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# Countryside Walks

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## 1) Highclere Park Public Walk

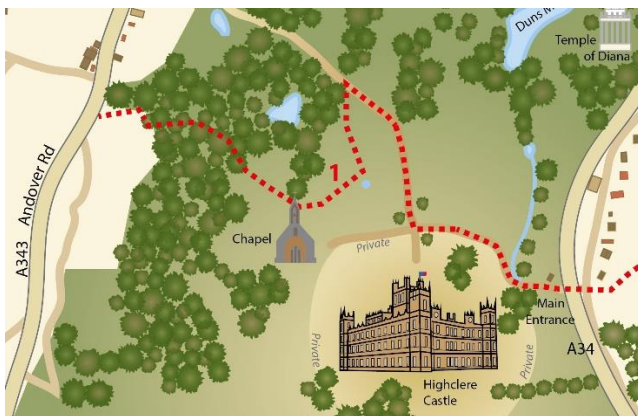
**Access:** From Highclere Estate Main Entrance at Whitway, please note there is no parking on site or access for vehicles.

**Open:** Throughout the year.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** This footpath runs from the main castle entrance (off the A34- see map) through the estate to the Andover Road. Beginning at the main entrance, you walk down the drive, catching glimpses of the castle towards the crossroads.

At the crossroads the footpath turns right through the park for about ½ mile. It then turns left to go down to the Cemetery Chapel. You then walk through Highclere wood before joining the Andover Road near Highclere Street.



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## Countryside Walks

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### 2) Beacon Hill Public Footpath

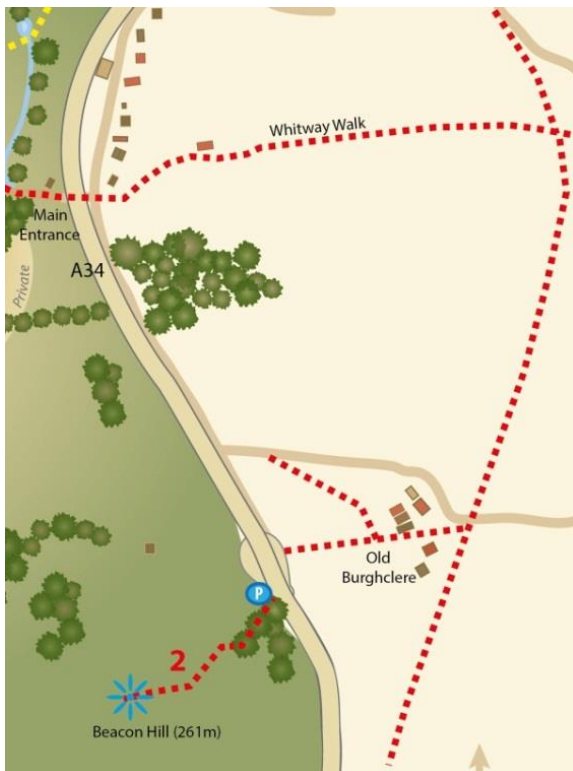
**Access:** From Whitway Road, off the A34.

**Open:** Throughout the year.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** The Estate continues to lease Beacon Hill to Hampshire County Council as an area of open access. From the car park at the foot of the hill, it is a steep climb to the top from which the views of the surrounding downlands are superb.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carnarvon (who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun) is buried at the top which makes Beacon Hill an area of outstanding interest as well as beauty. You can see the remains of the Iron Age Fort and look into the bowl of the grassy landscape that was used for sheep grazing for over 1000 years before the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl created a horse stud there.





