



Hammer Vale and Linchmere Common

Distance: 9km=5½ miles or 6km=3¾ miles easy walking

Region: Hampshire, West Sussex

Author: Botafuego *comments please to feedback@fancyfreewalks.org*

Refreshments: Hammer Vale

Map: Explorer 133 (Haslemere) *but the maps in this guide should be sufficient*

Public rights are restricted to printing, copying or distributing this document exactly as seen here, complete and without any cutting or editing. See *Principles* on main webpage.

Lake, village, woodland, water, river, hills, heath

In Brief

This could be described as a perfect **pub walk** since it is short and finishes about a mile from an excellent inn, the *Prince of Wales* in Hammer Vale.

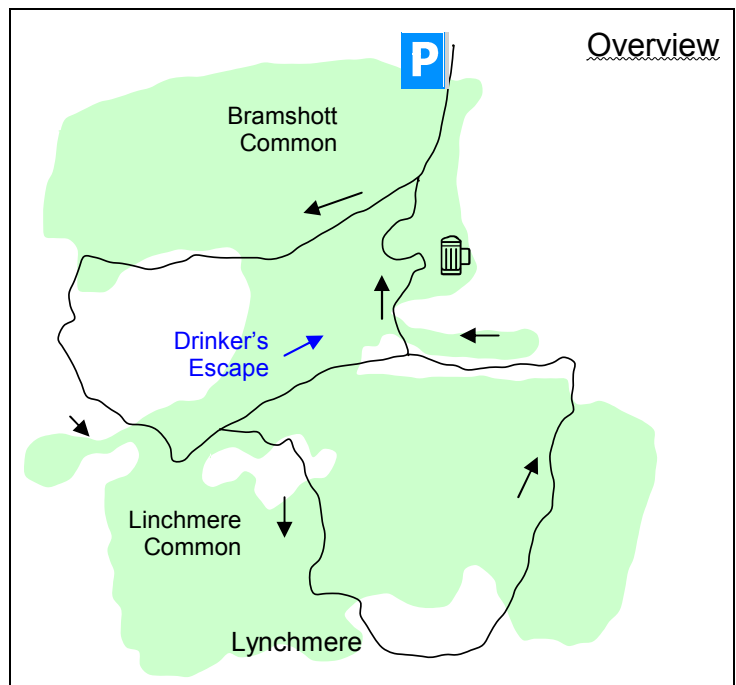
There is even a shorter version for impatient drinkers. The walk is right on the three-counties border since the nearest town is Haslemere in Surrey, it begins and ends in Hampshire and goes through West Sussex.



There are no nettles, good shoes are adequate and the whole area is dog-friendly, including the pub.

