



BRAKSPEAR

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB
TRAILS**



**PERCH AND PIKE
SOUTH STOKE
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS
3.1, 6.25 & 9.3 MILES**






We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at the Perch & Pike. 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 RG8 0JS and a car park for customers.



Nearest station: Goring & Streatley station is 2.1 miles away.



Local bus services: Go Ride route 134 stops just outside the pub.



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

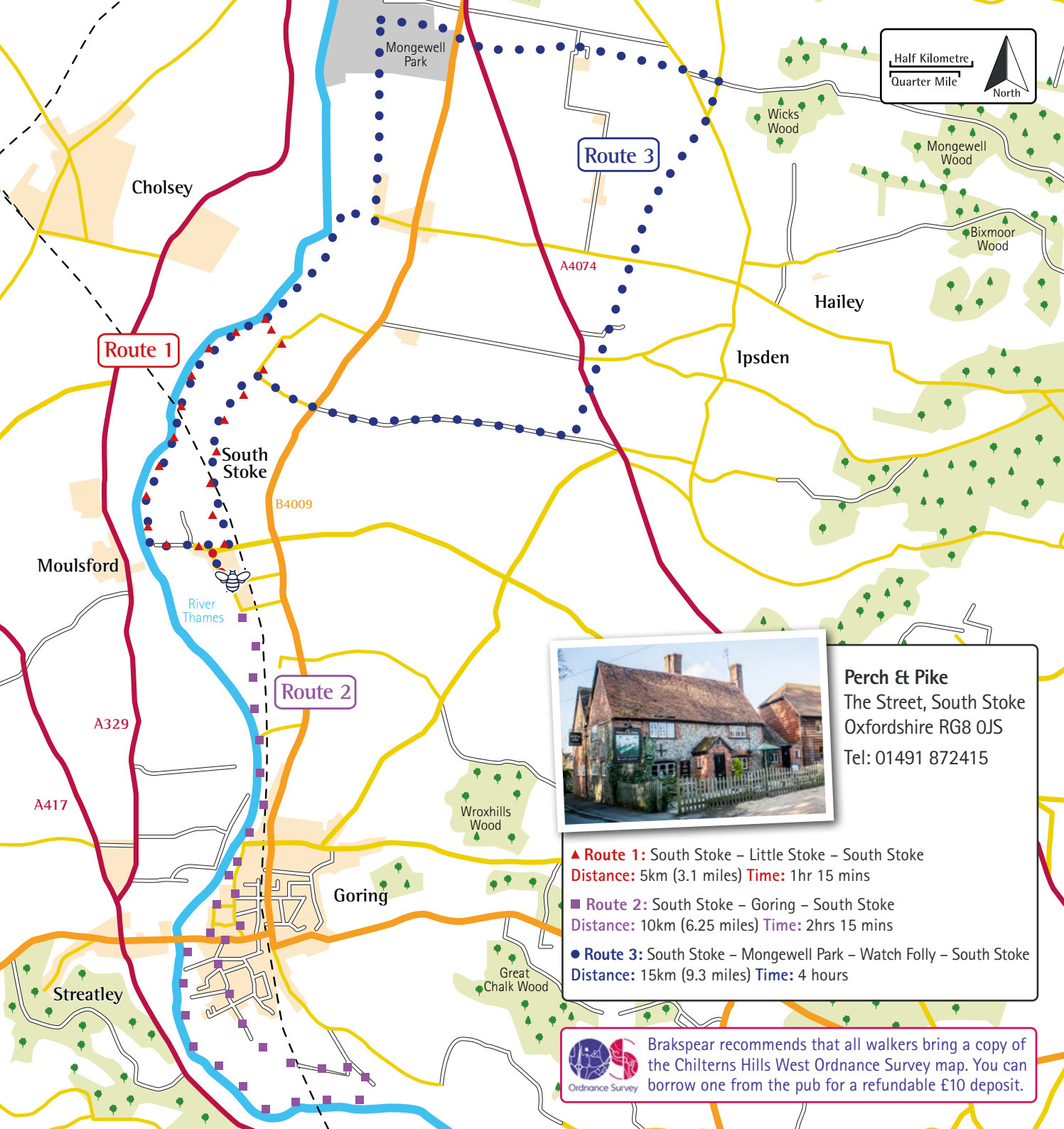
Protect the natural environment:

- 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-countryside-code



Perch & Pike
 The Street, South Stoke
 Oxfordshire RG8 OJS
 Tel: 01491 872415

- ▲ **Route 1:** South Stoke – Little Stoke – South Stoke
Distance: 5km (3.1 miles) **Time:** 1hr 15 mins
- **Route 2:** South Stoke – Goring – South Stoke
Distance: 10km (6.25 miles) **Time:** 2hrs 15 mins
- **Route 3:** South Stoke – Mongewell Park – Watch Folly – South Stoke
Distance: 15km (9.3 miles) **Time:** 4 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

A short easy walk along the Thames on the outward leg.

