This is a lovely peaceful and rural walk and one that is relatively little used. There is a gentle ascent to a lovely view over the surrounding countryside and out towards the Surrey Hills.

**Parking:** Parking is available at the recreation ground on the corner of Blundel Lane and Stoke Rd or alternatively you can combine the walk with a bite to eat at either The Old Plough on Station Rd/Stoke Rd or Squires Garden Centre.

**Length of the walk:** Approx. 1.5 - 2 hrs. Distance – 2.5 miles/4 km in total.

**The Map**

1. After about 0.5 km and before reaching the church and garden centre, turn left into Bluebell Lane, there is a footpath sign and one for the Shetland Pony stables. The small lane slopes uphill and opens out into fields when you reach the top.

2. Follow the signpost and head slightly to the left off the lane onto the path. Make sure you don’t continue straight ahead on the part of the lane.
which is marked Private. Keep the fence on your left and the hedgerow on your right (warning - this path can be quite boggy at times). You will walk between fields full of horses. You are at one of the highest points in the area here and there are wonderful views of the Surrey Hills and the surrounding countryside – there is a definite rural feel with fields all around and woodland in the distance. You may be lucky enough to see buzzards overhead. You will also see the large radio mast to the right.

3. Crossing another path and a Footpath sign continue between more fields (warning the fence here is electrified). It begins to descend downhill at this point. In the distance you can see the houses on the edge of Oxshott. At the bottom of the field follow the Footpath sign and keep to the left of the open field with the hedgerow on your left. You will reach a small wooden footbridge which you will cross and the path continues between two fences. This path can also be pretty muddy if the weather has been wet.

4. Cross a stile, ignoring a path on the left and pass a wooded copse also on the left. In April and May this has a magnificent display of bluebells so it is worth venturing off the path to admire. You will cross another path with a Footpath sign (turning left brings you out in Blundel Lane and turning right takes you to Wrens Hill in Oxshott) and to your left in the distance you will see the houses on Blundel Lane. The path curves round to the left and brings you out opposite Irene Rd.

5. Cross Blundel Lane and walk up Irene Road. Just as Irene Road bends left, go through the gate ahead on the right that leads to the railway line. Cross the railway line and follow the footpath keeping the fence to your left.

6. You are now in the Littleheath area which was the subject of our first featured walk and you will now connect with this walk. It is well worth making the right-hand detour to the Brickpit Lake where you can admire the views and watch and listen to the wildlife, that includes wispy blue and red damselflies around the lakeside, and Speckled Wood butterflies. The lake gets its name from the brick factory that existed in the 19th century and was created as
a result of clay being extracted to make bricks. The area became an ammunition dump in the 1st World War and in the 2nd World War the Canadian army occupied the factory. The brickworks finally closed in 1960 and the houses around the lake were built in the early 70’s. The area to the north is Littleheath Common with a great abundance of wildlife, birds and insects.

7. Keeping the lake to your right continue on; the path curves to the right and you should take a left heading away from the lake. 50 yards on you will walk up a few steps with a chain link fence facing you, within which is the Polyapes Scout camp. Turn right at the fence and walk along the wooded path to the end where you will cross a stile and come out into an open field.

8. Keep left, skirting the field, cross another stile and you will then be at the top of Knowle Hill Park. Keeping the fence on your right, walk down the path – admiring the views and watching out for the abundance of insects and wildlife. This is one of the paths that we were fortunate to receive CIL funding for and it will be improved and resurfaced in the late summer, which will make it walkable in all weathers.

9. Follow this path all the way down to the Stoke Rd where you will turn left and return to the start of the walk.

Photos: Sue Prentice