



BRAKSPEAR

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB
TRAILS**



**RAINBOW INN
MIDDLE ASSENDON
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS
4.3, 4.4 & 5.7 MILES**



We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at the Rainbow 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 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 6AU with a car park for customers.



Nearest station: Henley-on-Thames station is 2.8 miles away.



Local bus services: The 139 Thames Travel service stops just a mile's walk away from the Rainbow Inn.



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

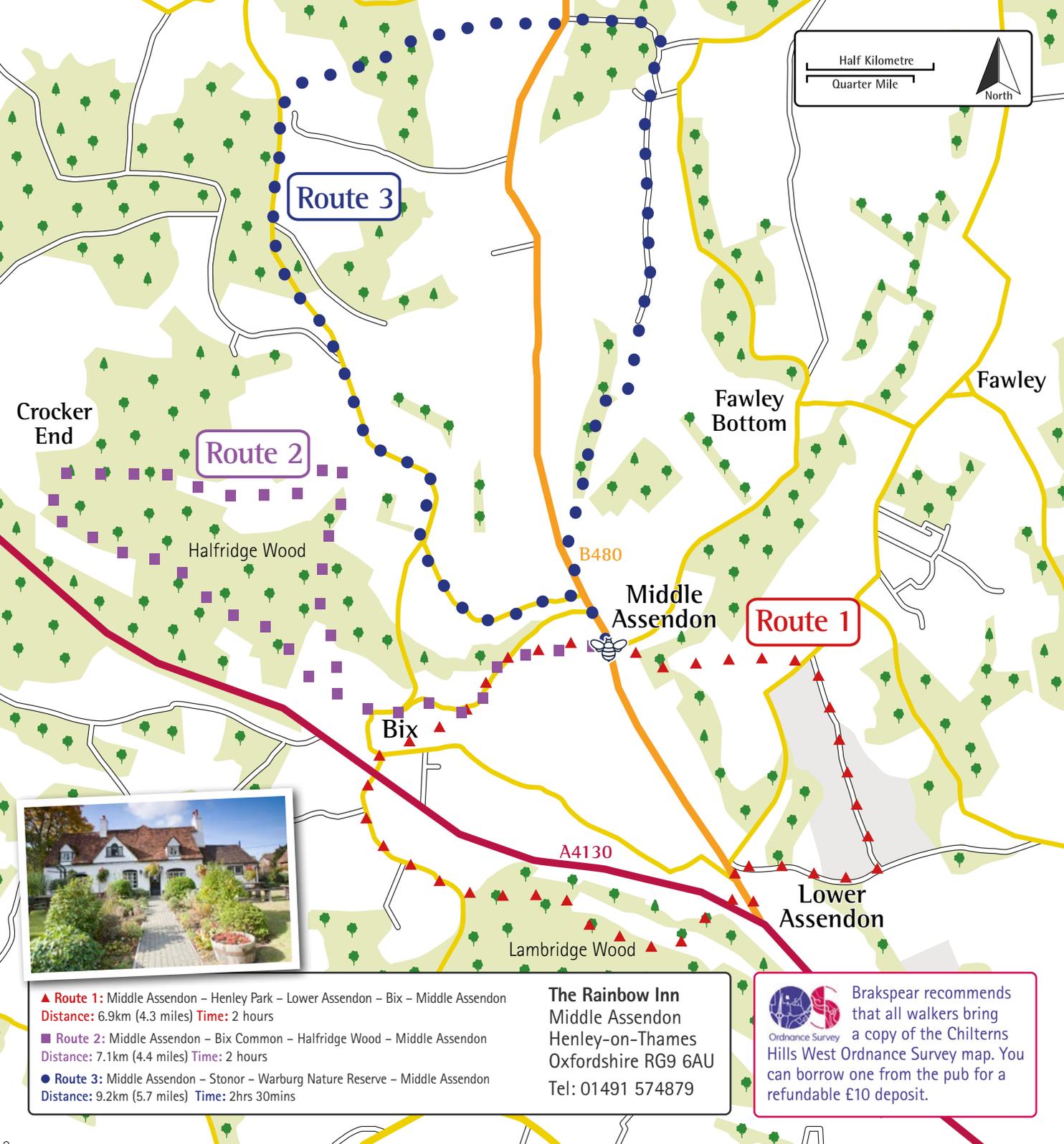
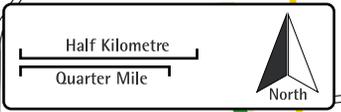
Protect the natural environment:

- 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



Route 3

Route 2

Route 1



- ▲ **Route 1:** Middle Assendon – Henley Park – Lower Assendon – Bix – Middle Assendon
Distance: 6.9km (4.3 miles) Time: 2 hours
- **Route 2:** Middle Assendon – Bix Common – Halfridge Wood – Middle Assendon
Distance: 7.1km (4.4 miles) Time: 2 hours
- **Route 3:** Middle Assendon – Stonor – Warburg Nature Reserve – Middle Assendon
Distance: 9.2km (5.7 miles) Time: 2hrs 30mins

The Rainbow Inn
Middle Assendon
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire RG9 6AU
Tel: 01491 574879

 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

Not a long walk but with some quite steep sections.

