

WALK 1

This walk is about 3 miles in length and starts notionally at the junction of Garden Close and The Downs.

Nick strongly recommends that you also use the OS Explorer Series (1:25,000 scale) Sheet 146 to support the walk description. Point numbers refer to the numbers on the map excerpts in this article.

You follow these walks entirely at your own risk. Neither GGEL nor Nick Holloway can accept any responsibility for injury or accident whilst following the walk.

Exit Givons Grove via Wood End. Go through the gap at the top of the road (1) and turn left onto the footpath. Continue along the footpath for about 300 yds until the “cross-paths” with the bridleway leading southeast towards Headley (2).

Turn right and follow the Headley bridleway for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, passing the Beaverbrook Upper Lodge and then keep straight ahead at the Stane Street bridleway (3).

After this, the path curves gently to the right and then to the left. You now have the uppermost part of the Beaverbrook golf course on your right. Shortly after the path has resumed a straight course you will find a footpath on your right just at the boundary of the golf course and the woods (4).

This footpath, which isn't signposted, takes you into Cherkley.

After this point and until point (6) the OS map (unusually) doesn't accurately represent the paths on the ground. Follow the footpath starting at point (4) through a fine stand of beech trees. After about five minutes, the path swings distinctly to the right. As it begins to swing back to the left, the path forks with a small tree in the apex of the fork (5).

Take the right hand fork which is marked out on each side by slender tree trunks. This path was recently marked out by the Beaverbrook Estate team. Follow it downhill for about 70 yds (passing a sign asking walkers to bear with disruption from commencement of the woodland management programme – this had not started at the time of writing (late January).

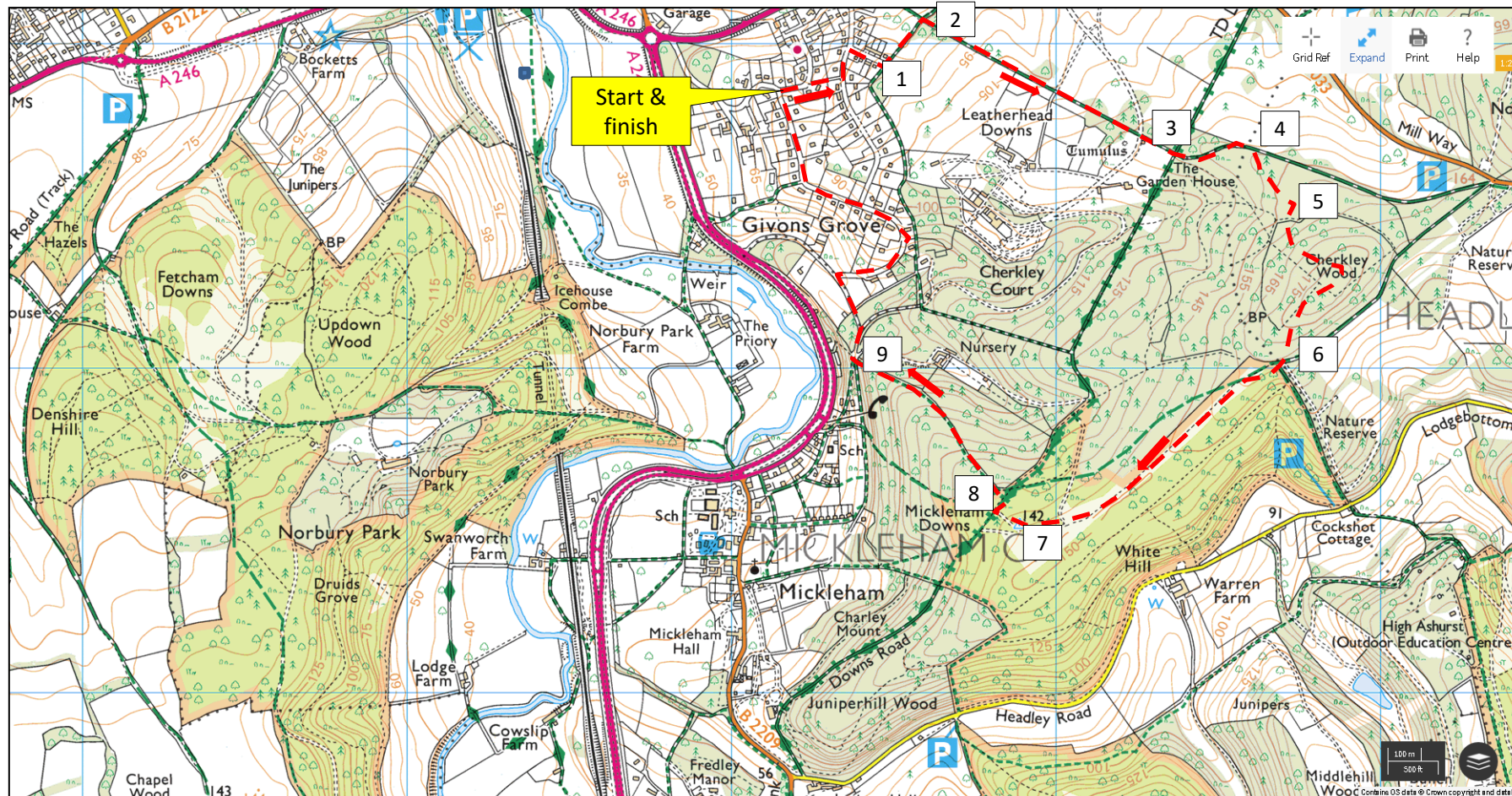
At the end of this section a new wooden gateway will come into view on the right leading into the golf course. Leaving the gate to your right, take the middle, “most uphill”, path of three you can see here. This path sets off bearing slightly to the left and climbs through the wood to crest of the hill at an elevation of just under 183 metres/600ft above sea level (asl).

Unfortunately there is no good view from here but the bluebells are a magnificent sight throughout the wood in late April and early May. In autumn, this a good place to collect windfall sweet chestnuts. Having crested the hill, the path descends gradually for about another five minutes before reaching point (6).

Here you are back on a well-established track and a right turn takes you quickly to the top end of the Mickleham Downs Ride or Gallops. Follow the grassy track almost the whole length of the Ride (about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile). Follow the track as it begins to bear to the right by a stand of larch trees, point (7).

Fork right here as another track goes straight ahead. Just beyond the larch trees, you will pass a concrete trig point on your right marked on the map as 142 metres asl. You re-enter the woods and, after about another 50 yds, turn right and then almost immediately left (8). After a few paces, go straight ahead and start the steady descent back towards Givons Grove.

After about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile you will reach point (9) where you turn right and, passing a gate, join the road which leads down to Mickleham Drive. In about 200 yds, turn right up Cherkley Hill and back into Givons Grove.



Walk 1, 3.25 miles