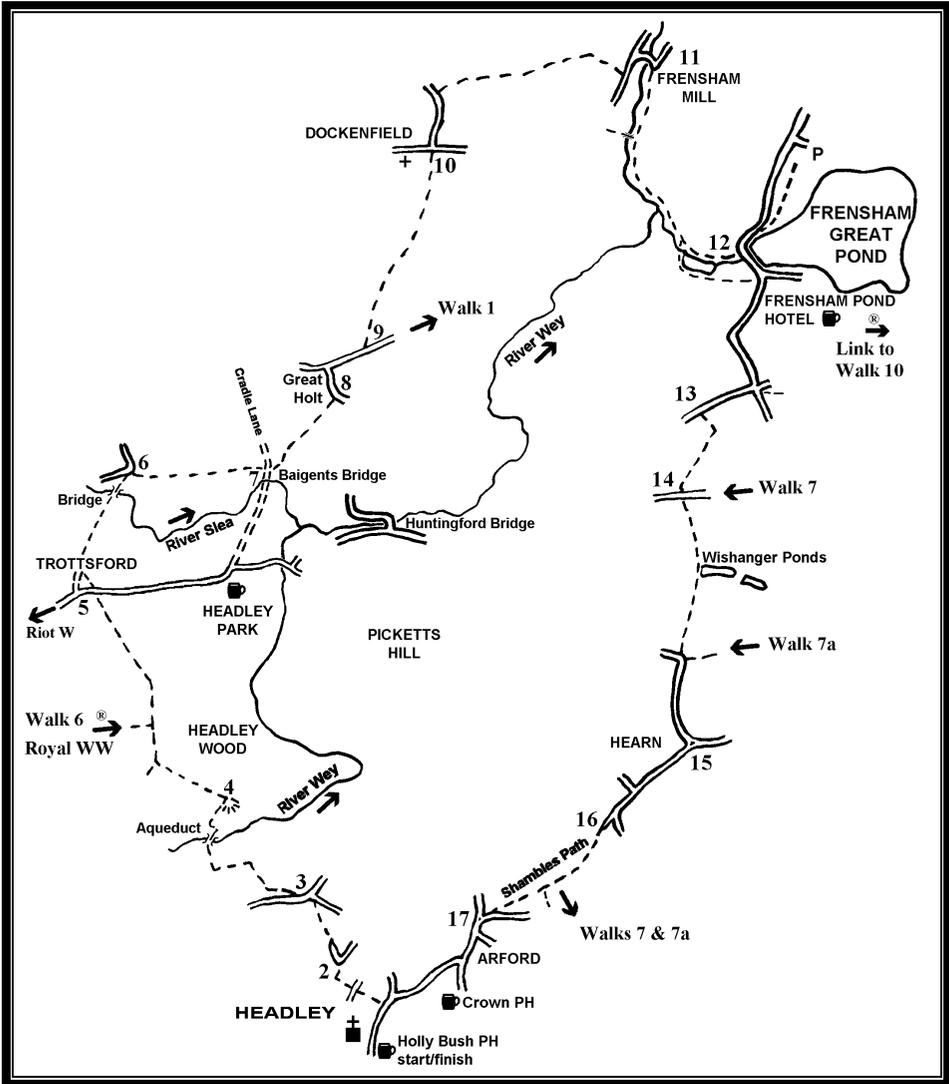


Walk 2 – To Frensham Great Pond and back

Distance approximately 8¾ miles/14km

This is an extension of Walk 1, taking in Dockenfield church, Frensham Mill, Frensham Great Pond, Wishanger and Hearn.



For notes and illustrations up to point 8, see *Walk 1*.

- 1 From the *Holly Bush*, turn right along Headley High Street, past the church and the old rectory, and just before *Belmont* take a path to the left. This

crosses a road and then passes along two sides of the Holme School grounds, emerging on a road (Church Lane) at a right-angle bend.

- 2 Turn left along Church Lane (a cul-de-sac) and at its end pass through a footpath gate and downhill across fields. You emerge by *Huntingford Farm*, at the junction of Curtis Lane and Frensham Lane.
- 3 Turn left, following Frensham Lane towards Lindford for a short distance, then take the bridleway to the right, which follows the road uphill for a while before turning right, becoming rather rutted and narrow as it heads downhill between a hedge and a fence towards the river. After a left-hand bend, the track becomes considerably wider, then muddy as it passes through woodland which was once a watermeadow, to cross the River Wey by way of an old aqueduct (see *Walk 1*). It then zigzags sharply uphill.
- 4 At its junction with a track at the top of a rise, turn left along the bridleway and after about half a mile follow it through a gate (*where Walk 6 and the Royal Woolmer Way join us from the left*), along a woodland track, past a Forestry Commission nursery, and uphill towards a road.

As an alternative route from point 5 to point 7, turn right along the road passing Headley Park Hotel, follow the road as it bears left then take the track straight ahead (Cradle Lane) as the road bears right. Follow the track across the River Slea by footbridge (Baigents Bridge) to point 7.