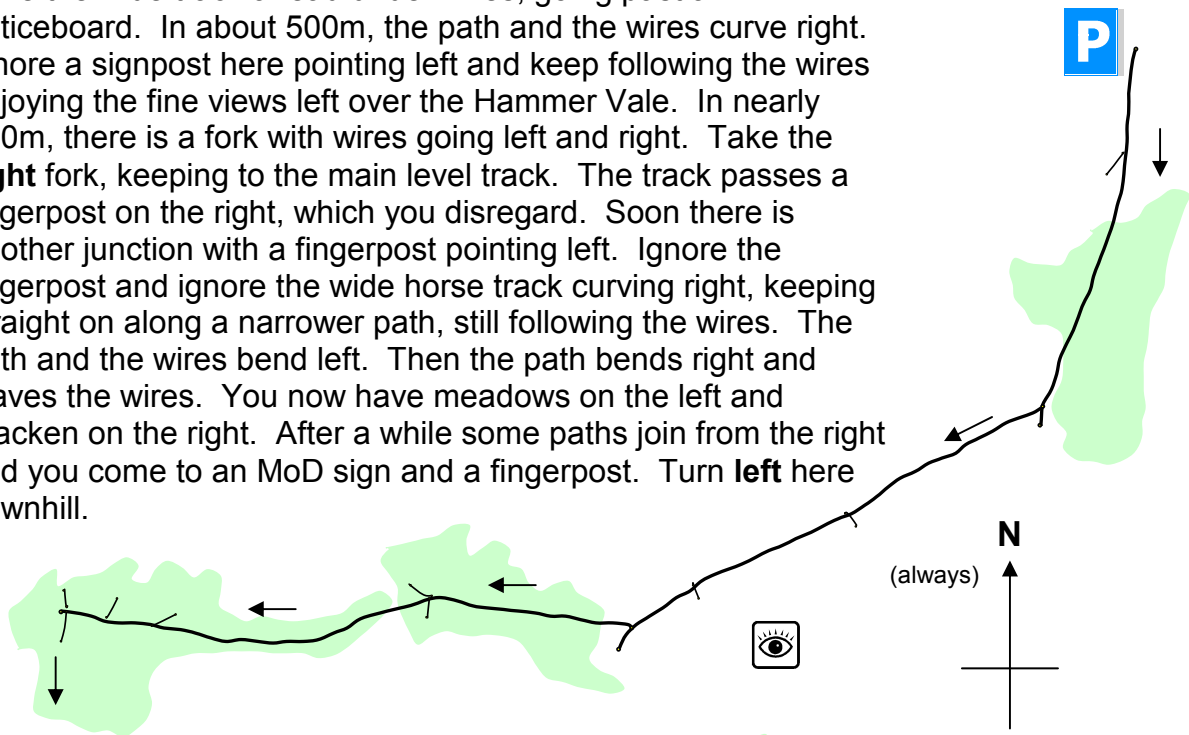


The walk begins at the **Bramshott Common** car park, Hampshire (grid ref 869336), near the A3, after the crossroads at the end of **Woolmer Hill Road** in Haslemere. For more (important) details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

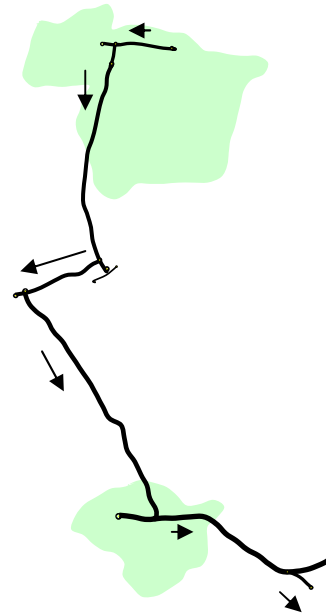


The Walk

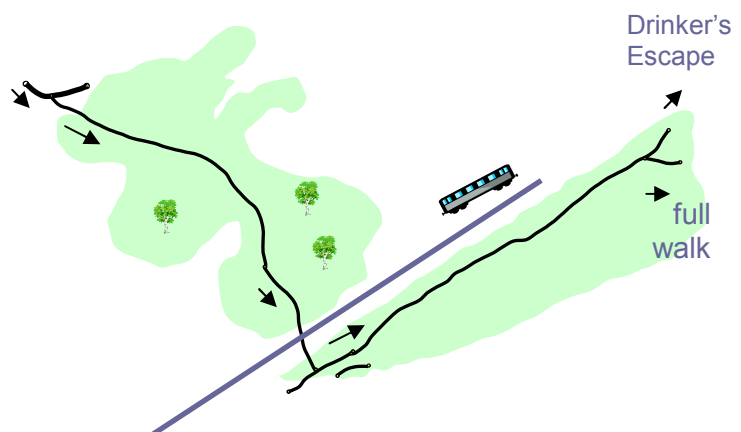
- 1 Take the wide track ahead under wires, going past a noticeboard. In about 500m, the path and the wires curve right. Ignore a signpost here pointing left and keep following the wires enjoying the fine views left over the Hammer Vale. In nearly 700m, there is a fork with wires going left and right. Take the **right** fork, keeping to the main level track. The track passes a fingerpost on the right, which you disregard. Soon there is another junction with a fingerpost pointing left. Ignore the fingerpost and ignore the wide horse track curving right, keeping straight on along a narrower path, still following the wires. The path and the wires bend left. Then the path bends right and leaves the wires. You now have meadows on the left and bracken on the right. After a while some paths join from the right and you come to an MoD sign and a fingerpost. Turn **left** here downhill.



