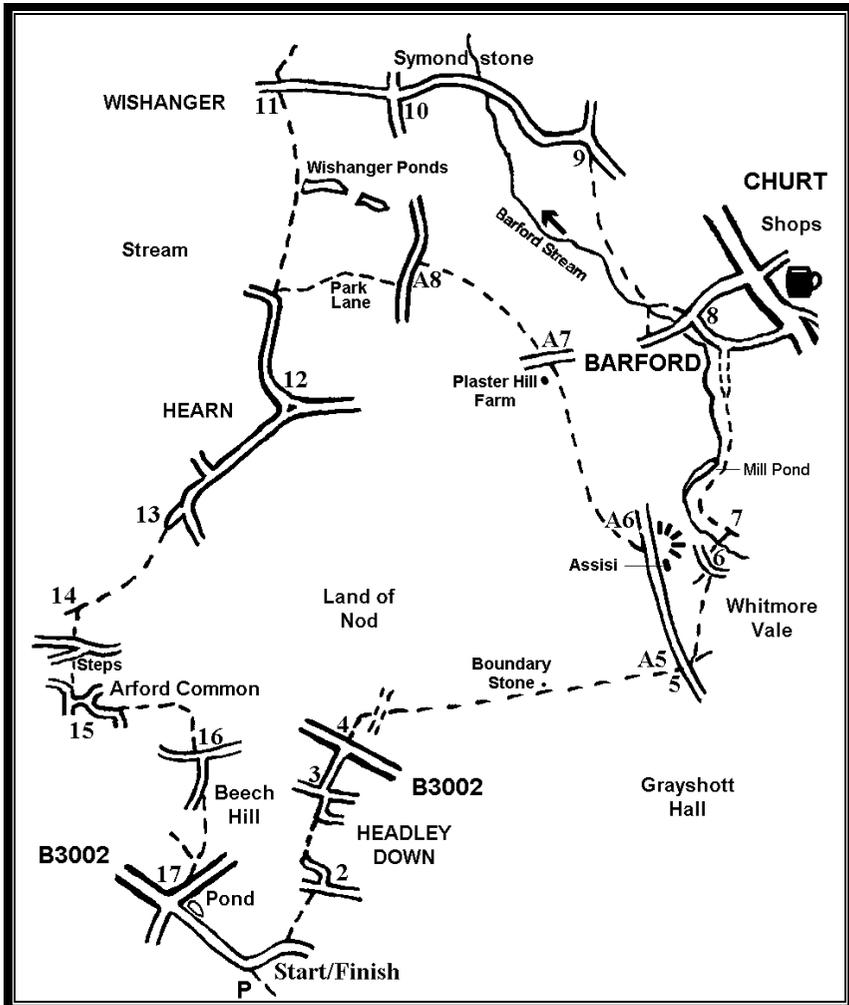


## Walk 7 – The Hampshire/Surrey border

Distance approximately 6½ miles/10.5km (option 5½ miles/8.8km)

This walk starts and ends at the National Trust car park in Pond Road, visiting Openlands, Hammer Lane, Whitmore Vale, Barford Mills, Churt, Symondstone, Wishanger, Hearn, Arford Common and Fullers Vale. *There is a shorter route offered between Hammer Lane and Hearn, visiting Assisi, Plaster Hill Farm and Park Lane – see Walk 7a.*



- 1 From the car park, follow Furze Hill Road uphill – where it bends to the right, keep straight ahead on a deep-rutted footpath climbing through woods known as ‘Openlands’. Follow this in a more-or-less straight line to emerge at a junction of unmade roads.

## Walk 7

Note the plaque in the ground to the right of the path as you approach the road. The 10 acres of 'Openlands' was bought by Dr Elizabeth Wilks (who died in 1953) and is managed for the benefit of local residents by the Headley Public Utility Society.

- 2 Cross straight over into Oakhill Road – follow this as it bends to the left, and at its dead end take the footpath to the right and downhill between fence and hedge to join Linden Road as it descends to the bottom of the valley.
- 3 Turn left along Honeysuckle Lane and very soon right, up the steep Wilsons Road to meet Grayshott Road (4).

