



BRAKSPEAR

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB
TRAILS**



**CROOKED BILLET
STOKE ROW, HENLEY-ON-THAMES
OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS
4.4, 5.6 & 6.8 MILES**



INTRODUCING BRAKSPEAR PUB TRAILS




We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at The Crooked Billet. The Brakspear Pub Trails are a series of circular walks.

We thought the idea of a variety of circular country walks all starting and ending at our pubs was a guaranteed winner. We have fantastic pubs nestled in the countryside, and we hope our maps are a great way for you to get out and enjoy some fresh air and a gentle walk, with a guaranteed drink at the end – perfect!

Our pubs have always welcomed walkers (and almost all of them welcome dogs too), so we're making it even easier with plenty of free maps. You can pick up copies in the pubs taking part or go to brakspearaletrails.co.uk to download them. We're planning to add new pubs onto them, so the best place to check for the latest maps available is always our website.

We absolutely recommend you book a table so that when you finish your walk you can enjoy a much needed bite to eat too. At the weekend, please book in advance, as this is often a busier time, especially our smaller pubs.

And finally, do send us your photos of you out and about on your walk. We really do love getting them.

   @BrakspearPubs

How to get there



Driving: Postcode is RG9 5QA with a car park for customers.



Nearest station: Henley-on-Thames station is 6.7 miles away.



Local bus services: The White Coaches bus service number 145.



Brakspear would like to thank the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the volunteers who helped make these walks possible. As a result of these walks, Brakspear has invested in TOE2 to help maintain and improve Oxfordshire's footpaths.

Reg. charity no. 1140563

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

Respect other people:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:


- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

For more info visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-country-side-code

Half Kilometre
Quarter Mile



North



The Crooked Billet
 Newlands Lane
 Stoke Row
 Henley on Thames RG9 5PU
 Tel: 01491 681048

- ▲ **Route 1:** Stoke Row – Wyfold Court – Stoke Row
Distance: 7km (4.4 miles) **Time:** 1hr 20 mins
- **Route 2:** Stoke Row – Ipsden Heath – Stoke Row
Distance: 9km (5.6 miles) **Time:** 1hr 40 mins
- **Route 3:** Stoke Row – Hook End – Exlade St – Checkendon – Stoke Row
Distance: 11km (6.8 miles) **Time:** 2hrs 10 mins



 Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Chilterns Hills West Ordnance Survey map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit.

Route 1

An easy walk over fairly even terrain.

Directions

Distance: 7km (4.4 miles) Time: 1hr 20 mins

DID YOU KNOW?

The Maharaja's Well in Stoke Row is an attractive Indian-style well and a cherry orchard. The 365 feet deep well was dug entirely by hand in the 19th Century, paid for by the Maharajah of Benares due to his friendship with a prominent local landowner, Mr Edward Anderdon Reade. Mr Reade was Governor of the Northwest Provinces of India and during his time as Governor presented a well to the people of India. There was an absence of available water in the Stoke Row area, and the Maharajah generously reciprocated the gesture to demonstrate his feelings for England and as a token of friendship with Mr Reade. As well as paying for the well, the Maharajah also paid for the adjacent Warden's cottage and cherry orchard, which provided a modest income for the upkeep of the well. The well has recently been restored and is open to the public.

