



SHINFIELD PARISH WALKS

WALK 3: AROUND GRAZELEY

LENGTH: 3 miles, no stiles.

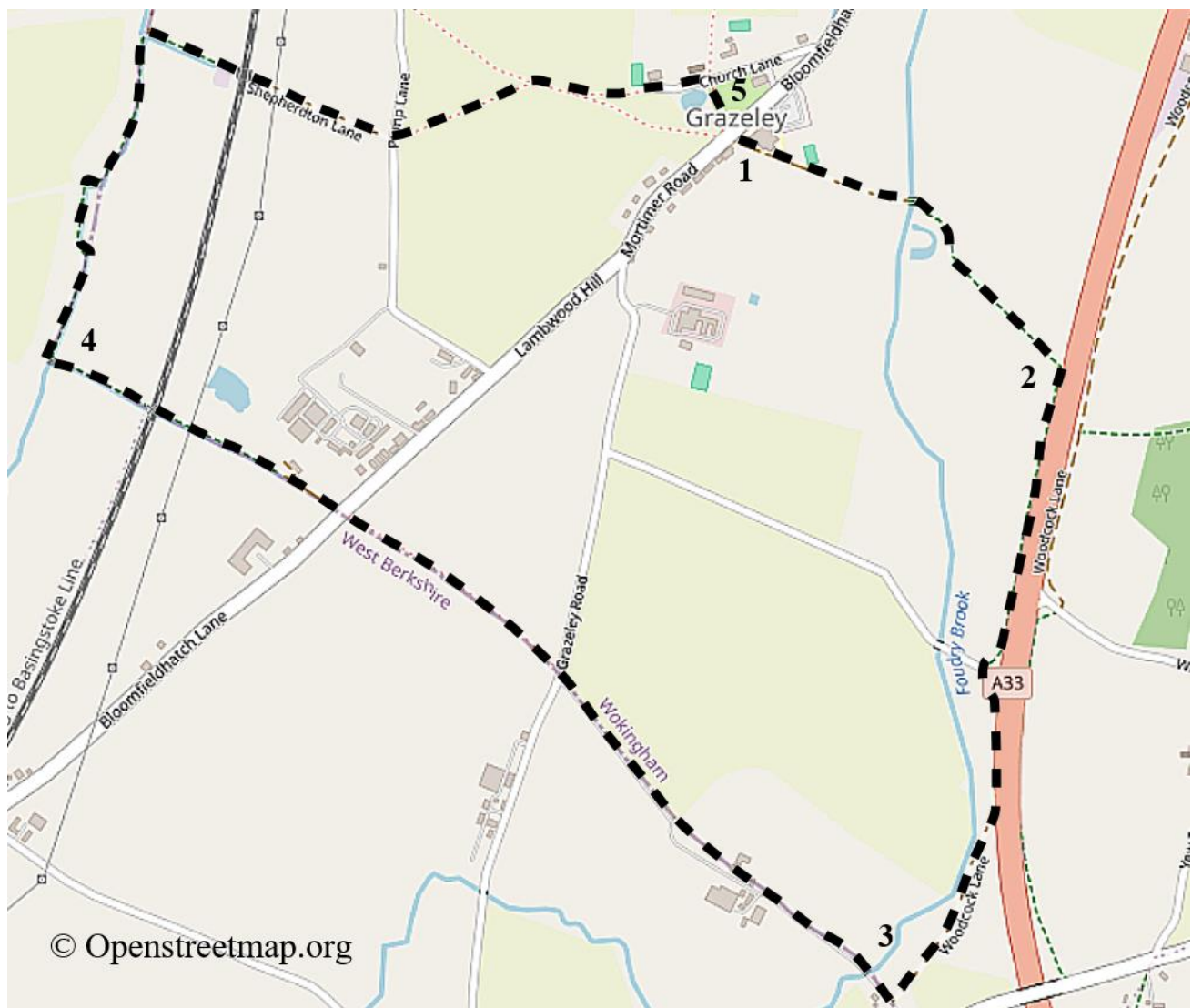
Some paths may be very muddy. Appropriate footwear is recommended. Dogs should be kept on a short lead.

STARTING POINT: Track beside Grazeley School, following it to the south-east.

OS grid ref: SU 6996 6682
Lat/long 51.39619,-0.99521
w3w: /// debate.trucks.income

CAR PARKING: Best parked near Grazeley School.

ROUTE: (numbered points on map are described below)



1. START from the track beside Grazeley School, following it to the south-east.



- **Cross the footbridge over Foudry Brook and continue across the field to the far boundary.**
- **Lambwood Hill Common is on the left.**

Grazeley School opened in 1861 and is a popular primary school. The Foudry Brook flows north to link with the River Kennet south of Reading and thence to the Thames. The hills ahead across the bypass separate this flat landscape from the Loddon Valley and the rest of Shinfield Parish to the east. Lines of trees mark the course of the Foudry Brook and its tributary streams. Beside the footbridge is an ox-bow lake, a former part of the Brook, and this harbours many plants, birds and animal species special to wetland areas. In Spring it is bright with yellow irises

2. Turn right through the gate in the fence and walk along the footpath.

- **Cross the minor road and continue ahead, with the Foudry Brook shortly on the right.**
- **The path then leaves the brook and widens into a track along the edge of woodland.**
- **Continue to a junction of paths.**

The footpath winds between hazel, willow and other trees and shrubs, with young trees growing thickly on the banks of the bypass to muffle the sound of traffic. In the woodland the track goes between raised banks, and may be an ancient track way. The woodland is Normans Shaw, designated ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). Oak and ash were grown here for their timber, and hazel was coppiced to provide poles and small wood. Now the wood is a wildlife haven where many butterflies can be seen on warm days.

3. Turn right and walk along the footpath ahead through Brook Farm.

- **Cross the minor road and continue through the fields beyond.**
- **Cross the next road with Lambwood Hill Farm on the right, go through the gap where the stile has been removed and walk on to cross CAREFULLY over the railway.**
- **Continue ahead, crossing a wooden bridge.**

Deer may be seen by quiet walkers. The path is part of the southern boundary of the Parish, and the first road crossed is part of the National Cycle Route. The names of the farms, roads and fields indicate how important sheep farming has been. In the past, when sheep were walked from Hampshire and western counties to markets in London, they were rested and fattened up here. The railway is the Reading to Basingstoke line, built to link the western and south-western routes from London.

4. Turn right along the footpath, then take the next path on the right.



- Pass under the railway bridge and continue along the track called Shepherdton Lane.
- At the road junction take the footpath opposite, going diagonally across the field, then along the edge of the field and through the kissing gate to the path ahead (passing by the old church).

These are quiet fields and lanes. Holy Trinity Church, now closed, is now a private dwelling. The churchyard has some fine trees including large yew trees. The church is Victorian, as are many of the houses in Grazeley. The second house from the church is Grade II listed, the former Wheatsheaf pub, which had an early 19th century front part and a 16th century alehouse at the back.

5. Take the first turn right on Church Lane, across the village green, back to the school and the starting point of the walk.



The pond to the right of the village green has an attractive range of marginal plants. Walking across the green, the rear of the village hall can be seen on the left – it hosts many functions for Grazeley and local communities.

