



Limpsfield Chart: The *Carpenters Arms* (Pub Walk)

Distance: 4 km=2½ miles

easy walking with one gradient

Region: Surrey

Date written: 8-apr-2012

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Refreshments: Limpsfield Chart

Map: Explorer 147 (Sevenoaks) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Woodland, views, pub

In Brief

Visiting the lively *Carpenter's Arms*, you will see a spectrum of human life. At one end is a dartboard and a display box of carpentry tools. In the centre, charmingly served, is a range of ales, including the sublime *Summer Perle*. You can chat endlessly to the locals and even bring your own tankard. A good practice, followed by other pubs in this chain, is to offer three third-measure ale samplers, so you can either decide on your next tippie or stay with thirds for variety's sake. At the other end, dining tables, decked with pepper mills but looking rather forlorn on a quieter night, invite you to stay for a meal (if you're not already chomping from the bar snacks), with a menu on the chalkboard, usually a good sign. A long wine list stands proudly at one end, vying (though *slightly* more cheaply) with a Knights-bridge gastrojoint. Outside, the merriment spills out onto a very good covered patio, combining the best of cosiness with a sobering breeze. In the back is a large lawn with tables. The *Carpenter's* declares itself a pub in walkers' country, so they won't mind the clomp-clomp of boots, at least not at the locals' end. For information, ring 01883-722209.



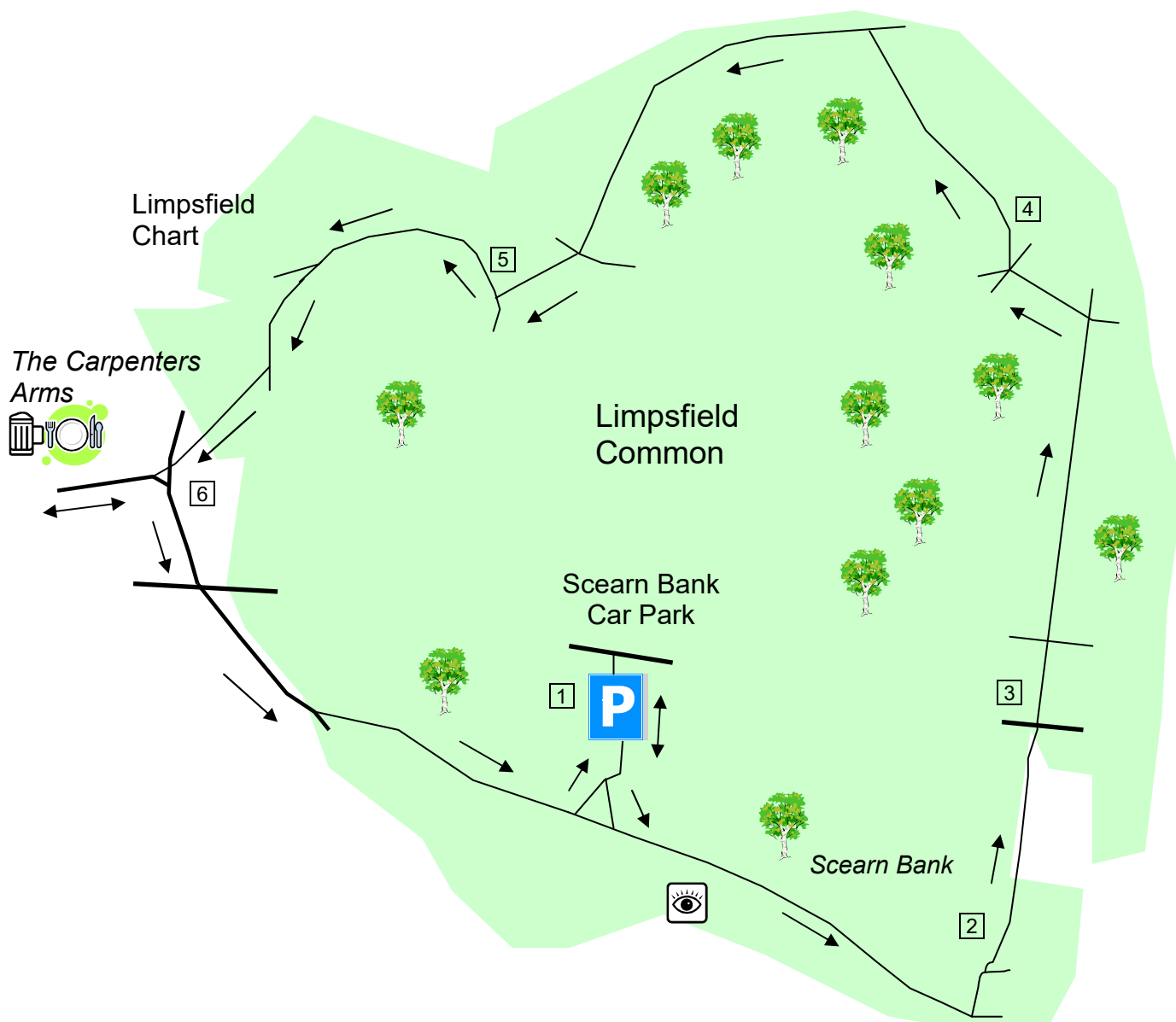
This is an easy circular walk along the Scearn Bank and through Limpsfield Common. Any sensible footwear and clothing should be fine. In high summer one or two of the paths are overgrown with ferns and you may find a hiking pole useful to swish them aside. Your dog is very welcome too.


