



SHINFIELD PARISH WALKS

WALK 1: SHINFIELD VILLAGE AND RYEISH GREEN

LENGTH: 3 miles, no stiles.

Appropriate footwear is recommended. Dogs should be kept on a short lead.

STARTING POINT: School Green Centre, home of Shinfield Parish Council

OS grid ref: SU 732677

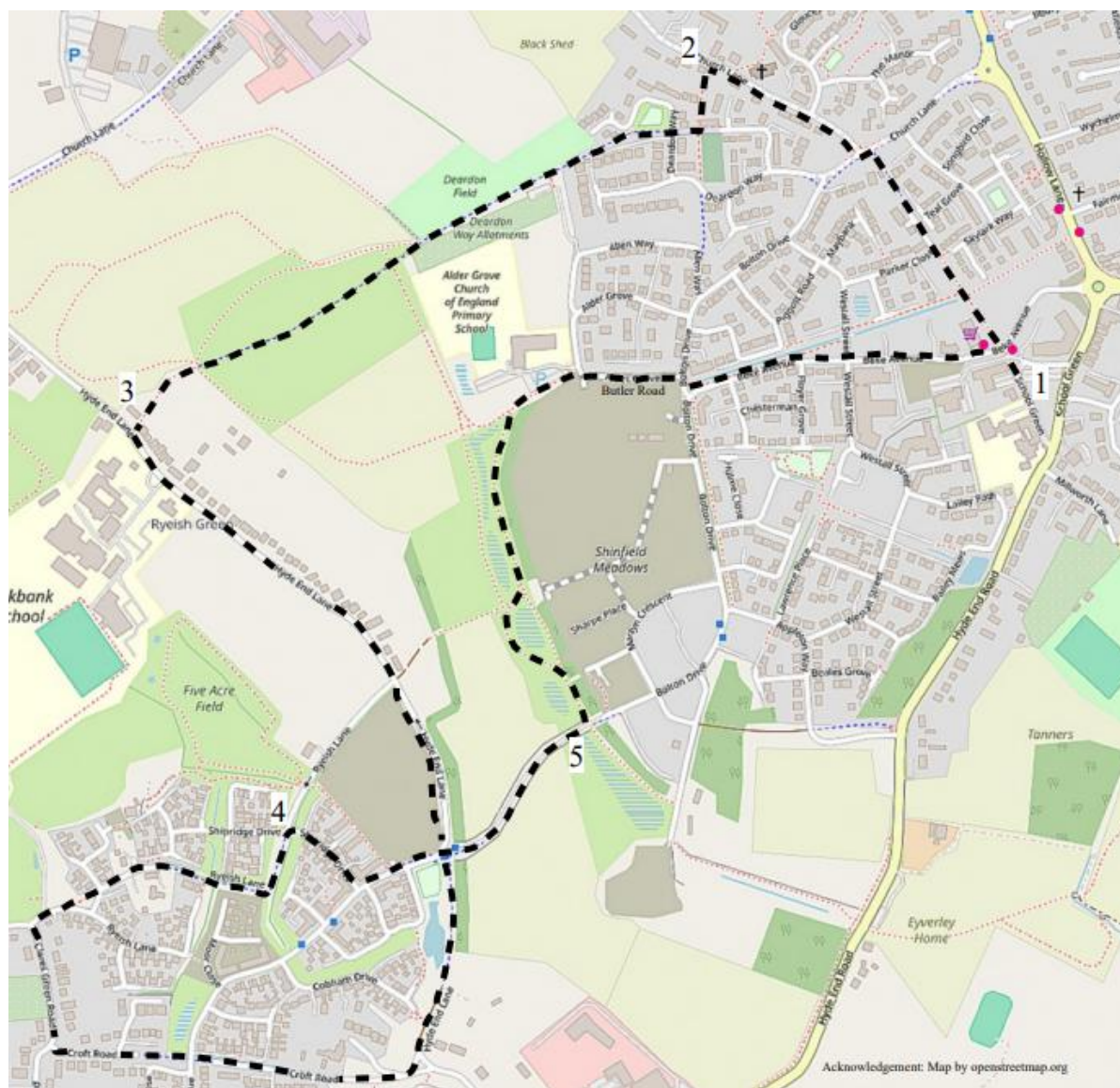
Lat/long 51.4043, -0.9478

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CAR PARKING: School Green car park

BUS: Reading buses **3 AND 600**. The nearest bus stops are marked in red on Hollow Lane (3) and Beke Avenue (600).