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## Countryside Walks

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### 3) Old Burghclere Public Footpath

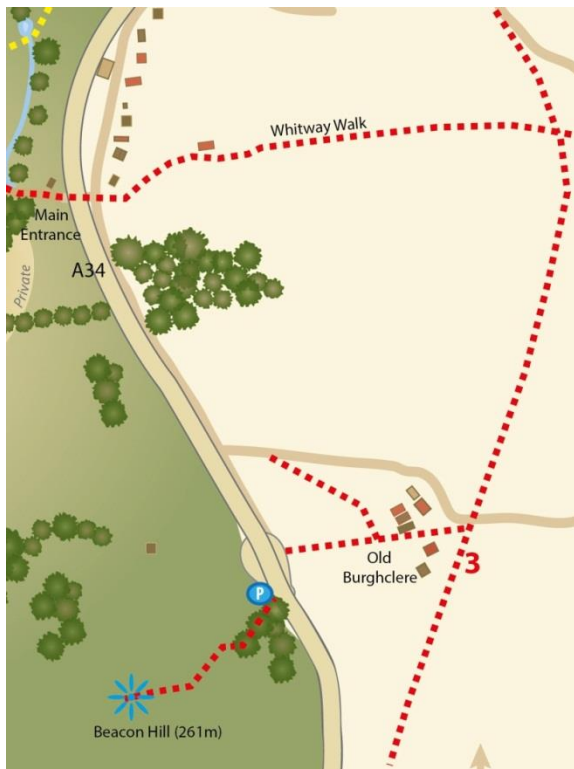
**Access:** From Whitway road, off the A34.

**Open:** Throughout the year.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** Part of the Eastern landscape can be seen from the footpath and bridle way which joins Whitway up to Old Burghclere.

There is then a footpath from Old Burghclere, past one of the oldest medieval barns in Hampshire, to a bridge over the A34 taking you to Beacon Hill.



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## Countryside Walks

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### 4) Milford Lake Summer Walk

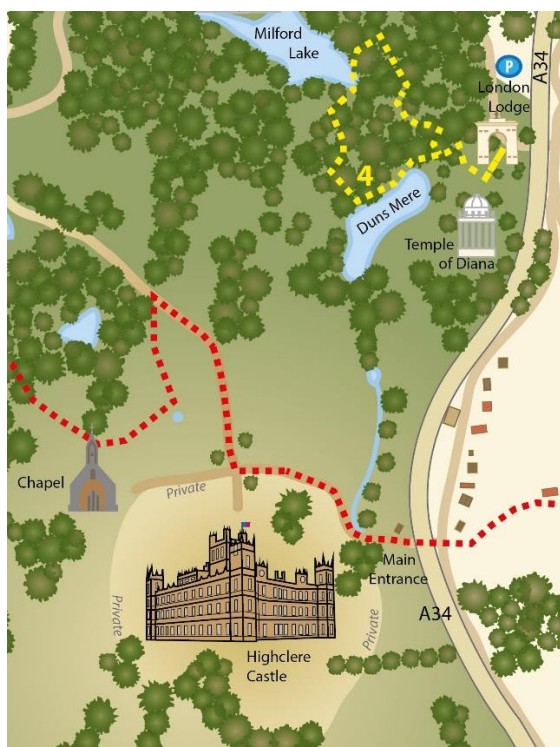
**Access:** From Penwood Road, off the A34. Please note there is no parking on site.

**Open:** First and second weekends in May and then 7 days per week throughout July and August.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** The Rhododendron and Azalea around Milford Lake have been admired by visitors for nearly 200 years. Some of the Rhododendrons have been massed together for effect and there are also individual, unusual species collected for colour and rarity. The lakes were first created by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Carnarvon (1872-1833) and then were significantly developed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl (1924-2001) and his friend, the renowned landscape gardener, Jim Russell.

The Milford Lake Walk begins just inside the drive to London Lodge (off the Penwood Road). It takes the visitors down in a circular route past some very old and tall azaleas. The southern part of the walk follows a woodland path and skirts past Dunsmere Lake, looking across at the Temple of Diana. Walk indicated in yellow on map below.





