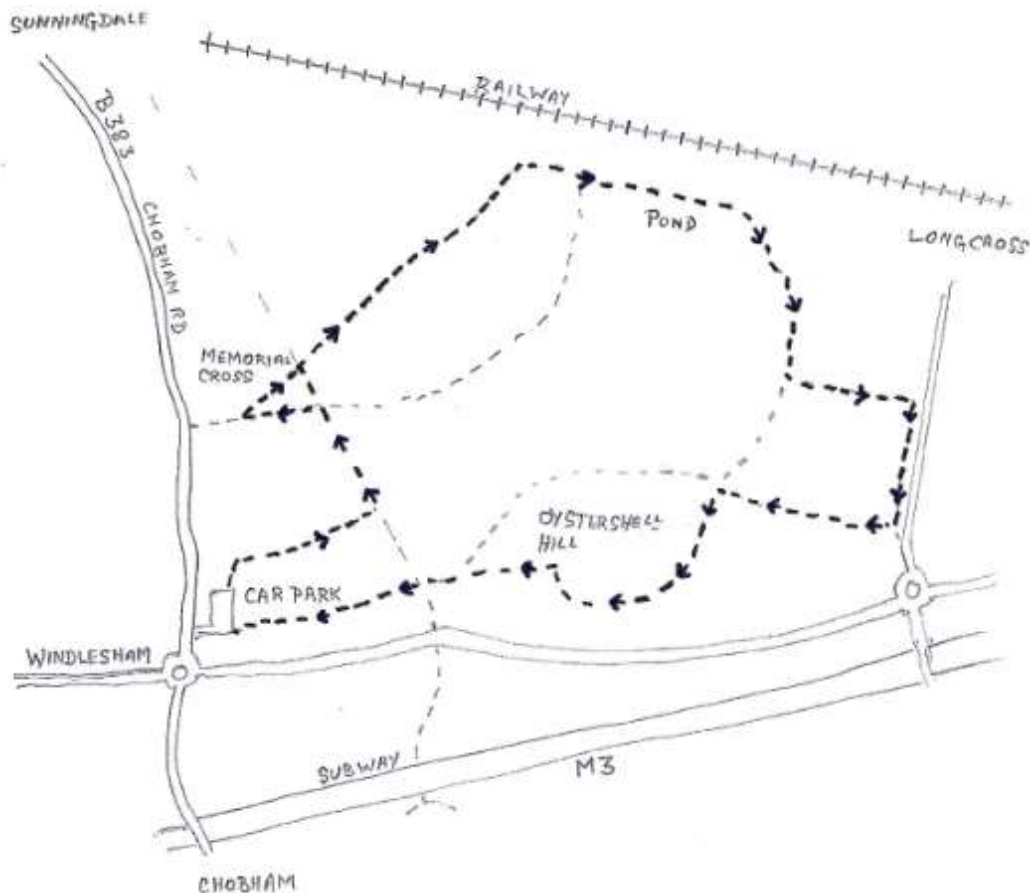


# WINDLESHAM WALKS Walk No.19

Start/Parking: Chobham Common Car Park.

Distance: 4km, 3.5 miles approx. Type of walk: Undulating. Gravel track. Sometimes demanding climbs and muddy footpaths.



Chobham Common Nature Reserve is the largest National Nature Reserve in the south-east of England and one of the finest remaining examples of lowland heath, a globally rare and threatened habitat which is managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Begin at Roundabout Car Park on the intersection of the B382 & B386. The walk follows the path off to the left of the Car Park.



Go through the initial line of trees and emerge onto an open grass field edged by trees.

The path arrives at the far left corner meeting what could be the main ancient Chobham to Sunningdale cart track.

Turn left at this point and continue uphill arriving at a junction of paths in various directions. Turn left to examine the Memorial Cross.

*The monument was erected shortly after Queen Victoria's death in 1901, Commemorating her link to the common: in 1853, she reviewed troops here during what was described as 'a grand military picnic'. Contemporary records suggest it was something of a washout, with cartoons showing soldiers fishing whilst sitting in their tents. Shortly afterwards many of the troops reviewed, which included the Light Brigade, were dispatched to face even worse weather in the Crimea.*



Return from the Monument to the junction of pathways and follow the ridge going north-east to the eastern boundary of the Common.



The path curves round to the right and at a five stump clump of a Silver Birch keep left where the path runs parallel to the railway and will bring you to Long Arm Pond. It is of special interest in the summer when the



dragon and Damsel flies put on a spectacular display.



*The heaths has also seen military use, although unlike many other south-eastern heathlands, this is now a thing of the past. The heaths suffered severe damage from their use by tanks during World War II, taking over a decade of restoration work to return them to their original state. In 1966, the freeholder of the land, the Earl of Onslow, transferred the heaths to Surrey County Council for £1 an acre.*

The track enters an open area veering away from the railway line, follow the waymarks round to the left, the track now makes a right-hand turn bypassing the entrance to Burma Road.



Continue south and at a bench the path turns right again, continue and observe a way mark and leave the main path off to the left climbing very gently towards 'Oystershell Hill' the heart of this part of the Common.





Your walk is now approaching the final stage and most rewarding view of the north part of Chobham Common. Curving round to the right a view towards Sunningdale is revealed. Turn left at the bench and stand at the top of the hill looking towards your destination, where in the distance can be seen the car park.



Take care when descending the hill by keeping to the right of the old railway sleepers, used to inhibit the soil from being washed away.



Follow the track to arrive at the start point.

