



Berkshire Walkers



Walks Programme – October 2008 to February 2009

October 2008

Saturday 4th October - Southend and Bradfield, 4 miles, easy

Park and start at Heath Road/New Way by the recreation ground in Southend ([SU594706](#)), just west of the Queen's Head pub, at **11:00am**. An easy walk ideal for new members following the river Pang through the historic Bradfield College. Pub stop at the Queen's Head pub in Southend after the walk. No lunch stop is planned for this short walk.

Leaders: Mike and Alison 07748 213647 (Mike) or 07929 149636 (Alison)

Sunday 5th October - Ridgeway and Thames Path: Goring, Streatley and Wallingford, 15 miles, challenging

Start from Goring & Streatley station car park ([SU602806](#)) at **10:15am prompt**. A train from Reading leaves at 9:43 and reaches Goring & Streatley at 9:57. If driving, the station car park costs £1.50 all day.

The walk follows the Ridgeway along or near the Thames to Mongewell Park, then heads for Wallingford to pick up the Thames Path. Pub and possible food stop at Wallingford, then back to Goring & Streatley along the Thames path, which is on the opposite side of the river from before. Another possible stop at the Beetle & Wedge at Moulsoford, according to the wishes of the group and time allowing, before the last 2 miles or so back to Goring and Streatley, arriving back at around 6pm. Possible pub grub at Wallingford, or bring a packed lunch.

Train times and fares from National Rail Enquiries website (www.nationalrail.co.uk) at the time of writing – be sure to check nearer to the walk date just in case!

Leader: Jean-Paul 07788 7710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Sunday 12th October - Basingstoke Canal from Odiham, 10 miles, easy

Start at **10:30am** from the Colt Hill car park in Odiham ([SU747517](#)).

From the M3, Junction 5, take the Odiham exit and follow the A287. Take the second exit at the first roundabout and then take the third exit at the second roundabout, into Odiham. Take the second right-hand turning, doubling back into London Road. Follow this road past the Water Witch pub and over a bridge into the car park. (Note that there is no direct access to the car park from the A287 despite its close proximity)

This figure-of-eight walk first follows the canal east to Winchfield and Dogmersfield, and then heads west to North Warnborough and back. There will be a pub-stop in North Warnborough. The walk is almost entirely flat and there is an opportunity to stop after 5 miles if you only want a short walk. Bring a packed lunch and water as usual.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Saturday 18th October - Bramley and Silchester, 17-18 miles, challenging

Meet outside Bramley Station ([SU656594](#)) at **10:00am**. There's no official parking at Bramley station; however, it is well-served from both Basingstoke and Reading with half-hourly trains at 07 and 37 minutes past the hour from Basingstoke and 07 and 39 from Reading. (There were no planned engineering works when I enquired).

We'll walk down to, and briefly along, the Loddon before turning north to join The Devil's Highway to the remains of the Roman walled town, Calleva, where we'll have lunch. A further short walk gets us to the Red Lion for light libation. Here, we'll turn south, head down through Silchester and Pamber Forest to the big smoke of Little London (where there is the possibility of a second pub stop). The walk then heads back to Bramley, where there's a further watering hole while you wait for your train.

It's quite a long walk, though there are no significant gradients. Nonetheless, bring the usual pack lunch and drink.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Sunday 19th October - Uffington White Horse, 9 miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from the car park by Uffington Castle, off the B4507 between Wantage and Ashbury ([SU293866](#)). The walk begins by heading east along the Ridgeway path, passing the Uffington White Horse, which dates back to the Bronze Age. We shall descend to Kingston Lisle and walk across fields back to the west, passing through Woolstone and Knighton. Finally we will rejoin the Ridgeway near Wayland's Smithy before heading back to the car park. Possible pub stop in Woolstone (to be confirmed). Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Saturday 25th October - Burnham Beeches, Fulmer & Hedgerley, 11-12 miles, moderate

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the outside the café in the main car park at Burnham Beeches ([SU954850](#)). A walk through woodland and across heathland and farmland to the northeast of Burnham Beeches. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible pub stop en-route. Last chance to see daylight before the clocks go back tonight!

For anyone wanting to come by public transport, take bus 74 from Slough Bus Station (next to the railway station) towards High Wycombe, and get off at the Foresters Arms stop in Farnham Common. Departs Slough 9:45, 10:10 and 10:15. If you are on either of the latter two buses, give me a ring and wait at the Forester's Arms, as we will be walking past shortly after the start of the walk. www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum@hotmail.com

Wednesday 29th October - "Power Walk Wednesdays" - 8,000 steps

Meet at **6:30pm** at Reading Station outside W H Smiths ([SU715737](#)).

