

Route 1


Route 3

Route 2



Heron on the Ford  
Lands End Lane  
Charvil, Reading  
Berkshire  
RG10 0UE  
  
Tel: 0118 934 0700

- **Route 1:** Charvil Country Park & Nature Reserve  
**Distance:** 4.8km (3 miles) **Time:** 1.5 hours
- **Route 2:** Dinton Pastures Country Park  
**Distance:** 8.8 km (5.5 miles) **Time:** 2.5 hours
- **Route 3:** Ashenbury Park  
**Distance:** 2.9 km (1.8 miles) **Time:** 1 hour

 Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Reading, Wokingham & Pangbourne Ordnance Survey Map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit

# Route 1

Easy lakeside walking with  
two busy road crossings

## Directions

Distance: 4.8 km (3 miles) Time: 1.5 hours

**01** Before you start this pub walk, we recommend that you download the free 'Pub Walks' app to help you navigate the walk. Search for 'Pub Walks' on your app store to find the app.

**02** Start from the small car park at the front of the pub (not the large car park at the back). With your back to the front of the pub, turn right onto the quiet lane. After 10m or so you will see a gap in the hedge to your left which is the entrance to the Charvil Country Park.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Charvil Country Park covers 75 hectares. The area of former gravel pits and remnant pasture land is in the flood plain of the lower Loddon Valley between Twyford and Charvil. The site consists of restored lakes, amenity and species rich grassland, scrub, woodland, the Slade brook and the River Loddon itself.

It is rich in wildlife and has 2 nationally rare plants: the Loddon Lily and Loddon Pondweed. The site is popular with birdwatchers due to the diverse wintering wildfowl (including Smew) and an active heronry.

**03** Walk into the park and immediately turn left onto the footpath at the T-junction. Follow this path through some pretty woodland until it reaches a fork. Take the right turn here and continue to follow the path as it tracks around the lake with the water to your right.

**04** After around 500m you will walk through a small tunnel of trees and then reach a T-junction in the path with a gate to your right and a railway bridge to your left. Walk left here and go under the bridge.

**05** You then emerge into a large field with a path to the left and a path to the right. You need to walk straight ahead between these two paths for about 80m until you reach a fork. On the right of the fork you'll see a bench ahead, but instead you need to take the left fork following the path that goes through the park.

**06** After about 250m this path reaches a crossroads of paths. Go straight ahead here and follow the path as it bends gradually to the right. After another 150m it reaches another fork where the left path leaves the park and goes up a hill, but you need to go straight ahead here instead.

**07** Follow this path as it opens up with fields and houses to your left and hedges to the right and then takes you back into the woodland. After crossing a tiny bridge, the path forks with a gate to the right going into some trees, but instead take the left path at this fork.

**08** Keep following this path with a fence on your left and trees on your right for about 300m. It then bends round to the right and meets another fork in the path. The left fork follows the fence and the right fork follows the bushes. Take the right path at this fork and track the bushes

**09** Follow this path for another 200m with the lake on your right through the trees until you reach another fork in the path. At this fork, take the right path and continue to follow this path for another 200m as it takes you between two lakes, with plenty of spots to stop and enjoy the water and wildlife.



One of the lakes in Charvil Country Park



# Route 1

Easy lakeside walking with  
two busy road crossings

## Directions

Distance: 4.8 km (3 miles) Time: 1.5 hours

**10** You then reach a T-junction in the path at which you need to take a left turn. Follow the path then with a river to your right and a lake to your left and follow this for around 300m until it turns to the left and reaches a fork. Take the right turn at this fork and head towards the wooden sign which you need to walk past. That then takes you out into an area of tarmac.

**11** Follow the track ahead until you see a yellow gate and a main road ahead. Carefully cross the main road and turn right to follow the footpath alongside the road. After the bridge, cross back over the road just before the pub and walk through the car park to the gate at the back.

**12** Cross the bridge to get to a T-junction and a Loddon Nature Reserve sign and then turn left onto the path here. Follow this path with the lake to your right for a while as it turns into a wooden walking platform for a section before turning back into a normal footpath. After about 500m there is a fork in the path. Take the right turning at this fork.



