



SHINFIELD PARISH WALKS

WALK 2: SHINFIELD VILLAGE AND RIVER LODDON

LENGTH: 3.5 miles, no stiles.

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

Please note this walk is subject to flooding all around the River Loddon after heavy rain, especially during Winter.

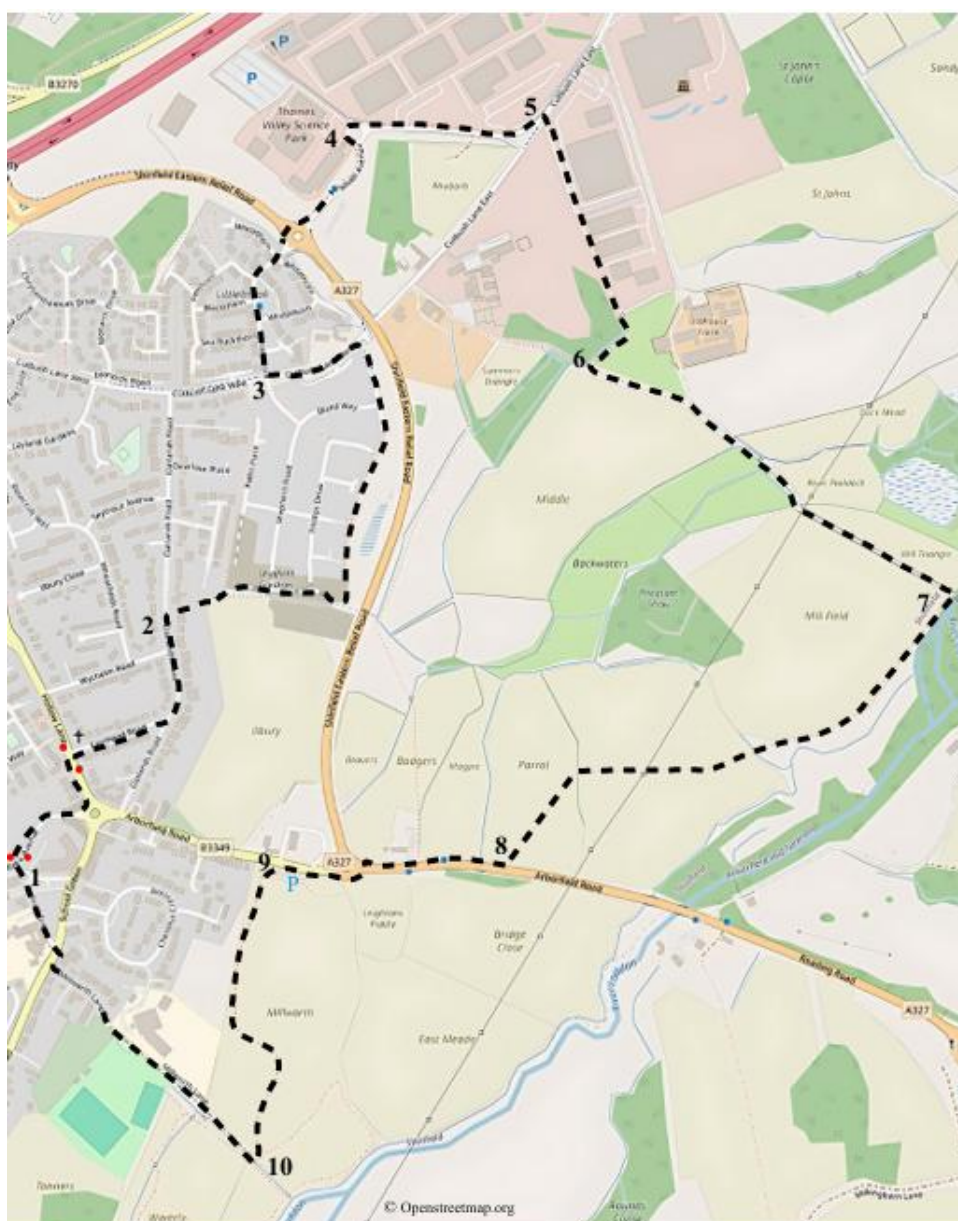
STARTING POINT: School Green Centre, home of Shinfield Parish Council

OS grid ref: SU 732677
Lat/long 51.4043, -0.9478
w3w: ///pace.humble.claim

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. At the far side of the road, turn right towards School Green roundabout.**
 - Turn first left at Hollow Lane and cross over either at the roundabout where there is a refuge, or further up the road at the bus stop.
 - Walk down Fairmead Road to the end and turn left up the unmade Oatlands Road until you see a set of bollards.

