

Burghclere NP - Tourism

1. Tourism is a multi-faceted and under-appreciated resource for the parish. The biggest local draw is Highclere Castle with its many events, attended by people from across the country and around the world. Within the Parish there are many popular walking footpaths, such as the Brenda Parker Trail, as well as the Commons - including the Herbert Plantation, a local nature reserve - which draw walking groups, schools and local families. Within the North West Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the Iron Age Hill Fort Beacon Hill and the De Havilland Monument are oft-frequented. Within the village the National Trust property Sandham Memorial Chapel draws ca. 11,000 visitors a year, some of whom eat, drink and stay overnight at local pubs.
2. For the most part the key attractions have their own plans and programmes; the principal benefit to the parish is through provision of accommodation and meals, and attractions are in part season or weather dependent. Nevertheless the local initiative to build a steam model railway track around the recreation ground has seen other enthusiasts, families and friends flock to events that benefit the Sports Club and other local outlets.
3. Tourists and visitors are welcome and benefit local economic activity. These facilities require support, maintenance and enhancement, whilst guarding the character of the AONB and local area. Engagement and dialogue with the relevant managing authorities can benefit the use of these sites and contribute to increased employment and prosperity in the area.

Highclere: public open days between 62 and 86,000 pa. Battle Proms: c5000.
Private functions at other times of the year: figures vary 2/200 each.
No figures available from HCC regarding visitors to Beacon Hill.