



Charleshill: The Donkey (pub walk)

Distance: 4½ km=3 miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: Charleshill

Map: Explorer 145 (Guildford) *but the maps in this guide should be sufficient*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Woodland, pub, heath

In Brief

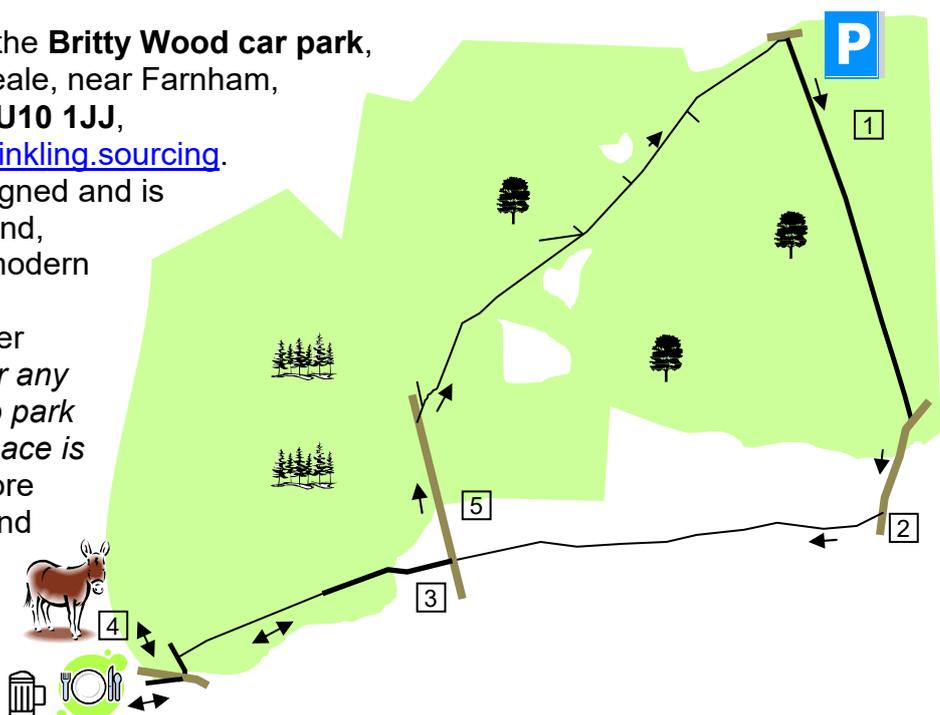
The Donkey at Charleshill is named after its inhabitants. At the back of the garden is the field of two donkeys with their comfortable shed and their fodder brought by the dedicated landlady. Good fodder is also served to the human visitors, including their famous donkey burgers which – please note – are made from *beef*. The pub is one of the typical stone cottages of this area, cosily converted inside and with a large patio with wooden tables looking out onto the donkey yard and the country beyond.



There are no nettles and no stiles on this walk. Any sensible clothing and shoes should be fine. It is perfect for your dog too.

The walk begins at the **Britty Wood car park**, Littleworth Road, Seale, near Farnham, Surrey, postcode **GU10 1JJ**, www.w3w.co/menu.twinkling.sourcing.

The car park is unsigned and is near the Cuttmill Pond, opposite a double modern brick house, by an electricity transformer pylon. *Do not under any circumstances try to park at the pub where space is a premium!* For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

- 1 Take the main path at the back of the car park, going past a barrier, under wires. Soon you pass a waymarker and, on the right, *Britty Hill Cottage*, after which the path is a sandy track. You pass a water pumping station and the track becomes tarmac soon reaching a road. Turn **right** on the road.
- 2 In 150m or so, turn **right** by the gate of Fullbrook Farm, taking a narrow path to the left of the gate. The path takes you past the farmhouse and runs between banks with overhanging maples, all kinds of trees and a coppice. On the left soon you have a view across fields to Thursley Common. Your path comes out to a road.
- 3 Cross straight over the road to go between the eagle-crested pillars of *Three Barrows* at Amina Heights. At the curlicued iron gates, veer **right** on a tarmac drive. At the end of the drive, continue ahead on a sandy path downhill across the heath. The path is a little overgrown with bracken and later rhododendrons. At the bottom, turn **left** on a track, cross the main road carefully and turn right on a slip road down to the pub, *The Donkey* at Charleshill.



- 4 After refreshments, this section will take you back to the eagle gate. (Of course, you can simply use your memory to retrace your outward journey and skip to section 5.) Cross the main road, take the drive opposite and, in 30m, turn **right** at a 3-way fingerpost. Go up through rhododendrons, gorse and bracken. At the top, keep ahead on a tarmac drive, veer **left** by the iron gates on a drive lined with silver birch and exit to the road, between the eagle pillars.
- 5 Avoiding the signposted track straight ahead, turn **left** on the road, soon passing on your right a house called *Speedwell*. In 300m, just after a very small layby, fork **right** on a footpath into the woods, by a post with a yellow arrow. Immediately take the main right fork, ignoring a path that forks left parallel to the road. This beautiful woodland path has a variety of trees, especially rowan with their red berries in late summer. Avoid all lesser paths branching off. Your path curves left and right under wires and joins a path coming from the left. The path is now wider and straighter. Follow it through pine and birch woods, passing several side paths. A distant house *Whitefield* is visible on the left. Finally a wooden barrier takes you to the Britty Wood car park where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: the Britty Wood car park is off the Littleworth Road, Seale, near Farnham.

There are many ways of reaching it: (1) from the A3 or the Hog's Back and Puttenham village: turn left just after the church, follow the road for 2 miles or so until you go between two lakes, turn **right** at the crossroads; (2) from the A3 and Shackleford, at the junction in the village centre follow the quaint sign to *Cutmill*, the car park is 600m on the left after a crossroads and the lake; (3) via the Hog's Back and Seale: follow various signs to *Elstead* or later *Cutmill*, the car park is just before the lakes on your right; (4) from Farnham, Runfold, The Sands: follow signs for *Cutmill*, passing the *Barley Mow* on your right, the car park is just before the lakes on your right.

By bus/train: Stagecoach bus 46 from Farnham or Godalming to Charleshill. Check the timetables.