



BRAKSPEAR

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB
TRAILS**



**THE RED LION
CHOLSEY, WALLINGFORD
OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS
3, 6.1 & 6.2 MILES**



We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at The Red Lion. 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 OX10 9LG and there is a car park for customers.



Nearest station: Cholsey Station.



Local bus services: The number 136 bus service (Thames Travel) stops on Wallingford Road.



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

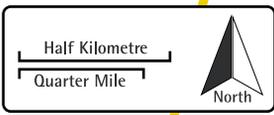
Protect the natural environment:

- 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



The Red Lion
39 Wallingford Rd
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Tel: 01491 651 295

- ▲ **Route 1:** Cholley – St Mary's Church – Cholley
Distance: 4.8km (3 miles) **Time:** 1–1.25 hours
- **Route 2:** Cholley – Lollington Hill – Moulsoford – Cholley
Distance: 9.9km (6.1 miles) **Time:** 2.5 hours
- **Route 3:** Cholley – Aston Tirrold – Aston Upthorpe – Cholley
Distance: 10km (6.2 miles) **Time:** 2.5–3 hours

 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 and very easy walk over flat terrain.

Directions

Distance: 4.8km (3 miles) Time: 1–1.25 hours

- 01 On leaving the pub car park turn right and walk along the right hand side of the main road (Wallingford Road) until you reach the first mini roundabout, cross the road, then bear left, and at the second mini roundabout turn right into Station Road.
- 02 Walk along the road for about 150m then turn right at a metal barrier and walk into a recreational area.
- 03 Walk across the playing fields bearing slightly left towards a group of four trees, there is an unmarked waymark post indicating the start of a footpath.
- 04 Bear left on to the footpath and follow an unmade drive with houses on the right side for a short distance after which you will emerge on to a road (West Way).
- 05 Walk along the road for 200m until you reach Sandy Way on the left, at this point turn right on to the footpath indicated by the finger post.
- 06 Follow the footpath for about 150m and then continue round to the left, under a railway bridge and through a long tunnel under the main railway line to Oxford, Didcot and Wales.
- 07 At the end of the tunnel take the footpath on the right and follow it alongside a small brook to your left for just over 300m then cross a footbridge and continue to follow the path with the brook (on the left) for another 500m.
- 08 Turn right at a copse and follow the footpath across a large field towards some farm building and the main railway line.
- 09 After you pass the farm buildings and some cottages (Leas Cottages) continue along the track in the same direction over a hump back bridge that crosses the railway line.
- 10 Continue to follow the track for another 750m until you reach some other farm buildings where you turn sharp right and follow the footpath across the field towards the church and churchyard.
- 11 At the end of the footpath turn left and enter the churchyard, facing you, a few metres away, is the rear of a large white gravestone marking Agatha Christie's grave.

DID YOU KNOW?

Agatha Christie and her husband Max Mallowan, who lived in Winterbrook on the outskirts of Wallingford during the latter stages of their lives, are buried in the north west corner of the churchyard close to the boundary wall.

- 12 Walk to the right of St Mary's Church then outside its main entrance turn sharp right to follow the path through the churchyard and leave via a side gate.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Marys Church Cholsey is an impressive Grade 1 listed building with the tower dating from 11th C with a 12th C nave, chancel and transepts. There were later extensions in the 13thC, 14thC and 15th C.

- 13 Follow the footpath towards a metal gate, go through this gate, over a footbridge, and follow the footpath alongside a single track railway line.
- 14 Continue through another metal gate, over a second footbridge then when you meet a footpath turn sharp left.
- 15 Walk under the railway bridge then as the path turns right immediately take the footpath on the left over a footbridge and through a small copse (Cholsey Memorial Wood).
- 16 Walk past the playing fields on your left then a sports pavilion on the right and aim for the right hand corner of the playing fields where you will find a concrete slab in a gap in the hedge.
- 17 Turn right through the gap and continue along the left hand side on the playing fields to exit the recreational area the same way that you entered.
- 18 Turn left along Station Road, bear left at the first mini roundabout and at the second mini roundabout cross over Church Road into the Wallingford Road and walk along the road back to the pub.



Agatha Christie's Grave

Route 2

A long walk with a short fairly steep climb up Lollingdon Hill and return via the Thames Path.

