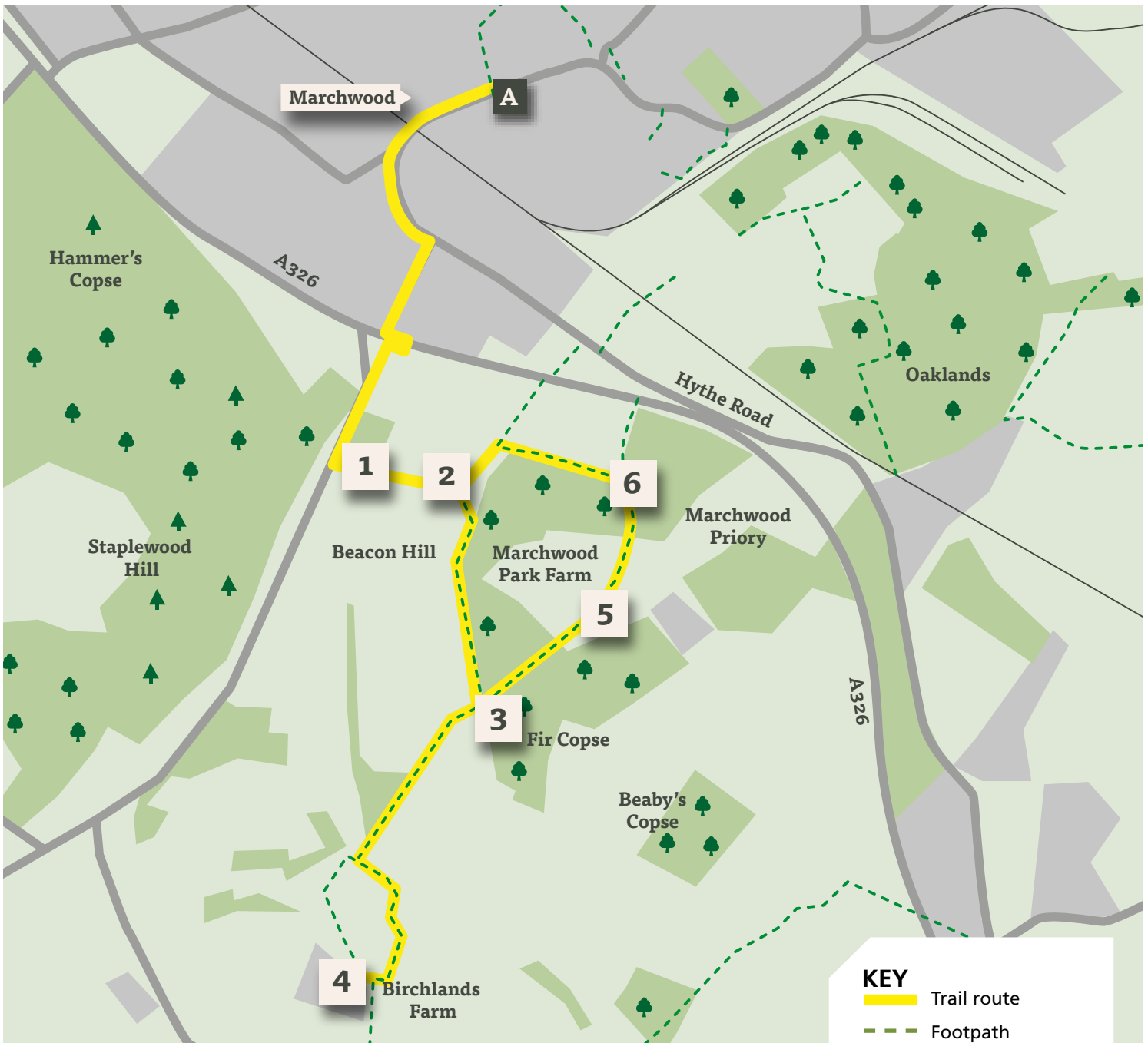




Carter's Lane Trail

A New Forest estate through time



2.5 miles / 1.5 hours

Trail route summary

This trail, one of our shortest Historic Routes, takes you through woodland and open farmland. There are some muddy patches, stiles and the odd fallen tree. The trail explores the time of a large estate whose wealthy landowners built schools for the community and the local church.



