



**BRAKSPEAR**

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB  
TRAILS**



**THE UNICORN**  
KINGWOOD, HENLEY-ON-THAMES  
**OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS**  
**2.2, 3.7 & 4.6 MILES**



We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at The Unicorn. 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 RG9 5LX and there is a car park for customers.



**Nearest station:** Henley-on-Thames station 5.3 miles away.



**Local bus services:** The number 145 bus from Whites Coaches.



*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

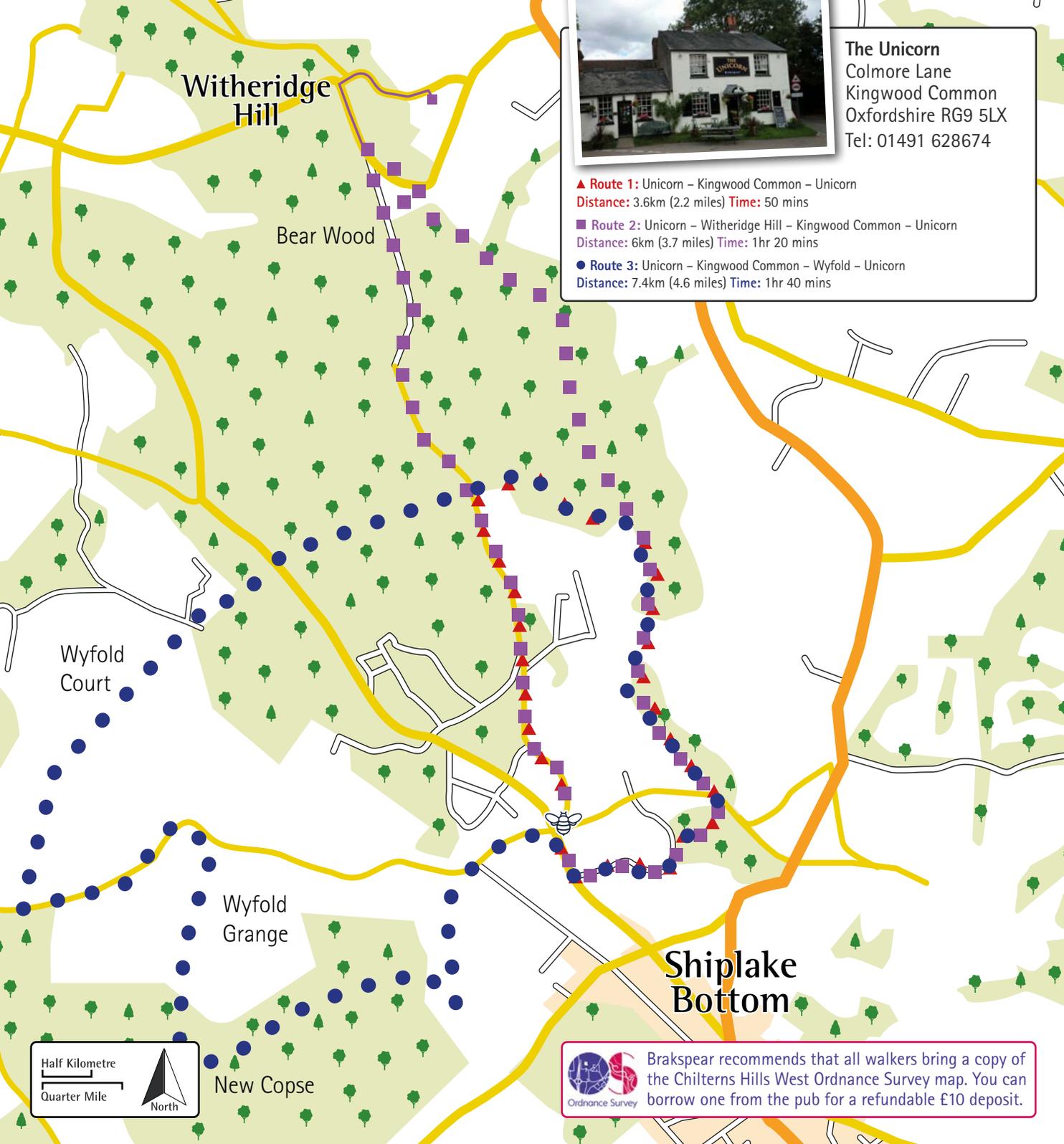
### Protect the natural environment:

- 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-country-side-code)



**The Unicorn**  
Colmore Lane  
Kingwood Common  
Oxfordshire RG9 5LX  
Tel: 01491 628674

**▲ Route 1:** Unicorn – Kingwood Common – Unicorn  
**Distance:** 3.6km (2.2 miles) **Time:** 50 mins

**■ Route 2:** Unicorn – Witheridge Hill – Kingwood Common – Unicorn  
**Distance:** 6km (3.7 miles) **Time:** 1hr 20 mins

**● Route 3:** Unicorn – Kingwood Common – Wyfold – Unicorn  
**Distance:** 7.4km (4.6 miles) **Time:** 1hr 40 mins

Half Kilometre  
Quarter Mile  
North

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

# Route 1

A short easy walk with one downhill and one uphill section.