Directions

Distance: 6.9km (4.3 miles) Time: 2 hours

- 01 Turn right from the pub car park and then left into Fawley Bottom Lane.
- 02 Walk past the right turn into Mill Close. Shortly afterwards turn right on to a footpath, continue along the same path as it rises steeply for 1km, crossing a number of stiles on the way.
- 03 Cross the road and follow the footpath (Oxfordshire Way) opposite which descends to pass Henley Park.

DID YOU KNOW?

Henley Park was a medieval deer park and the house was once the dower house for Fawley Court.

- 04 At the cross-track, shortly after Henley Park, turn right and follow the path which descends to Lower Assendon.
- 05 Turn left and follow the road to meet the main A4130.
- 06 Cross the main road and turn right for a few yards before turning left on a footpath which skirts the left hand edge of a cemetery.
- 07 Climb quite steeply for 400 metres and then turn right on a well-defined path.
- 08 Follow this path for about 500 metres and at the first waymark post, opposite a cottage, bear left then at the second way mark post where the tracks cross turn right and proceed along the side of the cottage garden.
- 09 Continue along the same access drive for about 700 metres until it meets a public road. Go straight ahead following the road sign to Bix, passing Bix Manor on the right hand side and on the opposite side of the road the restored Water Tank.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bix Manor is a 17th century house with alterations dating from 19th and 20th centuries. It is now popular as a wedding and functions venue.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Water Tank at Bix was constructed in 1895. Water has always been scarce in the Chilterns but during the second half of the 19th Century, it was discovered that a lack of clean drinking water was not just an inconvenience, but the cause of significant and often fatal diseases such as cholera. Consequently, efforts were made to improve the water supply. After the advent of piped water, the tank fell into disuse and became derelict but was eventually restored between 1998 and 2002. Boris Johnson MP took part in the commemoration ceremony.



Henley Park House

On reaching the main road (A4130), cross it with care, then continue on in the same direction along the minor road opposite to Bix Church.

- 10 Walk diagonally across Bix Common from the Church to a road.
- 11 Turn right and walk down White Lane for roughly 300 metres then turn right on to a footpath, marked by a finger post, and go through a kissing gate set back from the road before following the path downhill to reach the B480. Turn left and return to the Rainbow Inn.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1875 St James' Church at Bix replaced the tiny ruined Church at Bix Bottom.



St James' Church, Bix

Route 2

A medium length walk with a couple of steep climbs en route.

Directions

Distance: 7.1km (4.4 miles) Time: 2 hours

- 01 Take the footpath marked with a metal finger post to the left hand side of the pub (as you face it).
- 02 Go through the wooden kissing gate, across a small paddock, and through another gate.
- 03 Continue on the path (along the edge of the field) to another kissing gate.
- 04 Go through this and climb up a steep path, fenced on the left hand side.
- 05 Continue on to enter a leylandii-lined wide tarmacked track, and then through the wooden kissing gate at the top.
- 06 Turn left up the lane (White Lane) to reach Bix Common Field at the top.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bix Common is owned by a group of nine householders by virtue of their ownership of houses in the parish. The establishment of the Commons dates back to 1300s and is not unique in England. In the 1800s, a small weekly livestock market took place on the Common. During the 1939-45 War the scrub was cleared and the land used for cultivation. The present owners meet periodically and decided on its management. Currently it is leased for hay making according to a strict timetable.

- 07 Continue along the lane with the common on your left hand side, passing large houses on your right. At the point where the lane bears left (and with a small close of houses on the right), go straight ahead onto a bridleway (marked with a metal finger post).
- 08 Follow this track straight ahead across a large field to enter woodland.
- 09 Continue straight ahead, ignoring tracks or paths on either side for about a third of a mile.