Directions

Distance: 5km (3.1 miles) Time: 1hr 15 mins

01 Leave the pub and turn right along The Street with some buildings including St Andrew's Church located along it. After about 100m, turn left into Ferry Lane.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Andrews Church dates back to the 13th century and up to dissolution of the monasteries belonged to the Abbey of Eynsham. The Abbey's land was given to Cardinal Wolsey who in turn endowed them to Cardinal College, Oxford, which after Wolsey's fall from grace was renamed Christ Church College.

02 After another 150m, branch left and follows signs to the River Thames, Ridgeway and North Stoke (3.5km).

03 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).

04 Turn right through a gate and walk along the river bank on a well defined path (Ridgeway), passing St John the Baptist Church and Moulsoford Preparatory School both visible on the opposite bank of the river.

05 After about 1.2km, go under a brick railway bridge and continue straight ahead via a wooden gate alongside a meadow.

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.

06 Continue to follow the path along the Thames until you reach a small hamlet.

07 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.

08 Where the Ridgeway path turns right and then almost immediately turns left, leave the path at this point and walk



South Stoke Bridge

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.

straight ahead on a gravel driveway between two houses; Little Stoke House and the red bricked Ferry Cottage.

09 Bear left and continue to follow the driveway for about a 100m until you reach a small lane.

10 Follow the lane round to right pass the Little Stoke Manor Farm with a brick and flint wall perimeter.

11 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.

12 Cross a stile into the next field and walk towards the railway embankment.

13 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.

14 When you reach a fork in the footpath, bear right on to a narrow path between some houses before emerging on to Ferry Lane.

15 Turn right into the lane and walk for about 50m along the lane before turning left into The Street.

16 Follow the road past St Andrews Church back to the pub.

Route 2

A medium length but easy walk along the Ridgeway and the Thames.

Directions

Distance: 10km (6.25 miles) Time: 2hrs 15 mins

01 Leave the pub and turn left along The Street and carry on until the road turns left sharply. At this point, carry on straight on the Ridgeway path.

02 Continue along the path until you reach the Withymead Nature Reserve.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Withymead Nature Reserve consists of 22 acres of woodland and marshland that appeals to naturalists, walkers, artists and families alike. The nature reserve is open by prior arrangement with The Anne Carpmael Charitable Trust.

This area was the location of Saunders Boatyard between 1892 and 1912. The company moved to the Isle of Wight and became famous as Saunders Roe builder of flying boats and sea planes. In 1957 the company became the British Hovercraft Corporation.

03 Continue along the Ridgeway past the Goring Sailing club and shortly afterwards, just visible from above is the Leathern Bottle, once a riverside pub but now a up market restaurant.

04 Cross the access road to the Leathern Bottle and continue along the Ridgeway and after about 500m through the trees you should be able to see Cleeve Lock below.

05 After passing a group of houses, the track opens out on to Cleeve Road.

06 Carry on walking along the road in same direction and after about 500m take the footpath on the right hand of the road and follow the footpath around the rear of some houses until it emerges on to Thames Road.

07 Walk along Thames Road until the T junction with Goring High Street.

08 Turn right and then cross over the road by Pierrepoints café and walk down the steps and take the path by Mill Cottage towards the Thames.

09 To take a closer look at Goring Lock, turn right and walk under the road bridge up to the lock.

10 Retrace your steps and continue along the river on the Thames Path.

11 Pass under the Gatehampton Railway Bridge built by Brunel, built in 1838 at the same time as the Maidenhead and Moulsoford Bridges.

12 At Ferry Cottage, the Thames Path turns left and after a few yards then right. At this point, leave the Thames Path and instead turn left and take the footpath back towards Gatehampton.



St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring

13 After a short distance the path becomes a metalled road and then you will then pass Gatehampton Manor and Farm building on your left.

14 Take the next left, passing where South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG) are actively excavating a Roman Villa.

