

Out and about

This walk, through some historic areas of Woking Borough, offers the chance to enjoy the local heathland and explore Brookwood Cemetery and includes part of the Basingstoke Canal. Most of the walk is shaded so this route is particularly pleasant during the warm summer months.

Key facts

Start/finish: village green car park at Pirbright

Distance: approximately eight kilometres/five miles

Time: allow three and a half hours

Type of walk: a mainly flat, easy route along tracks. Please note some parts of the walk (fields and heathland) can be uneven and muddy after rain.

Other useful information:

Brookwood Cemetery is still in use and visitors are asked to be respectful of this when passing through. Please also be aware that dogs are not allowed in the cemetery.

Please remember: the walk follows public footpaths and bridleways that cross private land.

The route

1. From the car park, walk along the A324 past Pirbright Village Hall (on your left) – directly in front you will see the White Hart pub. Take the side road on the right (signposted Pirbright Parish Church) and walk along the road for about 200 metres.

2. Enter the graveyard on the right. See the granite lump marking the grave of Stanley* and continue along the graveyard path, past Pirbright Church and out to the path beyond it (100 metres).

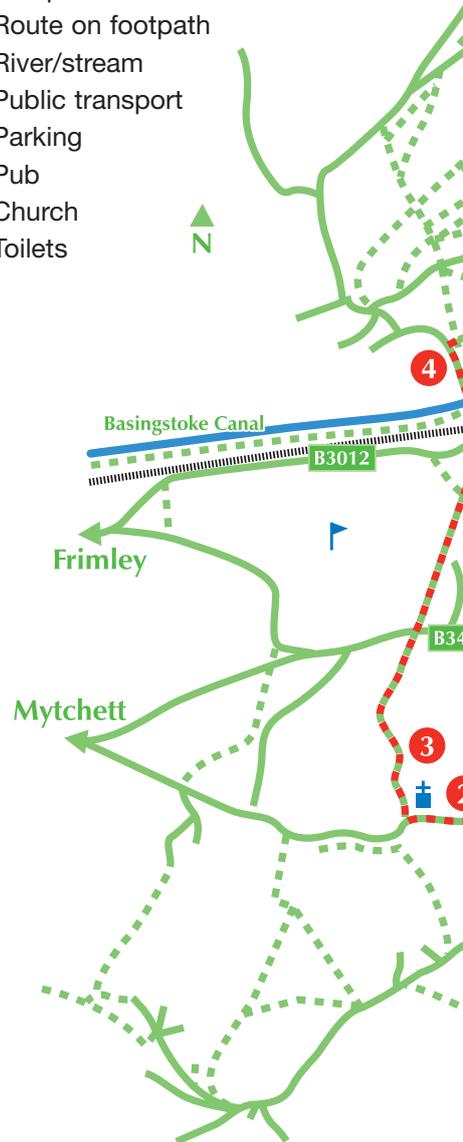
* Stanley's Mound marks the burial place of the explorer Henry Morton Stanley (1841 to 1904), who after finding fame, retired to Furze Hill in the parish of Pirbright. Born illegitimately, Stanley grew up in a Welsh workhouse, fought in the American civil war and became a journalist for the New York Herald, but his greatest coup was finding Dr Livingstone in Central Africa.



3. Go right over a small footbridge and walk along a path between fields (400 metres). Cross over a road and take the public footpath through the wood to the road junction (500 metres). Walk under the railway bridge (the London to Southampton Line), cross over the Basingstoke Canal at Lock 15 (100 metres) and continue on for another 100 metres. (**Warning:** this can be a busy section of road, please make sure you cross the road carefully.)

Key

- Roads
- Footpaths
- Route on footpath
- River/stream
- Public transport
- Parking
- Pub
- Church
- Toilets



4. Just past the two drives at the bend, turn right to the footpaths. Take the right-hand path (near to a house fence), which will lead you up through Sheets Heath (500 metres). Cross the narrow tarmac lane and follow the wide track for 500 metres. Note: please ignore the many side paths.

5. Take the path that cuts the corner on the right to the boundary trees, towards the telegraph poles (120 metres). Join the wide track and turn right after 60 metres over the staggered four-way junction down to the canal (450 metres). Continue to the cart bridge (200 metres).



Brookwood Cemetery is the largest privately owned burial ground in Britain. The military sections are now owned by the nation.

6. Cross and go up through Brookwood (200 metres), over the main road, past the Brookwood pub to the train station (80 metres). Using the main door, pass under the station to enter Brookwood Cemetery (50 metres).



7. Turn right and follow the drive that runs parallel with the railway past the graves of Turkish airmen, Sepoys and Zoroastrians (350 metres).

8. Turn left down the hill, past ranks of Chelsea Pensioners (on the right) and into the military area. Continue down the hill past the Canadian area on the right and then the American enclosure on the left (300 metres).

9. Turn left on to Long Avenue and stay on the tarmac (600 metres), past Western Avenue and Oak Avenue, which then curves right around the Najmee Baag (Muslim burial ground) to the exit on the road (300 metres).

10. Cross into the other part of the cemetery and stay on the main tarmac drive to the fork at the Orthodox Church and Monastery of St Edward (500 metres) and then right past the Serbian Orthodox cemetery at the boundary (200 metres).



11. Keep to the circular tarmac drive until it crosses St Mark's Avenue (400 metres).

12. Go left along St Mark's Avenue for 550 metres. After a deep ditch, follow the right fork to the boundary mound of Pirbright Common (60 metres). Slightly to the right, find the onward path to the tarmac lane (80 metres).

13. Go left for 100 metres. Take the track branching to the right – White Lane (50 metres) – and continue on the footpath to the next road (150 metres).

14. Go along the road left to White's Farm, and just before reaching it take the path to the right into the field (100 metres). Turn left but diverge from the boundary to a point 100 metres from the left corner (150 metres) and continue along the path to the wood (300 metres).

15. At the end of the path, turn left along the nursery track and exit via the tarmac drive to the road at the Cricketers pub (200 metres). Cross the green and return to the car park (200 metres).