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## Countryside Walks

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### 5) Temple Summer Walk

**Access:** From Penwood Road off the A34. Please note there is no parking on site.

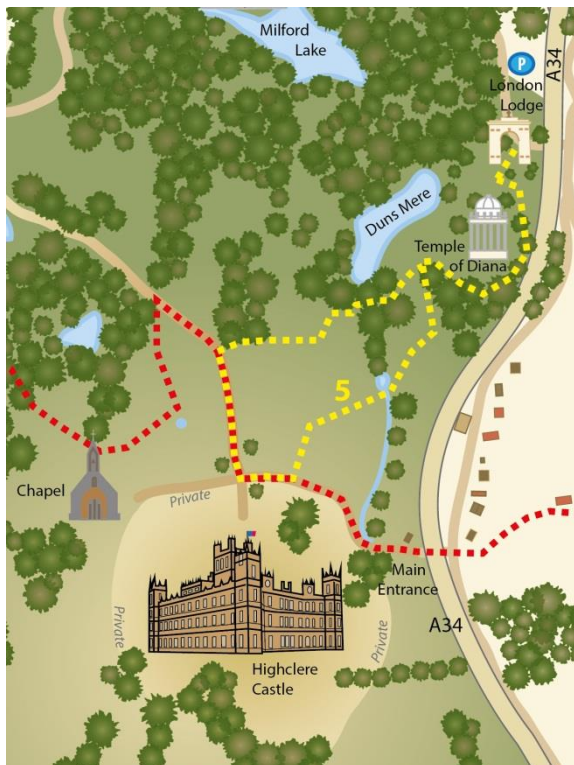
**Open:** Spring Bank Holiday weekends and then 7 days per week throughout July and August.

**Dogs:** No dogs are allowed on this walk as it runs through areas where livestock are free to graze.

**Description:** Visitors may walk to view the Temple from either the stile by London Lodge, or from the footpath that runs through Highclere Park. London Lodge was historically the main entrance to the Castle, providing glimpses of the Castle as it wound around the landscape.

The Temple of Diana lies midway along the walk and has been restored by the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carnarvon with help from the English Heritage, Hampshire County Council and BDBC. A grassy track and stile at the foot of the Temple leads to a walk across a field to rejoin the footpath in the middle of the park.

**We kindly ask all walkers to carefully shut any gates on their way through.** Walk indicated in yellow.



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## Countryside Walks

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### 6) Grotto Lodge Summer Walk

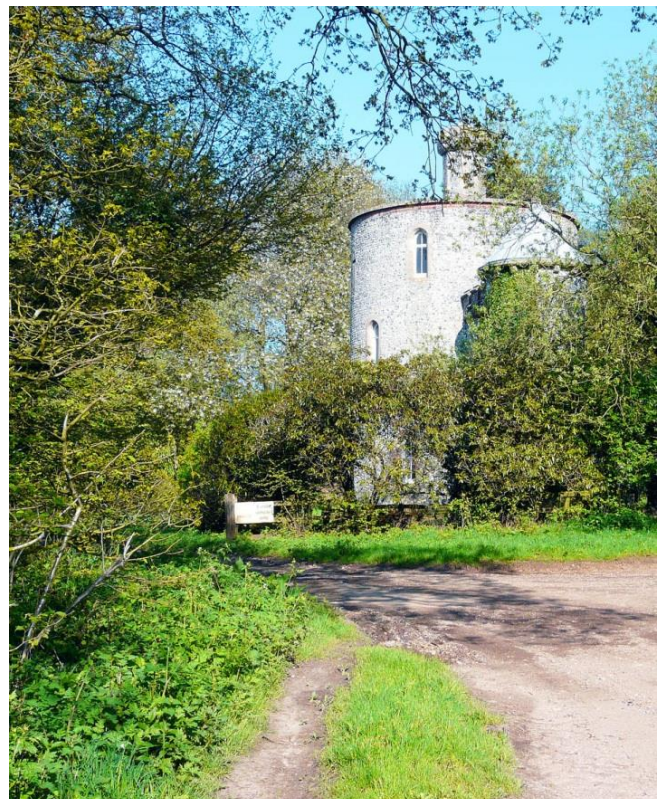
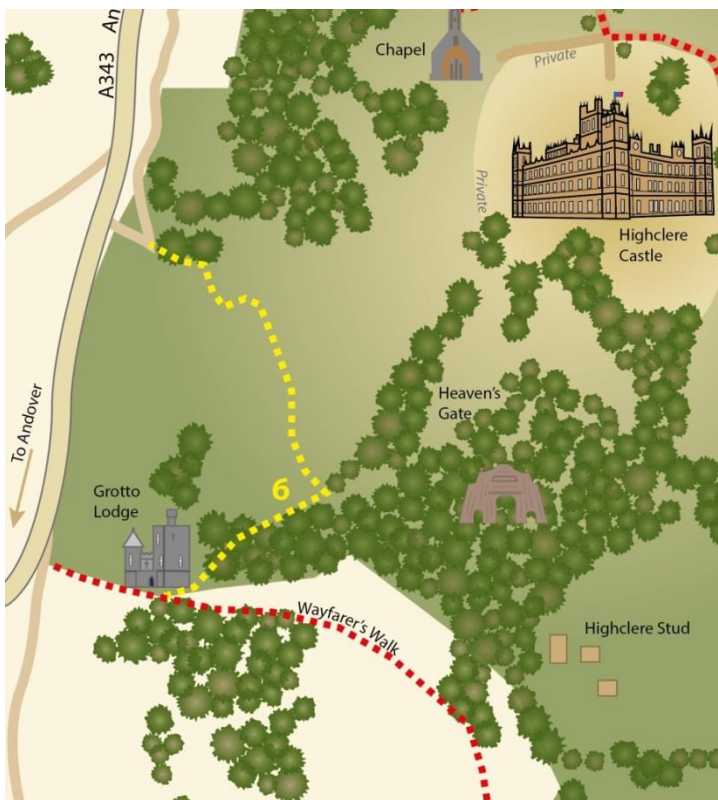
**Access:** From Wayfarers Walk or Highclere Street.

**Open:** Easter Bank Holiday to August Bank Holiday, 7 days per week.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** This seasonal footpath is open to walkers and ramblers throughout the Spring and Summer, from Easter until the August Bank Holiday.

It links the Wayfarers Walk (about ½ mile after Three-Legged Cross) to Highclere Street.







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## Countryside Walks

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### 7) Heaven's Gate Summer Walk

**Access:** On foot from the Wayfarers Walk.

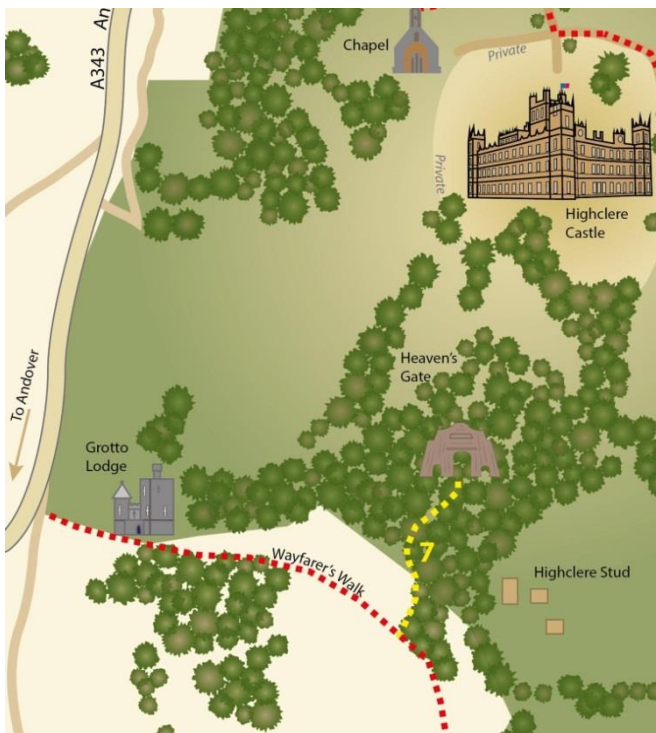
**Open:** Easter Bank Holiday to August Bank Holiday, 7 days per week.

**Dogs:** Must be kept on a lead.

**Description:** About a mile past the Three-Legged Cross coming from the west on the Wayfarer's Walk is a turning to a seasonal walk towards a brick folly called Heaven's Gate.

This walk is open from Easter to the August Bank Holiday and goes through a beech wood planted by Robert Herbert in 1730, to the brick folly he built in 1743.

It is an archway framing views from the North to Wantage and is an ornamental building to be admired from Highclere Castle. The beech trees are planted throughout Highclere and grow successfully on chalk downlands. (Walk indicated in yellow).



