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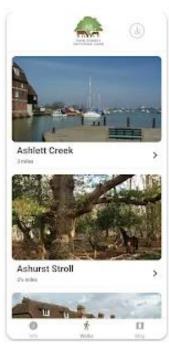






# New Forest National Park Walks



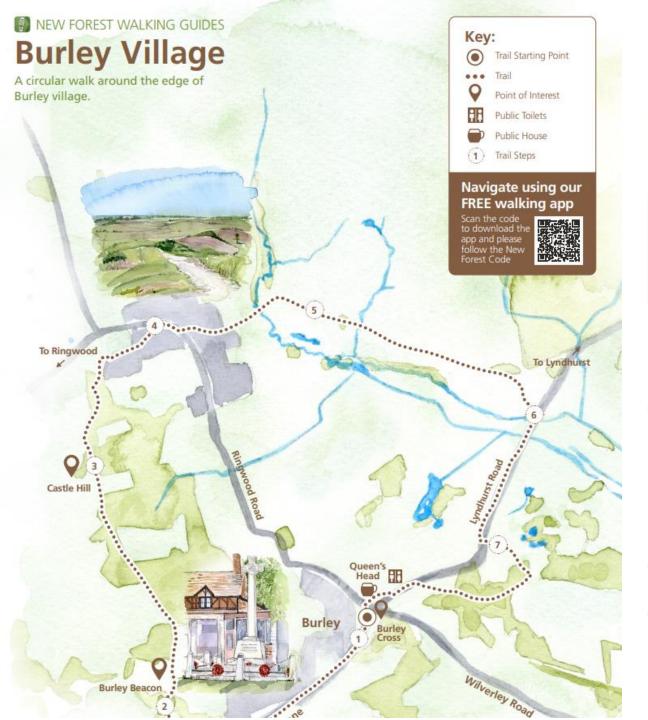












# **Burley Village**

# This walk starts at the village centre before setting out on a circular walk around the edge of this classic New Forest village.

There is a gentle uphill climb along Castle Hill Lane where there are good views across the Avon Valley; the perfect setting for stories about dragons and smugglers. The route passes an ancient hill fort on Castle Hill before descending back to the village and along the edge of the Open Forest. The walks returns to the village centre past pretty Forest properties and the Queen's Head pub.

During the 1950s the village was home to Sybil Leek, a 'white witch' who would walk around Burley village in her long black cloak with her pet jackdaw, called Mr Hotfoot Jackson, sitting on her shoulder. There are now several gift shops in the village that have a magic and folklore theme.

#### Trail Overview

**Start/finish:** Burley Village Bus stop, BH24 4AB. Grid reference SU 211 030 what3words.com/cornfield.thus.supposes

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer OL 22 New Forest.

**Distance:** 4.2 miles (6.8 km) – 2-3 hours.

**Local facilities:** Burley village parking and public toilets. Newsagent and post office, village stores, New Forest Cider, plenty of pubs, restaurants / tea rooms and cafés, antique and gift shops, cycle hire shop.

#### Directions

Heading out of the village
Start at The Burley Inn
(opposite the village square
bus stop) and turn right onto
Pound Lane, crossing the road
at the Village Hall. Pass New
Forest Cider and continue
ahead until the pavement ends
at a bus stop sign and a bench
under a tree. Cross the road
carefully to the cycle post (153)



