



Burley – Heart of the New Forest

This gently undulating walk follows a well-made, clearly marked walking and cycle trail through woodland to the Knightwood Oak

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 12.5 km (7.8 miles)
- Approximate time: 3 hours 20 mins
- Approx. total ascent: 260 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SU 226 044
- GPS Ref: SU 22698 04489
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer OL 22
- Toughness Rating: Hampshire 2

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE?

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THE ROUTE

Today's walk starts in the very heart of the New Forest, at the car park at Burley New Inclosure, **S**. Returning to the Lyndhurst Road, turn right. Continue along the road for 700 metres to **A**. Turn left on to the marked cycle track at the 'Old House' sign. Disregarding the cycle trail to your left, carry on to the Inclosure fence. Continue through the gate, taking the gravelly track ahead.

Ignoring all side tracks, keep ahead along the woodland cycle trail through Burley Walk and Burley Outer Rails Inclosure. After about 2 km, your route reaches Anderwood Inclosure and marker post 16. Ignore the cycle trail to your right, continuing ahead. Shortly the path bears right then left around an inclosure fence before continuing through a gate, **B**. Follow the route north through Winding Shoot to reach the Bolderwood Ornamental Drive. Turn right. Carry on along the tarmac road bordered by ancient broad-leaved trees, for 1.2 km.

Reaching the Knightwood Oak car park, veer left across the road on to the footpath opposite, **C**. Continue through the double barrier to follow the marked route to the ancient Knightwood Oak. The largest oak in the New Forest is still alive after 500 years due to pollarding in past centuries. The site is documented.

Return to the road, crossing to the narrow footpath opposite. Carry on ahead through the car park, then the small barrier. Continue ahead, ignoring side paths, along the dry sandy track through areas of forest clearance and woodland.

Reaching the T-junction, turn right. Carry on for 200 metres, turning left on to the crossing track. Your route continues along a major gravel path to **D**, turns sharp right, then at the T-junction, veers left. After 100 metres, **E**, fork left on to the lesser path. Passing close by the Eagle Oak (famous for the last sea eagle being shot from its branches in 1810), follow the gravel track as it continues on to open heathland. Carry on, veering right with the main path; ignore the gravel path to the left. At the T-junction, turn left, to walk parallel with the fence along the grassy path.

Reaching the road, turn right. Keep ahead past the busy Anderwood car park (toilets available) to **F**. Turn left on to the marked cycle trail. Carry on heading south, cross the footbridge, then after about 100 metres turn right on to the marked cycle trail, **G**. Ignore the track ahead.

Your route follows the inclosure fence through less dense forest, then after 600 metres turns left; ignore the track ahead and right. Carry on to the track junction. Continue to follow the cycle trail ahead through the inclosure gate. Reaching the fence and track junction, turn right into Burley New Inclosure, **H**. Continue straight ahead. After 500 metres, at the fork, leave the cycle trail, veering left on to the grassy track. Shortly, veer left again with the main path. Your walk, with the valley to your left, follows along the hill to **I**. Leave the track to turn right on to the narrow grassy footpath through the trees and return to the car park, **S**.



New Forest Ponies



The Cycle Track



A New Forest Trail

Refreshment

<p>The Queens Head Public House The Cross, Burley Tel: 01425 403423 Historical pub. Good pub food and main meals</p> <p>The Old Farm House Restaurant and Tea Rooms The Cross, Burley Tel: 01425 402218 Hearty breakfasts; morning coffee, lunches & snacks</p>	<p>The White Buck Pub & B&B Bisterne Road, Burley Tel: 01425 402264 Snacks and meals; real ales; garden</p>
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The Queens Head

LOCAL INFO

Picturesque **Burley**, dating from Saxon times, has changed little over the centuries and draws visitors from afar. Deep in the New Forest and surrounded by wooded hills, the village is ideally located on a smugglers route; under the stable bar of the sixteenth-century Queens Head pub, pistols, coins and bottles were discovered. Tales of dragons, witches and the occult abound. A white witch named Sybil Leek lived in the community; she walked the streets wearing a black cloak with a jackdaw perched on her shoulder. Forced to emigrate to America because of villagers' belief that she was practising the black arts, she later made her name writing books on the occult and astrology. Sybil was not forgotten; a shop was named after her – the 'Coven of Witches' – and the old village blacksmiths shop 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice', sells a range of gifts, some connected with myth, magic and witches. There are many other quaint shops, such as the Burley fudge shop, and the Burley Coach House for free sampling of the country wines on sale.

BURLEY – HEART OF THE NEW FOREST G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
BUR S	S	SU 22698 04489	76
BUR A	A	SU 23079 04916	56
BUR B	B	SU 25176 06157	48
BUR C	C	SU 26411 06400	40
BUR D	D	SU 25707 06118	49
BUR E	E	SU 25476 06304	50
BUR F	F	SU 24924 05618	46
BUR G	G	SU 24993 04906	34
BUR H	H	SU 23621 04285	43
BUR I	I	SU 22790 04449	71

MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Hampshire & New Forest** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Hampshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons..