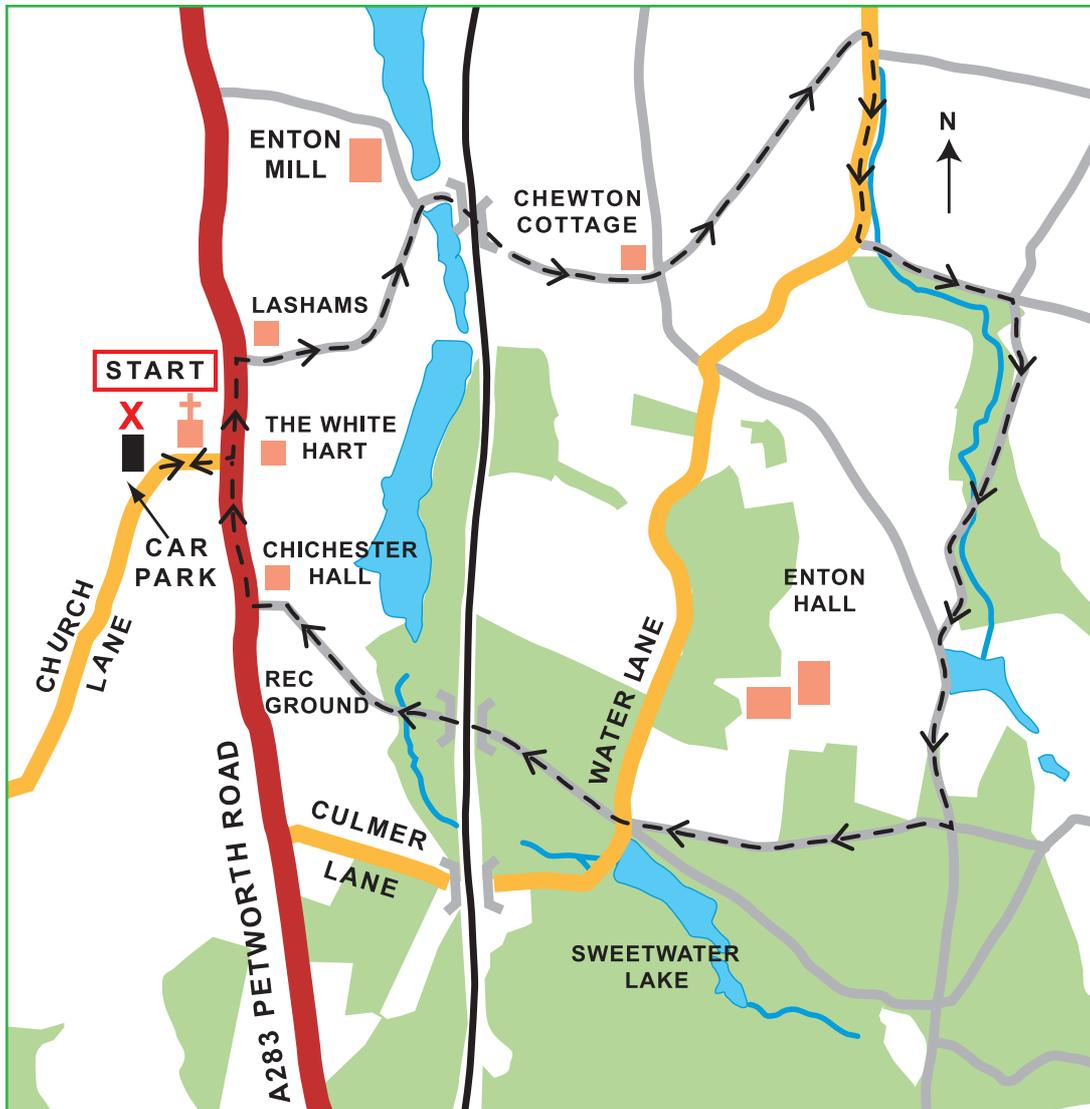




Walk 10

Witley and Enton



-  ROADS
-  ROADS
-  FOOTPATHS & TRACKS
-  ROUTE OF WALK
-  WOODED AREAS
-  BUILDINGS
-  RAILWAY LINE

Map: O.S. Explorers 133 – Haslemere & Petersfield (mainly), 145 – Guildford & Farnham

Start: Church Lane, Witley - car parking area on Right hand side uphill from church.

