



**BRAKSPEAR**

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB  
TRAILS**

Silhouettes of a man and a woman walking a dog, positioned to the right of the text.

**CATHERINE WHEEL  
GORING ON THAMES  
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS  
4.8, 5.5 & 6.8 MILES**






We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at the Catherine Wheel. 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 RG8 9HB and there is a public car park behind the pub.



**Nearest station:** Goring & Streatley station is 0.2 miles away.



**Local bus services:** The Thames Travel bus service, route 135, travels between Goring & Streatley station and Wallingford, via Streatley and Moulsoford as well as the Go Ride Service, route 134/135, which also travels between the station and Wallingford but via South Stoke and Crowmarsh.



*Putting people and places together*

*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)

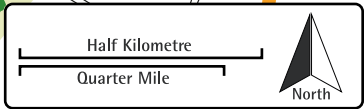
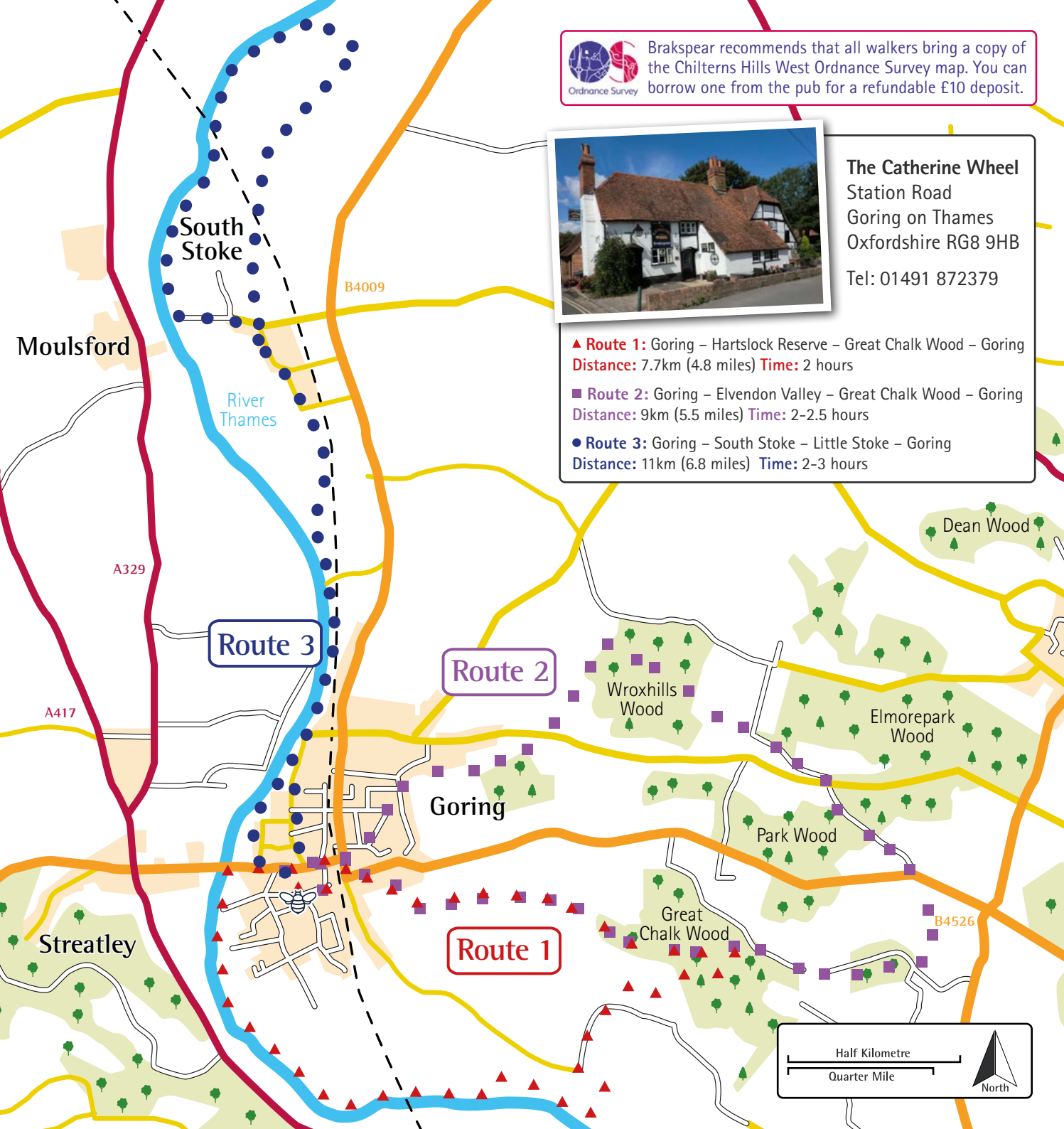


Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Chilterns Hills West Ordnance Survey map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit.



**The Catherine Wheel**  
Station Road  
Goring on Thames  
Oxfordshire RG8 9HB  
Tel: 01491 872379

- ▲ **Route 1:** Goring – Hartslock Reserve – Great Chalk Wood – Goring  
**Distance:** 7.7km (4.8 miles) **Time:** 2 hours
- **Route 2:** Goring – Elvendon Valley – Great Chalk Wood – Goring  
**Distance:** 9km (5.5 miles) **Time:** 2-2.5 hours
- **Route 3:** Goring – South Stoke – Little Stoke – Goring  
**Distance:** 11km (6.8 miles) **Time:** 2-3 hours



# Route 1

A walk along the Thames and then a steep uphill section and wooded walk back to Goring.

## Directions

Distance: 7.7km (4.8 miles) Time: 2 hours

- 01 Leave the pub and then follow the access road to the public car park that runs along the side of the pub.
- 02 Continue on the footpath until you reach the High Street.
- 03 Turn left and walk down hill pass the Village Hall.
- 04 Walk down the steps on the left opposite Pierrepon's café.
- 05 Turn right and walk along the path by Mill Cottage towards the Thames.
- 06 To take a closer look at Goring Lock, turn right when you reach the Thames and walk under the road bridge up to the lock.
- 07 Retrace your steps and continue along the river on the Thames Path.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Over millennia, the Thames has cut into the barrier of the chalk hills to create Goring Gap that separates what are now two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the North Wessex Downs and the Chilterns. As a result it has been a major crossing point and junction for many thousands of years with two ancient tracks The Ridgeway and the Icknield Way crossing the Thames at Goring. This has continued in more recent times with the Great Western Railway exploiting the gap as a route to the West. Goring and Streatley are popular haunts for visitors. There are a number of hostellers on both sides of the Thames and a selection of shops in Goring High Street to attract customers.

- 08 Follow the Thames Path and after about a mile you will pass Little Meadow Nature Reserve and then go under Brunel's fine railway viaduct.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Little Meadow was gifted to The Anne Carpmael Charitable Trust by the Goring and Streatley Environmental Group in February 2012. It is a wildflower meadow some 3 acres in size, it becomes a sea of Ox-Eye Daisies in spring with scattered Snake's Head Fritillary. In summer, a wide variety of native flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees, hoverflies and other invertebrates.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Gatehampton Railway Bridge was built in 1838 at the same time as the Maidenhead and Moulsoford Bridges.

- 09 Eventually the path turns left going away from the river. Follow this until a T junction of paths is reached.
- 10 Turn right following the Thames Path and continue for about 500m until you reach a footpath on the left.

