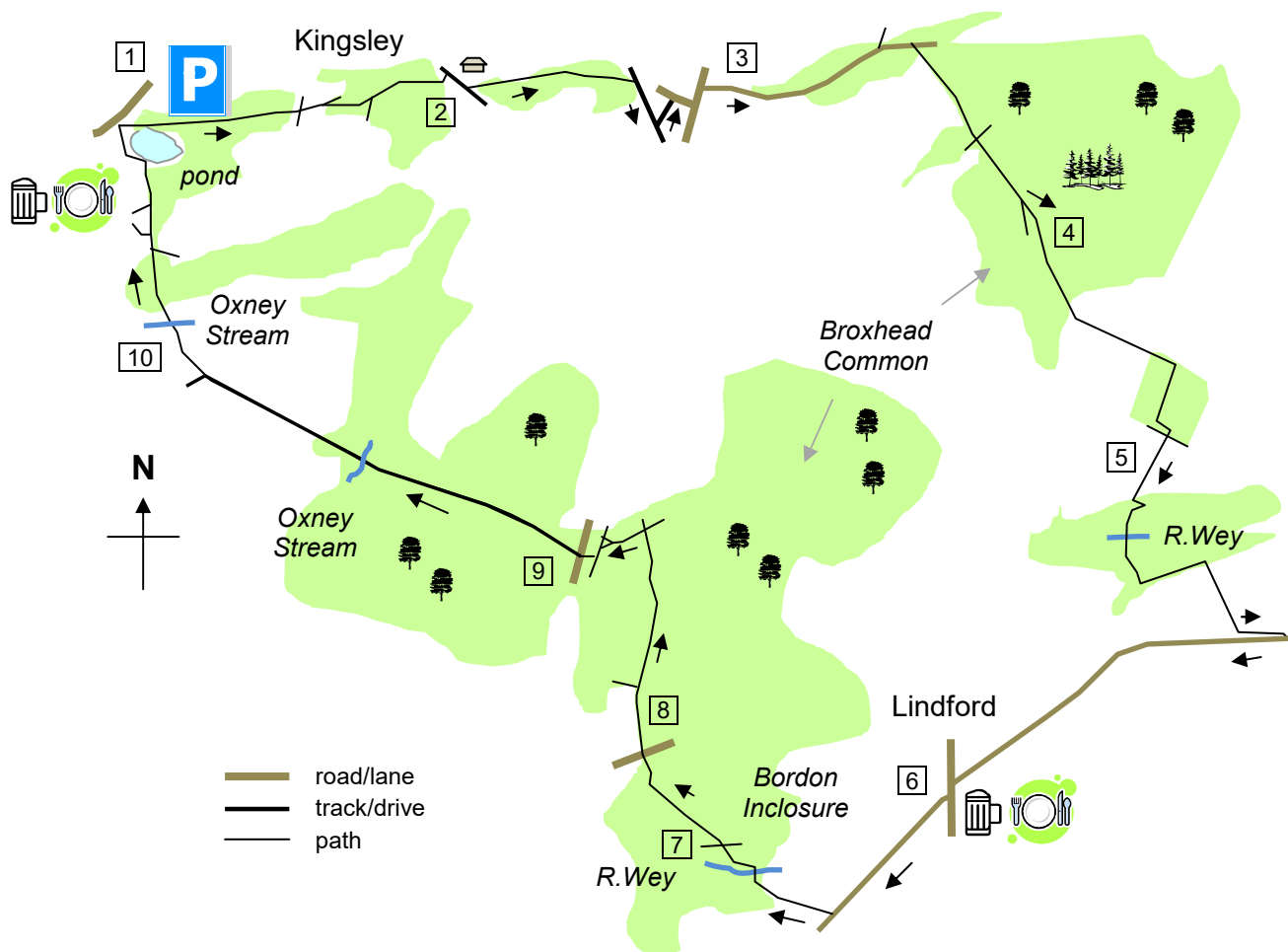
There are two good pubs on this walk. Both were open during the 2020 situation. Both serve good food. (To enquire at the *Cricketers Arms*, ring 01420-476730, for the *Royal Exchange*, ring 01420-488118.)