This is a great way to tone up, increase wellbeing and improve fitness without the waddle of an Olympic walker! This may seem like a short walk but you will feel it and these are based on the intermediate level power walks found in a book called *Walking Fit* by Rose Leach (from Reading Library).

The walk will take around 45 minutes and, we will take in views of the Thames. Pedometers may be available on loan. These walks are suitable for beginners and are a great way to kick-start a walking/fitness programme. Having said this, we could go for a light bite/wine afterwards.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

November 2008

Saturday 1st November - Grand Union Canal and London Loop, 9½ miles, easy

Meet outside Langley Railway Station ([TQ012797](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Car parking at the station costs £1.50 for the day.

This circular walk takes us along the south western spur of the Grand Union Canal, and links with the previous Uxbridge to Watford walk along this canal. The route will divert off the canal to follow the London Loop to Uxbridge, skirting the edge of Huntsmoor Park.

Note: Anyone wishing to walk for 5.3 miles can finish in Uxbridge and catch the No. 58 bus back to Langley. Buses depart at 27 and 57 minutes past the hour. (Cost unknown)

Check out the [Firstgroup Bus Timetable](#).

After our lunch and pub stops in Uxbridge, we follow the Grand Union Canal southbound past Cowley. We then reach the start of the south western spur of the canal.

Note: Anyone wishing to complete a 7.2 mile walk can separate from the official route and follow the London bound stretch of the canal to West Drayton railway station (approx 1 mile).

The final section of this walk brings us back along the south western spur to Langley. As usual, bring a packed lunch and drink.

Leader: Kevin 07734 387073

Sunday 2nd November - East Ilsley and Compton, 8 miles, moderate

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the lay-by near the Crown & Horns in East Ilsley, [SU493808](#). Please park considerately.

A circular walk over undulating countryside from East Ilsley to Compton returning to East Ilsley via a stretch of the Ridgeway. There will hopefully be a pub stop either in Compton or East Ilsley. Please bring sandwiches and a drink as usual.

Leader: Jude 07986 165406

Wednesday 5th November - “Power Walk Wednesdays” - 10,000 steps

Meet at **6:30pm** at Reading Station outside W H Smiths ([SU715737](#)).

This is a great way to tone up, increase wellbeing and improve fitness without the waddle of an Olympic walker! This may seem like a short walk but you will feel it and these are based on the intermediate level power walks found in a book called *Walking Fit* by Rose Leach (from Reading Library). The walks will take around 45 minutes and, we will take in views of the Thames. Pedometers may be available on loan. These walks are suitable for beginners and are a great way to kick-start a walking/fitness programme. Having said this, we could go for a light bite/wine afterwards.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

Sunday 9th November - Reading to Pangbourne, 7½ miles, easy

Meet on the main concourse of Reading Station ([SU715738](#)) at **10:30am**.

Our walk will follow the Thames Path heading west out of Reading. We have a lunch stop about half way, and there will be time for a pub stop in Pangbourne at the end. Trains back to Reading are once an hour – fare £2.60

A nice easy walk which would be ideal for potential members to come and meet us.

Leader: Ian M 07762 054207

Saturday 15th November - Caversham and Mapledurham, Approx. 12 miles, challenging

Meet at St Peters Church, Caversham ([SU708749](#)) for a **10:00am** start.

If approaching from south of the Thames, head towards Caversham Bridge and the A4074. Keep in the left hand lane over the bridge, then bear left. The church is ¼ mile on the left hand side (look out for a road called The Warren).

The walk runs partly along the Chiltern Way by the River Thames and also across woodland and open farmland via Mapledurham. It is hilly in places and expect some mud, so strong footwear is recommended. Some nice views to be expected.

Bring a packed lunch and something to sit on. Pub stop towards the end of the walk.

Leader: Dan 07761 192509

Sunday 16th November - Thames Path: Maidenhead to Windsor, 7 miles, moderate

Start from outside Maidenhead station, ticket hall side ([SU887807](#)) at **10:45am** (train leaves Reading at 10:18, arrives Maidenhead 10:30), or use the nearby pay & display car park if driving. Another moderate length walk along the Thames path, then sample the delights of the Queen's *pied à terre* at the end of the walk. Plenty of pubs etc. to choose from in Windsor – will try to find something not too pricey! Then return to Maidenhead via Slough by train whenever you wish. Trains from Windsor & Eton Central to Slough are at 02 and 32 past the hour on Sundays. Bring a packed lunch, as usual, and train fare (£3.80 single / £3.90 day return between Maidenhead and Windsor; prices will probably vary if starting or ending elsewhere). Train times and fares from National Rail Enquiries website (www.nationalrail.co.uk) at the time of writing – be sure to check nearer to the walk date just in case!