Wilsons Road is named after the family who ran the first post office and telephone exchange in Headley Down from their shop, now a private house *The Village Store* at the junction with Fairview Road.

- 4 Look for a public footpath sign on the opposite side of the road – take this path, which follows inside the boundary of the housing estate, crossing the end of a cul-de-sac before exiting through a gap in the fence at the bottom left hand corner almost hidden by a garden wall. Bear right to cross a tarmac drive (to the *Land of Nod*) and go through a wooden barrier opposite to follow the footpath on the other side. This proceeds in a fairly straight line through woods, passing paddocks on the right and some clear land on the left before descending a steep-sided valley. Just before the bottom, it used to pass a flat cross-shaped stone, now sadly missing, laid in the ground on the left-hand side of the path to mark a corner of the boundary agreed in 1921 between Headley and Grayshott civil parishes. Cross a private track along the valley bottom, then ascend even more steeply up the other side, maintaining a straight line until you reach a road (Hammer Lane).



*Stone marked the location and direction of the Grayshott/Headley boundary*

The direction of this long, straight path as shown on maps lines up almost exactly with Headley Church – is this significant? Another mystery is the name Hammer Lane – normally this relates to hammer ponds or ironworks but no such activities seem to have existed here.

- 5 *The shorter Walk 7a diverges here – see step A5 on p.42.* Cross Hammer Lane and take the footpath diagonally to the left which descends through woods to Whitmore (or Whitmoor) Vale Road. Turn left for a short distance, then take the footpath to the right.

Whitmore Vale was once an area known for its 'squatters cottages': "These were erected during the night, trees cut down to form the framework, the walls being made of turf and the roof thatched with heather. Before morning wives and children were installed as the law would not allow the bailiffs to remove the roof of a house containing children. On being thus occupied for a certain time the cabin and land on which it stood could be claimed."— Mrs W.E. Belcher, 1925.

- 6 The path descends through a landscaped area to cross the stream on a bridge made of railway sleepers. This is the county boundary between Hampshire and Surrey. Go through a gate and climb the steep path on the other side to meet a track running along the Surrey side of the valley.



*Crossing the county border in Whitmore Vale*

- 7 Turn left along the track, which soon runs between iron fences and descends towards Barford passing mill ponds and the sites of three old water mills. Towards the bottom it joins a surfaced road (Kitts Lane) before arriving at Barford Bridge where Churt Road crosses the stream (8).

Of the three mills here, the upper and lower ones made paper and the middle one (much the oldest, and generally known as Barford Mill) ground corn. The structure of the upper mill no longer exists (the 'Barracks Cottages' were built from its stones) but its mill pond known locally as Power's Pond remains a feature. The middle mill survives, sympathetically converted to a private house. The three-storey building at the site of the lower mill (now called *The Old Mill*) remains.

*For those requiring sustenance, the shops and pub at Churt crossroads are a mere couple of hundred yards away, up the road to the right.*



*Footbridge and ford at bottom of Ivy House Lane*

## Walk 7

- 8 Cross Churt Road and take the footpath by the water pumping station. This first rises then descends to meet the stream again at a footbridge and ford. Do not cross the stream but turn right to follow the track, which climbs past *Ivy House Cottage* to meet Lampard Lane near *Barford Court*.

At the beginning of the 20th century *Barford Court* was the home of George Murray, a Professor of Greek at Oxford and friend of George Bernard Shaw who lived in Hindhead at the time.

- 9 Turn left into Lampard Lane, then shortly left again to Symondstone (or Simmonstone) returning to Hampshire as you cross the stream. The road meets Bacon Lane at a crossroads.

Simmonstone is named after the Seman family who owned property here in the 13th century – Seman's Stone, which was taken away some time after 1950, marked a point on the boundary of the Manor of Wishanger, at one time held by a Seman. Bacon Lane is named after the Bacon family – Roger Bacoun is mentioned in a Winchester Pipe Roll entry for Headley as early as 1320.

