



Charleshill

Distance: 5 km=3 miles or 3¼ km=2 miles easy walking

Region: Surrey Date written: 9-sep-2013 / 17-sep-2024

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Refreshments: picnic, or later in Elstead

Map: Explorer 145 (Guildford) *but the maps in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Woodland, pub, heath

In Brief

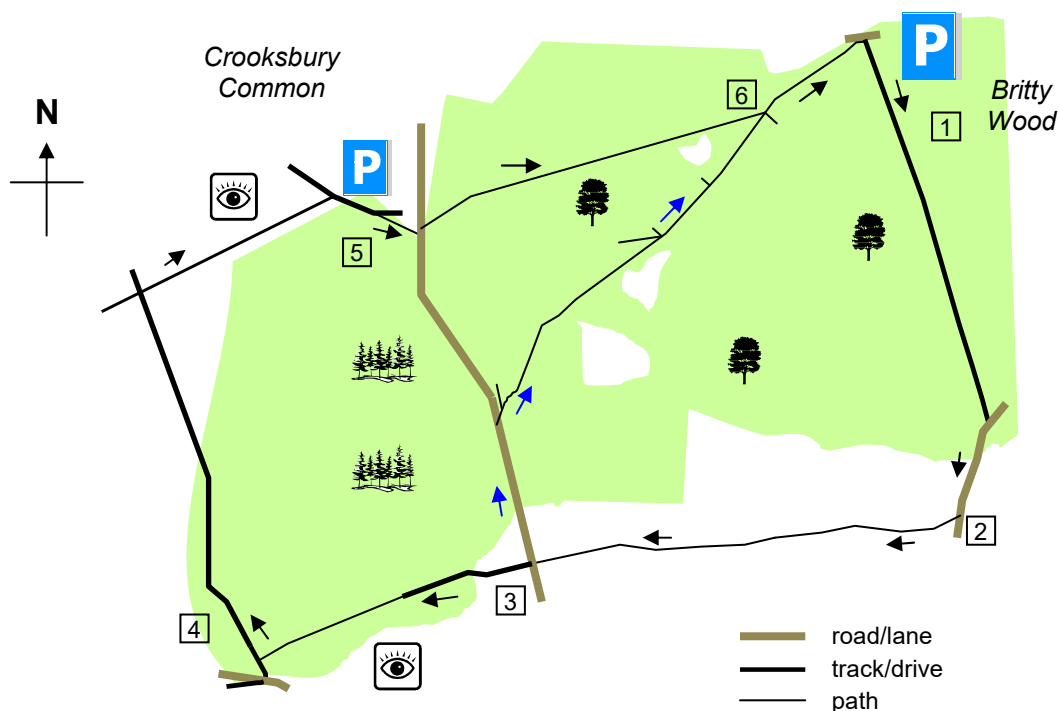
This walk used to be *The Donkey at Charleshill* pub walk. The closure of the pub proved to be an unexpected opportunity and this revised walk offering a wider loop turned out to be an absolute cracker! The most dazzling feature is Crooksbury Common, a heathland forest with a haunting atmosphere, also a site of special scientific interest, where the great swathes of pink heather are quite mesmerising. Because of the preponderance of heather, pines and the (relatively) dry sandy soil, this is also an excellent winter walk.




? There are no nettles and no stiles on this walk. Any sensible clothing and shoes should be fine. However, in a wet winter, there are patches of mud, especially at section 2, near Fullbrook Farm, when high boots or even wellies may be needed. This walk is perfect for your dog too.

The walk begins at the **Britty Wood car park**, Littleworth Road, Seale, near Farnham, Surrey, postcode **GU10 1JJ**, www.w3w.co/menu.twinkling.sourcing. The car park is unsigned and is near the Cuttmill Pond, opposite a double modern brick house, by an electricity transformer pylon. A very good alternative start is the **Crooksbury Common** car park, just off the Seale Road, www.w3w.co/tensions.producing.backtrack which has more spaces. (For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**)).