- 2 The path goes through a small metal gate. Follow the tarmac drive and, at the end, take the first of two tarmac paths on the **right** (the last one is private). Go past some large cottages of Old Barn Farm and turn left at *The Barn* before a meadow on a tarmac drive. In about 300m, at the end of the drive, go through metal gates to Hewshott Lane and turn **left** on it. In about 150m, where the lane bends left, turn **right** on a signposted byway.

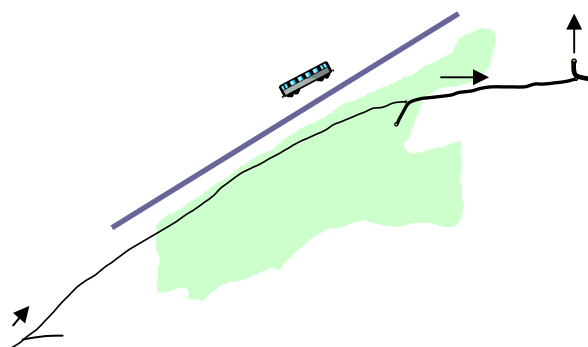


- 3 The byway passes a large pond on the left and crosses a bridge over a running stream in a pleasant woodland stretch that crosses into West Sussex. Go under a railway arch and turn immediately **left**. Keep to the path that runs beside the railway, ignoring a driveway on your right. In nearly 300m, you meet a fingerpost.

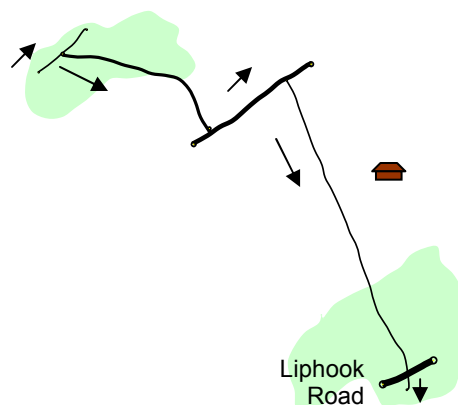


Decision point. The walk now takes you through beautiful Linchmere Common. If you prefer to go straight to Prince of Wales, take the short cut that follows here. Otherwise jump over the rest of this stage to stage [4](#).

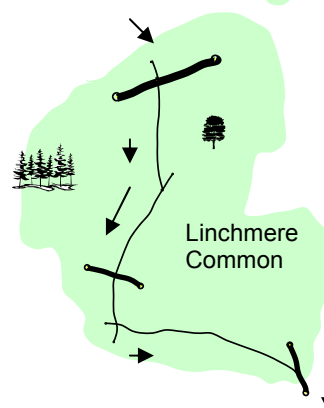
The Drinkers Escape. Fork **left** at the fingerpost on a path downhill, staying close to the railway. In about 400m, the path veers away from the railway into woodland and meets a bridleway coming from the right next to some fine conifers. Veer **left** on the bridleway under beeches and go through a gap by a metal gate into a meadow. At the end, go over a stile and turn **left** on a lane. Continue now from stage [9](#).



