

Out and about

This walk explores the rich variety of habitats on Chobham Common, taking in woodland, heathland and wetland. Springtime is an ideal season to discover this area of Surrey, as the plants come back to life after their winter slumber and cover the heath with colour.

This issue's circular walk starts at Burrow Hill Green and is suitable for all abilities, with no steep inclines and no stiles. However, the tracks are narrow and mostly unmade, so wear suitable footwear, particularly during or after wet weather. This route is not suitable for wheelchair users or people with buggies.

Key facts

Start/finish: Burrow Hill Green, by the Four Horseshoes pub, on the B383 Windsor Road in Chobham.

Distance: 5.5km or 3.5 miles

Time: Allow 1½ hours

Type of walk: Easy walking, mostly on the level; suitable for all abilities.

Please remember: When walking through residential areas, please respect private property and take your litter home with you. Please note that you may encounter livestock in some parts; keep dogs under control at all times.

The route

1. From the Green, cross Windsor Road and join a signed footpath along Gorse Lane. Just before the end of the tarmac, by the 'Do not sound horn' sign before the houses of Shenton Gate, take the pathway to your left to enter the woods.



2. Walk alongside the small power station to your left and soon cross a bridleway, continuing (slightly to your right) along the main path, with fields visible through the trees to your left.

3. After 200 metres, pass under power lines to cross another track. Again, go straight on at the way marker onto a narrow footpath.

4. At a junction of pathways, turn right onto the bridleway/ horse ride. At the top of this short rise, turn left onto the marked pathway which brings you out onto open heath.

5. At the fork, take the track on the left and continue along this path, heading uphill on a sandy track, for 300 metres.

On the left is a small nature reserve called Jubilee Mount, in which many mature shrubs and conifers can be found. This area was preserved as an open space in 1977 – the year of the Queen's silver jubilee – and originally served as allotments for ex-servicemen of the Crimean War.

6. At the end of the track, you will reach Jubilee Mount car park. There are benches here to take a rest and admire the view across Chobham Common.

Key

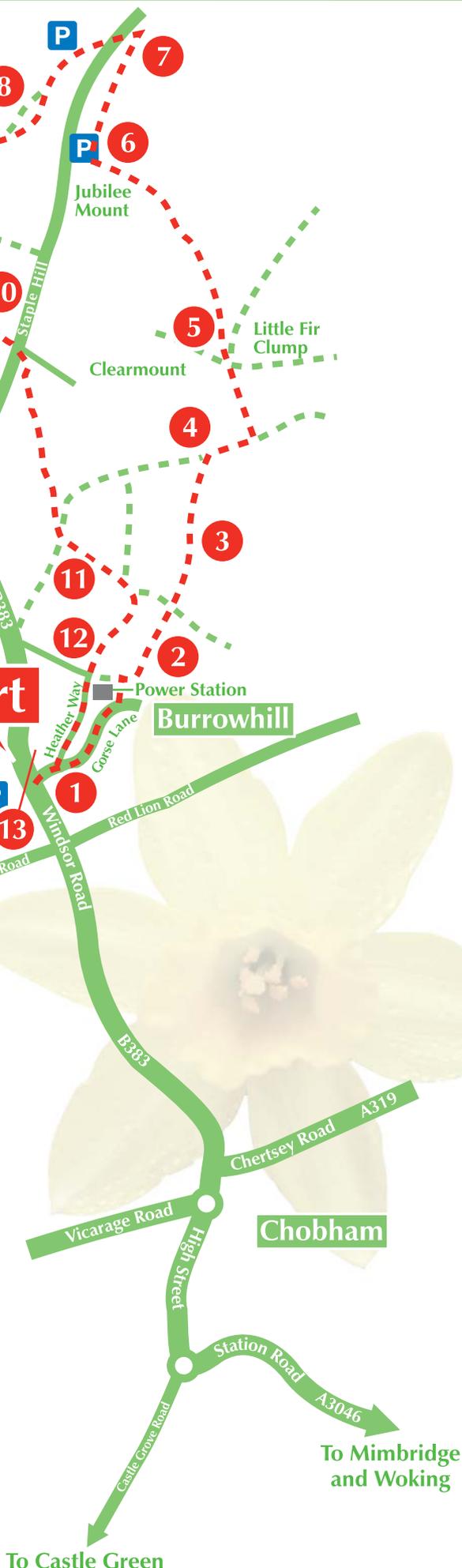
- Roads
- Footpaths
- Route
- Parking
- Roundabout



7. Cross the car park to join a pathway running alongside the road, still heading in the same direction. After 100 metres, there is a break in the hedge on your left. Cross the road with care and join the bridleway opposite.

The open heath you are now standing on is lowland heath, where plants such as gorse, heather and bracken thrive. Chobham Common covers over 1,300 acres (256 hectares). It is the largest National Nature Reserve in the south east of England and one of the finest remaining examples of lowland heath in the world. Heathlands are one of the most ancient and characteristic British landscapes, originally created by prehistoric farmers.





8. Take the left-hand track and head across the heath, where it can be quite boggy. You will hear the traffic from the M3 here but you will be walking parallel with the motorway only for a short distance.



9. At a junction in the paths, take a very narrow pathway to the left. This will take you alongside some woods and eventually into a small copse.



10. At the bottom of the slope, you rejoin the road. Cross with care and take the marked path opposite, to the right of the houses at Clearmount.

The pathway markers on the common are maintained by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), which manages 80 nature reserves, covering over 4,000 hectares of Surrey's countryside. SWT is a registered charity and was formed in 1959. The Trust is run independently but is one of 47 partners in the Wildlife Trusts, the largest organisation working exclusively in the UK on all aspects of nature conservation.

11. After 150 metres, when you reach a major pathway junction, take the path opposite. About 100m into the woods, just before passing between two fields, take the path to your right.

12. Walk alongside the cottages on the tarmacked lane. At the end of Heather Way, turn right onto Gorse Lane.

13. Cross Windsor Road with care to return to Burrowhill and the start of the walk.