The walk begins at the **Scearn Bank car park**, Limpsfield Chart, grid ref TQ 431 516 nearest **postcode RH8 0TB**. This is on the south side of the Kent Hatch Road (B269), 1½ miles = 2 kms from the A25 junction, on the **right**, ½ km after some houses and a church. (It is 300m (2/10 mile) **after** the Pine Wood car park which is on the **left**). You could also begin outside the pub, **postcode RH8 0TG**. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

- 1 With your back to the road, go across the grass to enjoy the wonderful view from this car park of the Sussex Weald and the South Downs in the distance. The sandy path bends right to a bench seat. Opposite the bench is a narrow path. Turn **left** on this path, winding downhill through (sometimes very dense) bracken. At the bottom, turn **left** on a wide level footpath running through woodland. (a) In about 300m, your path reaches a tarmac drive. Veer **right** to join the drive, ignoring a gate ahead. You have views to the right across the Weald but only very sparingly because of the trees, especially when in leaf. You pass a drive to a house on the right and immediately arrive at a gate to another house, *Scearnbank*. Go **left** here steeply up a bank.

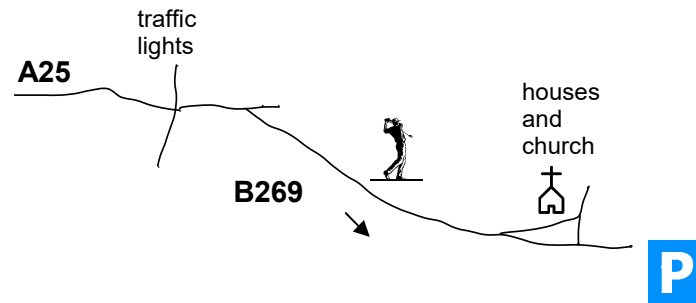
The Cearn or Scearn Bank is an ancient earthwork, now mostly obliterated by woodland, that crosses this part of Limpsfield Common. It is possibly the site of the agger (protective mound) of the Roman road that ran from London to Lewes. The Bank was worked for stone and gravel back in history and many old pits and spoil heaps can be found here, some containing Roman and medieval kilns and yielding various Roman artefacts and coins.



- 2 You arrive at a level wooded area. Keep straight ahead on a wide path, ignoring a minor path to the right. Your path goes uphill through mixed woodland, then on a grassy path with a green metal fence on your right. Exit to the main Kent Hatch Road beside a metal gate. Cross carefully straight over to a bridleway on the other side, going past the blue *Titsey Foundation* board welcoming you to the High Chart Woodland.
 - 3 Follow this footpath through Limpsfield Common. After 100m, go straight over a crossing path. You are now on an excellent wide path through beeches and scots pines. After another 300m, you meet a narrower unsigned crossing path. (As a guide, if you glance along the path to your right, you can see a garden fence; the crossing is under a very twisty oak.) Turn **left** at this junction. In 100m, go over a straight wide crossing path to be faced with a choice of two widely divergent paths on the other side. Avoid the path to the left, which is part of the Greensand Way, and take the path to the **right**.
 - 4 Follow this nice dry path with birches and conifers for about 300m, where you reach a major crossing path. Turn **left** on this wide straight path which you will be following for nearly ½ km. It veers left in sections. (At the first bend, on your right you now (2015) have a felled area. At least this has one advantage: a clear view in the distance to the North Downs.) Finally, you come to a distinct fork in the path. Avoid the path on the left that curves away and take the path on the **right** that descends towards a National Trust sign. Go straight over a crossing path, just to the right of the NT sign, and continue on a wide rather messy dirt path which soon becomes clearer and ascends in 100m to a T-junction. Turn **right** here on a wide path.
 - 5 As the path gradually curves left, ignore all minor paths off, keeping to the clear wide course at all times. At a junction with arrows, veer **left**, still on the main path. Soon after, you see a noticeboard ahead just before the High Chart car park. Before reaching the noticeboard, turn **left** at a yellow arrow. [2017: this arrow may have disappeared; however any path in this general direction leads to the village.] In 80m, you see a post with a yellow arrow on your right. Fork **right** here. This path takes you out of the woods to the village. Turn **left** on the road and immediately **right**, soon arriving at the *Carpenters Arms*.
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- 6 After refreshment, retrace your steps to the corner of the green and turn **right** on the road to reach the main Kent Hatch Road. Cross carefully straight over on a tarmac lane, Trevereux Hill. In 170m, opposite the last unusual house, *The Old School*, fork **left** on a signposted footpath. After 300m, your path leaves the dark trees and the bank on your left and enters a clearer area with silver birch and an open heath. (If you began the walk near the pub, resume at section 1, the sentence marked (a).) Turn **left** here on a clear stony and sandy path. This takes you up to the bench you encountered on the outward journey and hence back to the car park where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: if coming from the London area via the M25, come off at Junction 6, turn right onto the A22 and left at a roundabout onto the A25 through Oxted and Limpsfield and, after some traffic lights, fork right onto the B269 Kent Hatch Road, signposted *Edenbridge*.



If coming from the east, again take the A25. From the south, take the B2026 through Crockham Hill.

By train/bus: bus 594 or 595 from Oxted station.

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