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## Well: *The Chequers* (Pub Walk)

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Distance: 11 km=6½ miles

easy walking

Region: Hampshire

Date written: 6-may-2012

Author: Botafuego

Last update: 14-apr-2017

Refreshments: Well

Map: Explorer 144 (Basingstoke, Alton)

Problems, changes? *We depend on your feedback: [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

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*Villages, views, woodland, pub*

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### In Brief

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The village of Well in Hampshire has several historic and charming cottages and the friendly *Chequers Inn* is made from a pair of them, with a front patio under a spreading vine that gives this very English corner a slightly continental feel. Beer is K&B of all types and food varies from pub classics to more sophisticated dishes. The pub is open all day at week-ends. To reserve, ring 01256 862605.

The walk takes you on easy paths over hills with great views and also shows you the best of another village, Lower Froyle, from an corner not normally seen by passing visitors.



There is at least one overgrown path on this walk, so bare legs are not advisable, but any other kind of attire should be fine. After a long wet spell, you will find that boots are a must as the byway in section 3 can be muddy in parts. Your dog is very welcome on this walk.

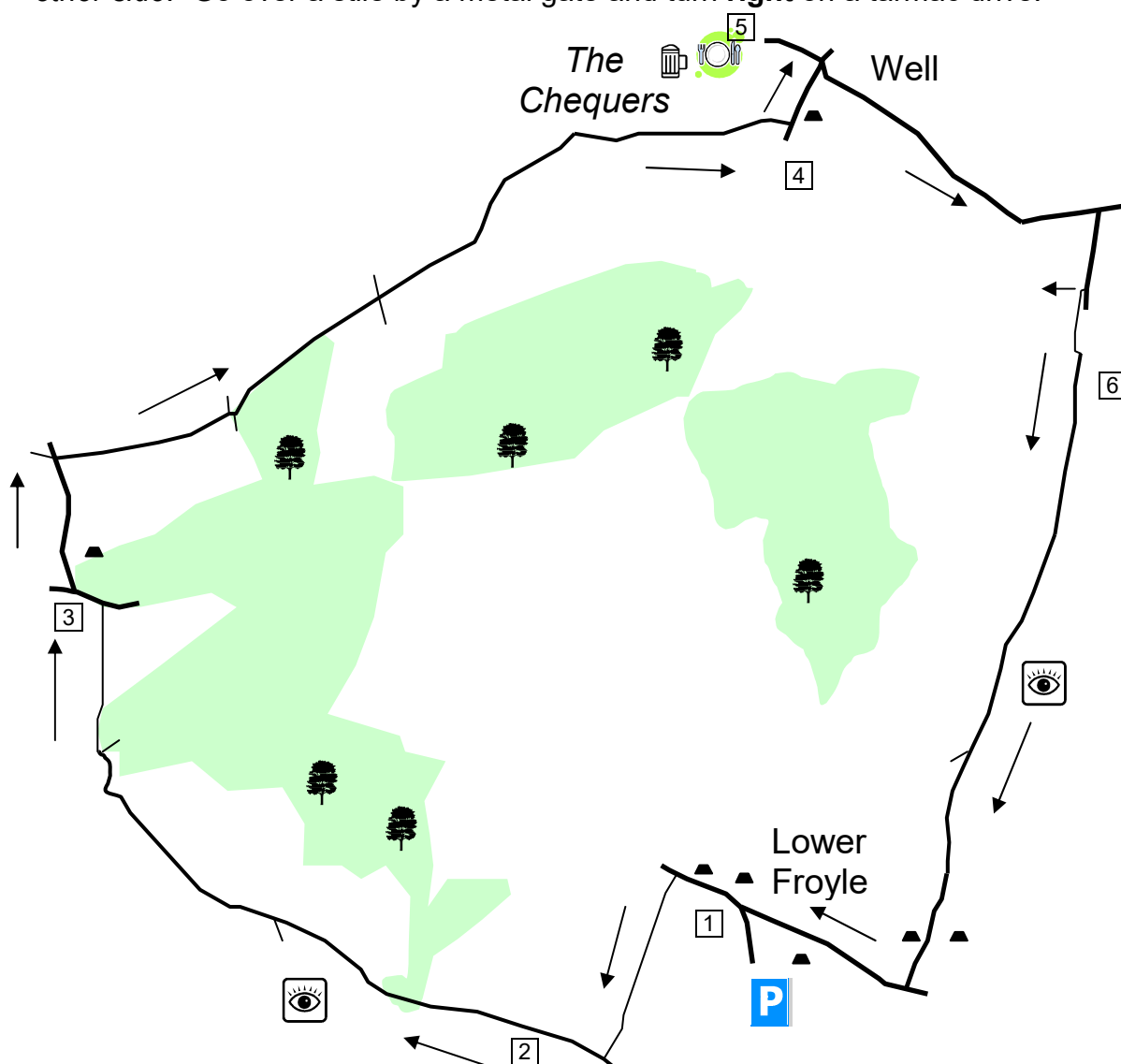
The walk begins in **Lower Froyle**, Hampshire, **postcode GU34 4LJ**, near the A31 Farnham-Winchester road, one mile west and north of Bentley. Park considerately in the centre of the village, preferably in Ryebridge Lane, near the village hall. This is the road that branches away at a little signpost near the village noticeboard in the direction of *Upper Froyle*. You can of course park at the pub, preferably off-road opposite it rather than in the pub car park. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