15 After 50m, bear right and follow the wide track towards the railway line and walk through a tunnel under the railway.

16 Bear right as you emerge from the tunnel and cross the field to exit into Manor Road.

17 Continue to walk along until you come to a junction with Station Road. If refreshments are needed, the John Barleycorn pub is on the opposite side of the road. Alternately you could turn right and walk up Station Road for a short distance to the Catherine Wheel pub.

18 Continue on past the John Barleycorn and on left is St. Thomas of Canterbury Church.

19 When you reach the T junction, turn right and walk up Goring High Street for approximately 150m and then turn left into Cleeve Road.

20 Continue along the road for about 700m until the road turns right sharply.

21 Leave the road at this point, walking straight on to the Ridgeway and follow the footpath back to South Stoke.

22 As you enter South Stoke, rejoin The Street and return to the Perch and Pike.

Route 3

A long walk involving
two uphill stretches.

Directions

Distance: 15km (9.5 miles) Time: 4 hours

- 01 Leave the pub and turn right along The Street with some buildings including St Andrew's Church located along it. After about 100m, turn left into Ferry Lane.
- 02 After another 150m, branch left and follows signs to the River Thames, Ridgeway and North Stoke (3.5km).
- 03 After about 300m you will reach the Thames and at this point you will see the Beetle and Wedge restaurant on the opposite side of the Thames. (The ferry ceased operation in the 1970s).
- 04 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.
- 05 After about 1.2km go under a brick railway bridge. Continue straight ahead via a wooden gate alongside a meadow.
- 06 Continue to follow the path along the Thames until you reach the small hamlet of Little Stoke. Continue along the same path, the ex Fairmile Mental Hospital buildings, now converted into flats and apartments, will be visible on the opposite bank.
- 07 Continue to follow the Thames for 1km to North Stoke. The footpath ends at St Mary the Virgin Church at North Stoke.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Mary the Virgin Church is 13th century with some 14th century paintings. Dame Clare Butt, a celebrated English contralto, is buried in the churchyard.

- 08 Walk through the churchyard, then along the Church Lane until the T junction with The Street then turn left and follow The Street through North Stoke.
- 09 When the tarmac road ends, follow a broad track (Ridgeway), across the Springs Golf Course towards the Mongewell Estate.
- 10 After about 1km, leave the track and turn right on to a footpath that crosses an open field.
- 11 Walk past a row of houses on the left and then continue on up a slope pass a much larger house with a court yard and the footpath bears right to exit the field onto B4009.
- 12 Cross the road diagonally and take the footpath on the opposite side of the road that crosses another field to the A4074.
- 13 Cross this major road with care and pick up the footpath on the other side of the road and follow the path to Sheepcote Farm.
- 14 On approaching the farm, make a sharp left and right and walk through the farm yard and then pick up the footpath again across the field.
- 15 Cross over Cox's Lane and follow the track downhill.
- 16 At the junction with a small lane turn right past some cottages (known as Forest Row) and walk along the lane for about 400m until you reach a T Junction.
- 17 Cross straight over following the footpath opposite and after about 1km you will reach a red and white pole (marking an buried gas pipeline) close to the footpath at Drunken Bottom.
- 18 After a further 250m cross over the road and continue on the footpath behind Larkstoke House and continue until you reach another small lane.
- 19 Cross over the lane into a small copse where you find a small stone memorial.
- 20 Leave the copse and follow the same footpath across the field until you reach the A4074.
- 21 Cross the A4074 again with care and follow in the same direction picking up the footpath on the opposite of the road.
- 22 Follow the path across a very chalky field around the side of the hill until you intersect with another footpath turn right on to this new footpath.
- 23 As you walk up hill towards Watch Folly, you will notice on your left the Chiltern Aero-sports Centre and the two large green tanks part of a new Anaerobic Digester.
- 24 At the top of the hill, pause to take in the view and in a small copse you will find another small memorial.
- 25 Continue on the footpath down the hill until you reach the B4009 road.
- 26 Cross the road and walk down the lane opposite until the lane makes a sharp right. Walk up to the entrance to Little Stoke Manor and turn left over the wall using the support stepping stones set in the wall.
- 27 Follow the footpath alongside the fence and then over a stile. Walk through the field, cross another stile into the next field and walk towards the railway embankment.
- 28 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.
- 29 When the you reach a fork in the footpath bear right on to a narrow path between some houses before emerging on to Ferry Lane.
- 30 Turn right into the lane and walk for about 50m along the lane before turning left into The Street.
- 31 Follow the road pass St Andrews Church back to the pub.

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www.perchandpike.co.uk
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