Trail Stats:

Trail length	2.5 miles (4km)
Time to walk trail	1.5 hour
Starting point of trail	Twiggs Lane south of the Marchwood bypass (A326)
Car parking	There is no formal parking for this trail. There is some parking in Marchwood. There may be space to park informally in the remaining section of Twiggs Lane, on the south side of the A326.
Bus Stop	The nearest bus stop is; Marchwood, Twiggs Lane. For more information please check myjourneyhampshire.com .
Terrain (hilliness)	Fairly flat
Surface type/s	Path through woodland and farmed fields, expect muddy patches. Some surfaced farm tracks. Short section on road.
Stiles / gates information	Some stiles, narrow plank footbridge, gates.
Notes	Do check yourself for ticks on your return to the car.

Trail route summary

The trail is reached from central Marchwood by walking along Main Road, past the church (St John the Apostle), over the old railway tracks and around to Twiggs Lane and past the school. Both roads have paved footpath along side. Cross the A326 via the pedestrian crossing and continue along Twiggs Lane.

After a short walk along Twiggs Lane and a short driveway we enter onto the Rights of Way. Some of these routes, now rights of way, have been traced on historic maps back as far as 1791.

Trail route directions

Follow Twiggs Lane for about 250m and then turn left (east) on the driveway track towards 'Dunclagh' opposite 'The Cottage'. Turn right (south) at Hammond Lodge (called 'The Bungalow' on OS map) and through the gate. There is a pretty green path through Hammond's and Fir Copse ending at a stile into a field (to the left are sloe bushes and a hawthorn tree). In the field follow the line of the copse south, passing a deer hide on your left. Look out for a footpath through gap in the hedge – this is your return route later. From here the marked path goes diagonally across the field, but you can follow the route around the field edge.

Follow the field boundary to the farm gate then follow the track towards Birchlands Farm. About halfway along this track the Right of Way cuts across the field, we suggest you stay on the track. Follow the track, at the gate turn left (east) following the track and field boundary. Turn right (south) through the gate towards the stables of Birchlands Farm. Follow this track around the stables to Carter's Lane.

To return, retrace your steps until you get to the footpath identified on the way out. Turn onto this path through the woods until you emerge over a stile into a field. You will then see Home Farm ahead which was once part of the estate of Marchwood House. Cross the field diagonally with Home Farm to your right. You can see the very tall brick walls that formed the formal walled gardens.

Once across the field, head left (north) towards the woods. Enter the woods through the gate, looking out for a lake on your right (east) that belonged to the estate. Follow the track north. These are some of the older routes here, with banks and ditches either side of the track. Continue to a junction where you turn left (west) along a field boundary. This part of the trail takes you along a formal track, a legacy of the old estate. At the end turn left (south west) on to the track leading back towards Hammond's Lodge. From here you should retrace the route back to Twiggs Lane.

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This trail starts south of the Marchwood bypass (A326) in a section of Twiggs Lane cut off by the bypass, with limited parking. Alternatively, you can walk from Marchwood via the pedestrian crossing that connects Twiggs Lane.

1. Oak tree past the driveway to Dunclagh

Just beyond the driveway, you get a view of Dunclagh (meaning greyish-brown stone). This grade II listed building was designed and built in 1846 by the eminent Victorian architect Henry Woodyer to serve as the rectory for the first vicar of Marchwood, Thomas Chessher Martelli. It is now a private house and not open to the public. Look out for its mullioned windows with Bath Stone dressings between the bushes on the right.

The rectory was funded by Horatio Francis Kingsford Holloway who bought the 500-acre Marchwood estate in 1834. Holloway held the office of Deputy Lieutenant 1847 and was appointed Sheriff of Hampshire in 1841. Horatio Holloway was born Martelli and was older brother to the vicar Thomas. He changed his surname to Holloway by Royal License, as request in the will of his wife's grandfather, who had no male heirs.



