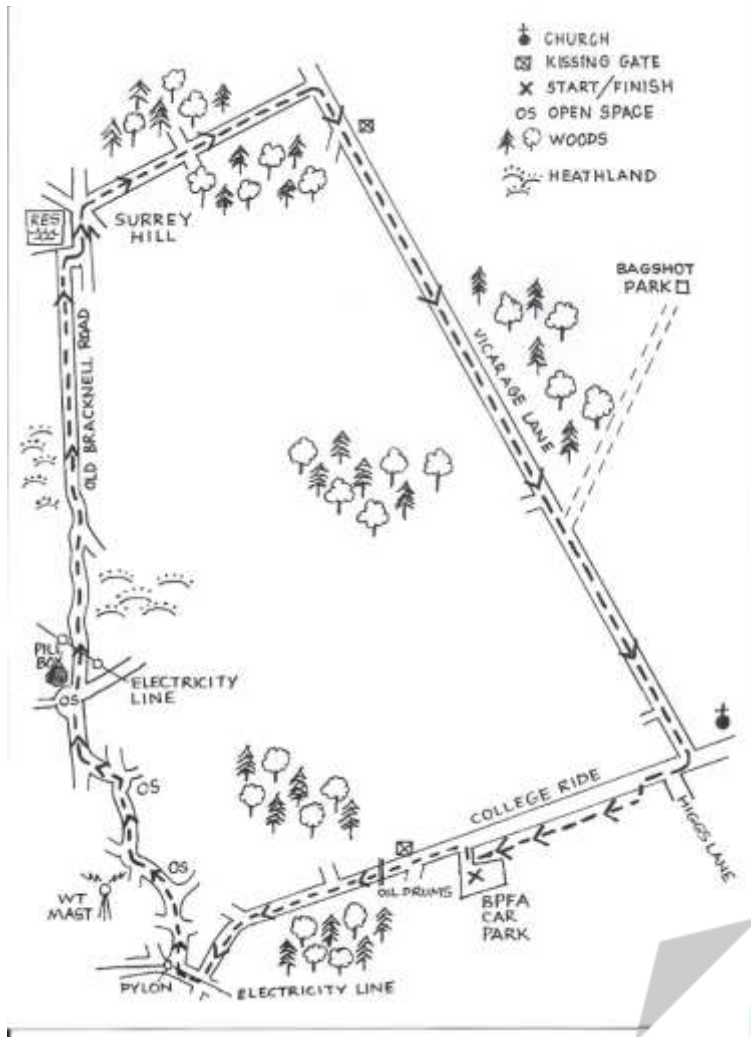


# WINDLESHAM WALKS Walk No.17

Start/Parking: Bagshot Playing Fields Association Pavilion, College Ride, Bagshot.

Distance: 6.5km, 4 miles approx. Type of walk: Hilly gravel tracks through wood and heathland with fine views from the highest point in the Parish.



Turn left out of the car park entrance, walk up College Ride and go through the metal kissing gate just passed the entrance to Pennyhill Park Hotel. Continue along the track (FP60A through a barrier made of concrete filled drums prohibiting vehicle access and eventually you will pass the entrance to FP60 on your right, used in walk 3. Continue uphill, bearing left at the top to arrive at a crossroads of tracks under electricity power lines.

Turn right towards an electricity pylon, and just before the pylon bear right on to a track leading into woodland consisting of young oaks, pine, chestnut and silver birch. Follow the track round to the right where it skirts a depression on the right.

Soon a good view of the wireless telegraphy mast with its microwave dishes is obtained through a clearing on your left. The path leads into an open area. You are now on Poors Allotments, an area of charity land set aside under the Enclosure Acts to provide fuel – turves, heather, bracken and gorse – for the poor of the parish.



Keep to the lefthand side of the open area, aiming for a track leading off to the left joining a broader path with a wire fence running parallel to your direction. In the autumn there are often spectacular groups of scarlet – and poisonous – fly agaric to be seen amid the heather. The pathway leads to a crossroad of tracks where a reminder of more desperate times lies a concrete pill box (entrance to it, is not recommended). Continue passed the pill box on your left along the wide track which was called 'Old Bracknell Road'



Steer to the left passing under an electricity line – it is worth pausing here to enjoy the open view across Windsor Forest to your left. This entire area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is lowland heath, a vanishing habitat which has been likened to Britain's equivalent of a rain forest. The rare Dartford Warbler has been seen here.



The 'Old Bracknell Road' continues and can be followed in an almost straight line to Bracknell. Our trek continues straight ahead to cross a public footpath and progresses on downhill to ascend again and allow you to join a parallel track on your right. This track ascends further uphill reaching the entrance to Surrey Hills storage reservoir. The reservoir receives water from the Severn-Trent Water Authority as a reserve for Southern Water.

On arriving at the reservoir take a look ahead of another fine view and note that you are now at the highest point in the parish – 450ft (130m) above sea level. Now take the track leading steeply downhill to the right, with a conifer plantation and sign prohibiting motorcycles on your **left**.

Descend the hill with care, admiring the view and the many shades of green offered by the forest plantations in the distance. The well weathered wooden route markers (438) you pass are waymarked trails round





Windsor Forest – you can obtain a map showing these trails from The Look Out in Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell opposite the Coral Reef.

On reaching the track at the bottom of the hill turn right and head to left hand side coming across the remains of a kissing gate



You are now in Vicarage Lane, once known as the Oakingham Road which was a main waggon route between Bagshot and Wokingham. The Lane continues straight ahead for some distance, bordered by woodland to emerge to where extensive drainage works can be seen draining the marsh land to the right.

Further on and off to the left



pause at an entrance marked by swing gates. Beyond the gates you can just see the turret of Bagshot Park above the treetops. Eventually the track rises to join the metalled Vicarage Road to arrive at a T-junction with College Ride.

Turn right into College Ride and after passing the junction with Higgs Lane on your left, cross the road and just after the Lodge House, turn left into the old carriage drive which once led to Pennyhill Park running parallel with College Ride. Follow this woodland path back to the start point.

*Published by the Windlesham Society with the support of Windlesham Parish Council. For further information contact. Reg Ward [info@windleshamociety.co.uk](mailto:info@windleshamociety.co.uk)*