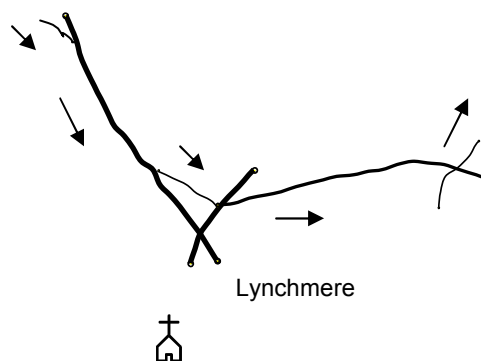
- [4](#) Fork **right** at the fingerpost on a bridleway that leads up to a tarmac lane. Turn **left** on the lane. In 100m, turn **right** up a bank on a footpath by a rather hidden waymarker post. The path runs by a house, between meadows, then up through woodland via a stile to the Liphook Road. Cross the road and go through a wooden gate into beautiful Linchmere Common.



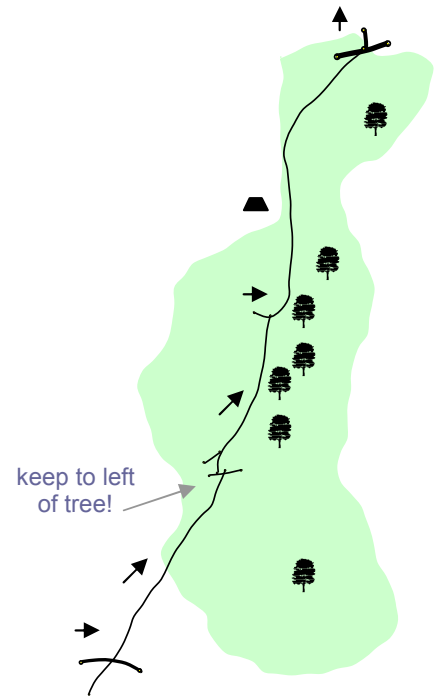
- [5](#) There is a notice on the gate describing the cattle that are kept here to graze. Keep ahead across the common. At a junction with a fingerpost, veer **right**, following the yellow arrow. Continue through another wooden gate to a lane. Cross the lane and go past a noticeboard and through a wooden gate. Keep ahead and, about 20m before a gate visible ahead, turn **left** on a sandy horse path under wires. At the end, go through a wooden gate to the lane. Veer **right** on the lane.



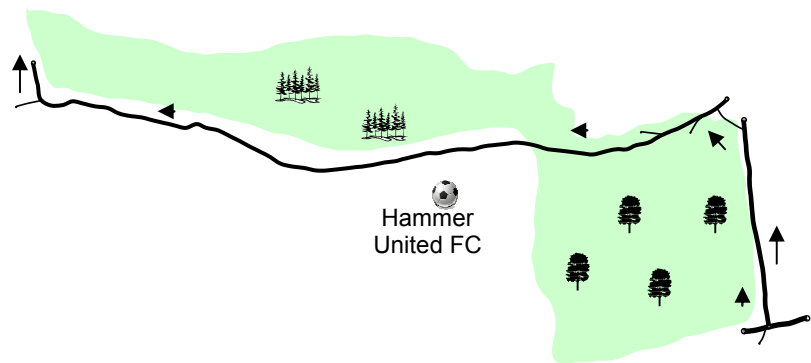
- [6](#) Follow the lane, at first using the wide grass verge towards the village of Lynchmere. Soon you see a white signpost ahead. Fork **left** here across the grass to cut the corner. *However, it is worth while to make a small diversion by following the lane ahead to visit Lynchmere church. The churchyard reveals among other things the grave of Richard Dimbleby.* On reaching a lane, cross immediately over and take a rough track opposite which is part of the Sussex Border Path (SBP). At the end of the first meadow on the left, you reach a crosspaths. Turn **left** here.