Leader: Jean-Paul 07788 7710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Saturday 22nd November - Knowl Hill, 5 miles, easy

This walk precedes the Berkshire Area Annual General Meeting, which you are invited to attend after the walk. Please see the [social events programme](#) for more details.

The walk starts at **10:45am** prompt from Knowl Hill Village Hall ([SU823795](#)).

We head south out of the village through Castle Royal Golf Course to the outskirts of Waltham St Lawrence, then turn east to pass the half-way point. The walk shortly turns north through Shottesbrooke Park, passing Shottesbrooke Farm, then along Bottle Lane before heading across farmland back to Knowl Hill.

The walk will end with tea and refreshments in the hall at 1:15pm, and will be followed by the Area AGM at 2:00pm.

Leader: Adam 07709 032516

Sunday 23rd November - Buckleberry Common, 12 miles, moderate

Meet at the Bradley Moore Square car park in Thatcham ([SU524680](#)) for a **10:30am** start.

A circular walk, taking in Hart's Hill, Buckleberry Common, Woolhampton and the Kennet and Avon Canal. There will be a pub stop in Woolhampton. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Sunday 30th November - Kingsclere, Ecchinswell and Sydmonton, 8 miles, moderate

Start at the car park in Anchor Road, Kingsclere ([SU526585](#)) at **10:30am**. Please car share as the car park is small and well used, even on Sundays.

The walk takes in the rolling countryside of Watership Down via the hamlets of Ecchinswell and Sydmonton. It will be hilly and muddy in places. Pub stop at the end of the walk, so bring food and drink.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

December 2008

Sunday 7th December - Finchampstead, 8½ miles, moderate

Meet for a **10:30am** start at free public car park on the B3016 Finchampstead Road, behind the shops opposite Cresswells garage, near to the double mini roundabout ([SU797647](#)). Please bring water and a packed lunch.

Leader: Sophie 07881 435006

Saturday 13th December - Yateley Common, 6-7 miles, easy

The walk will start at **10:45am** from the car park just off the A30 ([SU839594](#)). An easy walk across the woodland and heathland that form Yateley Common. Possible pub stop en-route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

For anyone wanting to come by public transport, the start is about 1 mile west of Blackwater station along the A30. The 10:04 from Reading gets in at 10:25, which should just allow you to walk to the start in time. Train times are subject to weekend engineering work. Please check in the week before the walk: www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum@hotmail.com

Sunday 14th December - Great Shefford to South Fawley, 8 miles, moderate

The walk starts **10:30am** prompt from Station Road in Great Shefford, just north of the river off the A338 Wantage Road ([SU384753](#)); please park considerately on or near to this road.

From the Lambourn Valley the route leads up on to the downs not far from the Ridgeway. Most of the walk is over open farmland with broad views of the Lambourn Valley, and the final stretch is along the River Lambourn. There are a few moderate ups and downs but nothing steep, with no pub en-route but we have the option to visit The Swan at Great Shefford at the end of the walk. Please bring sandwiches and a drink.

Leader: Adam 07709 032516

Saturday 20th December - Winchester and The Ichen Way, Approx. 14 miles, moderate

Setting out from Winchester Station ([SU478300](#)) at **10:05am**, we'll walk down through town to the Ichen and follow it south to Shawford. From here we'll climb out the valley and stop for refreshments at Owslebury. The route then takes us north, along the Pilgrim's Trail to the old fort at St Catherine's Hill, overlooking Winchester, from which it's just a short walk back into town. The walk will end at the Cathedral and hopefully give you a bit of time to look around.

There are regular trains from Basingstoke to Winchester (it takes approx. 15min) and direct from Reading on the Cross Country service (formerly run by Virgin), but for those who'll be coming by car, there is ample parking in the town and at the station.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

**Sunday 28th December - Henley, Gillsmithers Wood and Drawback Hill,
7 miles, easy/moderate**

Start at **10:30am**. Meet at the free car park in Mill Lane, Henley-on-Thames ([SU771817](#)). This circular route starts at the car park near Marsh Lock, before climbing up into the beautiful Chiltern Hills surrounding Henley-on-Thames. After Gillsmithers Wood we will stop at the Bottle and Glass pub, before heading back across Henley Golf Course at Harpsden and a steep climb up Drawback Hill. Please bring packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Jane 07881 805 156