View from the trail of Dunclagh with its mullioned windows with Bath Stone.

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2. Start of trail along Public Footpaths

You can walk the trail in either direction from here. The trail directions follow the right hand path (south) from Hammond's Lodge.

The hill behind Dunclagh is called Beacon Hill. It was the site of a tall wooden beacon with a large metal basket on top. The fire was lit to warn local people of the approach of an enemy. Beacons were sited on high hills, forming a chain of defensive communication from the coast to inland areas.

3. Fir Copse

Birchlands Farm is now run by the Dovey family but was owned by the Bishops of Winchester. The Bishops oversaw one of the largest and richest episcopal sees (a Bishop's jurisdiction) in England even including land at Southwark, London.

Left: View south at Hammonds Lodge
Below left: The entrance into Fir Copse for the return journey.

Below: View (southwest) across field of the Dovey family at Birchlands Farm from [SS3].

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4. Birchlands Farm

Birchlands Farm is a 'Red Tractor' certified, mixed farm and one of the few milk farms left in the New Forest. The Red Tractor logo recognises food that has been produced to high standards across the whole length of the supply chain: from farm to packet.

Carter's Lane connects Birchlands Farm to the Beaulieu Road. There are a number of Rights of Way here, but for this trail you'll need to retrace your steps back to Fir Copse at [SS3].



Top: Launching a motor gun boat. 1943, Hythe,

© IWM A 14596

Bottom: Mrs Holloway, by Richard Lane. c1835.

© National Portrait Gallery, London. NPG D22235



5. Home farm

The route between points five and six is the oldest section of the trail, first seen on Milne's Hampshire map of 1791.

From here you can see Home Farm and the remains of the walled gardens which were part of the Marchwood estate. Looking east over the fields you'll see the back of Marchwood House which is now a Priory hospital.

At its peak, the Marchwood estate included a Georgian mansion, stables, coaching house, delightful Italian pleasure gardens, parterres of flowers, walled kitchen garden, carriage drive and lodge.

H. F. K. Holloway and Mary Ann had 6 children, three of them boys. However, the oldest son Charles died before he could inherit. Horatio Edward only lived seven years after inheriting and the third son Francis was of ill health and died six years after Horatio Edward. The estate was split between the daughters who sold it in 1866 for £21,000 (~£2.7m today).

The estate fell into decline and was sold several times until in 1938 it was listed for sale as "...a fine Georgian house, for renovation with park and woodland, 187 acres, farm and cottages...".

The estate was bought by Mr Hubert Scott-Paine who owned the British Power Boat Company based in Hythe on the waters of the Solent. Following renovation the estate became the Marchwood Park Training Centre used to train young women in boat building; from design to manufacture and assembly. At the start of WWII Marchwood produced components for Motor Torpedo and Motor Gun Boats.

From 1943-49 the site was handed over to the Air Ministry for airmen recovering from surgery following burns.

In 1965, the new Marchwood bypass cut the house off from most of the land. It then became a preparatory school followed by a pony trekking centre before being purchased in 1987 by the Priory Hospital Group.

6. The Lake (Priory Hospital)

The lake hidden in the trees of Warwick's copse belonged to the Marchwood estate but is now a private fishing lake. This section of the trail can get quite muddy, but you may spot royal ferns, no doubt a remnant of the elegant gardens.

Of note also are the old ditch and bank boundaries close to the path. This ancient method of marking a boundary was often used to keep animals out by planting a hedge or having a fence on top of the ditch.



A. Church of St. John the Apostle

In Marchwood itself is the Church of St. John the Apostle which was built in 1843 for £8,300 (~£500,000 now) by Horatio Francis Kingsford Holloway.

Top: Section of Estate Map of Marchwood Park. 1885.

Hampshire Record Office: 33M70/11

Below: View of the trail between Hammonds and Warwicks Copse

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