



**BRAKSPEAR**

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB  
TRAILS**



**FAT FOX INN  
WATLINGTON  
OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS  
3.3, 3.6 & 6.5 MILES**



We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at The Fat Fox Inn. 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](http://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 OX49 5BU with a car park for customers.



**Nearest station:** Princes Risborough station is 10.3 miles away.



**Local bus services:** The Thames Travel bus service route T1.



*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

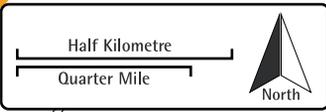
### Enjoy the outdoors:

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

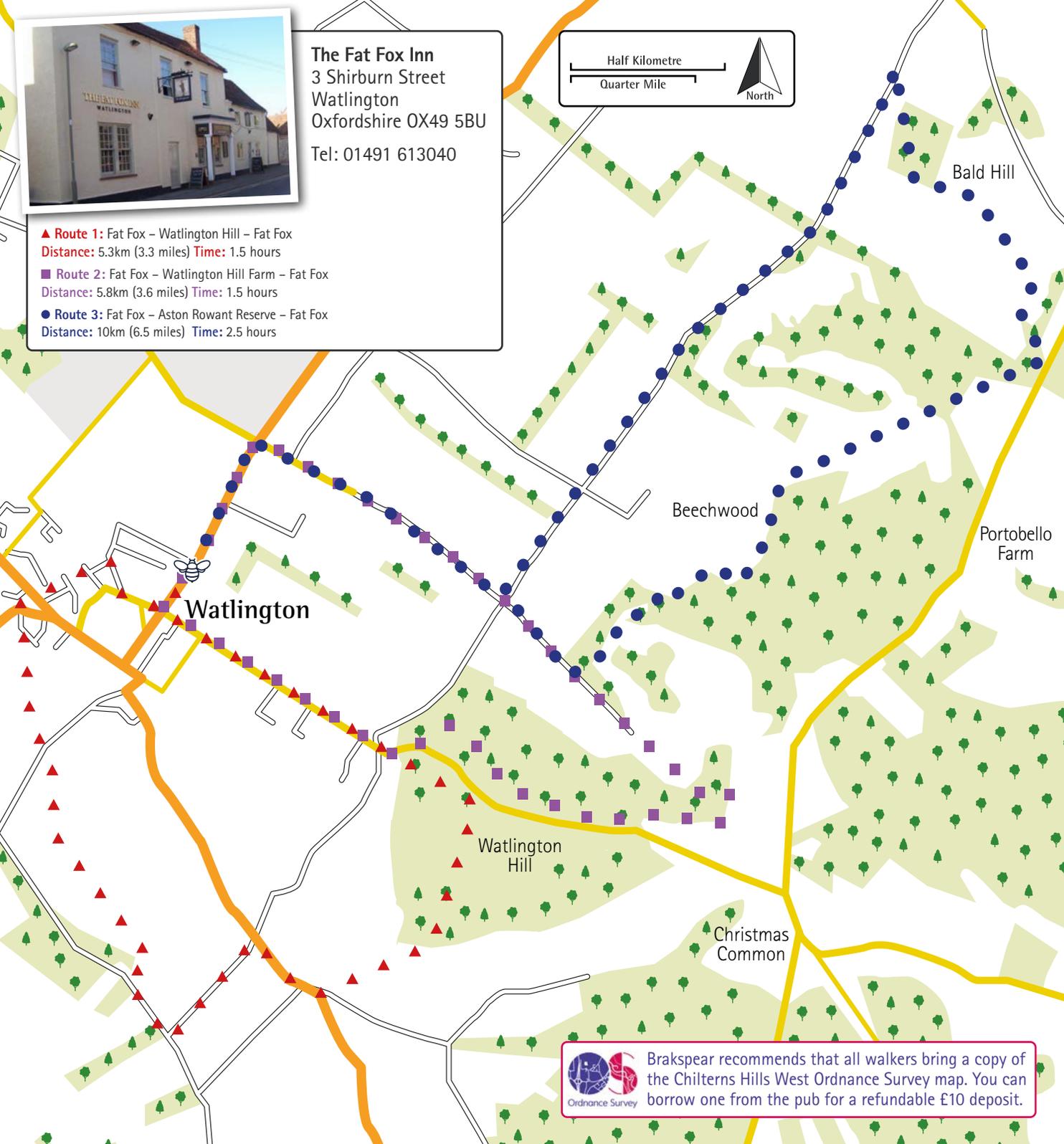
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**The Fat Fox Inn**  
3 Shirburn Street  
Watlington  
Oxfordshire OX49 5BU  
Tel: 01491 613040



- ▲ **Route 1:** Fat Fox – Watlington Hill – Fat Fox  
Distance: 5.3km (3.3 miles) Time: 1.5 hours
- **Route 2:** Fat Fox – Watlington Hill Farm – Fat Fox  
Distance: 5.8km (3.6 miles) Time: 1.5 hours
- **Route 3:** Fat Fox – Aston Rowant Reserve – Fat Fox  
Distance: 10km (6.5 miles) Time: 2.5 hours



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

Moderate, includes a relatively steep climb.

