

Sandhurst to Blackwater and Back

Starting points

The walk starts at Sandhurst Station but can also be walked from Blackwater Station picking up the walk at point 6.

Bus services: Stagecoach routes 3 between Aldershot and Yateley and 494 between Farnborough and Crowthorne stop at Blackwater Station (point 5). Route 494 also stops near Sandhurst Station.

The walk: out across Yateley and Hawley Commons

1 From either side of Sandhurst Station come down the exit ramps from the platform and turn left. If you have travelled southbound follow the pavement around under the railway bridge to the northbound exit ramp. Take the next left signed High Street and Private Road. After a few yards, where the track swings right, take the paved path to the left and walk along below the railway embankment.

2 At the road turn right, crossing the road to walk along the pavement for about half a mile – the area is too built up for a convenient route away from the traffic. You cross the river, pass Swan Lane allotments, the entrance to Swan Lake Park, and then the Darby Green village sign, and cross Sandhurst Lane. Cross back over the road and swing right into the lane signed Darby Green Lane. Cross Sidney Loader Close and then go across the main road (the B3272) using the footbridge behind the trees on your left.

Wyndham's Pool – Yateley Common

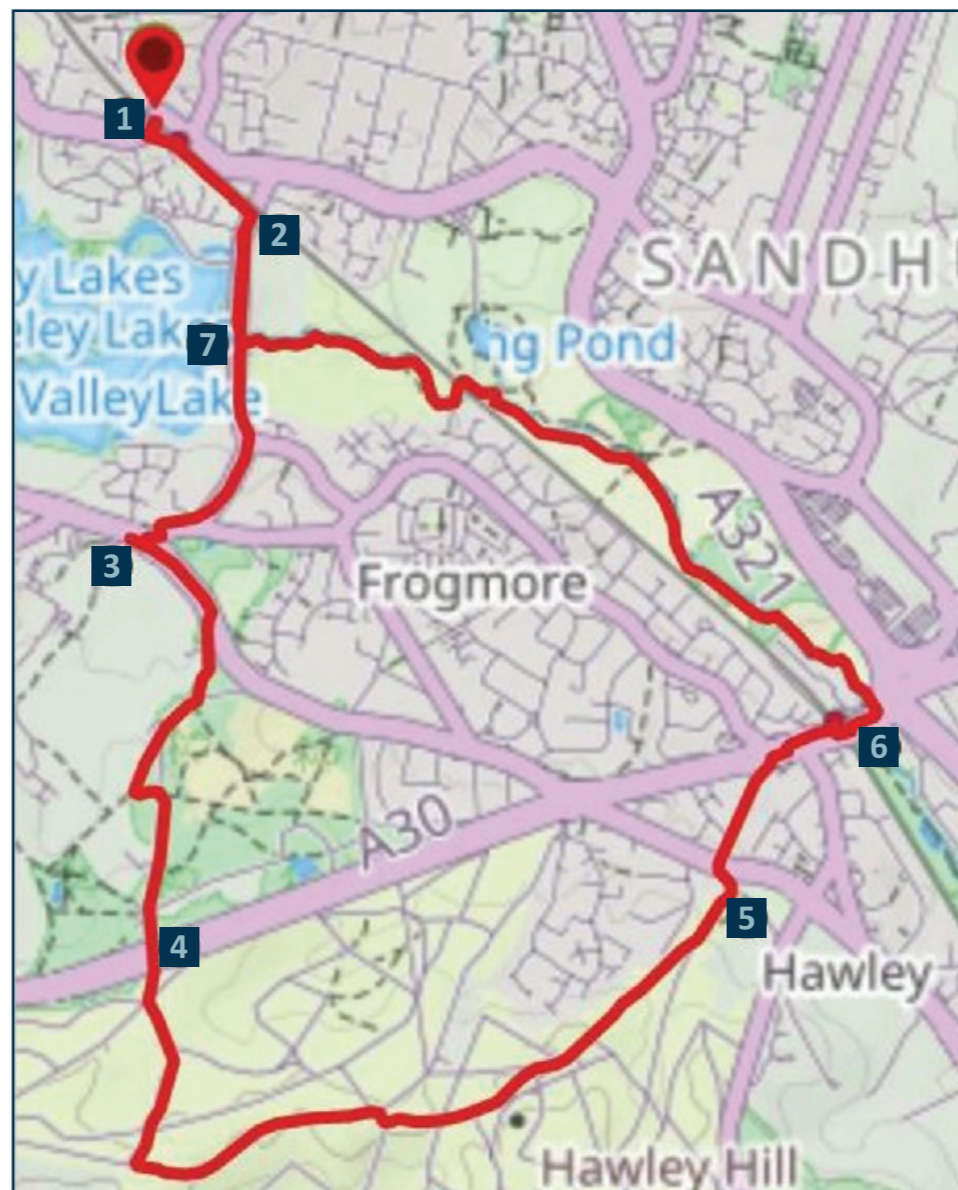
Photo: Hampshire Countryside Service



3 At the bottom of the down ramp turn right round and walk along a trodden path beside the main road past a cattery. Just after The Bungalow the path swings right into Yateley Common. Cross the next track passing to the left of a house called Trees, and soon swing right along another track. At the gate to Bayfield House take the path left beside the hedge, and then turn right at the track road. Immediately after Stroud House the track swings left – take the signed footpath to the right. At the next set of waymarks bear left. When you reach the crossing of two tracks by the gate to Heathfield, turn right to follow a waymarked path. At the gate to Forty Winks bear left and continue straight ahead, passing the way into the car park, until you reach the A30 dual carriageway.

This walk starts from Sandhurst Station, out across Yateley and Hawley Commons to Blackwater Station, and returns along the Blackwater Valley Path. It is 6¼ miles of easy walking, generally on flat paths with a few gentle slopes, although parts can be muddy after rain.

