

Farnborough North to Blackwater and Back

Starting points

The walk starts at Farnborough North Station but can also be walked from Frimley or Blackwater Stations. From Frimley leave the station, cross the car park and go up a flight of steps in the far left-hand corner; at the top turn left and you very soon come to point 3. From Blackwater Station pick up the walk at point 5.

The walk: out along the Blackwater Valley Path

1 From Farnborough North Station turn left at the platform exit (crossing the railway line if necessary) and walk straight ahead over the bridge across the A331. At the end of the bridge turn left: there is sign here to the Blackwater Valley Path but it is behind you on a short wooden post and can easily be missed.

2 After a few yards take the waymarked Blackwater Valley Path northwards through a gate to the right. Continue along the path with fishing lakes, alder carr and reedbeds to your right. After about half a mile the path rises to join the road. Walk along the pavement until the road swings right into Frimley.

Hawley Meadows

Photo: BVCT



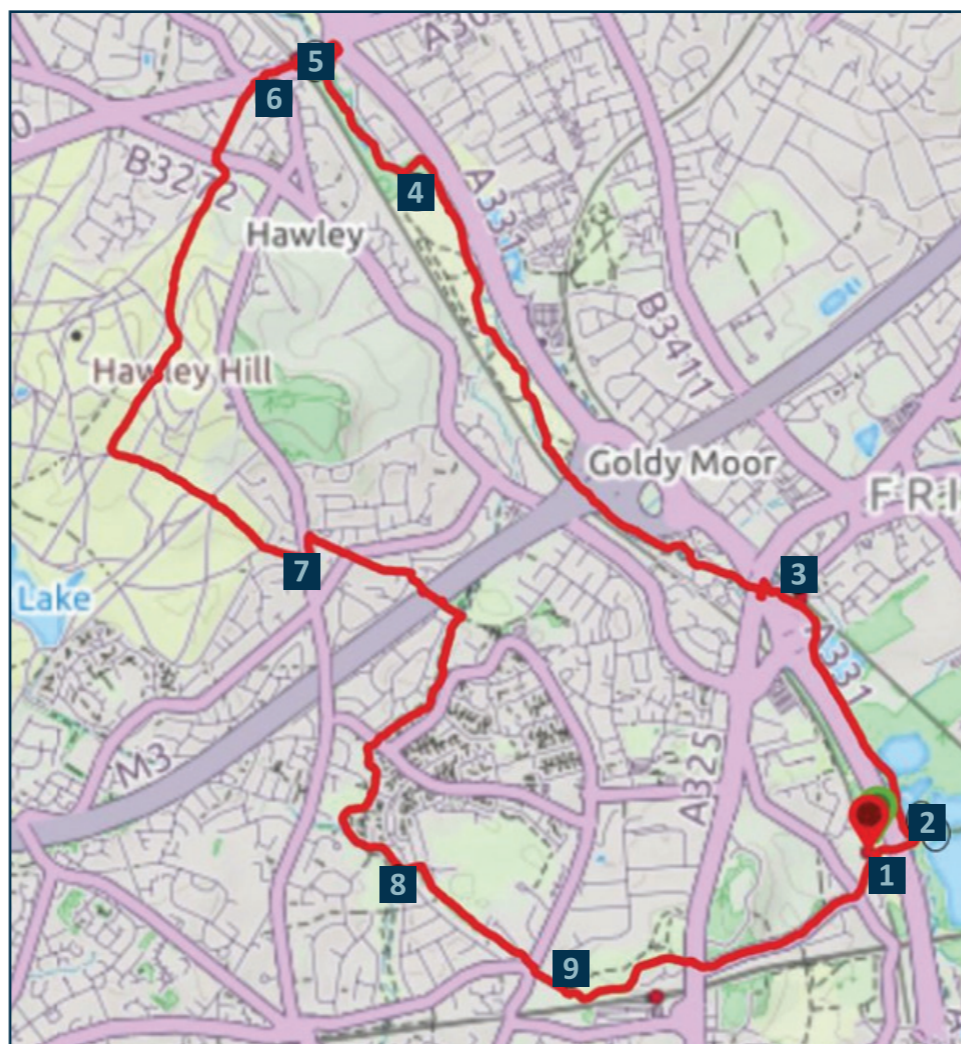
3 Follow the brown Blackwater Valley Path sign, crossing the road and walking beside but above the A331 for a few yards. At the end turn left to cross the A331. Immediately after the bridge another brown sign directs you down a flight of steps. At the bottom turn left. After a while the path becomes brick-paved, and then dirt/gravel again. Ignoring two bridges to the left, you pass under the M3 and emerge into Hawley Meadows. Turn left over a bridge across the River Blackwater, and immediately right to follow the riverbank. Pass through a gate, turn left over another bridge (Cove Brook) and immediately right to follow a path along by the river which is surfaced at this point but only as far as the bridge to Watchmoor Park. (If it is muddy, you can instead take the surfaced path straight ahead which crosses higher ground to reach the gate at point 4.) Follow the riverbank, where there are several HCC Storytrail signs, passing a bridge to the car park opposite Watchmoor Park, until you reach a gate.