## Directions

Distance: 5.3km (3.3 miles) Time: 1.5 hours

**01** Come out of the pub, turn right and follow the road to the crossroads at the Town Hall.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Watlington Town Hall** – This beautiful brick building was built by Thomas Stonor of Stonor in 1664 and has served as a market hall, school, court, and now serves as the Town Hall with a market space below.

**02** Turn right on to the High Street, and follow the road past the War Memorial.

**03** Take the second turning on the right, on to Church Street.

**04** The road ends at a white metal rail, leading to a footpath. Where the path forks at the entrance to Mansle Gardens; bear left and keep following the path past the entrance to The Meadows and between houses until you reach a road.

**05** Cross the road to another short path, then cross straight over the next road (B4009).

**06** Turn right and walk along the pavement to the next junction where you turn left onto a lane called The Goggs.

**07** Follow the lane, which twists between houses, until you reach a kissing gate.

**08** Go through the gate into West Meadow; follow the hedge round to your right, which leads to another kissing gate.

**09** Go through this gate and turn left, following a small stream, which is dry for much of the year.

**10** When you reach a track, turn left. The track goes past the Willow pond.

**11** Keep walking straight along this track, up the hill, round to the right and then onto a narrow path on the left.

**12** Follow the narrow path beside a field; at the end of this path, go straight across a lane and through an opening into a grassy field; there is a conveniently placed bench here with a good view towards Watlington Hill. You are now on the route of the Ridgeway.

**13** Walk along the edge of the grassy field, an alternative route to the adjacent lane. When you reach the road turn right; this is quite a busy road but there is a narrow path along the raised road verge.



*Watlington Town Hall*

**14** After about 1/4 mile/400m cross road with care then fork left onto a track, and through a wooden kissing gate.

**15** Walk a very short distance along the track and then fork left again onto a footpath, which winds between a narrow strip of trees.

**16** Keep going straight along this path, through two kissing gates.

**17** At the next kissing gate turn left, onto a path that climbs up through a small area of yew woodland and out onto the open hillside of Watlington Hill, a patchwork of chalk grassland and scrub.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Watlington Hill** – This site of scientific interest is owned and managed by the National Trust. Look out for flower rich chalk grassland, scrub areas that are good for birds and areas of dense yew woodland.

**18** Keep following the same path past some silver birch trees, do not leave the path until you reach a waymark post.

**19** Turn left at the waymark post and follow this path downhill past the White Mark, a large triangle carved in to the chalk.

**20** At the bottom of the white mark the path bears to the right and goes past a gate. Keep following this path which leads down to Hill Road.

**21** Walk straight down Hill Road, past the car park on your left. At the cross roads beside the Town Hall, turn right on to Shirburn Street, where you will see the Fat Fox Pub ahead of you on the left hand side of the road.

# Route 2

Moderate, includes a relatively steep climb.

## Directions

Distance: 5.8km (3.6 miles) Time: 1.5 hours

**01** Leave the pub car park and turn left on to Shirburn Road (B4009) walk for about 700 metres to a road junction; turn right onto Station Road heading towards Pyrton Field Farm.

**02** Shortly after the large house on your left is the site of the old Watlington Railway Station.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Watlington Station – Opened in 1872, this was the terminus of the single track Watlington and Princes Risborough Railway. There had been plans to extend the line to Wallingford, but this never happened and the line was closed to passengers in 1957 and to goods in 1961.

**03** Continue straight ahead for just over a mile, about 1.8km, passing the junction with the Ridgeway long distance trail, and walk to the end of the tarmac road. Keep going straight, following a small path up the steep hill; there is a fence on your left, with a quiet, unspoilt small valley beyond.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Ridgeway Long Distance Trail – An 87 mile route from Ivinghoe Beacon in Hertfordshire to West Kennet Barrow in Wiltshire. Following a route used since prehistoric times, the trail passes through open downland, secluded valleys, woodland and hedgerows, linking many archaeological sites.

**04** The path enters an area of hazel coppice. Fork right through a kissing gate onto footpath and the Oxfordshire way.

**05** Follow the path across a grassy field towards a metal kissing gate in a hedgerow. (You should be able to see the MOD Microwave Tower at this point.)

**06** Turn right on to footpath, and follow quite a narrow path which leads downhill through woodland in a sunken way. The path goes through mixed woodland.

**07** Keep going straight down the hill, past one path forking left. Take the next path on the left, marked with a white arrow on a concrete post.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Sunken Way – This is typical of the many ancient sunken lanes and hollow ways in the Chilterns, eroded by many years of use, including moving livestock up and down the hills.