The wooden walkway in the Loddon Nature Reserve

**13** Follow this path again with the lake still on your right until you see a turning on your left with a wooden sign. Follow this turning and go underneath the railway bridge. After emerging from the railway bridge, continue following the path for about 800m until it emerges onto a quiet lane.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Loddon Nature Reserve's lake and shallow fringes create ideal conditions for wintering birds, such as gadwall, tufted duck, pochard and snipe. The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust looks after this community nature reserve with the help of local volunteers, who enjoy this delightful retreat in the heart of Twyford.

**14** Turn right onto the road and after 20m on the left there is a white bridge and footpath. Take this path, cross the bridge, go over the stile and into the field. Walk through the field with the trees to your right, aiming for another white bridge at the far corner of the field.

**15** When you reach the next bridge, cross it and then follow the path for another 50m or so until it emerges into the Heron on the Ford car park.



Another lake in the Charvil Country Park

# Route 2

Easy walking with some mild slopes,  
road crossings and muddy areas

## Directions

Distance: 8.8 km (5.5 miles) Time: 2.5 hours

- 01 Before you start this pub walk, we recommend that you download the free 'Pub Walks' app to help you navigate the walk. Search for 'Pub Walks' on your app store to find the app.
- 02 Start from the small car park at the front of the pub (not the large car park at the back). With your back to the pub, you'll see Lands End Lane ahead heading off to the left. Follow this lane for around 400m.
- 03 When you reach a T-junction in the road, turn left and walk down the quiet lane "Beggars Hill Road" for another 400m until the road gets thinner, bends to the right slightly and turns into a footpath.



Enjoy the lakes at Dinton Pastures

- 04 After 200m this footpath bends to the right and enters a residential area with houses either side. After another 200m the path meets a busy road called Mohawk way, cross this road carefully and continue to follow the footpath straight ahead.
- 05 This path soon forks and you need to take the path to the left of the fork with a row of houses on the left. This concrete path then emerges from the residential area and you need to follow this straight ahead through the park with the field to your right and houses to your left.
- 06 Follow this all the way until it reaches the end of the park with the busy Mohawk Way ahead of you. Turn right on the

path at this point and then follow it down towards the far corner of the field with the busy road to your left.

07 The path then forks. Take the left fork that goes down towards a gate next to the busy road. Go through the gate before carefully crossing the busy road and then turn right and follow the footpath that tracks Mowhawk way. After about 200m you will then reach the large roundabout and here you follow the path around to the left.

08 Once you are around the corner, walk about 10m and then take a footpath going up a slope to your left. You will then see the Museum of Berkshire Aviation ahead of you which you can visit if you wish. Otherwise, turn right at the top of this slope and follow the footpath ahead.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Dinton Pastures Country Park park is around 450 acres in size and was opened to the public in 1979. You can enjoy seven lakes, two rivers, three public bird hides, and some beautiful meadows. The activity centre here aims to give residents within the Wokingham Borough and neighbouring areas the opportunity to get fit and active amongst some beautiful scenery and countryside.

09 After about 100m this footpath meets a cycle track that is heading down to your left. Walk straight ahead onto this cycle path and follow it until it bends to the left and then hits a T-junction. Turn right at this T-junction and walk straight ahead on this concrete track.



A bridge into Dinton Pastures Country Park



# Route 2

Easy walking with some mild slopes,  
road crossings and muddy areas

## Directions

Distance: 8.8 km (5.5 miles) Time: 2.5 hours

**10** Follow this track for around 800m with glimpses of a river to your left through the trees until you reach a lovely bridge and the entrance to the Dinton Pastures Country park on your left.

**11** Cross this bridge and go straight ahead. There is a bench there where you can sit and enjoy the lake, but then you have to follow the path that bends off to the right. Follow this path between two lakes for around 400m until it bends to the left around the back of the main lake.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You will find a lot more than just ducks at the Dinton Pastures Country Park. Look out for Gulls, Reed Buntings, Cormorants, Mallards, Grey Herons, Moorhens, Coots, Pochards, Teals, Gadwalls, Great Crested Grebes, Wigeons, Egyptian Geese, Mute Swans and Canada Geese.

**12** After the lake, another path joins from the left behind you and you need to keep going straight ahead for another 50m until you see a small bridge on your left. Go over this bridge and walk towards the lake ahead before immediately turning right to continue along another path with this new lake to your left. After around 300m you will see a picnic area and an excellent play area on your right. Keep straight ahead and follow the path that tracks alongside the lake to your left.

