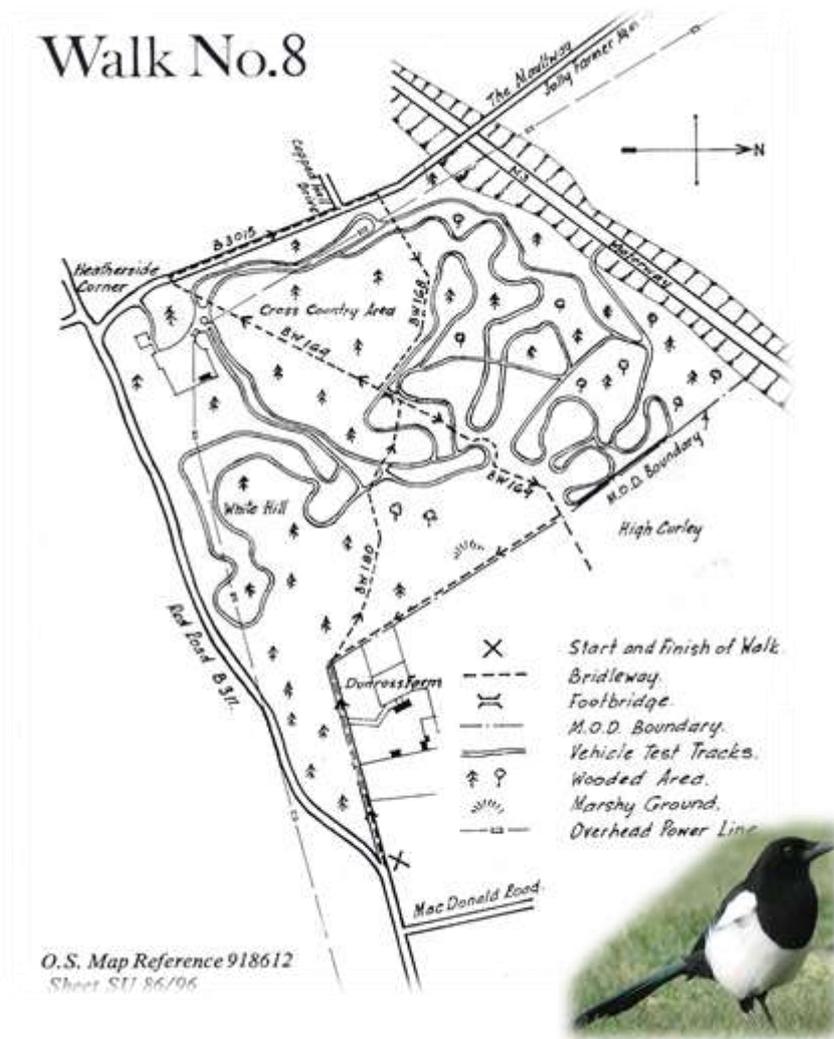


WINDLESHAM WALKS Walk No.8

Start/Parking: Macdonald Road junction with Red Road.

Distance: 4km, 2.5 miles approx. Type of walk: Hilly requiring care, muddy in parts.



Bridleway 180 starts close to the junction of Red Road and Macdonald Road, Lightwater, following the gravel drive leading to Dunross Farm.

At the end, the drive divides to the left, marked by a pole barrier (right is Dunross Farm) giving access to a broad, sandy ride leading downhill across the heath. As the ground rises towards White Hill, the track divides into three; the right hand one turning sharply to follow the MoD boundary fence. The middle path (marked) is the bridleway 180 which leads into a dense conifer wood. The path widens, becoming a soft carpet of pine needles scattered with cones, the silence only broken by the harsh call of a magpie or occasional rapid drumming of a woodpecker. Finally the path emerges at the foot of White Hill.

Undulating heathland sweeps away to the right towards the higher point of Curley Hill, magnificent when covered with purple heather, or when glistening under a blanket of snow in winter. Follow the well rutted path towards the top of the hill bearing right just before the top, crossing the track at the marker post and MoD sign into the woods.

Commented [RW1]:

This part of the heath is used extensively for vehicle testing by the MoD and is a maze of hard gravel roadways laid especially for this purpose. Great care should be taken wherever the public bridleway crosses these tracks.

White markings show the way across three tracks turning left before the fourth marked by a pile of stones onto the BW169 and crossing a drainage ditch by means of the sleeper bridge.



The way ahead is straightforward; cross six more bridges. This area is damp enough to support lichens, reeds and mosses, while in summer dragon flies skim brightly over the ditches.

Look for the enormous roundabout on the left built for the test vehicles; in a few yards the bridleway reaches a road B3015(The Maultway).



To avoid the traffic on The Maultway turn right before the road and use the tank track running along parallel.

Following the track just past the electricity pylon, lookout

for Bridleway BW168 crossing from left to right. Turning right, follow the white markings which runs close to the test track for some way.

When in use, the proximity of heavy fast vehicles may be frightening for horses; fortunately the bridleway soon enters a small wood of Scots pine, which provides shelter from the noise.



In a short while BW169 will be recognised crossing the path. Turn left, cross one track and one Sleeper bridge.

Keep left of the pile of stones going straight on coming to an open level sandy track. On the far side the walk turns right opposite some MoD signs,



However before you turn left, continue straight on to arrive at Curley Hill giving you an excellent vantage point to pick out many landmarks which can be seen on a clear day.

Return to the MoD signs and proceed left down the hill on a track which marks the boundary of the MoD land, following it back across the heath to BW180 and Dunross Farm.



Since this track is not a public right of way, care must be taken to observe the bylaws which can be seen posted up at intervals in this area.