4 Go through the gate and walk through the woodland of Blackwater Park. Ignore the 1st bridge to the right and take the 2nd bridge up to the roundabout. The path swings right and comes to the roundabout where the A331 and A30 meet. If you want to reach Blackwater Station use the light-controlled pedestrian crossing to your right to cross the A30, and turn left along the main road: the first flight of steps leads to the southbound platform, the second flight to the northbound platform. Otherwise continue along the pavement beside the main road, crossing Vicarage Road, to reach the Lidl supermarket at point 6.

This walk starts from Farnborough North Station, follows the Blackwater Valley Path to Blackwater Station, and returns across Hawley Common, along Cove Brook and through Queen Elizabeth Park. It is 8 miles of easy walking on generally flat paths, although parts can be muddy after rain.

Return via Hawley Common, Cove Brook and Queen Elizabeth Park

5 If starting the walk from Blackwater Station southbound platform climb the steps to your right; turn right at the top, and walk along the main road until you reach the pedestrian crossing leading across the A30 to the Lidl supermarket. From Blackwater Station northbound platform go straight ahead from the exit, passing various shops and flats and the Royal Swan pub, and come to the pedestrian crossing. Cross here and turn right to pick up the walk at point 6.



6 Continue past the supermarket. Very soon you reach a junction with traffic lights. Cross the road leading into the supermarket car park and go along Green Lane. At the end cross the main road and bear left into Hawley Green. Soon there is a barrier with army signs to your right. Go through here to Hawley Common. Keep on the main track, ignoring those leading off to left and right, up a hill and then down to an open area where another main track crosses. Turn left (ignoring the tiny path leading up a bank). After a while you come to another main path from an access gate which you can see to your left. Go straight across, and at once bear left where the path forks. Carry on, passing between some posts and then walking along with a fence to your right until you come to Fernhill Road.

7 Cross the road and turn left. Immediately before the first junction (with Perring Avenue) take the wide path leading sharply to the right. At the next road go straight ahead along Coldharbour Lane. At the end turn right and immediately

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left into Curly Bridge Close. Go straight ahead and cross the M3 via the Curly Bridge. When you come down from the bridge go straight ahead and across a bridge over the Cove Brook. Straight ahead is the Moor Road Recreation Ground. Ignore it and turn right to follow the riverbank for about a mile, crossing one road. You walk mainly along surfaced paths but where these swing right over a foot bridge across the brook, keep straight ahead along the riverside grass.

8 You come to a fence and swing left. Cross the road and go straight ahead passing a barrier to reach a concrete post. Turn right along a path between fences, continuing along the edge of playing fields, and along another path. This comes out at the bend of a road. Go straight ahead along this road. At the end turn right and almost immediately bear left across a patch of grass. Cross the road ahead of you and go along Cabrol Road.

9 At the end you enter Queen Elizabeth Park. At the far left-hand corner of the car park follow the path which leads around the edge of a playground and continues through the park to come out onto the Farnborough Road (A325). Cross here and go (almost) straight ahead along Highgate Lane. At the end go straight across the crossroads, and down Farnborough Street which brings you back to Farnborough North Station.

Queen Elizabeth Park