Directions

Distance: 9.9km (6.1 miles) Time: 2.5 hours

- 01 On leaving the pub car park turn right and walk along the right hand side of the main road (Wallingford Road) until you reach the first mini roundabout, cross the road then bear left, and at the second mini roundabout turn right into Station Road.
- 02 Walk along the road for about 150m then turn right at a metal barrier and walk into a recreational area.
- 03 Walk across the playing fields bearing slightly to the left towards a group of four trees, there is an unmarked waymark post indicating the start of a footpath.
- 04 Turn left on to the footpath then follow an unmade drive with houses on the right until you reach a road (West Way).
- 05 Walk along the road for just under 400m and where the road bends to the left, leave the road and bear right and walk through a tunnel under the main railway line to Oxford, Didcot and Wales.
- 06 Follow the narrow lane (Hithercroft Road) until you get to a T junction, turn right into another small lane and walk 50m before turning left on to a bridle path.
- 07 Follow the grass track until you pass Westfield Farm (a small business estate), continue along the farm access drive for a short distance then leave the drive as it turns to the left and carry straight on through some wooden bollards.
- 08 Follow the same path for 750m after which you will reach a gravel track and bridle way. Turn right and walk along the track until you reach Lollingdon Farm on the right.
- 09 Turn left on to the bridle way, opposite the farm, and follow the track uphill towards Lollingdon Hill, which is a renowned spot for bird watchers. (Kestrels, Buzzards, Field Fares and Red Wings are amongst the many species that are regularly spotted in the vicinity of the hill.)
- 10 When the track levels off it starts to encircle the hill, but there is no public access to the summit, so continue around hill and follow the path as it descends down the side of the hill.
- 11 At the bottom of the slope, ignore the footpath to the right along a grass track, and continue to follow the footpath around the hill alongside a barbed wire fence.
- 12 When the path meets a track turn right and walk along the track until you reach a public road, cross the road and take the bridle way opposite.



Lollingdon Hill (viewed from the South)

- 13 Follow the path uphill and at the top you will be able to look towards Cholsey and you can see quite clearly the tower of St May's Church to the north
- 14 Continue on the same path as it skirts round a paddock. When you reach the public road by the entrance to Breach House, cross the road and take the footpath opposite to Moulsoford.

DID YOU KNOW?

Breach House is a Grade II building c1905, designed by Edward P. Warren the architect for himself. It was frequented by members of the Bloomsbury Group, most notably Lady Ottoline Morrell a friend of D.H. Lawrence who was reputedly the inspiration for Lawrence's Lady Chatterley.

- 15 The path takes a sharp right turn and then after a short distance meets another path. Turn left, walk downhill, and as you approach the outskirts of Moulsoford walk through the grounds of Cranford House School.
- 16 Cross the main road. Turn left and walk along the pavement for 750m past Moulsofield Preparatory School.
- 17 Turn right, following the Thames Path sign, go through a metal kissing gate then walk down a driveway between two school playing fields.
- 18 Go through another metal kissing gate and follow the footpath as it bears left alongside a wooden fence that overlooks a large pond.

Route 2

A long walk with a short fairly steep climb up Lollington Hill and return via the Thames Path.

Directions

(Continued)

19 As you get closer to the railway line the path turns to the right. Go through a large green gate and follow the path under the railway bridge.

DID YOU KNOW?

This bridge carries the main railway line to Wales and the west and was built by Brunel in 1838/39 to support two tracks, at the same time as Maidenhead and Gatehampton railway bridges. It is constructed from red brick with Bath stone quoins as four elliptical skew arches of 62 feet span and a headway height of 21 feet 8 inches. In 1892 the line was converted to quadruple track and a second bridge was built alongside the upstream side of the original and connected to it by girders and brick bridgelets. The second bridge was built to the same profile and dimensions as the original but it lacks the stone quoins of the original and the plain uncut bricks make a jagged pattern where they meet the faces of the bridge.

20 After you emerge from under the railway bridge you will enter the Cholsey Marsh Reserve.



Moultsford Railway Bridge

DID YOU KNOW?

This tranquil riverside marsh is managed by BBOWT. It is home to a wide variety of unique wetlands wildlife and makes a fantastic destination for any nature lover. The marsh, with its patches of grassland, willow scrub and ponds, makes an ideal habitat for plants such as the Loddon lily and nesting birds such as snipes, wagtails and reed buntings. With the proximity of the Thames keep your eyes peeled for other wild life such as Grey Herons, Kingfishers and if you are lucky maybe an otter.

21 Follow the path along the Thames until you reach a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate then leave the Thames Path by turning left. Walk along a track that after a short distance becomes a tarmac lane. As you walk up the lane you will pass on your right what was Fairmile Hospital and now is a housing estate and apartments.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fairmile Hospital was first established in 1870 as the County Lunatic Asylum. In 1948 the hospital became part of the NHS and was finally closed in 2003 and sold for development.

22 At the junction with a main road (A329), taking care, cross over the main road, then carry on in same direction along Papist Way opposite for some 350m then turn right into Honey Lane.

23 At the end of Honey Lane turn right and at a mini roundabout cross over Igles Lane then at the second mini roundabout turn right into the Wallingford Road.

24 Cross over the road and follow the road back to the Red Lion.



Fairmile Estate

Route 3

A longish walk up a gentle
incline to the Astons.