## Directions

Distance: 3.6km (2.2 miles) Time: 50 mins

- 01 Start from the car park of The Unicorn and walk left past the front of the pub and down the main road towards Sonning Common.
- 02 After 300m turn left on to a side road, past Peppard House – note the interesting sculpture in the garden and further on the aptly named 'The Old Cottage' opposite the cricket pitch.
- 03 Follow the road round to the right and observe some fine tree specimens in the garden of the Manor House, including an old false acacia.
- 04 After the metalled road surface ends, continue to follow the track round a long left hand bend ignoring two footpaths off to the right.
- 05 As the track straightens take the footpath on the right that takes a windy route downhill.
- 06 Keep to the same path and bear left when other paths come in from the right then walk up to a minor road.
- 07 Cross the road and slightly to the left follow the bridleway through a continuation of the woods. For about 400m the track follows the boundary of a flat area with banks around it. (Does anyone know what this area might have been once?).
- 08 After 400m the track crosses another track and passes through fields up along the dry valley bottom. (The views here are exceptional and it is worth taking a short rest to take in the panorama. Further along the path the hedge



Graham Horn, Wikimedia Commons

Kingwood Common



Colmore Lane adjacent to Kingwood Common

has an interesting mixture of species, including the usual blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and dog rose, but also a lot of wild gooseberry and spindle which has very attractive but deadly poisonous pink-orange fruits in autumn).

- 09 At the end of the fields the path enters a mature beech wood, follow the path for 300m then take the left fork up the hill and along the field edge and left again near the top of the hill.
- 10 Turn left at the lane (Colmore Lane) that links Witheridge Hill with Peppard. As you walk along the road, Kingwood Common is on the right hand side of the road.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Before the Second World War Kingwood Common was a rare 'lowland heath' habitat used by those with common grazing rights for rough grazing. Grazing largely stopped during the war, as the shepherds were fighting and dying for King and country. Also the northern section of the common was used as a camp for US troops, the remains of which are still visible.

After the war grazing on the common ceased eventually in the 1950s and the species of rich heather and gorse has given way to poor quality mixed woodland. In places however trees have been felled by conservation volunteers and Sonning Common's Green Gym. When the topsoil was removed seeds of heather and gorse were found to be still viable after 70-80 years.

- 11 Continue to walk along the road for about 1km after which you will arrive back at the Unicorn.

# Route 2

An medium length walk  
with some uphill sections.

## Directions

Distance: 6km (3.7 miles) Time: 1hr 20 mins

- 01 Start from the car park of The Unicorn and walk left past the front of the pub and down the main road towards Sonning Common.
- 02 After 300m turn left on to a side road, past Peppard House – note the interesting sculpture in the garden and further on the aptly named 'The Old Cottage' opposite the cricket pitch.
- 03 Follow the road round to the right and observe some fine tree specimens in the garden of the Manor House, including an old false acacia.
- 04 After the metalled road surface ends, continue to follow the track round a long left hand bend ignoring two footpaths off to the right.
- 05 As the track straightens take the footpath on the right that takes a windy route downhill.
- 06 Keep to the same path and bear left when other paths come in from the right then walk up to a minor road.
- 07 Cross the road and slightly to the left follow the bridleway through a continuation of the woods. For about 400m the track follows the boundary of a flat area with banks around it. (Does anyone know what this area might have been once?).
- 08 After 400m the track crosses another track and passes through fields up along the dry valley bottom. (The views here are exceptional and it is worth taking a short rest to take in the panorama. Further along the path the hedge has an interesting mixture of species, including the usual blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and dog rose, but also a lot of wild gooseberry and spindle, which has very attractive but deadly poisonous pink-orange fruits in autumn).
- 09 At the end of the fields the path enters a mature beech wood; continue through the woods along the valley bottom for about 1.5km.
- 10 Keep going as straight as you can on the widest path (they do converge however). Look out for rectangular holes roughly 3 by 1.5m, which are partially filled saw pits from the days when timber was cut by hand.
- 11 Keep straight on across a junction of paths for approx. 500m and at the end of the green fence you will see a field to your right; at the end of the field turn right and shortly afterwards you will reach a minor public road.

- 12 Turn left and walk, with care, along the road and very soon you will pass a large cottage on the left called The Old Place. (If at this point you would like some refreshments and don't mind extending your route, (shown in purple on the map), by just over a km and can cope with a bit of a climb, you can visit The Rising Sun pub at Witheridge Hill. To get to the pub continue along the road for about 250m until you reach a four way junction. Turn sharp right and walk up the hill along the road. At the top of the hill turn right on to a gravel drive into the pub car park. Afterwards just retrace your steps back to The Old Place and continue on from point 13.)

