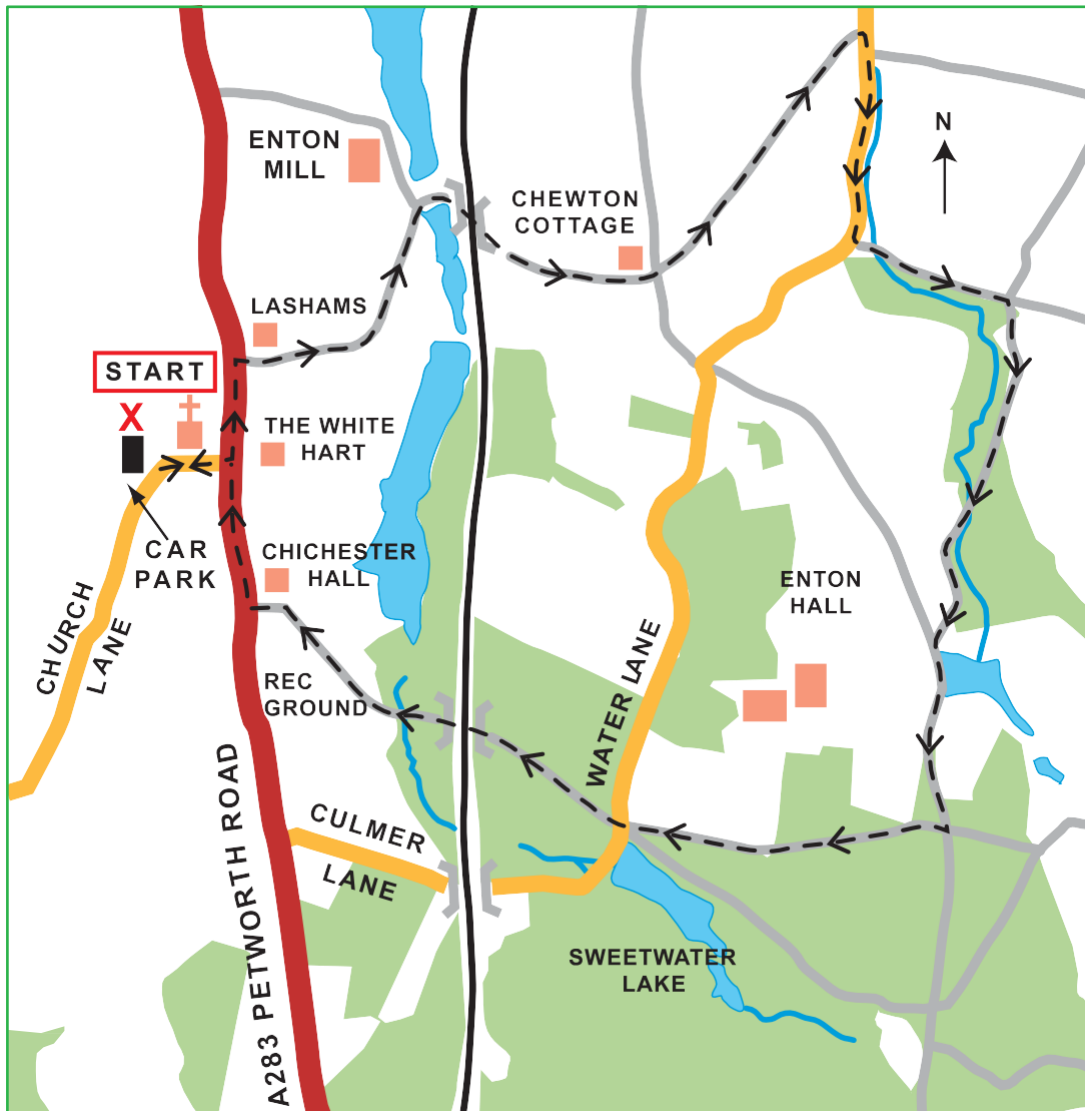





Walk 10

Witley and Enton



-  ROADS
-  ROADS
-  FOOTPATHS & TRACKS
-  ROUTE OF WALK
-  WOODED AREAS
-  BUILDINGS
-  RAILWAY LINE

Map: O.S. Explorers 133 – Haslemere & Petersfield (mainly), 145 – Guildford & Farnham

Start: Church Lane, Witley - car parking area on Right hand side uphill from church.
Alternative car parking area in Water Lane near Sweetwater Lake

Grid Ref: SU946396 **Distance:** 3 miles

Terrain: Easy walking, can be very muddy in places.