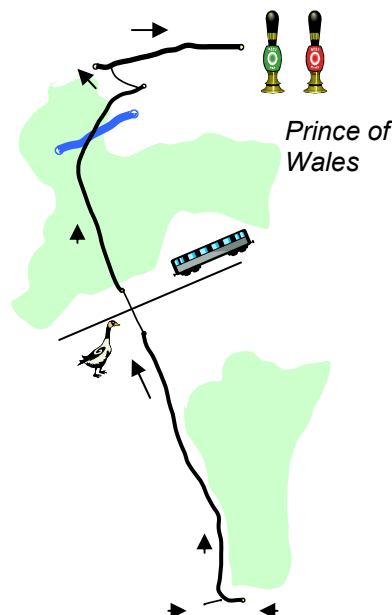
7 Follow this very winding path past a meadow and then through attractive woodland. The path eventually reaches a crossing path with a fingerpost. *The route from here is an improvement on the rather haphazard official footpath.* Cross over the path, but keep to the **left** of the large oak ahead. In 15m veer **right** on a wide clear and fairly straight path with sparse trees on your left and denser woodland on your right. Avoid a path soon leading off right into the woodland and stay on the path straight ahead. Soon the path runs through a coppice and arrives at a T-junction. Turn **right** here. In 25m, in front of a round yew tree, turn **left**. In 20m the path goes over a crossing path and, soon after, goes over a driveway by some houses on the left. In 30m, veer **left** at a post on a bridgeway. This partly sunken path gradually descends to a road.



8 Cross the road to Hammer Lane opposite and continue down the road. Opposite no. 14, turn **left** on a signed bridgeway. In a few metres, turn **left** on a gravel track by houses, ignoring a footpath that forks off left. Keep **left** shortly to avoid a stony private drive. The track soon passes the Hammer United FC ground. *Hammer United have a good record in the Surrey County Intermediate League (Western). They compensate for the thin spectator attendance by cheering themselves, a din that reverberates along the valley.* Soon, at a sign warning you of free-range children, you reach a junction. Follow the main track as it bends **right**.



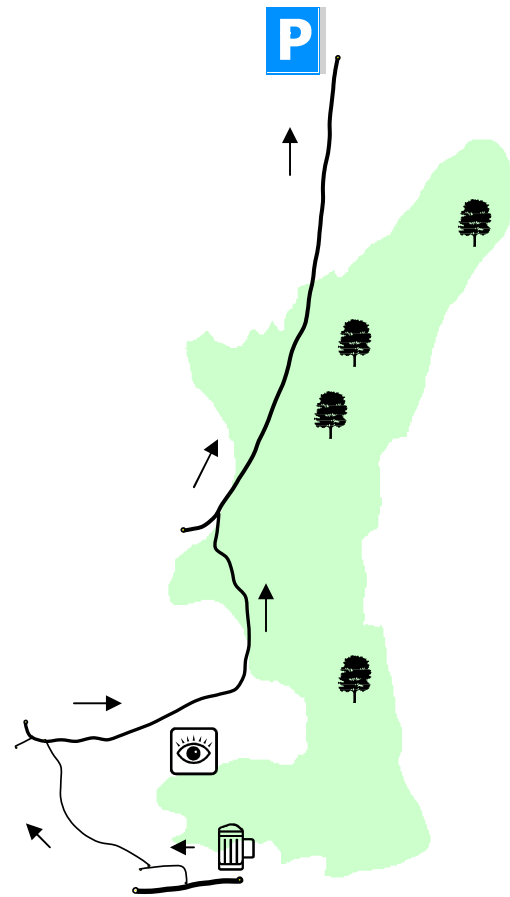
9 **The Drinkers Escape rejoins the walk here.** Pass Hammer Farm House and Barn and enter the yard and stables. Go through a gate, followed by a swing-gate and cross the railway carefully, keeping ahead on a rough drive that curves right over a stream, taking you back into Hampshire. Turn **left** by a house and **right** on the road quickly leading to the Prince of Wales pub.





The Prince of Wales is nominally now a Fullers pub but still offers two Gales brews. It welcomes children and dogs and provides unpretentious traditional pub food in an enviable setting. It has recently been refurbished.