- 01 With your back to the Crooked Billet turn right and walk up Nottwood Lane. At the crossroads cross straight over onto Busgrove Lane.
- 02 Continue down the lane for about 400m until just before the end of the 30mph zone. Turn left onto a footpath marked with a yellow arrow and Common Wood Woodland Trust sign.
- 03 Continue straight ahead following the white arrows through the woods until just before reaching the Stoke Row road where you take a path leading off to the right.
- 04 Follow the way marked path as it meanders through the wood until a bridleway (blue arrow) is reached where you turn to the right.
- 05 Follow this bridleway straight ahead, cross Neal's Lane and walk past Neal's Farm on the left until a split of paths is reached just beyond the farm buildings.
- 06 Take the bridleway to the left and continue on until you reach the private road running through the Wyfold Estate. At this point you will see Wyfold Court to the right, one of the few places from where it can be seen from a public right of way. The house has been converted into upmarket flats, but it retains its elegant exterior.
- 07 Turn left onto the private road. Stay on this road for 350m continuing past the turning for Hazel Grove until you reach a bridleway, turn left on to the bridleway towards Kingwood.
- 08 After a short walk you will reach the main road between Stoke Row and Sonning Common.
- 09 Cross over the road and take the bridleway opposite; after a short distance you will reach a tarmac drive.
- 10 Turn left and walk along the drive for about 150m when the bridleway bears right away from the drive past a 7 barred gate.
- 11 Follow the bridleway through a wood for about 200m then bear right on a footpath just before a waymark post.

DID YOU KNOW?

A book by Angela Spencer-Harper is the story of "The Old Place" and its environs in the Chiltern Hills, it was the home of the author for many years. The book is a 'factional' history of the cottage and the surrounding area but it is unusual in that it starts in the future and then through a clever literary device, immediately reverts to the Mesolithic Age. It proceeds from there to the Beaker Folk, the Celts, Romans, and Anglo-Saxons before continuing with the Normans, Black Death, Civil War and Georgian periods. From this point on it tells of Victorian and more modern times, until it reaches the present day, when the partly autobiographical link with the first chapter becomes clear. Although it begins fictionally in 2068, much research has gone into known facts about the area and these, together with imaginative and captivating stories, have been skilfully woven by the author into a fascinating historical novel with an interesting difference.

- 12 Follow the footpath, on a slight downhill gradient, until you come to an intersection of bridleways, footpaths and the end of the metalled section of a lane (Colmore Lane).
- 13 Cross over the lane and take the Forestry Commission track opposite into Greyhorne Wood (note this track is to the left of the Forestry Commission sign and a continuation of Colmore Lane).
- 14 Follow this track for another 600m, the last section is downhill, until you reach a public road with a large cottage called the Old Place on the right.
- 15 Cross over the road, with care, then turn left and walk along the road until you reach a four way junction.
- 16 Follow the road round to the left and walk uphill along the road for about 100m then bear right on a footpath adjacent to a driveway.
- 17 Follow the footpath uphill until you meet a bridleway; turn right here and continue on for a short distance then turn left through a gap in the hedge into a recreation ground. (Note if you reach a lane you will have missed the turning, you can either retrace your steps, or turn left on the lane and walk up hill to the centre of Stoke Row.)
- 18 Cross the recreation ground walking uphill towards the cricket pavilion, when you reach the car park you will see a finger post on the left of the access drive to the car park.
- 19 Take this footpath and continue a short distance, past some tennis courts, where you will emerge between two houses on to a bend in a side road.
- 20 Cross the road to the small green opposite and walk diagonally right across the green to the furthest corner.
- 21 At the road junction with Newlands Lane cross the lane and continue to walk in the same direction along the main road for a few metres and pass the Cherry Tree. At the crossroads go right at Nottwood Lane and this will bring you back to the Crooked Billet.

Route 2

A medium length walk with a high stile (see Note 1 below).