opposite and uphill along Castle Hill Lane and cycle track

2 Burley Beacon

Peep over the hedge on your left into the large grassy meadow of Burley Beacon

3 Castle Hill

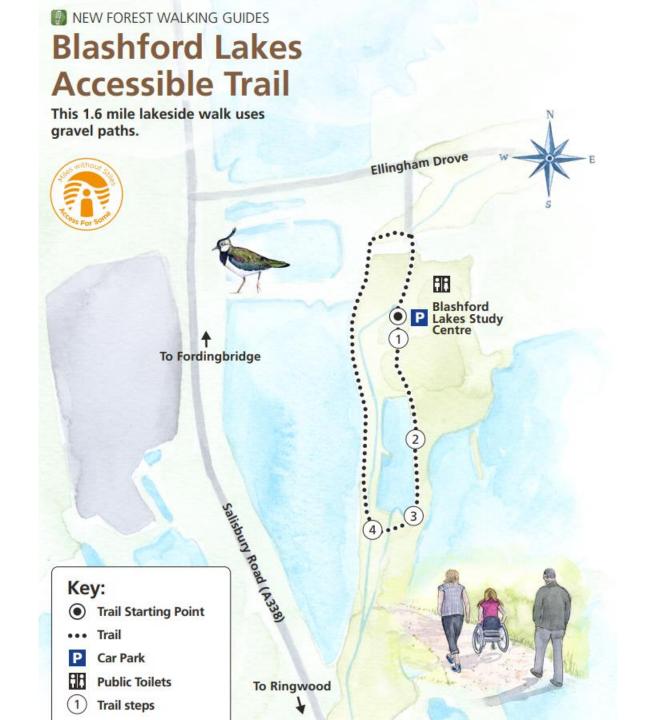
Follow the track uphill. Just past Black Bush house on your left, the track dips steeply downhill and then back uphill to Castle Hill. On a clear day you can enjoy views south west across Cranes Moor to the Avon valley and Purbeck hills beyond. Stop here to explore the ridge and the earthworks of Castle Hill fort

#### 6 Bridge over Mill Lawn Brook

See if you can spot a low earthen mound about 100 metres from the road to your left. This is a tumulus – a Bronze Age earthen burial chamber. Their presence indicates that people were living in the Forest around 3,500 years ago. When the road ends, turn right at the road junction onto Chapel Lane and cross a bridge with a red post box over Mill Lawn Brook. Continue straight ahead and over a second bridge and past the site of Burley's first chapel built in 1789, which is now in private ownership. Views of Burley Lawn can be glimpsed between houses on your left

7 Back into the village

Turn left into Beechwood Lane, passing traditional Forest properties, and continue ahead uphill. Turn right onto Church Lane and follow the gravel track past more houses and then through a small wood with two low wooden barriers on the track. Ahead is the village church, St John the Baptist, built in 1838. Continue to the end of Church Lane where there are views of Burley Manor. Turn left onto Chapel Lane to return to the village centre via the public car park or stop at the Queen's Head pub for some smuggling nostalgia.



# **Blashford Lakes Accessible Trail**

This walk explores the Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve which is a wonderful series of lakes that are full of wildlife and a great place for bird watching.

There are six bird hides around the reserve, linked by gravel paths, so there's plenty of opportunity to spot Common terns, lapwings, oyster catchers and, if you are lucky, a murmuration of starlings.

This is a nature reserve so only assistance dogs are allowed onsite. Two all-terrain mobility scooters are available to hire.



### Trail Overview

#### Start/finish:

Blashford Lakes Car Park. Grid reference SU 151 079 whats3words.com/exposing.venue.outfitter

#### **Ordnance Survey map:**

Explorer OL 22 New Forest.

#### Distance:

1 mile (1.6 km) - 1 hour.

#### Local facilities:

The car park has two accessible bays, easy access toilets and a cafe.

# **Directions**

### 1 Arrival

Starting out from the car park, head up to the Education Centre and take a left, picking up the trail past the Welcome Hut. If open, the Welcome Hut is a fantastic starting point to pick up information about the Lakes

### 2 Woodland hide

Continue straight past the first left until you reach a signpost for a woodland hide. This short path takes you up to the first bird hide. Keep going to find the second, larger bird hide on the opposite side of the path



# 4 Ellingham lake

Turn right following signs for the shorter walk with Ellingham lake on your left. Leaving the lake, the track curves to the right comes to a wide bridge. Cross over Dockens Water one last time and you'll find yourself at the road just before the entrance to the car park. Turn right and follow the car park back towards the Education Centre to finish the walk.

Accessibility: The car park has two accessible bays, easy access toilets. The trails are gravel and suitable for a self-power wheelchair, two of which you can hire from the centre.

# **3** Dockens Water

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