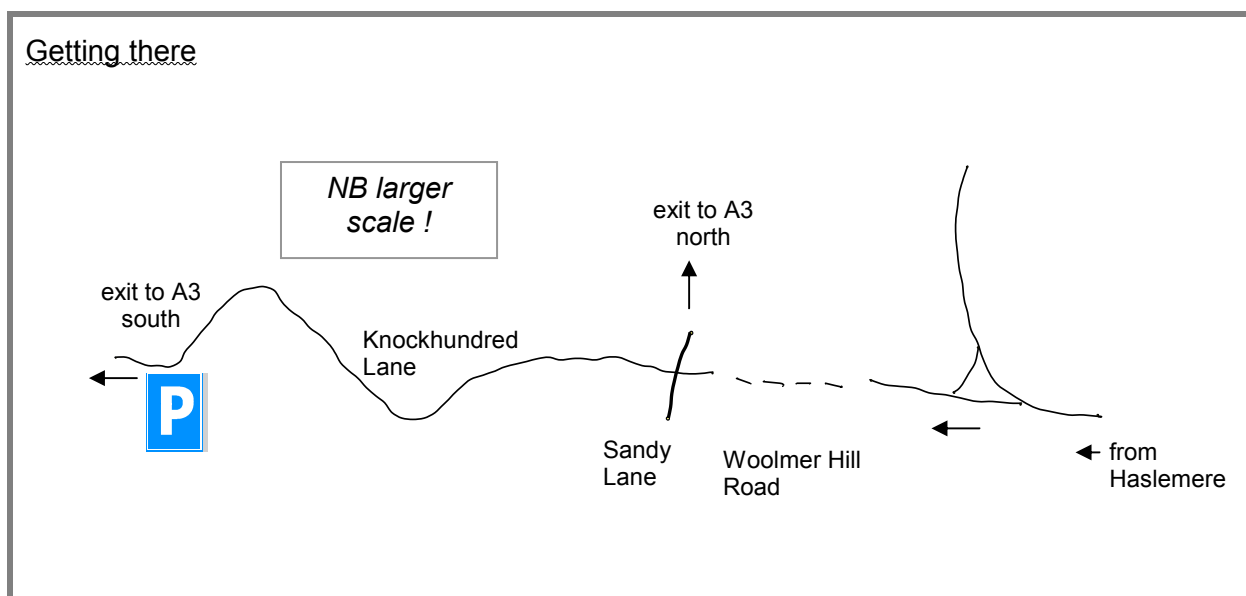
- 10 With your back to the road, turn **left** through the pub car park and take a grassy path, forking immediately **right** quite steeply uphill following some high-tension wires. Near the top, at a T-junction, turn **left**, still following the wires. At the very top you meet a wide path. Turn sharp **right** onto it. This fine high route offers great views right across the valley. When you reach the edge of a birch wood, turn **left** with the main path. You pass a post with a yellow arrow. Stay on the main path as far as a T-junction with a wide path running under wires. Turn **right** here and in 500m arrive back at the Bramshott Common car park.



Getting there

By car: you *cannot* reach the car park directly from the A3. To get there from Haslemere, take the Hindhead Road through Shottermill and fork left in about ½ km onto Woolmer Hill Road. Follow Woolmer Hill Road as it twists and turns and in roughly 2km (rather over a mile) you come to a crossroads with Sandy Lane (left) and Hammer Lane (right). Take the lane straight ahead, possibly unsigned, called Knockhundred Lane. The car park is 350m on the left.

To return after the walk, you can easily exit to the **A3 south** by turning left out of the car park; **or** you can return the way you came; **or** you can turn *left* at the crossroads onto Hammer Lane, go *under* the A3 and join the **A3 north**.



By bus/train: bus 59 from Haslemere Station to Hammer Vale (not Sunday?).
Check the timetables.

fancy more free walks? www.fancyfreewalks.org