- 10 Cross over Bacon Lane and go straight ahead along Wishanger Lane until just beyond some buildings where a bridleway crosses.



*One of the Wishanger ponds*

- 11 Turn left. The track descends past *The Well House* which is thought to be the site of the old manor house of Wishanger manor (note also the old vineyard on the right). The valley below contains a string of man-made ponds, and the track passes the end of one, used for fishing, before joining a road (Smithfield Lane) at a bend (*Walk 7a rejoins here*) – follow this for about half a mile to its junction with Churt Road at a grass triangle.
- 12 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.
- 13 The road along Hearn Vale becomes a footpath which joins a road (Langton Drive) serving a number of properties before becoming a path again. *See notes on pp.17/18.*

14 At the end of a paddock, take a footpath to the left which descends to a road (Barley Mow Hill). Turn left, and shortly sharp right up the unmade track called Arford Common, then soon take a flight of steps on the left by the side of a house – these lead to a narrow path between a hedge and a fence which emerges at another track. Follow the track uphill.

15 At a junction at the top of the hill, take a rough track to the left, still climbing, past the end of the terrace of houses known as Fairview Terrace. At the top of the rise the track splits, going either side of a wooded area. Take the right-hand fork and soon, where this bears sharply right, carry straight on along a level path soon passing a grass area on the left. The path rises gently through the woods of Arford Common. At a junction near the top, bear right to pass a fixed metal barrier giving access to a long, straight path between a hedge and fence meeting a road at a second barrier.



*Steps at Arford Common*

16 Turn left, then right (opposite the Scout Hut) into Headley Hill Road. There are still signs of concrete roads from wartime tank activity here. When woodland starts on the left, take the public footpath which cuts diagonally through the woods. Follow this, turning hard right by a concrete fence post at a corner of a garden then straight on where it crosses another footpath, to its junction with a bridleway which descends to meet a main road (Beech Hill) near the pond in Fullers Vale (see notes and picture p.20).

17 Cross the main road with care, and follow Pond Road alongside the pond to return to the National Trust car park.



## Walk 7

### Walk 7a – Assisi, Plaster Hill and Park Lane

A5 Follow **Walk 7** to point 5.

Turn left along Hammer Lane for a few hundred yards, passing houses on the right until arriving at the drive to *Assisi*. There is a good view across Whitmore Vale and beyond from here.

*Assisi* was once known as *Llanover* and in the early 20th century was the home of the Prichards who were benefactors in Churt. More recently it was a maternity home for unmarried mothers, run by Catholic nuns from the Cenacle Convent in Grayshott – it is now a private house.

A6 Take the footpath opposite *Assisi*, crossing a stile and keeping to the right at a fork. The path is soon flanked by holly, then descends gently becoming a typical ‘sunken lane’ with interesting plant and animal life. It emerges on the drive to *Coombe Farm* which in turn meets Churt Road near *Plaster Hill Farm*.



*Plaster Hill Farm*

*Plaster Hill Farm* was called *Luke's* on copyhold documents many years ago, possibly from the surname Lucas. The first marriage recorded in the Headley parish register on 1st July 1539 was between Robert Hardyng of 'Playstow hill' and Kateryn Woolffe.

A7 At Churt Road take the footpath opposite. This crosses several stiles and fields before passing through a wood in a valley (it can be wet underfoot as springs rise here) and arriving at a road (Bacon Lane).

Bacon Lane is named after the Bacon family, Roger Bacoun being mentioned in a Winchester Pipe Roll entry for Headley as early as 1320.

- A8 Turn left along the road, and shortly take a wide and well-maintained bridleway to the right – this is known as Park Lane. In about a quarter of a mile, on the left just before a bend, fans of ‘Monopoly’ will be glad to see that there is a link constructed for horse riders to travel between Park Lane and Mayfair (riding stables). In another quarter of a mile we come to a junction of bridleways (*and rejoin **Walk 7** here*). Turn left onto a road (Smithfield Lane) and follow this for about half a mile to its junction with Churt Road at a grass triangle.



*Park Lane, Headley*

Pick up instructions for **Walk 7** from point 12 (*see p.40*).