### The Walk

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- 1 **See map overleaf.** Starting in the centre of Lower Froyle, go west along the main village street, signed *Golden Pot*, and, just after *Aldersley House*, turn **left** at a signpost on a footpath. Your path goes through a kissing-gate and, a fraction left, across a field on a well-defined route through the crops. (If the path is obscured, aim for the right-hand side of a very tall square hedge, in a garden, at the top of the field.) At the top of the field, go through a kissing-

gate, over a 3-plank bridge, through another kissing-gate and along the right-hand side of a meadow. *You have great views here east into Sussex and north to the big copses behind the village which you will soon see from the other side.* Go over a stile by a metal gate and turn **right** on a tarmac drive.



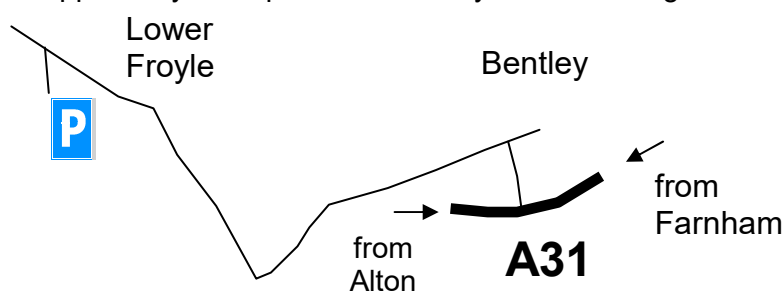
- 2** Continue past a metal gate and past the farm here on Saintbury Hill, still on the wide track and soon with views all around. There is woodland on the right, with a footpath joining from the left, then woodland on the left. Suddenly you reach the corner of a field on your left. Leave the wide track, which veers off left quite sharply, by keeping straight on here past a partly hidden 2-way finger post, a fraction right, along the right-hand side of the field, with fine woods on view to your right. At the next corner, your path winds right and left through a beautiful area of varied trees and sloping grass. Continue up the other side with a field on your left, especially popular with skylarks. At the top, keep straight across the field on a clear path ahead. [Apr 2015: the path is ploughed over and sown with grass. As a guide, head towards a point about 50m to the right of the corner of the wood visible ahead.] At the bottom, turn **left** on a road.
- 3** In 50m, at a road junction, turn **right**, signed *Long Sutton*. The first house, curiously named *Bumpers*, is home to some friendly dogs of different sizes who may well come out to greet you. When you finally reach a road junction, turn **right** on a track signposted as a byway. After a while, your track enters the edge of some woods. Ignore footpaths left and right here.

The buildings over on your left are part of Lord Wandsworth College, a co-ed independent school. Soon you are walking between fields with a hedge on your left. Again, ignore footpaths left and right. The wood looming up on your right is Sheephouse Copse. Now your path becomes sunken with hedgerow plants and shrubs on each side. Now it is stony and winding, gently ascending. Finally you reach a lane. Turn **left** on the lane.

- 4 The lane takes you past the stately *Manor Farm* and into the sleepy village of Well. *The well that gives its name to this place is at the crossroads, but the current structure is relatively new so it must have existed in earlier forms. Among the few houses here are several gems, such as the Old Cottage, dated 1686. For the Chequers Inn, turn left on the road for a short distance. You need to retrace your steps to the crossroads to resume the walk.*
- 5 After refreshment, continue straight on at the crossroads (or turn **right** if you did not visit the *Chequers*), in the direction of *Dippenhall*. Follow this quiet lane under grid wires, later passing *No Mans Land Cottage* on your right. *The various hedgerow trees on your left have grown to a magnificent height giving the lane a deep atmosphere.* Turn **right** at the next junction on a narrow lane, *Husseys Lane*, soon giving you views south. After 200m, at a fingerpost turn **right** for just 10m and then immediately **left** again, on a permissive horse ride running parallel to the lane you were on. *[Apr 2017: the horse path was too overgrown and walkers stayed on the lane.]* At the end of the track, zigzag **left** and **right** to resume your original course, now on an earth track which has taken over from the tarmac.
- 6 Your track runs between fields, then down through woodland, only to rise again where it is rather stony underfoot. At the top of the gradient, if you hop over the low barrier, there is a carved bench seat from which to take in the views to the east. You pass more woodland on the right as Lower Froyle comes into view. Avoid a footpath on the right here. The lane becomes tarmac as you pass the first few charming cottages of Lower Froyle, including a group of converted oasts on your right. *Oast houses are usually associated with Kent but can be found in many southern counties.* You pass other contrasting properties of immense character, a sight usually missed by visitors who come by the main road. Finally the duck pond is on your right as you come to a T-junction. Turn **right** on the main road, leading you back into the village centre where the walk began.

## Getting there

By car: Lower Froyle is near the A31 Farnham-Alton Road. Leave the road at Bentley which is signed. Go west through Bentley on a road that bends north and takes you in less than a mile, passing the renowned *Anchor Inn*, into the centre of Lower Froyle. At the little signpost in the village centre, turn left in the direction of Upper Froyle but park immediately near the village hall.



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