### 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.

- 13 Immediately after The Old Place take the metalled track by the side of the cottage and follow this track into the woods.
- 14 The wood to the right is called Bear Wood, fortunately (or unfortunately depending on your disposition) you are unlikely to see one but do keep an eye out for deer. Near the top of the hill, on the left is Greyhorne Wood, in which there is a fine plantation of majestic Douglas Fir, and on a warm spring day you will be treated to a wonderful aroma.
- 15 After about 300m the unmade track becomes a metalled lane and shortly afterwards you will reach Kingwood Common on the right hand side of the lane.
- 16 Continue walking along the lane for about 1km after which you will arrive back at the Unicorn.

# Route 3

A medium length walk  
with some steep climbs.

## Directions

Distance: 7.4km (4.6 miles) Time: 1hr 40 mins

**01** Start from the car park of The Unicorn and walk left past the front of the pub and down the main road towards Sonning Common.

**02** After 300m turn left on to a side road, past Peppard House – note the interesting sculpture in the garden and further on the aptly named 'The Old Cottage' opposite the cricket pitch.

Follow the road round to the right and observe some fine tree specimens in the garden of the Manor House, including an old false acacia.

**03** After the metalled road surface ends, continue to follow the track round a long left hand bend ignoring two footpaths off to the right.

**04** As the track straightens take the footpath on the right that takes a windy route downhill.

**05** Keep to the same path and bear left when other paths come in from the right then walk up to a minor road.

**06** Cross the road and slightly to the left follow the bridleway through a continuation of the woods. For about 400m the track follows the boundary of a flat area with banks around it. (Does anyone know what this area might have been once?).

**07** After 400m the track crosses another track and passes through fields up along the dry valley bottom. (The views here are exceptional and it is worth taking a short rest to take in the panorama. Further along the path the hedge has an interesting mixture of species, including the usual blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and dog rose, but also a lot of wild gooseberry and spindle which has very attractive but deadly poisonous pink-orange fruits in autumn).

**08** At the end of the fields the path enters a mature beech wood, follow the path for 300m then take the left fork up the hill and along the field edge and left again near the top of the hill.

**09** Cross the road linking Kingwood Common to Witheridge Hill and enter Kingwood Common.

**10** Take the right fork soon after entering this section and continue walking in a westerly direction for about 600m, until you reach a small road.

**11** When you reach the road turn left and look for a right turn almost immediately. This path continues through some houses to the main road between Sonning Common and Stoke Row.

**12** Cross the road and follow the track through more woodland in a westerly direction towards Wyfold.

**13** After about 300m you will pass some houses on your right and shortly after you should reach a road leading to Wyfold Court.

**14** Continue across the road towards Wyfold and after about 200m the path leaves the woodland and crosses farmland to the left, with

superb views to the south. To the right you may catch a glimpse of Wyfold Court but it is very well screened by trees and hard to see.

**15** Continue along the path until you reach Wyfold Road and turn left. (The vineyard to the left, which produces an award winning sparkling wine, with the rather original name 'Wyfold').

**16** Walk on along the road until you reach Wyfold, a hamlet of about half a dozen houses. Just after the entrance on your right to Wyfold Grange, turn right into a field.

### DID YOU KNOW!

Wyfold Grange is probably linked to the original grange belonging to Thame Abbey and is now a Victorian house surrounded by a major earthwork. The earthwork may be Iron Age in date, or it could possibly represent later defensive works. The former seems more likely.

**17** Walk slightly downhill through the field for about 400m, at the field boundary follow the path into a magical tunnel of laurel, it's very easy to miss this entrance but it is marked by a partially obscured waymark post.

**18** After another 400m pass by a wooden gate and enter the woods of New Copse then after a short distance go through a gap in a wooden fence and immediately turn left on to a footpath marked by another waymark post.

**19** Follow the path through the wood for about 800 m in a north easterly direction following white arrows on trees.

**20** As the woodland starts to thin the path splits; take the left hand fork following the white arrow on a tree, ignoring an unmarked but well used permissive path off to the right.

**21** Follow the path for a short distance then take the next right hand fork and follow the path for a few more metres until you reach a metal kissing gate at the north eastern edge of New Copse.

**22** Walk out of woodland into a field and follow the path in a south easterly direction, for about 200m, towards a mature hedge on the left.

**23** At the hedge the path intersects with another path (going north – south); turn left on to this path and go through the hedge via a stile (that is almost hidden by the hedge).

**24** Walk slightly uphill and after 400m the path meets Wyfold Lane, go through a metal kissing gate and turn right onto Wyfold Lane and continue on for about 500m.

**25** At the end of this road you will reach the main road linking Sonning Common and Stoke Row. Cross the road and the Unicorn will be visible in front of you.

The Unicorn  
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Oxfordshire RG9 5LX

Tel: 01491 628674  
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