Refreshments: White Hart Pub – at the beginning and end.

Directions

Walk back to the main road and facing the White Hart, turn left. After about 200 metres, the pavement narrows and there is a tall brick wall on the opposite side of the road. Where this stops at a house called Lashams, a footpath starts. Cross the A283 with great caution and follow this path for about 250m, not missing the view to the north, to a metal kissing gate on the left which opens into a field. A clear path runs diagonally across the field to another kissing gate. Pass through and turn right onto a rough road with the buildings of Enton Mill on the left.

You may see kingfishers or a heron on the lake.

Keep along the road which goes under the railway bridge and uphill to reach a T junction by Chenton Cottage. Take the footpath ahead pointing half left across the field to a stile. Cross the stile and turn right to follow the path beside the garden hedge to another stile. Continue on the path along the edge of the field down to the field entry. Turn right along the road, Water Lane, with a stream on your left.

Where the stream passes under a fence into a boggy area, in March, you may see bog primula with their cluster of blooms at the top of a long stem. After two pools on the left and Enton Hollow on the right, in February you may see the large spikes of butterbur on the bank to the left of the road, and the other side of the hedge. Likewise in April, beyond the stream, you may see a large patch of Gunnera which looks like giant hairy rhubarb.



Butterbur

Now watch out for the finger-post for a bridleway on the left, in amongst the trees, which leads, past back gardens, to the fairway of the golf course. Immediately turn right here, following the yellow FP marker and go uphill along the woodland edge. Red and white posts mark the route.

Just after the fence stops, in the bank at the edge of the wood, you will see primroses in March/April.

Shortly after the last red post the path bears right into the woods. Once in the woods, on the right, there is a very long steep drop down to a stream.

Where the tree canopy is less dense there are foxgloves here in May/June and if it is a moist still day you will note the scent of honey suckle which climbs up into the trees.

The path descends to a footbridge by a cottage.

Where the path descends there are swathes of bluebells on both sides in April. In January you will see masses of snowdrops just beyond the footbridge on the bank of the stream.

After crossing the bridge, turn right to go directly past the cottage (now deserted) and swing left through the garden to a broad path on your right. Go right here and almost immediately turn left onto a path that runs alongside a field fence.

Continue along the edge of the field passing a small lake on the left.

On the lake in June there are water-lilies and at the near edge yellow water iris. Between the gate and the pine wood note the honeysuckle on the right and a few examples of the shrub Alder Buckthorn, the food of Brimstone caterpillars.

At the end of the field is a metal gate (now disused) but as you go past, note the design of the catch with a thumb plate and a roller to ease operation. Ignore the left fork at the yellow marked post and after about 50m, at a crossroads of tracks, turn right and walk towards the remains of a stile visible ahead.

At the crossroads note the cleared area of pine woodland ahead to the left. The owner of Hambledon and Busses Common is returning the area to lowland heath (heather) that was there in his childhood, as he has successfully done on Hambledon Common.

Go past the stile, through the pine wood to emerge by the fenced golf area below Enton Hall on the right, and the wood to the left. Take the path straight ahead along the fence line and after c. 300m there is a small parking area with Sweetwater Lake on the left and Water Lane ahead. Cross the lane and, slightly to the right, turn left on a path with a high fence on the left-hand side through an open wooded area. The path goes under the railway and down to a muddy area, now crossed by a raised footway and a low stone bridge.

To the left, in the swampy area Skunk Cabbage has established itself and in spring you will see its very large yellow arum-like flowers.

After crossing the bridge, the path comes to a T junction with a rough track. Turn right here past Well Cottage to arrive at Witley recreation ground. Go round the right hand edge of the ground and pass in front of the Chichester Hall to the road, A283, cross the road with care, turn right past the phone box and continue straight on to Church Lane to return to the start.