**13** After 800m you'll pass the Activity Centre on your right and then the path bends to the left around the top of the lake. Follow this windy path tracking the lake to the left for another 500m or so until you see a big turning on your right with a large tree and a path going slightly downhill.

**14** Turn right here and go down the slope. Follow the path as it bends to the left for another 100m or so until you see a Dinton Pastures Country Park sign at another fork. Take the right fork (which is pretty much straight ahead) and follow this path with another lake to your right for 300m.

**15** This path then emerges onto a busy road (Sandford Lane). Cross this carefully and then go through a gate on the other side (slightly to your right) onto another footpath. At the immediate fork in this footpath take the left fork and walk on ahead with the River Loddon on your left.



View of the River Loddon

**16** Follow this path with the river to your left for around 2000m until it reaches the quiet Whistley Mill Lane road. Turn left onto this road, walk over a small bridge with white rails and then carefully walk ahead for around 500m bending to the left about half way.

**17** When you see a small white bridge and footpath on your left, take this path, cross the bridge, go over the stile and into the field. Walk through the field with the trees to your right, aiming for another white bridge at the far corner of the field.

**18** When you reach the next bridge, cross it and then follow the path for another 50m or so until it emerges into the Heron on the Ford car park.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The River Loddon is around 28 miles long and stretches across Berkshire and Hampshire. It is a tributary of the River Thames, which it meets near the village of Wargrave. Historically, the river has been very important for milling, and the channel has been modified by the creation of mill ponds, weirs and sluices that you can enjoy on these walks.

# Route 3

Easy walking throughout  
but can be muddy in places

## Directions

Distance: 2.9 km (1.8 miles) Time: 1 hour

- 01 Before you start this pub walk, we recommend that you download the free 'Pub Walks' app to help you navigate the walk. Search for 'Pub Walks' on your app store to find the app.
- 02 Start from the small car park at the front of the pub (not the large car park at the back). With your back to the pub, you'll see Lands End Lane ahead heading off to the left. Follow this lane for around 400m.
- 03 When you reach a T-Junction in the road, take the footpath straight ahead under a gate. At the fork, the left path goes into Ashenbury Park but you want to walk straight ahead instead and stay on the tree-lined path.
- 04 Follow this path straight ahead for another 400m with a nice section on your right where you can sit and enjoy a lake.



Enjoy the views of the lake in Ashenbury Park

- 05 At the end of the lake there is a crossroads in the path with a gate on your right and a path to the left. Carry on straight ahead at this point.
- 06 After another 100m or so, the path veers to the right and then hits a T-Junction. Follow the small planked path to the left at this point into Ashenbury Park.
- 07 As you enter the field, follow the path that veers to the right and follow this path as it tracks the bushes and trees to your right.
- 08 Keep walking ahead and you'll see a play park to your right. Walk past the park and then past some trees on your right. Then cross a concrete track and keep heading straight forward towards the back corner of the field where you'll see a metal sign. You'll pass a car park on your right as you go through this field.
- 09 When you reach the back corner and the metal sign, go onto the footpath and walk out of the field. Follow this path for about 50m until it goes slightly downhill and into some woodland before starting to veer to the left.
- 10 Just after this path crosses a small bridge, you reach a crossroads. Take the left path at this crossroads and continue to follow the path through the woodland.
- 11 Follow this path for about 300m through the woodland as it tracks a small stream to the left. You will go past one little bridge on your left, but the second little bridge on your left is the one you want to take. Cross the second bridge, going over the stream, and then take the immediate path on your right.
- 12 After about 100m that path forks and you need to take the path on your right at this fork. Follow this path with the fence on your right.
- 13 Follow this path into the large field as it turns to the left and starts going up a hill. Walk around the edge of this field with the bushes and trees to your right and the open field to your left until you see a bin in the far corner of the park.
- 14 Go down the hill, past the bin and exit the field across a small wooden bridge. At the path turn right and this brings you back out onto the road where you entered Ashenbury Park.
- 15 Cross the quiet lane and then walk straight ahead on Lands End Lane which takes you about 400m right back to the Heron on the Ford pub.