

Walk 8: Woodley Precinct to Twyford Crossroads (linear)

This is a short linear walk from the centre of Woodley to the centre of Twyford, via Woodford Park, old Woodley, Ashbury Park, Lands End and Loddon Nature Reserve to Twyford crossroads where the walk ends. You return to Woodley using Thames Valley Buses Nos 127/128. **Warning.** Check the bus times before you set out. The service is approximately hourly with the last bus mid-afternoon on Mondays to Fridays (later on Saturdays). There is no service on Sundays. See www.courtneybuses.com (Routes & Times) – name changed in April 2021.

Length

3.2 miles (5.2 km). Allow 1hours 30 mins plus stops.

Starting & Return Points

Start

- Bus 13/19a** **Chequers** stop. Beechwood Avenue.
14/19c **Chequers** stop A. Headley Road. Join the walk at point (3).
Car **Headley Road Car Park (Pay & Display)** Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JA
OS Grid Ref: SU7621 7328. w3w ///summer.neck.sprint.

Return

- Bus 127/128** **Twyford Crossroads** stop. Thames Valley Buses. By the Old Post Office.

Refreshments

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Various Cafes & Pub | In Woodley Precinct | Heron on the Ford pub | At point (14) |
| Oakwood Centre cafe | Near point (2) | Waggon & Horses pub | Near point (19) |
| Bull and Chequers pub | At point (8) | Various Cafes & Pubs | In the centre of Twyford |

Route Instructions (See maps below for numbered points)

1



From the 13/19a bus stop on Beechwood Avenue, walk along the right-hand pavement towards a pedestrian crossing, but do not cross it. Instead go straight ahead to reach a second crossing in front of the Chequers pub. This is point (2) below.

Alternative Starting points

If starting the walk from Headley Road Car Park, follow the instructions from the pedestrian crossing outside the Chequers pub at point (2) below. If starting the walk from the 14/19c bus stop on Headley Road, walk in the direction of bus travel and join the walk at point (3).

2



Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, and turn right along the pavement, passing the Oakwood Centre on your left, to reach the gate to the War Memorial. This is point (3) below.

3



Turn sharp left through the gateway (to the left of a brick pillar, and after a few paces, turn right and then walk to a path junction in front of Coronation Hall. This is point (4) below.

4



Turn left and follow the path between two large trees. At the next path junction bear right to reach a metal barrier at a road. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Turn right along the right-hand pavement and continue to the road junction with Haddon Drive. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Cross Haddon Drive and turn right. Continue along the left-hand pavement to reach the junction with Butts Hill Road. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Turn left and then right to cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. On the other side of the road turn left, then right into Church Road. Walk along the right-hand pavement of Church Road to reach a road junction by a post-box, with the Bull & Chequers pub to your right. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Bear left to continue along right-hand pavement of Church Road for about 600m, passing St John's Church on your left. Eventually you reach the junction of Church Lane, Duffield Road and Tippings Lane. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Turn right along Tippings Lane, cross Brandon Avenue shortly reaching the Tippings Lane/Denmark Road Junction. The yellow entrance barriers to Ashenbury Park are ahead. This is point **(10)** below.

10



From the entrance to Ashenbury Car Park follow the car park road to the left to the main park entrance. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Go through the yellow barrier into the park. (There is a children's play area to your left.) Continue straight ahead on a tarmac path. The path becomes gravel and enters a wood. Continue on the path which comes to another wood in front of you as the path bears right. There are two black benches on your left 'hidden' in the edge of the wood out of your line of sight. Where the wood on your left ends come to a fork in the path. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn left and walk on the path with the wood on your left to come to a black litter bin. Continue in the same direction across the grass (be careful not to stray left to the table & chairs) to reach the trees. Turn left at the trees and walk with them on your right. Come to a litter bin. Turn right to reach a wooden barrier and the exit to the park. This is point **(13)** below.

13



Cross Beggars Hill Road (unsigned) and enter Lands End Lane opposite. Walk along Lands End Lane. Just before the end of the road and to the right of the pub car park, reach a footpath fingerpost on your right. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Take the footpath: it passes behind the Heron on the Ford pub. Continue on the path and cross the river at a footbridge (Giddy Bridge). Keep on the path: it bears sharp right to run parallel with Whistley Mill Lane. Go over the stile in the corner of the field. Cross a footbridge (Copper Bridge) to reach the road. Continue in the same direction for 20m to reach a path on your left. (footpath sign). This is point **(15)** below.

15



Turn left onto the footpath and walk past a lake on your right and then another on your left. After about 750m come to railway arches. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Go through the arches and immediately turn right to follow a public footpath through Loddon Nature Reserve. After 200m the path turns sharp left to a low-level public footpath marker. Do not follow the wide path but turn right for 10m to reach a public footpath signpost next to the river. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Turn left at the signpost and walk with the river Loddon on your right – the path hugs the riverbank and can be very muddy. Ignoring paths to the left, reach a footbridge where the path turns right. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Go over the bridge and follow the path past a 3-storey brick apartment building on your left the reach another footbridge. Cross the bridge, go up concrete steps, cross the road (Weaver Way), go down concrete steps and follow the path to soon meet the main road. This is point **(19)** below. (To visit the Wagon and Horses pub, turn left at this point)

19



Turn right and follow the right-hand pavement for about 200m into Twyford, to reach the 127/128 bus stop outside the Old Post Office. *As its name suggests, Twyford developed where the two branches of the River Loddon could be safely crossed. These crossing points were instrumental in attracting trade and travellers between the west of England and London, first with packhorses, then wagons and stagecoaches*