The terrain is almost entirely sandy heath, with gorse and birch, or forests of oak and pine. There are no sections through undergrowth and no nettles. Some of the woodland paths are cushioned with pine needles making for a supremely comfortable ramble. The author walked in summer when there was no need for boots. In a wet winter there could be some more squelchy ground in the woodland sections. There is one tricky crossing of the main A325 road near the start, with traffic lights but no proper footway, where your dog would have to be on a tight lead. But the only actual road walking is on quiet lanes and a residential road in Lindford.



The walk begins in the car park by the **Kingsley Pond**, Kingsley, Hampshire, postcode **GU35 9ND**, www.w3w.co/avoid.spun.albums, near the *Cricketers* inn and the village shop. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



- 1 Beginning at the Kingsley Pond car park, walk to the end of the car park, furthest from the *Cricketers Inn* and take a sandy path. You pass a *Danger, Deep Water* sign and if you make a quick diversion to the right here, you will find a seat by the bank of the Kingsley Pond where you can admire the water lilies and watch the anglers at work. Ignore a minor left fork shortly and stay on the wide sandy path through Kingsley Common. After some glorious woodland, crossing under several wires, you come into the open where purple heather and birch are plentiful. You come to a multiple junction in an oak wood. Keep straight ahead here on the wider path, avoiding a lesser path that forks left. You come out to an open space with a large white house, *Coldharbour House*, ahead.
- 2 At a T junction cross straight over the grass, passing between wooden posts, to meet a gravel path. Turn **right** on the path and, just after the corner of the house, turn **left** on a wide track. The track runs through deep oakwoods and, after 450m, comes out to a tarmac lane. Turn **right** on the lane, going over a bridge across the Oxney Stream and passing a small goat pasture on your left. Immediately after a new farm building, at a junction, turn sharp **left** to reach the busy B3004 road. Cross carefully straight over, using the traffic lights, and turn **right** on the rather thin verge to meet the main A325 road. Cross this road carefully, using the traffic lights, to a thin verge on the other side. Turn **left** and in 30m go **right** on a side road, Picketts Hill.

- 3 Follow this much quieter road, passing a concrete depot and Sandhills Farm, entering quiet country of high moorland. After 500m on the road you pass a private left fork bearing the names of several large houses. Continue on the road for another 100m to meet a footpath sign on the left opposite a bridleway on the right. Turn **right** on the bridleway. *Note that you are on part of the Shipwrights Way, a 50-mile walk through Hampshire, from Bentley to Portsmouth, with sculpture at various points; you will meet it several times on this walk.* The first stretch is alongside the deep woodland of this part of Broxhead Common, with a large sloping meadow on your right. After 250m your path enters the wood and crosses a private path to Headley Nursery.
- 4 Continue straight through the dark pinewoods with a wire fence on your right. At a 3-way fingerpost, take the **left** fork, the (yellow-arrowed) footpath, thus leaving the ascending bridleway that elbows to the right. This section is one of the highlights of this walk, with its tall cedars and plush pine-needle floor. After 200m the path ends at a stile leading you onto a path between staked wire fences across the centre of a pasture. At the other side, go over a stile onto a narrow path which runs beside a wood on your right. The path abruptly bends right uphill through the wood before levelling out and descending. At the bottom, your path veers left and quickly bends **right** through a large metal gate to meet the bridleway with great views.
- 5 Cross straight over the bridleway by a fingerpost on a path which runs down between wire fences and sheep pastures. [Feb 2022: ignore large painted sign saying *Path Closed, Fallen Tree. Tree now cleared !*] At the bottom, your path enters woodland, bending left and hairpinning right. You come down to the banks of the River Wey, going over a flat bridge to a walled bridge across the main stream in another memorable spot. A stone table provides a useful seat for a short break. Continue through trees dressed in ivy, coming out into a meadow. Your path bears left along the edge and in 150m bends right to run alongside a sloping meadow on your left, with hazelnuts and blackberries ready for the picking in late summer. The path bends left in the corner, with a lane visible down on your right. You gradually descend to meet the lane. Turn **right** on this quiet lane, Frensham Lane, doubling back, uphill. In about ½ km you pass on your right the historic timbered *Peter's Barn* and, on the left, *Winters Barn Cottage*. In another ½ km you reach the Lindford/Liphook Road in the centre of Lindford with the *Royal Exchange* pub on your left.