4 Cross the A30 and take the trodden path directly opposite leading into Hawley Common. Continue straight ahead until you reach a broad cross track the other side of which is a chain-link fence around a military establishment. Turn left and follow the track passing some bridleway waymarks. You reach a cross-tracks. Turn right to follow a track which almost immediately swings to the left. Where the track widens go straight ahead ignoring a wide area to your right. You soon reach a fork where a wide path bears left, and a wider track goes straight on – take the left-hand path and follow it straight ahead through an area of confusing paths. At a clearer fork go left, and follow the path downhill. At the bottom turn left onto a broad track.



5 You soon reach the access gate. Go past it and turn left. At the end of the road cross the main road and go along Green Lane opposite. At the end cross access road into the Lidl supermarket car park, and follow the pavement round to the light-controlled pedestrian crossing. Cross here and continue in the same direction, bearing left into Blackwater station forecourt. At the platform entrance turn right and go up the flight of steps. At the top turn left, cross the railway, and go down the steps the other side. (If you prefer to avoid steps, use the pavement along the main road.)

Common Blue Damselfly



Return along the Blackwater Valley Path

6 Turn round and walk along the road ignoring the business park access road to your left. Follow round to the left then, just after a footbridge to your left, go past a gate signed Shepherd Meadows onto the Blackwater Valley Path. Follow along the riverbank crossing the first bridge and continuing beside the river. Ignore the next bridge and path to the right which lead to the Shepherd's Meadow car park, and continue until the path swings right over another bridge. The path straight ahead leads to the Sandhurst Memorial Park and car park. To continue the walk turn left. You soon cross the river again (and the railway) by means of a long metal bridge, and continue along the riverbank until you come to Swan Lane.

7 To continue the walk, turn left and pick up between points 2 and 3. To return to Sandhurst station, turn right and walk along the road. Immediately before the railway bridge take the paved path to the left, and walk along beside the railway embankment. At the end continue along the gravel track. At the road turn right and Sandhurst station is almost immediately on your right.

Balancing Pond – Sandhurst Memorial Park

