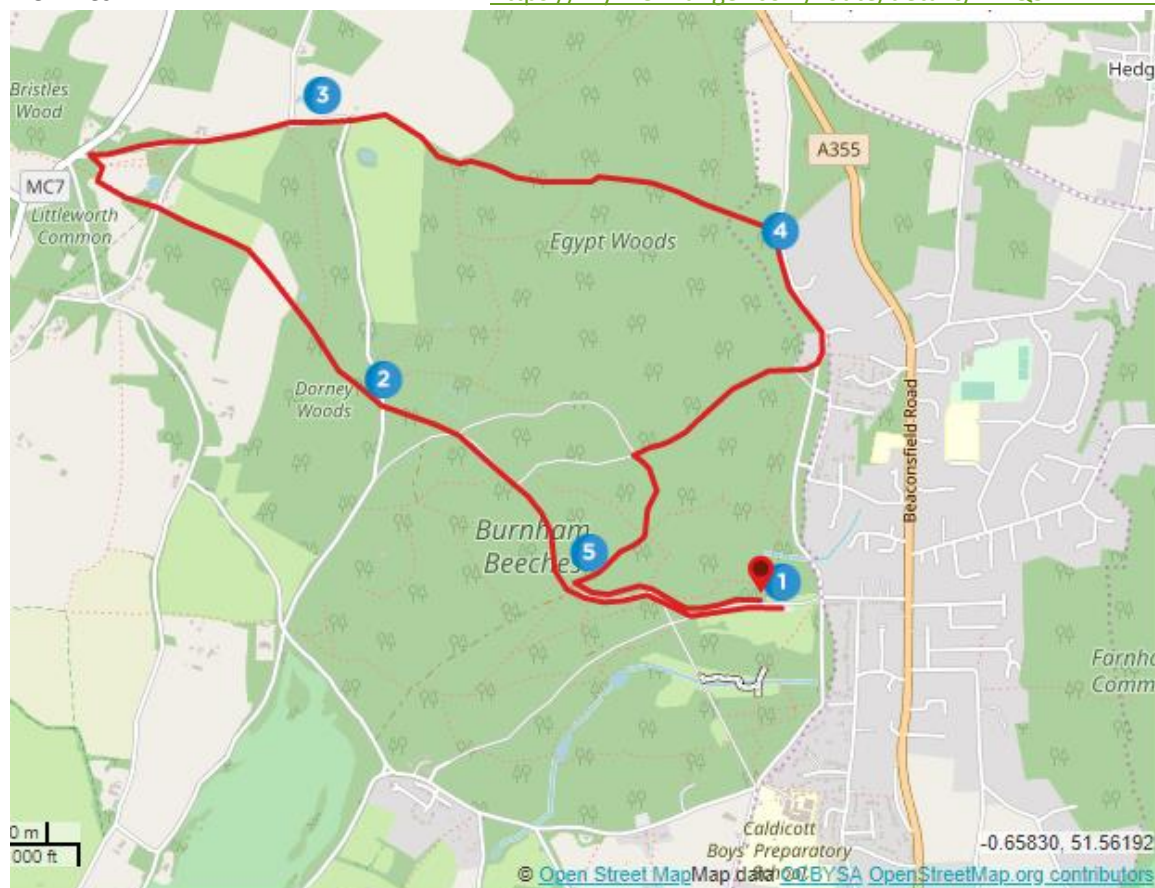


5. Burnham Beeches

4.8 miles

<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MTQ3MTA4Mw==>



5.1 From car park, head west along Lord Mayors Drive to Beeches Café and information point. Continue ahead to crossroads known as Victory Cross. Turn right and pass to the side of a wooden gate, entering a traffic-free zone, then carry on Halse Drive. Soon, distinctively-shaped beech and oak trees come into view. Their unique look is the result of centuries of branches being cut just above head height, in order to produce a continuous crop of timber; a practice known as pollarding.

Continue downhill to a junction of tracks, with Victoria Drive to the left. Walk ahead, where the surrounding woodland may reveal woodpeckers or deer, and also look out for fungi. Pass Dukes Drive on the right and, at a junction of tracks, turn right along McAuliffe Drive. After about 40m, go through a gap in the trees on your left to see an information plaque, beyond which are the remains of Hartley Court Moat – one of three Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Burnham Beeches Estate. Walk back to the junction of tracks and turn right. Pass an information shelter on the left, then take a right-hand fork in the track. Continue ahead to reach a road.

5.2 Cross the road, leaving the reserve, and go through a metal gate to follow the Beeches Way through Dorney Wood. Ignore a permissive path on the right. Go through a gate at the far edge of the wood, walking between two wire fences. Keep to the path, eventually reaching a road. Turn right and pass the Blackwood Arms, then turn right at a T-junction. Pass Abbey Park Lane on your left and continue to a sharp right-hand bend in the road.

5.3 At this point, walk ahead along a signed footpath. Go through gate and cross field, keeping hedge to your left. Climb over stile at the far side of the field and follow woodland track. Ignore permissive path to the right,

then take a right-hand fork in the path soon after. Drop downhill and walk up an incline, with Heathfield Wood to the left and Egypt Woods to the right. At the end of the path, follow well-surfaced lane past houses to reach a road.

- 5.4 Turn right along the road, paying attention to any oncoming traffic. Ignore signed footpath to the left and turn right, passing a post box and cottages. Pass a metal gate and re-enter the reserve, along Dukes Drive. On reaching McAuliffe Drive to your right, turn left to follow Burnham Walk downhill. Follow the track and, at an obvious but unmarked junction of paths, continue ahead. After about 300m, you reach another junction of paths.
- 5.5 Turn left here, along the well-surfaced section of Halse Drive used earlier on the route. Continue uphill and pass the wooden gate, then turn left at Victory Cross. Pass the café and walk back to the car park.