Lindford was once just a hamlet in the village of Headley with only half-a-dozen houses, one of which was the Royal Exchange pub. Apart from the "Ford" in the river, no one is sure whether "Lind" refers to a name or to the linden trees. The Royal Exchange is a recently-refurbished freehouse, part of the Red Mist family. The inventive menu goes beyond typical pub grub, with some interesting dishes.


- 6 After your break, carefully cross straight over the main road to a residential road, Chase Road. You pass several side roads, one of them cleverly called Lindford Wey, because of the closeness of the river. In about 300m, just past Five Acres Close, turn **right** on Canes Lane, marked as a footpath, using the narrow tarmac footway which soon merges with the main drive. Where the main drive ends, keep straight on through a small and rather snug metal gate on a tarmac footway. This path leads you


across a concrete bridge over the River Wey and **left** beside the river where there is a noticeboard which tells you more about this precious area of woodland, known as the Bordon Inclosure.


The Bordon Inclosure is one of the nature reserves looked after by the Deadwater Valley Trust who also organise various events in the neighbourhood. The Inclosure (the traditional spelling is maintained, as in the New Forest) used to be MoD land before it was handed over to Whitehill Town Council. It is a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, or "SANG", meaning a safe, dog-friendly semi-natural habitat close to a residential area. There is much more to the Inclosure than you see on this walk and it is worth the effort to make a diversion along the various nature trails.

 7 Keep ahead, avoiding all turn-offs, passing on your right the King Oak with its extraordinary spread-out crown. On your left is a "frog" one of the sculpted images you see along the Shipwrights Way. At a 4-way signposted crossing, keep straight on. You come through the smaller of two wooden gates, from where a track leads finally, past *St Lucia House* to the Lindford Road. Carefully cross over to a footpath directly opposite.

 8 Your path runs under trees, passing on your left a huge mansion block. Your path now enters Defence land: however this is not a restricted area, in fact a nature reserve, a popular section of Broxhead Common. (The official footpath turns left, but this walk takes you through the centre of the common to enjoy a stunning sight which other walkers miss.) Follow the main path uphill through woods. Where the path completely levels out, after the last of the trees, you find yourself on a wide open expanse of purple heather, a spectacular sight in late summer which retains its wonder in winter too.

 After about 100m through the heather, you meet a prominent sandy crossing path. (As a guide, it's narrow on the right but wide on the left.) Turn **left** on this path. Where, in 100m, the main wide path wheels right, leave it by keeping straight ahead on a narrower path, heading towards the sound of the busy road. Turn **left** at a T-junction and, in 30m, by two MoD notices, turn **right** to the main road.

 9 Cross this busy road very carefully to a wide footpath opposite, going past a metal barrier. You are on a wide tarmac forest way which will take you all the way to the Kingsley Pond. The surface changes as you pass through an oak wood. Suddenly, after ½ km in the woods, you come out to a concrete causeway which leads over the Oxney Stream, known here as the "Oxney Moss". At a junction, ignore a wide path on the left and keep straight on along a slightly narrower tarmac drive. (However, as a diversion, turning left here across the grass will take you down to view the Oxney Pool.) Where the tarmac bends left towards farm buildings, leave it by keeping straight ahead on a wide gravel path. In 100m, keep straight on past a metal barrier, ignoring a signpost visible over on your left, crossing the Oxney Stream by a bridge.

 10 The path leads up into an area of trees known as Firs Hill. Keep to the **left**-hand side here, avoiding paths leading off right. After 150m in the woods, at a junction of paths, keep straight ahead past a one-bar barrier. Stay on the track for a further 250m, passing houses on your left, until the track finally reaches the Kingsley Pond and bends left round the shore line. In a moment, you are back at the *Cricketers Inn*, with the car park on your right, where the walk began.



Getting there

By car: Kingsley lies just off the main A325, Farnham-Petersfield road. There are various approaches for someone living in the London or M25 area, such as along the very bendy road through Headley, or on a narrow lane, Spats Lane, near Churt. The simplest way is via Farnham. After bypassing Farnham on the A31, turn **left** at the first roundabout, signposted *Petersfield*. After passing through Alice Holt Forest, the road comes to a junction with traffic lights. Turn **right** here, as for *Kingsley*. The car park is 1 mile on the left, just before the *Cricketers Inn*.

By bus/train: bus 23 from Alton or Haslemere to Lindford, not Sundays. Check the timetables.

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