- 5 *Note: The walk follows the Royal Woolmer Way to point 12.*
Cross the road and take the footpath ahead dipping across a field (the site of an old sandpit) to a stile. Turn right to join a track, concreted at first through *Trottsford Farm*, which eventually crosses a stone bridge over the River Slea.
- 6 At a junction of tracks, take the footpath marked to the right which is routed around the forecourt of the sand-quarrying works and follow it beside the works road between a hedge and the sand pits to arrive at Cradle Lane.
- 7 Take the footpath indicated on the other side of the lane and bear to the left (the path is not well defined) over a slight hill, across a ditch by a rubble 'bridge' and through a gap in a hedge directly ahead. It can be muddy here. Follow the field uphill heading to the right of the half-timbered house (*Great Holt*), to a stile in the top corner of the field. Cross this, then another by a gate to a road.
- 8 Turn left up the road to a triangular junction and turn right here (Old Lane).
- 9 After about a hundred yards along Old Lane, take a footpath to the left and follow it across a number of stiles and through a wood to Dockenfield (10).

On a hill to the left of the path, Noel Coward owned a house briefly in 1924 where he wrote *Hay Fever* (allegedly in 3 days) and *Easy Virtue*.

Dockenfield, though a tithing of the parish of Frensham, was considered part of Hampshire until 1895. The Church of the Good Shepherd here was built in 1910.
- 10 Cross the road, follow Bealswood Lane over a stream and turn right along a bridleway. Follow this to a road, turn left and then right down Mill Lane crossing the River Wey at Frensham Mill.

Walk 2



Bridge over the Wey at the site of Frensham Mill

Frensham Mill, or Beale's Mill, was one of several water mills on the southern River Wey. It stopped working in 1926.

- 11 At the Mill, turn right along a bridleway between the buildings. This follows the course of the river, passing a footbridge, and eventually bears left up a tributary stream. The right of way splits, a footpath to the right going round the other side of a small lake while the main track continues directly to meet a road at the edge of Frensham Great Pond (12).



Reflections where the tributary from the Great Pond meets the river

Frensham Great Pond was constructed for the Bishop of Winchester as one of several fish ponds in his diocese, probably around AD 1200, by damming a stream forming the border between Surrey and Hampshire

whose curved course still marked the county boundary through the pond until the boundary changes of 1991 put the whole pond in Surrey. *Frensham Pond Hotel* was known as the *White Horse Inn* until the beginning of the 20th century.



Frensham Great Pond from the Hotel

12 *Notes: The **Royal Woolmer Walk** turns left here to end at the Frensham Great Pond car park.*

*Link to **Walk 10** and the 'outer ring' by going along the south bank of the pond following the road passing the front of Frensham Pond Hotel.*

Our walk turns right, along Bacon Lane. This is narrow and traffic can travel at speed – please take care. Follow the right-hand turn into Frensham Lane. After a quarter of a mile take the bridleway track on the left.

13 *Follow the bridleway as it bears right and passes some new houses to meet another road. Cross straight over and follow the bridleway track opposite.*

14 *Note: **Walk 7** joins here.*

*The track descends past *The Well House* and passes one of a chain of man-made ponds similar in size to Waggoners Wells but less well known (see photo p.40). It joins a road (Smithfield Lane) at a bend and we follow this for about half a mile to its junction with Churt Road at a grass triangle.*

15 *Turn right along Churt Road. Keep eyes and ears open for approaching traffic. Go past the entrance to Spats Lane on the right, then when the road bears left take the residential road straight ahead. This is Hearn Vale.*

Spats Lane is named after the spats worn by Walter Langrish who lived at the lower end of the lane at the end of the 19th century.

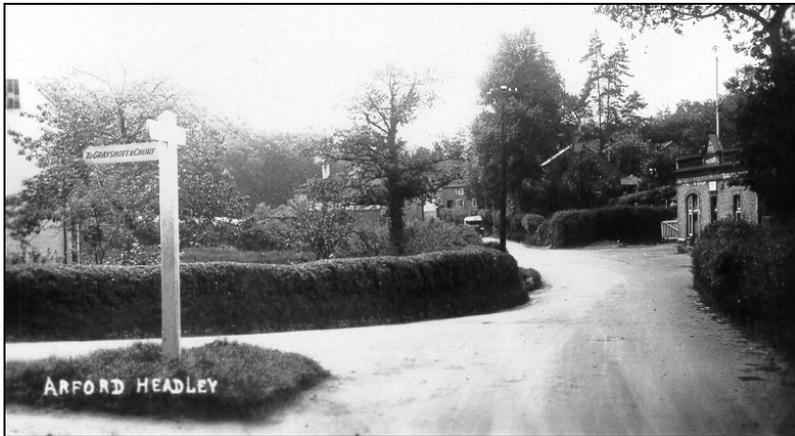
13 *The road along Hearn Vale becomes a footpath which joins a road (Langton Drive) serving a number of properties in an area known as 'The Mount', before becoming a path again (known locally as 'Shambles Path').*

Walk 2

Shambles is an old term for an area where animals were slaughtered. Since there is evidence of a tannery in Arford, we assume the deed was done here and the hides taken down the path for processing.

During the Second World War the field to the right of the path was the site of one of several army camps in the village and, from their War Diary, is thought to be the place where the Canadian Calgary Regiment was issued with the Churchill tanks which were later used on their ill-fated Dieppe raid.

- 17 At the junction of Barley Mow Hill and The Hanger we rejoin *Walk 1*, and return through Arford to Headley High Street.



View from The Hanger/Barley Mow Hill junction along Arford Road in the early 20th century – note the Wheatsheaf Inn on the right, a site now redeveloped.