Directions

Distance: 9km (5.6 miles) Time: 1hr 40 mins

- 01 With your back to the Crooked Billet turn right and walk up Nottwood Lane. At the crossroads turn left onto Main street and walk past the Cherry tree on your left. Cross Newlands Lane onto the small green.
- 02 Walk diagonally across the green to the far left hand corner and where the small side road bends to the right, turn left on to a footpath which passes between two houses and then some tennis courts.
- 03 The footpath emerges on to the access to the recreation ground car park; bear slightly right and walk downhill across the recreation ground keeping fairly close the left hand perimeter. Enter the woods through a gap in the hedge line.
- 04 Turn left on a clearly defined path through the woods which soon joins Newland Lane.
- 05 Continue along the lane in the same direction past the Crooked Billet, a well known gastro pub, and a few metres further on go through what looks like a garden gate on the right, indicated by a green footpath finger post (*Note this turn might be easily missed as the finger post is almost hidden with undergrowth*).
- 06 The footpath passes a couple of houses and then goes through a small field before reaching an interesting brick-built gateway. Note the plaque in memory of Michael Fotherby built into the inner face of one wall.
- 07 Go through the gateway, turn left and walk along the left-hand edge of the field to a high stile (*see Note 1*).
- 08 Cross the stile and walk uphill, keeping to the edge of the field, to a kissing gate. Go through the gate, then turn left and after a few metres go through a double gate keeping the farm buildings on your right.
- 09 Continue along the drive in the same direction and slightly uphill, through a wooden gate, and after a short distance turn right on to a broad track (Cox's Lane).
- 10 After about 50 metres leave the track, bearing left on to a narrow bridle path.
- 11 Follow the same path, with some muddy and overgrown stretches, for about 1.6km (1 mile). Near the end of this stretch you will pass some rubbish skips before reaching the road that links Stoke Row with Nuffield (Kit Lane).
- 12 Turn left and walk, with care, along the road for about 300m before turning right on to a broad track.
- 13 After about 400m, at a bend in the track by a waymark post on the right marking the intersection with a footpath, turn left on to the footpath.

- 14 Follow the path indicated by white arrows through the woods. The path joins with an unmarked track, and then passes through a grove of Yew trees before leading you back to Kit Lane.
- 15 Turn right and very soon afterwards take the right fork on to a very quiet road.
- 16 At the next cross roads go straight across and continue along this quiet road for a further 850m, until you reach Scots Farm.
- 17 Turn left and walk past the entrance to the farm marked by a very impressive ancient oak tree.
- 18 Continue straight ahead along a track, ignoring two paths off to the left, past a quaint little cottage looking like something straight out of a fairy tale. Then go past a metal kissing gate on the right.
- 19 Go through a gate on to a fairly uneven stretch of path which is usually muddy and then keep to the right, going through an electric fence, and continue downhill, with a fence on your right to the Uxmores Road.
- 20 Go through the kissing gate, cross the road with care, to Judges Road opposite.
- 21 Continue straight ahead on this bridleway, after passing a house on the right, at the intersection with a footpath marked by a waymark post, turn left onto a footpath. Walk up the hill until a split of paths is reached.
- 22 Take the left-hand path and at an intersection of paths bear right and follow the path round past a couple of dilapidated structures on the right until you meet another path.
- 23 Take the enclosed path to the right and continue straight ahead until you reach a track at the end of the path where you turn left.
- 24 Continue along this track which eventually leads into School Lane. Walk along the lane past the school until you reach a T junction.
- 25 Turn right and walk along the road back past the Maharaja's Well on the left hand side. Turn left down Nottwood Lane to bring you back to the Crooked Billet.

NOTE 1

If you wish to avoid the high stile (Point 7) then take a different and shorter route to start the walk:

1. Turn right out of the pub car park and walk through the village past Nottwood Lane until you reach Cox's Lane
2. Turn right into Cox's Lane and then walk down the lane for 500m and when you will reach the entrance to Stoke Row Farm.
3. At this point follow the instructions above from Point 10 onwards.

Route 3

A fairly long walk over mostly even terrain.