© Andrew Smith

Bix Common



© John Brightley

Footpath adjacent to Halfridge

- 10 Just before Halfridge House (on the right), take the footpath on the right (going through a large farm gate) to go sharply downhill.
- 11 At the bottom of this path, turn right along a wide grassy track heading gently downhill. At the end (with a fenced field ahead of you), bear right and then follow the path around to the left to continue straight ahead (fenced pheasant enclosures on your right hand side).
- 12 Go through the wooden kissing gate and then straight ahead along the edge of a large field to a further kissing gate, and onto a stony path.
- 13 Continue along this until you reach a wooden kissing gate on your right hand side (this is several hundred yards before the farm buildings and houses at Bix Bottom).
- 14 Go through this gate (with steps), and climb sharply uphill to another kissing gate. Go through this and follow the track slightly uphill through the woods.
- 15 As the path levels out, you will see a large field ahead of you.
- 16 The path bends around to the left and then take the footpath (marked with white arrows on your right hand side) to emerge into a large open field.
- 17 Take the path straight ahead through the field. At the end, turn left to re-join the bridleway which you walked along on the outbound leg.
- 18 Follow the Lane downhill and after several hundred metres, take the footpath on your right, through the kissing gate and continue downhill along the leylandii-lined track. Through the kissing gate, round the field, through the two further kissing gates to return to The Rainbow.

Note: Watch out for cattle and keep dogs on a lead.

Route 3

A medium length walk with a couple of steep climbs en route.

Directions

Distance: 9.2m (5.7 miles) Time: 2hrs 30mins

- 01 With the pub on your left hand side, walk up the road (B480) for a short distance (approximately ¼ mile) until you reach a metal finger post marking the start of the footpath on your right hand side.
- 02 Take this uphill path across an arable field before entering a wood on the left. Follow this narrow path up through the wood, climbing over the stile as the path exits the wood.
- 03 Continue on the path (which follows the hedge line on your left) with lovely views back down towards Middle Assendon.
- 04 Follow the track around to the left to continue along the top of the ridge which looks down on the left along the Stonor Valley.
- 05 Continue on this track, reaching a large house (Coxlease Farm) on your left hand side.
- 06 Go through the metal kissing gate and then take the next metal kissing gate, on your left, to enter a farmyard.
- 07 Go straight ahead and then follow the track round to the right.
- 08 After approximately 100 yards and before the bend in the track, look for and take the footpath on your left (marked with a white arrow on a tree), and go sharply downhill, the fencing on your right hand side marks the perimeter of the Stonor Deer Park.
- 09 At the bottom of the hill where the path meets the road in the middle of Stonor village, turn left and then very shortly afterwards, take the hedge-lined footpath on the right (Chiltern Way) to a wooden kissing gate.
- 10 Go through the gate and follow the path uphill to a further kissing gate. Carry on up the hill to another kissing gate, at the top of the field and at the entrance to a wood. There are wonderful views behind you of Stonor House and the valley below.

DID YOU KNOW?

Stonor Park is the family home of Lord and Lady Camoys and the Stonor family for over 800 years with a 13th century chapel with earlier origins, built on the site of a pagan stone circle. The house was built in the late 12th century and developed until the mid 18th century. An annual Craft Fair is held in the grounds over the August Bank Holiday.

- 11 Continue on the path through the wood, emerging into a large arable field. Walk across the field on the normally well delineated path.
- 12 On reaching the waymark post at the edge of the field, turn left, passing a cottage on your right hand side.
- 13 At the end of this very short path, with Lodge Farm on your left, turn right and then almost immediately left onto a wide stony path which runs through the Warburg Nature Reserve.



© Phoebe Taplin

Stonor Deer Park, Henley

DID YOU KNOW?

The Warburg Nature Reserve is owned and run and owned by BBOWT. It is a remote and magnificent place, rich in exciting plants and animals all through the year.

- 14 Ignore the path to your right and continue along this wide wooded path until you reach a junction.
- 15 Take the right hand fork, downhill to reach a tarmac road at Bix Bottom (The Oxfordshire Way).
- 16 Turn left along this road, for approx ¾ mile, passing the ruins of the medieval St. James Church and Bix Bottom Farm.

DID YOU KNOW?

St James Church dating back to the 1600s was abandoned in the 19th Century when the hamlet relocated to Bix and the Assendons.

- 17 At the small road junction, keep left following the road back for 1/2 mile to Middle Assendon. At the end of the road, turn right to return within a few hundred yards to The Rainbow pub

Note: Watch out for cattle and keep dogs on a lead.



© Rachel Hudson

Bluebell Walk through Warburg Nature Reserve

The Rainbow Inn
Middle Assendon
Henley-on-Thames
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www.brakspear.co.uk



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