January 2009

Sunday 4th January - Dorney and the Jubilee River, 10-11 miles, moderate

Meet at the Jubilee River car park at Dorney ([SU929794](#)) for a **10:30am** start. From the car park, we shall walk up towards Boulters Lock in Maidenhead and back along the towpath through Bray towards Dorney. Parking is limited, so please car share if possible. Bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader Greg 07780 945591

Saturday 10th January - Hambleden, 9-11 miles, moderate

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the public car park in Mill End ([SU785855](#)). A chance to burn off a few of the calories you've put on over the festive period, and to implement that New Year's resolution to do more walking! As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible pub stop en-route. For anyone wanting to come by public transport, the No. 800 Arriva bus from Reading Station (Stop SR) at 9:15am stops at Mill End. This is about 400m from the start of the walk. Bus times are subject to timetable changes. Please check in the week before the walk www.arrivabus.co.uk.

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum@hotmail.com

Sunday 11th January - Four London parks and a pub, up to 5 miles, easy

Meet **11:00am** at Waterloo station, at the balcony overlooking the old Eurostar platform (opposite the Café Nero coffee booth). The walk leader will be on the train from Reading arriving at 10:53am. We will take the tube to Queensway tube station. From here we will meander through Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park. Having reached the river, we will continue through London, finishing at Covent Garden, where we can have a drink and/or late lunch in one of the many pubs in the area.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

Sunday 18th January - Kintbury and Hungerford, 10 miles, moderate

Meet at Kintbury Station ([SU386671](#)) for an **11:00am** start.

The walk will include a pub stop in Hungerford, and will pass through Hungerford Common.

Leader: Craig 0779 1443687

Saturday 24th January - Blackwater to Wokingham, 11 miles, moderate

Meet at Blackwater station ([SU854599](#)) at **10:30am**. At the time of writing the 10:04 from Reading arrives at 10:25. Check nearer the time with www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk or www.nationalrail.co.uk. Parking is adjacent to the station in the car park on station approach operated by Hart District Council.

We will walk along the Blackwater Valley, through Finchampstead Ridges, Heath Lake Nature Reserve and Gorrick Plantation. There is an option to leave the walk at Crowthorne station (7 miles). Lots of pubs at the end of the walk in Wokingham. Half-hourly trains run from Wokingham back to Blackwater and more frequently to Reading. Hourly trains from Crowthorne to Blackwater.

Leader: Kathryn 07906 707341 or k8stafford@yahoo.co.uk

February 2009

Sunday 1st February - Walbury Hill, 10 miles, challenging

Start at **10:30am** from the car park on the east side of Walbury Hill ([SU379616](#)).

Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Sophie 07881 435006

Social Events Programme – October 2008 to January 2009

October 2008

Saturday 4th October - Colley's Supper Rooms, Reading

Charlotte and David have kindly arranged this evening at Colley's Supper Rooms, 21 Wokingham Road, Reading, [RG6 1LE](#). The menu is currently £27.50 per person for four courses on a Saturday evening. Sit down at **7:30pm**.

"A visit to Colley's is one of life's little pleasures - a sanctuary in a world of fast food - where dining embraces traditional and contemporary values and becomes an experience to be savoured"

Please give your £10.00 non-refundable deposit to Jane **by Saturday 20th September** if you are planning to eat. Contact Jane for postal address. Please make cheques payable to "Colley's Supper Rooms".

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 (social@berkshirewalkers.com)

Saturday 11th October - Bletchley Park - Station X (Birthplace of the modern computer)

Can you keep a secret? Well this place was until quite recently although it played a vital role in shortening World War II by carrying out important code cracking work.

There is plenty to see here and it's not just for cyber and techno-geeks! Apart from the displays and their expansive grounds there is a shop, restaurant (not at WWII prices) and usually a guided tour available. For more information about the museum and directions for travel, visit their website www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Meet at **11:00 am** at the entrance ([SP864340, MK3 6EB](#)) – car park is £3.00 and entrance £10.00 (valid for further visits for up to a year)

This place is well signposted from all major routes into Bletchley. Journey time by road from Reading is about 75 miles or 2 hours

Organiser: Ian M 07762 054 207

Monday 27th October – Deadline for Steak and Grill night, Newbury

Thursday 30th October - Berkshire Walkers Annual General Meeting

7:30-9:00pm, Meeting Room 3, [RISC](#), 35-39 London Street, Reading, [RG1 4PS](#).