At School Green, Shinfield Green Centre hosts events every day of the week – these events can be seen on the Shinfield Parish Council website. The Green itself is used for many community events and carnivals. The Infants School with its bell tower is Grade II listed, dating from 1707. In November every year, the main car park is cleared and used for the Remembrance Service, with hundreds of people attending.

2. **Opposite house number 37 on Oatlands Road, just short of the bollards, turn right down the narrow tarmac footpath which leads to a small bridge.**



- Keep to the right and walk down Jerome Row till you reach Alexander Walk - you will pass an extensive play area on your right.
- Turn left at Alexander Walk and travel right to the end – you will see the Eastern Relief Road (ERR) on your right as you walk along.
- When you reach Cutbush Lane West, turn left and walk up the hill till you reach Hawthorn Road on the right.

The Eastern Relief Road was commissioned by the University of Reading, to provide access to Thames Valley Science Park, and to take through traffic away from Shinfield Village.

3. **Walk up Hawthorn to the roundabout on the ERR, keeping to the left hand side. Cross over the ERR roundabout at the refuge and walk down South Avenue - you will see the Gateway Building of Thames Valley Science Park (TVSP) on your left (coated in Corten Steel - which looks rusty).**

The Gateway Building is occupied by a number of hi-tech companies linked to the University of Reading. There is a café (Café 1), on the ground floor, which is open to the public from 9am till 3pm, with booths which have computer facilities.

South Avenue is the terminus for the hourly Reading 600 service to TVSP.

4. **Keeping to the left-hand side, cross over the roundabout at entrance to the Gateway Building – you will see Sound Stage 4 of Shinfield Studios immediately in front of you. Keeping to the left, walk down the hill to Cutbush Lane East.**

Shinfield Studios was developed in partnership with the University of Reading. It comprises a total of 18 Sound Stages (with 38 workshops) and is probably the largest new-build Film and TV facility in the UK. It is currently operated by Shadowbox Studios.

5. **Just after the bend on Cutbush Lane East, cross over the road at the entrance to the footpath which runs alongside Sound Stages 16 & 17.**



- Pass through the kissing gate and travel all the way through to the narrow bridge.
- Keep going to the next kissing gate.

If you pause before crossing the road to the footpath, you will see the cycleway/footbridge across the M4 ahead. Just to the right you will see the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection building and behind that is the Natural History Research Centre.

6. Pass through the kissing gate and walk straight ahead to the broad tarmac path and turn left. Walk down the tarmac path, which joins up with the farm track which leads to the bridge across River Loddon and beyond – walk down to the bridge.

If you have some spare time, cross over the bridge and visit the site of the old watermill and the ruins of the old Arborfield Church.

7. Return to the walk, through the wetland habitat beside the Loddon. This nature reserve was created in 2011/12 alongside a new weir bypass which enables fish and eels to travel upstream to migrate and spawn. Follow the path, which is sometimes poorly defined, going slightly to the right across the fields to the A327 Arborfield Road.
8. Leave the fields by the kissing gate, turn right and carefully walk along the grass verge till you meet the footpath at the bus stop. Carry on walking down this path till it comes to an end at the roundabout of the Eastern Relief Road. Cross over the Arborfield Road at the refuge to the other side and turn right towards Shinfield Village. On the left you will see a small car park for Langley Mead – turn in there.
9. Open the gate to the right of the yellow barrier and walk down the path towards Milworth Lane and Langley Mead.



- At the end of the path turn sharp right onto the track which leads to Milworth Lane.
- Keep going to the next kissing gate.

On the way down the path, on the right, you will see some outdoor classrooms for the Shinfield St Mary's CE Junior School, with a pond, wooden bridge and bug hotel.

10. Walking up the track you will pass the tennis courts, recreation area and allotments before coming to Milworth Lane. Carry straight on to Hyde End Road, crossing over at School Green to reach the start point at School Green Centre.

If you do not turn up the track to Milworth Lane, you will enter Langley Mead which has its own extensive set of walks – these can be found on the Langley Mead website.
