

Walk No. 5

A Circular Walk from Four Marks to Medstead

5¼ miles. Time 3 hours.

GR. 672361 OS Explorer Map 132

By car: take the A31 from Alton to the village of Four Marks. Just after Charters Close turn right into Boyneswood Road and in about 1/3 mile turn right into Chawton Park Wood. There is a free car park.

By bus: take the 64 from Alton towards Alresford and alight just past the Four Marks sign at Telegraph Lane bus stop. Walk towards the village and at Boyneswood Road follow car directions above.

By train: take the Watercress Line from Alton and alight at Medstead & Four Marks station. At the Alton end of the platform a gate (if locked ask staff to open it) leads to a footpath to Boyneswood Road. Turn left and walk 1/3 mile along Boyneswood Road to Chawton Park Wood.

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The Walk starts at **Chawton Park Car Park** in Boyneswood Road, Medstead. The walk is on public footpaths although there is a small amount of road walking on quiet lanes. The walk is mostly on level ground except for one or two inclines, but no steep climbs. Most of the stiles are sound and in a good state except for one or two in Medstead that are broken or missing.

From the car park walk cross the open grassed area to the gravel track and **turn right**. In 200 yards **turn left** onto another track that climbs slightly uphill for a short way.

Continue **straight ahead** on this track which runs down hill to cross another track and then uphill on a

grassy track to level out again and then descending to another grassy track.

Turn left along this track and in about 150 yards at cross tracks (sign posted), take the path on the **right** which climbs uphill through trees to a barrier / gate on the edge of the wood. Go through the gate and walk along a path between a fence and a hedge (very muddy when wet) which soon becomes a gravel track leading to Abbey Road.

Cross the road to Jenny Green Lane (the by-way opposite) and walk along this for about 250 yards to a farm gate on the **right**. Enter the field, keeping the field edge on your **right**, go slightly down hill through a metal gate in the corner

of the first field. Then walk across the sloping field going **slightly right** and heading to the right of a barn.

Cross the stile and **turn right** onto a track and at the end **turn left** into Wivelrod Road. Walk along the road for about 250 yards and then take the footpath on **the left** after a few cottages and just after Wivelrod House on the right.

Continue along this path, which runs between hedges, to the end. **Turn right** through a gate and in a few yards **turn left** on a path just before a field.

[This is a convenient place for a rest and refreshment.]

Keeping to the left, walk to the **left hand** corner of the field. Enter the edge of a wooded area and again keep to the left along a narrow footpath to a gate.

Walk up the slope a short distance straight ahead to another gate and stile to a track. **Turn left** along this track [the track is very muddy after rain] to a T junction and **turn right** into Jenny Green Lane. Walk along this track for about 200 yards to a track on the left.

Turn left down this track passing dwellings on both sides and enter a large field keep **straight ahead**

with a hedge on the right. Continue in this direction until you reach the tree line behind St Lucy's Convent. Walk through the trees to cross paths and **turn right**. In a short distance go through a kissing gate and then take a path **diagonally left** *[but see note below for the pub]* to enter the Convent driveway.

*[If you want to make a stop at the 'Castle of Comfort' Inn, then do not take the diagonal path but go straight ahead to the path between houses, which comes out almost opposite, on Trinity Hill. To rejoin the walk go through the village to the cricket ground**.]*

Walk down the drive and at the road, cross over to Medstead cricket ground** walking in the direction of the pavilion and village hall. Pass the entrance to the village hall and tack the track to the **left** behind the village hall (Foul Lane). Go **straight ahead** and keep the field edge on the right to another (broken) stile in the right hand corner.

Turn right and with the hedge on the left at first, walk across a large field to enter Chawton Park Woods. **Turn immediately right** to follow a winding footpath around the edge of the wood which in about 1,100 yards, joins a bridle way. **Turn right** and proceed back to the car park.