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## Countryside Walks

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### 8) Cemetery Chapel Summer Walk

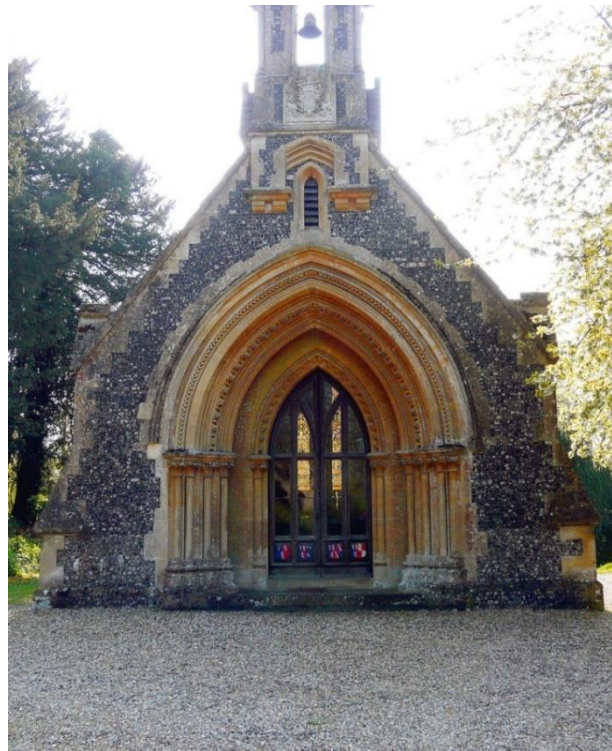
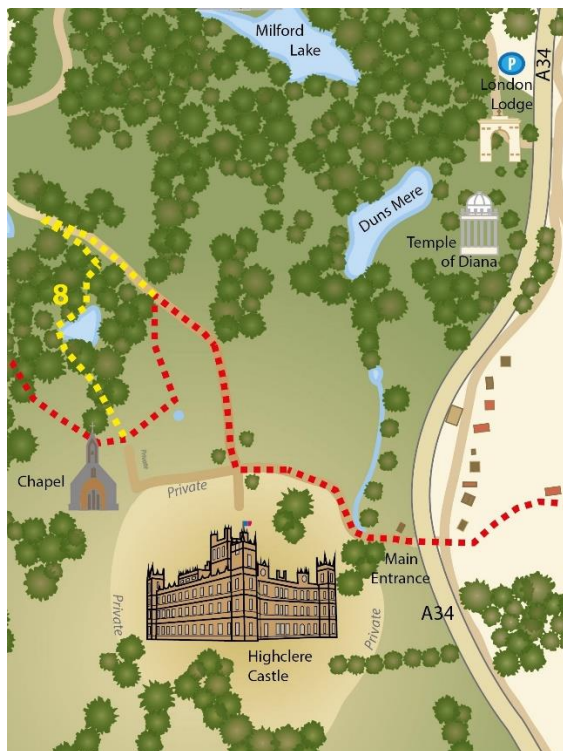
**Access:** From Highclere Church Entrance to Highclere Estate or Highclere Chapel.

**Open:** Spring Bank Holiday weekends and then 7 days per week throughout July and August.

**Dogs:** Must be on leads.

**Description:** The Victorian Cemetery Chapel in Highclere Park was built by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Countess of Carnarvon to offer comfort to those who grieve. There is still a service once a year at the end of August.

To one side, is a seasonal footpath running past the graveyard towards some large redwood trees and newly planted azaleas. The footpath is quite wet and narrow at times, but certainly worth exploring. It skirts a small lake with a sunken forest and some ancient woodland, joining up with the drive taking walkers out through the park exit towards Highclere Village (walk indicated in yellow).





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- 1) Highclere Park Public Walk
- 2) Beacon Hill Public Walk
- 3) Old Burghclere Public Footpath
- 4) Milford Lake Summer Walk
- 5) Temple Summer Walk
- 6) Grotto Lodge Summer Walk
- 7) Heaven's Gate Summer Walk
- 8) Cemetery Chapel Summer Walk



(Please see our website for a larger version of this map).