



Walk 6:

Churt Crossways, Barford, Whitmore Vale, Golden Valley, Hindhead, Devil's Punch Bowl, Gibbett Hill, Thursley, Dye House, Hankley Common, Rushmoor, Crosswater

*Originally created and published in 1994 by Michael Stenning
Revised in 2021 by Churt Environment Working Group*

Summary: This long walk takes in some of the best views that the commons and National Trust land around Churt have to offer. You will go up to and through the Golden Valley, around the Punch Bowl to Thursley, then across Hankley Common and Churt Common, below the Devil's Jumps to return to Churt.

Distance: 13.1 miles / 21.1 km

Elevation gain: 420 m

Time: Approx. 4 – 5 hours

Grid reference / postcode of start-point:

SU 855 382 / GU10 2JA

Parking, if required at Redhearn Green, accessed via Old Kiln Lane:

SU 853 385 / GU10 2NT

Map: OS Explorer Series 133, Haslemere



The Celtic Cross at Gibbett Hill / The Sailor's Grave in Thursley churchyard

Walk Detail

1. From Churt Crossways take the Headley Road (Barford Lane) past the school, taking the footpath on the bank on the right-hand side of the lane. At the bottom of the hill, turn left just before the stream and proceed along the lane past Old Mill. After 140 m take the bridleway on the right and on past Barford Mill. At Power's Pond keep to the bridleway which goes straight ahead, keeping the pond on your right. At a junction of paths keep straight ahead and after approximately one kilometre, on meeting the road (Whitmore Vale) proceed straight ahead. Proceed along the road for 200 m and turn left through a gate just past Woodland View (on right) and then turn immediately right on a footpath. At Windy Gap go straight on through a gate and continue on the footpath parallel to the road. When you come to a 5 bar metal gate on your right, turn right beside the gate to rejoin the road. Turn left along the road, passing Stream Farm and Purchase Farm on the left; then go to 2.

Alternative (dashed black) Instead of rejoining the road, continue uphill, bearing left and immediately right. Ignore side paths, go downhill, turning right on a Byway, then over a bridge and immediately left up a steep bank. When you come to a T junction turn left and re-join the main path at 3 below.

2. As the Whitmore Vale road reaches some beech woods past Purchase Farm and before the road crosses the stream, take the path on the left into the woods. Note that there are two paths here - DO NOT take the first left marked Public Byway but take the second which is half left, leading more or less in the same direction as the road. After 45 m take the right fork. Continue and about 230 m further on, the path from the alternative route at the end of 1 above joins this path.
3. Stay on the main path straight ahead for about a further 300 m, ignoring all other side paths. The right turn you must take is the second obvious right turn and it is about 30 m **before** you would reach a T-junction path with a bank (this cannot be seen until you reach it – so if you do, you have gone too far!) Follow the right turn path you have taken uphill for approximately 300 m. You will have fenced private land on your left just before coming to a junction of paths which has an NT Golden Valley marker on a short post in the middle of the junction. Take the second left, which is almost straight ahead. After approximately 1 kilometre turn left at another NT short marker post and proceed along a narrow path that drops steeply down into the Golden Valley.

4. On meeting the track at the bottom, turn right. After 100 m take a narrow winding path, leading uphill to the left. This path winds and climbs steeply. Very close to the top and the A287, at a stone seat, turn right and right again after a few metres to proceed along the top edge of the valley, the path giving fine views behind. After 500 m (passing further seats, including another stone seat and two paths to the left), take the path leading upwards half left to the A287 road near the junction with Tilford Road. Turn right along the A287 for 40 m, cross it and take the bridleway on the left between Hindhead Brae and Highcombe Edge. Signs for Highcombe Pines clearly visible here.
5. Follow the track past a cell phone tower and turn right at the first junction of tracks, by a wooden sign saying 'Highcombe Edge', to skirt the Devil's Punch Bowl. Keep straight ahead at the next junction and right at the next fork, which leads into the Punch Bowl car park where there are toilets and a cafe. Leave the car park via the OUT sign, crossing what was previously the A3, and follow the nature trail (first left), towards Gibbett Hill. Cross straight over at a junction of tracks and continue parallel to the old A3. Approximately 400 m along this wide track look at the Sailor's Stone on the left. After 110 metres fork right and on to Gibbett Hill which has some fine views.
6. Return to the track previously walked by taking the path to the left of Gibbett Cross. On meeting this track turn right and follow the wide track, gradually downhill with good views ahead. Carry straight on at the sharp left bend. On meeting the old A3, cross over, turn right and then after 40 metres turn half left onto a byway. Keep straight ahead ignoring side paths. Continue along the main track downhill through woods eventually leading into Highfield Lane. Keep straight on the lane into the village of Thursley. The Saxon church of St. Michaels is well worth a visit; the grave of the murdered sailor, whose memorial stone was seen at Hindhead, can be seen in this churchyard. Go to 7.

Alternative (dashed black) to avoid part of the rutted, muddy byway and for better views over the East Rim of the Punch Bowl. At the old A3 take the byway as above, but then take a footpath left some metres along the byway. This footpath later rejoins the byway for 40 m, after which you turn left onto the footpath again. Go straight through a multipath junction and carry on until you come to a byway junction where you turn right. Carry on straight ahead and at a junction with a byway turn left and carry on to Highfield Lane and Thursley as above.

7. At the church take the path to the left, through the churchyard and left again alongside a wall and fence. Through the gate and continue to follow the footpath crossing through the middle of fields between wire fences. At the far side of the field, pass through the gate and drop down into a lane. Turn right past Smallbrook Cottage and after approx. 250 m take the footpath to the left by an opening between fencing. The path crosses the brook by way of planks, then climbs through woodland, through a gate, then continues to climb crossing a ditch by a plank and on up with fields to your left.
8. On meeting the road turn left for 110 m and turn right along a bridleway leading downhill. At the bottom, turn left for 60 m and then take the left fork onto Hankley Common and continue uphill along a broad sandy track which merges with another track. Carry on in the same direction for a few hundred metres and just past a right hand bend take a narrow path on the right leading very steeply up to the top of Kettlebury Hill. From the summit take the track heading in the same direction as was previously being walked on the lower path and proceed downhill. Go half left at a junction of paths and continue until a broad track is reached with overhead wires where you turn right and follow the track beneath the wires, continuing past a cottage on the left. The track climbs, bears right at the top and then falls steeply. At the bottom turn left and then right following the line of more overhead wires for 65m and then turn left.
9. After meeting the Tilford Road at Rushmoor, turn left for 80 metres and take the footpath on the right (to the left of a phone box at the junction with Sandy Lane and where there is also an electricity substation). After 100 m at a junction of three tracks, take the middle one straight ahead and uphill with views of the Devil's Jumps on the left. At the next junction of paths keep straight ahead and continue along a bridleway which makes its way across Churt Common for approximately 1.5 kilometres, eventually emerging onto Crosswater Lane, where you turn left. On meeting Jumps Road, turn right for 150 metres and then left into Old Kiln Lane. Follow the lane all the way to the war memorial and the T-junction with the A287. Proceed left into the village.