- 11 Leave the Thames Path at this point and follow the footpath uphill to enter the Hartslock Reserve which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 12 When you reach the top, pause for breath and admire the spectacular views of the Thames and its meandering path from Goring. You might like to spend time looking around the reserve before continuing with the walk.
- 13 Leave the reserve via the northern gate and turn left along a track until you reach a metalled road.
- 14 Turn right on to this road following the footpath sign uphill, almost to the top, to just before Upper Gatehampton House. Leave the road and take the footpath on the left.
- 15 Follow this path through a couple of wooden kissing gates and onto a track round the perimeter of Upper Gatehampton Farm.
- 16 With the farm buildings to your right, go through a wooden kissing gate to your left and walk across the meadow to the woodland opposite.
- 17 Go through the wooden kissing gate which has a plaque attached in memory of Alan Rumble who was blind and a very keen Rambler but who sadly died at the age of 32.
- 18 Go straight ahead on the path through the woods, ignoring paths to the left and right.
- 19 At a V junction of paths, take the left hand one and proceed down an incline to a junction of paths and bear left onto the Chiltern Way Extension.
- 20 Continue straight ahead on this path which goes through Great Chalk Wood, ignoring tracks to the left and right. Keep going straight ahead for 750 yards and, ignoring branching paths to the left, continue through a couple kissing gates into open countryside with inclines, declines and with some more great views of the Goring Gap..
- 21 Go down the hill to a gate; cross the playing field heading in a diagonally right direction and proceed through a squeeze stile and through the alleyway into Whitehill's Green.
- 22 Follow this road as it turns left and then right to reach Reading Road.
- 23 Turn left and walk down to Gatehampton Road, turn right and then shortly afterwards left over the railway bridge and the High Street.
- 24 Take the next left road (Red Cross Road) and then right into Station Road again. Walk down the hill until you reach the pub.

# Route 2

A scenic walk with  
two uphill climbs.

## Directions

Distance: 9km (5.5 miles) Time: 2–2.5 hours

- 01 With your back to the front of the Catherine Wheel pub turn left and at the end of the road turn left into Red Cross Road.
- 02 At the end of the High Street, cross over the Railway Bridge, then turn left and after a few yards, cross over the Wallingford Road and into Lockstile Way.
- 03 Walk the length of Lockstile Way down to the end, then take the footpath (Chiltern Way Extension) and after a short distance leave the footpath, bearing right on to a small lane (Fairfield Road) with an unmade surface.
- 04 After another short distance leave the lane and turn right taking a footpath between houses and gardens, continuing straight ahead through a kissing gate adjacent to a five barred gate and into the field.
- 05 Continue along this path through another wooden kissing gate (with a plaque attached in memory of Leslie Drain OBE).
- 06 Ignore the footpath on the left and go straight ahead behind gardens and following a left hand fence along the edge of Battle Plantation until Battle Road is reached.
- 07 Cross over the road and turn right and then almost immediately left to take the path almost opposite (still Chiltern Way Extension).
- 08 Walk along this hedged path to the left of a drive and continue up the hill with good views over towards the Wessex Downs.
- 09 Continue up the path into Wroxhall Woods until a crossroads of paths is reached and turn right onto a fenced bridleway.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Elvendon Priory is a listed brick and flint building nestling in the Elvendon Valley off Elvendon Lane. Despite the name there is no evidence that it was ever a religious establishment but the land it stands on was once owned by Goring Priory. Parts of the building date back to the 15th century.

- 10 Continue straight ahead on this bridleway through the woods, into open countryside where there are fine views of the Elvendon valley and Elvendon Priory.
- 11 Walk down the hill until the Elvendon Lane is reached. Turn left and walk along the road for a short distance until you reach another bridleway on the right.
- 12 Take this bridleway and walk up the hill on a fairly rough surface until the bridleway levels out and you reach the Goring to Crays Pond road.



Elvendon Priory

- 13 Cross over the road and take the path pretty well opposite and walk across the centre of an arable field and then exit the field on a fenced footpath down the hill to Blackbirds Bottom where there is a junction of bridleways.
- 14 Turn right and follow the bridleway downhill past Bottom Farm until a bridleway on the left is reached. Take this bridleway and walk a short distance up the hill until a path is reached on the right signed The Chiltern Way Extension.
- 15 Turn left onto this and walk a short distance up the hill until a path is reached on the right signed The Chiltern Way extension.
- 16 Follow the signs for the Chiltern Way Extension keeping right at a fork and follow the path through Great Chalk Wood ignoring tracks to the left and right and keep going straight ahead for 750 yards, ignoring two branching paths to the left.
- 17 Go through a couple kissing gates into open countryside with inclines, declines and great views of the Goring Gap.
- 18 Go down the hill to a gate. Cross the playing field heading in a diagonal direction and proceed through a squeeze stile and through the alleyway into Whitehill's Green.
- 19 Follow this road as it turns left and then right to reach Reading Road.
- 20 Turn left and walk down to Gatehampton Road, turn right and then shortly afterwards, left over the railway bridge and into High Street.
- 21 Walk down the High Street, past the shops. When you reach the Goring Grocer on the right hand side of the road, take the footpath on the opposite side of road passing the Telephone Exchange building on the left and a car park on the right and return to the pub at the end of the footpath.