The Walk



- 1 Take the main path at the back of the car park, going past a barrier, under wires. In 350m you pass, on the right, *Britty Hill Cottage*, after which the path is a sandy track. You pass a water works and the track becomes tarmac soon reaching a road. Turn **right** on the road.
- 2 In 150m or so at a signpost, turn **right** by the gate of Fullbrook Farm, taking a narrow path to the left of the gate. The path takes you past the farmhouse and runs between banks with overhanging maples, all kinds of trees and a coppice. On the left soon you have a view across fields to Thursley Common. After 800m your path comes out to a road.

Decision point. If you are doing the shorter 2-mile walk, skip to near the end of this guide and do the section called Britty Wood Direct. Otherwise, continue with the next section.
- 3 Cross straight over the road to go between the eagle-crested pillars of *Three Barrows* at Amina Heights. At the curlicued iron gates, veer **right** on a tarmac drive. Where the drive abruptly ends, continue straight ahead on a sandy path downhill across the heath. The twisty and knobby path is a little overgrown with bracken and later rhododendrons. The path ends at a T-junction with a wide track. (Note: turning left here to the main road would bring you to the site of the *Donkey* pub, now “permanently closed”, although the signs are still there and the pub is for sale: whether as a dwelling or as a pub we’re not sure; the track beside it leads to Tilford and is used in two neighbouring walks - *Tilford* and *Crooksbury Hill*.)
- 4 Turn **right** on the wide track. You come through thick mixed woodland, passing some large turreted Edwardian houses, and several more at the end of their driveways. Finally, after a cluster of houses, the track ends at a metal barrier with a FC sign for Crooksbury Wood. Immediately after the barrier, turn **right** on a wide sandy woodland path. Looking to your left, especially in late summer, you see swathes of shimmering pink heather.

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Keep straight ahead at all times on this very wide path. [Junction paths on the left lead up to Culverswell Hill \(not on your route\)](#). Your path comes over a low crest and descends into the valley. A short section of woodland and a metal barrier lead to the Crooksbury Common car park (alternative start).

- 5 Follow the exit from the car park towards the road but, roughly 40m before the road, fork **right** on a narrow bridleway which comes out to the road. Cross straight over the road to a wild area belonging to Hampton Estate. Keep **left** to follow the “temporary deer fencing” on your right. At the end of the fencing, keep straight ahead over a crossing path. This wide path under tall pines comes over a narrow crossing path at the highest point and leads down into the valley. You come through a lighter area and a large house, *Whitefield*, comes into view ahead. Another path joins from the left and shortly you reach an oblique T-junction with a long straight level path running along the valley floor. Turn **left** on this path.
- 6 Continue a little further along the valley path. Finally a wooden barrier takes you to the Britty Wood car park where the walk began.

Britty Wood Direct

[Do this section if you are doing the shorter 2-mile walk, going directly from the Seale Road back to the car park.](#)

Ignoring the footpath ahead through eagle-crested pillars, turn **right** on the road, soon passing on your right a house called *Speedwell*. In 300m, just after a very small layby, fork **right** on a footpath into the woods, by a post with a yellow arrow. Immediately take the main right fork, ignoring a path that forks left parallel to the road. This beautiful woodland path has a variety of trees, especially rowan with their red berries in late summer. Avoid all lesser paths branching off. Your path curves left and right under wires and joins a path coming from the left. The path is now wider and straighter. Follow it through pine and birch woods, passing several side paths. A distant house *Whitefield* is visible on the left. You are joined by another path coming down obliquely from your left.

[Now skip to the main walk, re-joining it at Section 6.](#)

Getting there

By car: the Britty Wood car park is off the Littleworth Road, Seale, near Farnham. There are many ways of reaching it: (1) from the A3 or the Hog's Back and Puttenham village: turn left just after the church, follow the road for 2 miles or so until you go between two lakes, turn **right** at the crossroads; (2) from the A3 and Shackleford, at the junction in the village centre follow the quaint sign to *Cutmill*, the car park is 600m on the left after a crossroads and the lake; (3) via the Hog's Back and Seale: follow various signs to *Elstead* or later *Cutmill*, the car park is just before the lakes on your right; (4) from Farnham, Runfold, The Sands: follow signs for *Cutmill*, passing the *Barley Mow* on your right, the car park is just before the lakes on your right.

By bus/train: Stagecoach bus 46 from Farnham or Godalming to Charleshill. Check the timetables.

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