







Burley Village

A circular walk around the edge of Burley village.

Key:

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-  Trail
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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 walk 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

1 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

4 Left onto Forest Road

Follow the track downhill until the path splits around a young oak. Keep right on Randells Lane, passing by Randells Farm on your right, until you reach the main road. Carefully cross the road at this point. Turn right alongside the road to cross over Coach Hill Lane and then turn left onto Forest Road

5 Skirting the Open Forest

Continue along the road past many large properties and over a footbridge at a ford crossing. Now follow the road with the Open Forest to your left



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.

Accessibility: Mostly easy walking on level ground with some gentle gradients. One long but gentle uphill section. Three road crossings and a footbridge.