This is your opportunity to participate in the running of the Berkshire Walkers. If you have ideas you'd like to share, or want to vote in the new committee, please come along. Tea and biscuits will be provided, and afterwards we'll adjourn to the RISC Global Café and Bar, open until 11pm.

If you'd like to be part of next year's committee, it's a good idea to chat to an existing committee member to see what's involved. You can do this on a walk, or use the contact details on the web site. Alternatively, phone me on the number below.

Organiser: Neil S. 07840 903547

November 2008

Friday 7th November - Peacock Farm, Peacock Lane, Bracknell

Meet from **8pm** onwards for drinks and optional food for those that want to eat. Menu is varied and reasonably priced with good portions. Ample free parking. New and prospective members welcome. Peacock Farm, [RG12 8SS](#), is near Jennett's Park and can be found near to the Southern Industrial Estate on the road to Wokingham.

Organiser: Nicky 07776 475671

Friday 14th November - Steak & Grill Night, Hare & Hounds Hotel

Come and join us at the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Bath Rd, Speen, Newbury, [RG14 1QY](#) for their Steak & Grill Night (with fish and vegetarian options available). Arrive from **7pm to eat at 8pm**. Price £17.50 for main course and dessert, starters £3.75 to £5.25, extras (sauce, onion rings etc) on main course £1.75 each, coffee and mints also £1.75.

Note that we may be asked to make menu choices beforehand, so please give your name and an email address to Jean-Paul **by Monday 27th October** in order to reserve a place, and to be sent menu details to make choices from if necessary. There are a few fish and vegetarian options if you don't wish to eat meat.

No deposit is required but be sure that you do attend if you have said you would. Maximum group size 20 people.

Organiser: Jean-Paul Tanner 07887 710396 jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

NOTE: Please replace (at) with @ in the email address above. This precaution has been taken to reduce junk mail.

Saturday 15th November - Deadline for Christmas Dinner at Loch Fyne

Saturday 22nd November - Berkshire Area Annual General Meeting

This year Berkshire Walkers are organising the Ramblers Association Berkshire *Area* AGM. The venue is Knowl Hill Village Hall (on A4 between Twyford and Maidenhead, [RG10 9UR](#)) Come along to find out what else is going on in the Berkshire Area! Meeting is from **2:00pm** to 4:30pm.

Traditionally, the organising group provides tea and cakes, so if you can bring along a cake, please do so! We're also going to have a display of Berkshire Walker activities, so if you have any photos of our walks or holidays you'd like to show, please contact me.

There will be a short walk before the meeting. Please see the [walks programme](#) for details.

Contact: Neil S. 07840 903547

December 2008

Saturday 6th December - Christmas Dinner at Loch Fyne Restaurant

Arrival at [Loch Fyne](#), The Maltings, Fobney Street, Reading, [RG1 6BT](#) at **7:30pm** for sit down at 8:00pm. We have exclusive use of the 3rd floor of this beautiful period building overlooking the canal. The cost for the [four course dinner](#) is either £22 or £24 per person inclusive of service charge and depending on whether you choose the steak option.

Please contact Jane for the order form as the menu choice and full payment must be with Jane **by Saturday 15th November**.

Jane is planning on hitting one or several of the Reading nightspots after the dinner. We will initially go to a pub and then onto a club for some dancing!

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

Friday 19th December - Pre-Christmas Drink at The Crispin, Wokingham

Meet for drinks at The Crispin pub, 45 Denmark Street, Wokingham, [RG40 2AY](#), from **8pm** onwards for our last social event before Christmas.

There is a large public car park behind the police station on the opposite side of the road from the pub. Also it is only ten minutes walk from Wokingham railway station.

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988

January 2009

Friday 9th January - Deadline for Bowling at Thatcham

Saturday 17th January - Ten Pin Bowling at Thatcham

Meet at the Lakeside Superbowl, Newbury Leisure Park, Lower Way, Thatcham, [RG19 3AL](#), at **7:30pm** to bowl at approx 8:00pm.

Cost £9.90 per person for 2 games including shoe hire. Facilities include 24 bowling lanes, diner, licensed bar and American Pool.

Please advise Jane **by Friday 9th January** if you would like to attend so that we can book the required number of lanes according to numbers.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

Wednesday 28th January - Pub Night at The Old Manor, Bracknell

Meet at The Old Manor, Church Road, Grenville Place, Bracknell, [RG12 1BP](#), from **8pm** for drinks. This J D Wetherspoon's pub does a wide selection of drinks at sensible prices and also does food, so you're welcome to dine there too.

There are a number of car parks nearby and it is less than ten minutes walk from Bracknell railway station.

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988