**08** This small path goes up a small incline and then through an area of scrub and woodland before opening out in a small grassy



© Steve Daniels, Wikimedia Commons

View from Watlington Hill

area. This area is known as the Chalk Pits and is managed by Watlington Parish Council

### DID YOU KNOW?

Chalk Pits – Much of this area is within the Watlington and Pyrton Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest. Watlington Parish Council and the local Environment Group manage the site to maintain the mosaic of chalk grassland, scrub and woodland.

**09** Go straight on over the open area and then walk round to the left to find a wooden kissing gate leading on to Hill Road.

**10** Go through the gate and turn right. Walk down Hill Road into Watlington.

**11** Keep going straight, past the car park on your left. At the cross roads turn right on to Shirburn Road; the Fat Fox is a short distance along this road on your left.



Watlington Chalk Pits

# Route 3

A long walk, involving a steep climb up the Chilterns Escarpment.

## Directions

Distance: 10km (6.5 miles) Time: 2.5 hours

**01** Leave the pub car park and turn left on to Shirburn Road (B4009) walk for about 700 metres to a road junction; turn right onto Station Road heading towards Pyrton Field Farm. Shortly after the large house on your left is the site of the old Watlington Railway Station.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Watlington Station – Opened in 1872, this was the terminus of the single track Watlington and Princes Risborough Railway. There had been plans to extend the line to Wallingford, but this never happened and the line was closed to passengers in 1957 and to goods in 1961.

**02** Continue straight ahead for 1100 metres until you reach the junction with the Ridgeway long distance trail (POI 2). Turn left.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Ridgeway Long Distance Trail – An 87 mile route from Ivinghoe Beacon in Hertfordshire to West Kennet Barrow in Wiltshire. Following a route used since prehistoric times, the trail passes through open downland, secluded valleys, woodland and hedgerows.

**03** Follow the Ridgeway trail for about 2.5km. The track runs between hedgerows and for much of the way is beneath trees, offering glimpses towards the Chiltern escarpment. After about 2km you emerge from the trees onto a broad grassy track, and you will see the motorway up ahead where it cuts through the Chilterns. As the grassy track starts to head downhill slightly look out for a gate on the right hand side, slightly hidden in the hedge.

**04** Go through the gate into a field and head towards the next gate which leads into a small woodland.

**05** The path winds through scrub before opening out among beech trees. When you reach a kissing gate, go through the gate then turn left and walk straight along edge of the grassy field, ignoring the wooden gate on the left.

**06** This path leads up into a valley and to Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve – Perched high on the Chilterns escarpment, the reserve contains flower-rich chalk grassland, woodland and juniper scrub. There are extensive views over the Oxford plain and it's a great place to watch red kites soaring overhead.

**07** The path climbs gently along the side of the valley, beneath power lines, and then the path turns to the right before reaching a large



© Andrew Smith, Wikimedia Commons

### Aston Rowant Nature Reserve

gate on the left. Go through the gate and walk up the very steep hill under trees.

**08** At the top of the hill go through the metal gate and walk along the right hand side of the field until you reach another gate which leads on to a road, with a large water tower ahead. Turn right on to the road.

**09** After a short distance there is a stile on the right hand side; this leads into a grassy field. The path goes slightly to the left across the field; head towards the point where the coniferous trees meet the broadleaved trees.

**10** You will reach a stile which leads over a track and down the hill beneath trees and then emerges on to chalk grassland pockmarked with ant hills and full of wild flowers in spring and summer. Great views as well.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Chalk Grassland – The Chiltern Hills offer many remnants of the once extensive chalk grassland, rich in summer wildflowers including pungent thyme and marjoram and delicate orchids. Look out for the large ant hills and for the beautiful marbled white butterflies.

**11** Bear left at the bottom of the hill towards a gate.

**12** Go through the gate and follow the path round to the right. This path meanders along the base of the Chiltern escarpment with woodland to the left and a fence and fields to the right.

**13** The path continues to a gate in some woodland; continue through the gate and the path becomes a track through an area of grassland and scrub.

**14** After a short while the track bears to the right, but the path goes straight on down a little hill. This leads to a gate where you turn right on to Station Road.

**15** Follow Station Road back the B4009 and turn left and return to the Fat Fox Inn.

The Fat Fox Inn  
3 Shirburn Street, Watlington  
Oxfordshire OX49 5BU

Tel: 01491 613040  
[www.thefatfoxinn.co.uk](http://www.thefatfoxinn.co.uk)

[www.brakspear.co.uk](http://www.brakspear.co.uk)



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Brakspear, The Bull Courtyard, Bell Street  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2BA  
01491 570200 [info@brakspear.co.uk](mailto:info@brakspear.co.uk)

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