Alternative car parking area in Water Lane near Sweetwater Lake

Grid Ref: SU946396 **Distance:** 3 miles

Terrain: Easy walking, can be very muddy in places.

Refreshments: White Hart Pub – at the beginning and end.



Walk 10

Witley and Enton

Directions

Walk back to the main road and facing the White Hart, turn left. After about 200 metres, the pavement narrows and there is a tall brick wall on the opposite side of the road. Where this stops at a house called Lashams a footpath starts. Cross the road with great caution and follow this for about 250m, not missing the view to the north, to a wooden gate on the left which opens into a field. A clear path runs diagonally across the field to a gate. Pass through and turn right onto a rough road with the buildings of Enton Mill on the left.

You may see kingfishers or a heron on the lake.

Keep along the road which goes under the railway bridge and uphill to reach a T junction by Chenton Cottage. Take the footpath ahead pointing half left across the field to a stile. Cross the stile and turn right to follow the path beside the hedge to another stile. Continue on the path along the edge of the field down to the field entry. Turn right along the road, Water Lane, with a stream on your left.

Where the stream passes under a fence into a boggy area, in March, you may see bog primula with their cluster of blooms at the top of a long stem. After two pools on the left and Enton Hollow on the right, in February you may see the large spikes of butterbur on the bank to the left of the road, and the other side of the hedge. Likewise in April, beyond the stream, you may see a large patch of Gunnera which looks like giant hairy rhubarb.



Butterbur

Now watch out for the finger-post for the bridleway on the left, in amongst the trees, which leads to the fairway of the golf course and a junction of paths. Do not continue across the fairway, instead turn right and go uphill with the chestnut paling fence to the right. Red and white posts mark the route.

Just after the fence stops, in the bank at the edge of the wood, you will see primroses in March/April.

Shortly after the last red post the path bears right into the woods. Once in the woods, on the right, there is a very long steep drop down to a stream.

Where the tree canopy is less dense there are foxgloves here in May/June and if it is a moist still day you will note the scent of honey suckle which climbs up into the trees.

The path descends to a footbridge by a cottage and on the other side, after a short distance, emerges into an open field.

Where the path descends there are swathes of bluebells on both sides in April. In January you will see masses of snowdrops just beyond the footbridge on the bank of the stream.

Keep to the left hand edge of the field passing a small lake on the left. At the end of the field is a metal gate and as you go through note the design of the catch with a thumb plate and a roller to ease operation.

On the lake in June there are water-lilies and at the near edge yellow water iris. Between the gate and the pine wood note the honeysuckle on the right and a few examples of the shrub Alder Buckthorn, the food of Brimstone caterpillars.

Ignore the left fork at the yellow marked post and after about 50m at a crossroads of tracks turn right and walk to the remains of a stile visible ahead.

At the crossroads note the cleared area of pine woodland ahead to the left. The owner of Hambledon and Busses Common is returning the area to lowland heath (heather) that was there in his childhood, as he has successfully done on Hambledon Common.

Go past the stile, through the pine wood to emerge by the fenced golf area below Enton Hall on the right, and the wood to the left. Some 300m on there is a small

parking area with Sweetwater Lake on the left and ahead is Water Lane. Cross the lane, turn right, and after only 20m take the path left through an open wooded area. The path goes under the railway and down to a muddy area and a low stone bridge

In the swampy area Skunk Cabbage has established itself and in spring you will see its very large yellow arum-like flowers.

Pass Well Cottage and up to the right arrive at the Witley recreation ground. Go round the right hand edge of the ground and pass in front of the Chichester Hall to the road. Cross the road with care, turn right past the phone box and on to Church Lane to return to the start.

