

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH CIRCULAR WALK 3 – CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

Approx. 2.5 miles / 4 km

Starting at the Car Park (charges apply) by the lake in California Country Park **1** Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead.

Follow the main drive through the woods out of the Country Park passing the gateway to the Mobile Home Park on your right. On reaching the road (Nine Mile Ride) turn right and walk along the pavement until you arrive opposite the sign and gateway to Nine Mile Ride Industry (marked as Greenacres Farm on the OS map).

Ignore the Footpath sign on your right and take the fenced path on the right of the road leading into the Industrial Estate. After about fifty yards, by the CCTV gantry, the footpath crosses the road and continues alongside the garages on the left to reach a kissing gate.

Once through the gate there are open fields on the left **2** and a large Riding Stables on the right. The path is fenced on both sides and continues straight ahead until you reach White Horse Lane. Cross directly over and take the marked footpath to the left of the house and through the gate. The path is again fenced as it goes gently uphill crossing two fields. Mid way across the second field there is a wooden bench with good views **3** west to the conifers of Bramshill Plantation in the distance and north west towards the deciduous woods around Farley Hill.

Leave the fields through another kissing gate and go straight ahead, crossing over another footpath (if you wish to shorten the walk turn left and follow this path to St James' Church where you can rejoin the main walk to return to California Country Park) and going downhill on a farm track **4** leading to the gateway of Rectory Farm. The footpath is signposted round to the left with open fields on the left and farm buildings on the right. Pass a gate into the farmyard on your right and take the signed footpath to the left across the fields. Cross the small wooden bridge over the ditch and follow the path left as it gradually climbs, **5** with an immature deciduous plantation on the right, towards St James' Church.

Enter the churchyard through a gate and either walk to the right through the churchyard **6** to the gateway onto Church Lane or continue up the path passing the Church building **7** on your right and go through the gate before turning right down the hill to Church Lane.

At the bottom of the hill is a triangular plot with a commemorative stone **8** for two Oak Trees planted nearby on the occasions of the Golden Jubilees of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.

Turn left at the Queens Oak Public House **9** on to White Horse Lane and follow the lane around to the left. At the bottom of the small hill a bridle path is signposted to the right. Follow this across the fields down what is known locally as “the gallops” **10** - **11**. Continue along the path until you reach the corner of Warren Lane.

Take the left fork (straight ahead) of Warren Lane and walk between the houses back to Nine Mile Ride. Cross over and go left along the footpath back to the entrance to California Country Park, where you can follow the drive back to the car park and Jackson’s café.

An optional extension to the last part of the walk is to turn right at the corner of Warren lane and after about 50 metres take the path through the gate on the left. This takes you into Warren Woods **12** a small country park, with mixed woodland and some open meadow land , which contains an ancient Tumulus excavated in the 1990s. There are a number of pathways around and through the woods and good views of St James’s Church from the meadow. After exploring the woods either return to the corner of Warren Lane and continue the main walk or use the alternative exit through the five barred gate adjacent to Nine Mile Ride (which takes a bit of finding) where it joins Warren Lane.