Directions

Distance: 10km 6.2 miles) Time: 2.5–3 hours

- 01 On leaving the pub car park turn right and walk along the right hand side of the main road (Wallingford Road) until you reach the first mini roundabout, cross the road and bear left then at the second mini roundabout turn right into Station Road.
- 02 Walk along the road for about 150m then turn right at a metal barrier and walk into a recreational area.
- 03 Walk across the playing fields bearing slightly left towards a group of four trees, there is unmarked waymark post indicating the start of a footpath.
- 04 Turn left on to the footpath then follow an unmade drive with houses on the right until you reach a road (West Way).
- 05 Walk along the road for 200m until you reach Sandy Way on the left, at this point turn right on to the footpath indicated by the finger post.
- 06 Follow the footpath for about 150m and follow it round to the left then walk under a railway bridge and then through a longer tunnel under the main railway line to Oxford, Didcot and Wales.
- 07 At the end of the tunnel bear left and follow the footpath across a field, towards the gap in the hedge line, go through the gap and follow the path across the middle of another field.
- 08 On leaving the field cross a track and continue in same direction along the edge of another field, keeping the hedge on you right, passing very close to an electricity pylon.
- 09 Exit the field via a gap in the hedge line and follow the footpath across a field, exit the field via a footbridge and a metal kissing gate and enter another smaller field.
- 10 Bearing slightly left, aim for a gap in the hedge on the opposite side of the field, go through the gap and follow path up a slight incline with a wooden rail fence to your right.
- 11 Go through a metal kissing gate and turn right on to a farm track and bridle way and walk past Lollingdon Farm.

DID YOU KNOW?

John Masfield, writer and poet, was the tenant at Lollingdon Farm from 1914 to 1917. During WW1 he was, for a time, a hospital orderly in a British hospital for French soldiers and he wrote a book, called Gallipoli, about the campaign in the Dardanelles. He was Poet Laureate from 1936 until his death in 1967 and is most famous for a series of poems and sonnets entitled Lollingdon Downs and his poem Sea-Fever.



Lollingdon Farm House

- 12 Continue to follow the same track for a further 1.6km when you will pass a children's play area on the left and a Grade II listed house called Filberts on the right.
- 13 A little further on you will reach a public road, turn right and after about 50m bear right again and walk through the Aston Tirrold until you reach the Church of St Michael.

DID YOU KNOW?

Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe are ancient but separate settlements that are listed in the Domesday Book. A range of archaeological finds demonstrate continued activity and occupation in the area from flint tools from the Neolithic period, a Bronze Age well, a Roman floor and coins, a Viking spear, medieval buckles and pins, through to Victorian coins, pottery and bottles.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Church of St Michael in Aston Tirrold is a listed building dating from the 11th Century with certain parts are even older possibly Saxon.

- 14 Turn left at the footpath sign and walk through the churchyard then cross Rectory Lane and in a further 300 metres, cross Baker Street, then carry straight on taking the footpath that emerges by the United Reform Chapel.
- 15 Go right at the Chapel on Spring Lane then turn left into Thorpe Street, walk past the Aston Upthorpe Village Hall to arrive at Aston Upthorpe's All Saints Church).

Route 3

A longish walk up a gentle
incline to the Astons.

Directions

(Continued)

DID YOU KNOW?

All Saints Church is a listed building with the oldest parts of the church dating from the 12th Century; however it may have been built on the site of an earlier church (The Battle of Ashdown) 871 was fought in this neighbourhood and so this site could be the place where King Ethelred, King of Wessex, prayed before the battle.

- 16 Just past the church turn right still in Thorpe Street, and right again also in Thorpe St. Walk past Orchard House and when you reach a T junction, opposite Croft House, turn left, then immediately turn right into The Croft, (continuing along the major road) a road lined with more modern houses.
- 17 Continue along the road until the road bends to the right then at the 30mph sign take the footpath on the left.
- 18 Follow the footpath over a concrete surface bearing slightly left at broken metal kissing gate and continue to the end of the concrete track by an unused stile.
- 19 Continue on in the same direction for a further 250m then turn sharp left and follow the path across the middle of the field alongside and to the right of a long straight drainage ditch.
- 20 When you reach the far side of the field follow the drainage ditch round to the right keeping close to the edge of the field.
- 21 After 250m turn left over a footbridge then ignoring the footpath on your right continue on in same direction towards some farm buildings and the railway line.
- 22 After you pass the farm buildings and some cottages (Leas Cottages) continue along the track in the same direction over a hump back bridge that crosses the railway line.
- 23 Follow the track for another 750m until you reach some other farm buildings where you turn sharp right and follow the footpath across the field towards the church and churchyard.
- 24 At the end of the footpath turn left and enter the churchyard, and facing you, a few metres away, is the rear of a large white gravestone marking Agatha Christie's grave.

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St Marys Church, Cholsey

DID YOU KNOW?

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DID YOU KNOW?

On the site of this barn there was a much older and larger 13th Century barn, in its time the largest in Europe. It was demolished in 1815.

- 25 Walk towards St Mary's Church and then leave the church yard by the main entrance on the eastern side of the church. As you leave the church glance over to your left and you will see a large barn.
- 26 Turn right and keeping to the right and walk carefully down the road passing the Cholsey Primary School on your right.
- 27 After 450m you will reach a mini roundabout turn left, and carry straight along the Wallingford Road retracing your steps back to the Red Lion.

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