# Route 3

An easy walk along a beautiful part of the Thames.

## Directions

Distance: 11km (6.8 miles) Time: 2-3 hours

- 01 Leave the pub and then follow the access road to the public car park that runs along the side of the pub.
- 02 Continue on the footpath until you reach the High Street.
- 03 Turn left and walk down hill along the High Street then turn right into Thames Road.
- 04 Continue along Thames Road in a northerly direction until the end of the road.
- 05 At this point you should see a footpath sign, follow the footpath along the back of a house.
- 06 At the end of the footpath when you reach Cleeve Road, turn left and walk along the road until the road turns sharp right into Mill Road.
- 07 At this point, walk straight ahead on to the Ridgeway Path.
- 08 After the first batch of houses the view opens up with the river on the left, including a view of Cleeve Lock and the river meadow on the far bank of the Thames.
- 09 Soon afterwards, you cross a small lane leading to the Leatherne Bottle, (once a riverside pub but now a restaurant) The building below is just visible from the path.
- 10 After passing another group of houses, you will see the Goring Sailing Club on the left. On a summer's day you are quite likely to see a lot of sailing dinghies on the water below.
- 11 The path goes away from the Thames and passes the Withymead Nature Reserve.
- 12 After about 300m you will enter South Stoke where the path ends and meets a road called The Street.
- 13 Follow the road in same direction passing the Perch and Pike pub and some other buildings including St Andrew's Church.
- 14 After about 100m, turn left into Ferry Lane and after another 150m branch left, and follows signs to the River Thames, Ridgeway and North Stoke (3.5km).
- 15 After about 300m you will reach the Thames and this point you will see the Beetle and Wedge restaurant on the opposite side of the Thames. (The ferry ceased operation in the 1970s).
- 16 Turn right through a gate and walk along the river bank on a well defined path (Ridgeway), passing St John the Baptist Church and Moultsford Preparatory School both visible on the opposite bank of the river.
- 17 After about 1.2km, go under a brick railway bridge and continue straight ahead via a metal and then wooden gate alongside a meadow.
- 18 Continue to follow the path along the Thames until you reach a small hamlet.

- 19 As you approach Little Stoke, you will cross over a wooden footbridge and you will see on your right, in a private garden, a WW2 Pill Box.

### DID YOU KNOW!

There were a large number of Pill Boxes built along the Thames during WW2, at time when Britain feared an invasion by Germany.

- 20 Where the Ridgeway path turns right and then almost immediately turns left, leave the Ridgeway at this point and walk straight ahead on a gravel driveway between two houses, Little Stoke House and the red bricked Ferry Cottage.
- 21 Bear left and continue to follow the driveway for about a 100m until you reach a small lane.
- 22 Follow the lane round to right past the Little Stoke Manor Farm with a brick and flint wall perimeter.
- 23 Walk up to the entrance to Little Stoke Manor and turn left, clambering over the wall via the support stepping stones set in the wall and take the footpath alongside the fence and then over a stile and walk across the field.
- 24 Cross a stile and a wooden bridge into the next field and walk towards the railway embankment.
- 25 Go through the narrow tunnel under the railway line and on emerging from the tunnel, turn left on to a broad grass track that starts to curve away from the railway line.
- 26 When you reach a fork in the footpath bear right on to a narrow path between some houses before emerging on to Ferry Lane.
- 27 Turn right into the lane and walk for about 50m along the lane before turning left into The Street.
- 28 Follow the road pass St Andrews Church and the Perch and Pike.
- 29 When the road turns left sharply, leave the road and follow the Ridgeway Path back to Goring.
- 30 When you reach Cleeve Road walk along the road until you reach the T junction with the High Street.
- 31 Turn right into the High Street Walk down the High Street past the shops.
- 32 When you reach the Goring Grocer on the right hand side of the road, take the footpath on the opposite side and retrace your steps back to the pub.

The Catherine Wheel  
Station Road, Goring on Thames  
Oxfordshire, RG8 9HB

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