Directions

Distance: 11km (6.8 miles) Time: 2hrs 10 mins

- 01 With your back to the Crooked Billet turn right and walk up Nottwood Lane. At the crossroads cross straight over onto Busgrove Lane.
- 02 Continue down the lane for about 400m until just before the end of the 30mph zone. Turn left onto a footpath marked with a yellow arrow and Common Wood Woodland Trust sign.
- 03 Continue straight ahead following the white arrows through the woods until just before reaching the Stoke Row road where you take a path leading off to the right.
- 04 Follow the way marked path as it meanders through the wood until a bridleway (blue arrow) is reached where you turn to the right.
- 05 Follow this bridleway straight ahead, cross Neal's Lane and walk past Neal's Farm on the left until a split of paths is reached just beyond the farm buildings.
- 06 Take the footpath to the right and continue straight ahead with a field to the right until a split of paths is reached.
- 07 Take the left-hand path, continuing across a minor road for a further 25 metres until a small group of houses is reached and follow the footpath signs which take you through the estate going almost straight ahead but slightly to the right.
- 08 Take the footpath alongside No.3, Mulberry House (sign likely to be hidden in a beech hedge).
- 09 Follow the footpath into the wood, continue straight ahead, ignoring a footpath to the left, go through a kissing gate and continue through the wood until you reach a series of paddocks. (NB This path maybe overgrown with brambles.)
- 10 Go through three metal kissing gates alongside Rumerhedge Farmhouse, cross the road to a footpath almost immediately opposite (signed to Hook End) and follow the footpath up the hill.
- 11 After about 250m the path swings round to the right on a track then after a short distance, forks to the left following a painted arrow on a tree after which continues straight ahead until you reach Wyfold Lane.
- 12 Turn right on to the lane and after a short distance bear to the right past Hook End House.
- 13 When you reach Lower Farm take a left turn here onto another lane which leads down to the hamlet of Exlade Street.
- 14 When the junction at the bottom of the hill is reached turn right, walk past the Highwayman pub and take a footpath to the right which is just beyond the pub.
- 15 This footpath goes between the gardens of the adjacent houses then leads up the hill on the right hand side of a field; the path goes through a small group of trees then turns to the left.
- 16 Follow the path until a gate is reached, go through this gate and follow the footpath which skirts round the left side of a large meadow from which you can see Corkers Farm to the right.

- 17 Go through a kissing gate in the far corner of the field, cross Corkers Lane bridleway, go through another gate, then go straight ahead across another field to reach yet another kissing gate which leads into Checkendon Road.
- 18 Turn right and walk along the lane using the grass verges as far as possible, past the old Four Horseshoes pub (now closed) until the church of St. Peter and St. Paul is reached where you take a footpath to the left alongside the church wall.
- 19 Continue along the approach road to Checkendon Court and just before the gates to the House take a footpath to the right.
- 20 Continue on this path with a holly hedge to the left until another footpath is reached on the right; go through a gate and cross a paddock to another gate.
- 21 Go through this gate; proceed straight ahead past many rhododendron bushes, along the side of Lovegrove Farm riding stables to Lovegrove Lane.
- 22 Cross the lane to the path directly opposite, continue straight ahead past paddocks, through a kissing gate, across a field to another kissing gate; go through this and turn right onto another footpath.
- 23 Go through a gate on to a fairly uneven stretch of path which is usually muddy; this leads to the top of two fields.
- 24 Keep to the right going through an electric fence and continue downhill, with a fence on your right to the Uxmore Road.
- 25 Go through the kissing gate, cross the road with care, to Judges Road opposite. (There is a post box here marked Broad Oak.)

DID YOU KNOW!

According local folk lore Judges Road is so named because it was part of the route Judges took from Oxford to preside at the Henley Assizes.

- 26 Continue straight ahead on this bridleway, after passing a house on the right, at the intersection with a footpath marked by a waymark post, turn left onto a footpath.
- 27 Walk up the hill until a split of paths is reached. Take the left-hand path and at an intersection of paths bear right and follow the path round past a couple of dilapidated structures on the right until you meet another path.
- 28 Take the enclosed path to the right and continue straight ahead until you reach a track at the end of the path where you turn left.
- 29 Continue along this track which eventually leads into School Lane, walk along the lane past the school until you reach a T junction.
- 30 Turn right and walk along the road back past the Maharaja's Well on the left hand side. Turn left down Nottwood Lane to bring you back to the Crooked Billet.

The Crooked Billet
Newlands Lane, Stoke Row
Henley on Thames RG9 5PU

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