ROUTE: (numbered points on map are described below)



1. **START from the School Green Centre, walk across Beke Avenue towards the Lidl Supermarket and pass to the right of the Lidl Supermarket.**



- Choose the steps or ramp to reach the public footpath above. With your back to the Lidl carpark continue ahead walking slightly uphill to reach Church Lane.
- Cross the road and walk ahead to St Mary's Church.

Near the Green, the village Post Office and general store is one of several facilities that include the petrol filling station with its shop and café, a couple of hair salons, estate agents and Co-op. Lidl supermarket was built as part of the Shinfield West development, opening in late 2024. The School Green Centre has its own café and a micro library; it holds many weekly classes and events. The Green is used for several events during the year, including fairs. The Infants School with its bell tower is a Grade II listed building dating from 1707. The fields beyond Lidl which is now housing used to be worked for gravel extraction. St Mary's Church dates in part from Norman times. It has a special window depicting the features of the parish. Opposite the church are several interesting old buildings including the Church Farm House and its granary on staddle stones.

2. **Opposite the church hall walk down the tarmac path and take the first turn on the right (just at the beginning of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on the left).**



- Continue to the end of the footpath, passing the Deardon Allotments on the left and Deardon Field on the right.
- From here the footpath rises, this is known locally as the Ridge SANG.
- Continue ahead onto Hyde End Lane

The path was improved and raised as part of the SANG project and provides extensive views looking north over the Thames Valley beyond Reading to the Chiltern Hills in Oxfordshire. Deardon Field has a comprehensive Community Orchard at the eastern end. Ryeish Green is a small settlement with some early twentieth century houses, many of which have distinctive decorative brickwork. The old school buildings date from 1910. The school closed in 2010 and reopened as Oakbank Secondary Free School in 2012. The Sports Hub next to the school is a thriving recreational facility, with many local people using it seven days a week – it has a 3G football pitch. The plant nursery on Hyde End Lane is a long-established family business.

3. **Walk along Hyde End Lane until you reach a sharp right turn.**

- To the right of the no entry signs take the tarmac pavement running adjacent to Hyde End Lane.
- Cross the road at the central reservation and take the path which is the remains of Hyde End Lane.

- At the end turn right along Croft Road and walk along to its end taking care where you cross the busy estate road.
- Turn right and walk up Clares Green Road to the corner, then right again into Ryeish Lane. Keep straight ahead at first on a pedestrian/cycle only section.

In Spring and Summer, a wide variety of wildflowers flourishes on the verges and banks. The ditches widen into ponds at corners and are full of water during spells of wet weather. At times the water spreads across the lanes. Trees and bushes on banks above the ditches shelter the lanes in winter, and remnants of copses remain along the route. Where the walk leaves Clares Green Road, a few yards down the track opposite is the timber fenced animal pound that is used when cattle are brought to graze in the adjacent Local Wildlife Site fields.

4. At the junction with no entry signs facing towards you, turn right into Shipridge Drive.
 - When you reach the end of Shipridge Drive turn left onto Fullbrook Avenue
 - Continue until you reach the central reservation you were at the start of this loop.
 - At the central reservation crossing over the road walk on the path alongside the Bolton Drive bus lane that cuts through Shinfield Meadows

The houses built in this area are known as the Croft Gardens development. The area around the bus lane was part of the area that was farmed by Reading University before the Shinfield Meadows development was constructed. High Copse can be seen on your right which provides Sport pitches and a Pavilion with changing facilities and space for weekly events and functions.

5. At the end of the bus lane, cross the road and follow the path that leads through the SANG to Alder Grove school.



- With the school on your left, cross the road into Butler Road. Continue ahead to the next busy road which is the unmarked Bolton Drive.
- Cross the road and go down the path on Beke Avenue with hedgerows on your left.
- Keep straight on the path to reach the Lidl car park to return to your starting point.

The path wends its way round the main balancing ponds for Shinfield Meadows and the fourth pond, in particular, is popular with several types of bird, including Egyptian Geese. Perhaps you might like to end your walk with a drink and cake in the café in the School Green Centre.