

Route and Points of Interest (continued)

woods, across the bridge and up several steep steps to rejoin the main route.)

There are interesting views over the treetops looking down into the woods from the higher parts of the path.

8. Go through the metal swing gate in the fence on the left and walk ahead between the houses to the large grass area. Walk diagonally over the grass and turn left to cross Appleton Way. Walk along Pergee, turning left and then right with another grassed area on the left. Follow the tarmac footpath out onto Shinfield Road.

There is another very old oak tree on the first grass area. Oaks are 'home' for the largest number of insects and other creatures of all trees in Britain. The windowless square brick building on the second grass area is a purpose-built bat roost. Nearby are the general Shinfield Parish notice board and the parish footpaths notice board. Continuing uphill along Shinfield Road will bring you to a local shopping centre that includes a post office and two pubs.

9. Cross Shinfield Road at the traffic island. Turn left for a short distance then walk along the access path on the right leading to Wilsford Close. Turn right after the garage of house no. 9 on a footpath leading into Pearman's Copse. After three steps, turn left at the track junction and walk ahead to return to the start of the walk. (To avoid the steps, continue along Wilsford Close, turn right into Ryhill Way and walk downhill back to the starting point.)

The section of Pearman's Copse on this stage of the walk is managed to allow natural regeneration. It will change over the years. Thorny scrub provides secure nesting places for birds such as chiffchaff, song thrush and whitethroat. The wildflowers are at their best in the spring.

Footpath Maps

Large maps showing all the footpaths across the Parish are displayed in notice boards situated (a) opposite Grazeley School; (b) on School Green, Shinfield; (c) on Pergee in Shinfield Park; (d) at the entrance to Spring Gardens in Spencers Wood; and (e) by the children's play area at Three Mile Cross. Maps are also displayed in Shinfield Parish Office, at the Library, and in local schools, surgeries and other places.

Footpaths are public rights of way which everyone has a legal right to walk freely. See the Wokingham Borough Council website: www.wokingham.gov.uk. They are shown on Ordnance Survey maps: Explorer no. 159 (1:25,000 scale) and Landranger no. 175 (1:50,000 scale).

This is one of six walk leaflets that are available free from the Shinfield parish office, shops and other outlets. Please call 0118 988 8220 to check the nearest location to you. Most walks will be safeguarded during the housing development that is planned in the parish. If in doubt about the viability of your proposed walk, please phone the parish office on 0118 988 8220 for the latest update on the building works.

The walks can also be downloaded from the Shinfield Parish Council website: www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk and from the WBC site above.

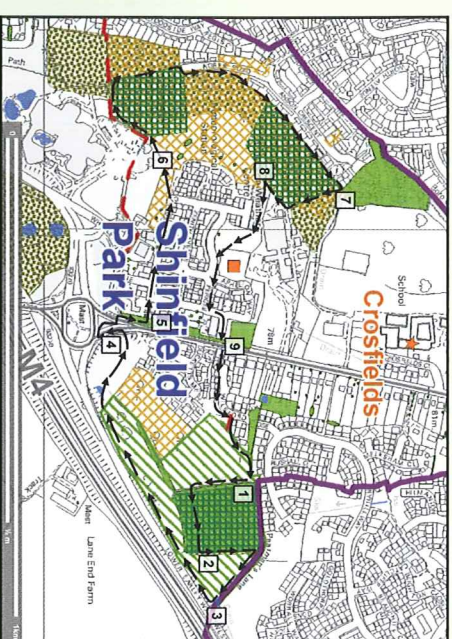
The walks are:

1. Shinfield Village and Ryesh Green
2. Shinfield Village and the River Loddon
3. Around Grazeley
4. Spencers Wood and the River Loddon
5. Three Mile Cross and Woodcock Lane
6. Pearman's Copse and Nores Hill



SHINFIELD PARISH WALK 6

Pearman's Copse and Nores Hill



"We learn to know the nooks and turns of the shady lanes and sunny commons"

Quote from Mary Russell Mitford 1787 -1855.

This leaflet shows one of six walks across different parts of Shinfield Parish.

The Parish has many rights of way linking various facilities and places of interest such as post offices, shops, pubs, schools, the River Loddon and historic buildings.

The walks pass through villages, woodlands rich with wildlife and open fields often providing extensive countryside views.

We hope that you enjoy your walk.

SHINFIELD PARISH WALK 6: Pearman's Copse and Nores Hill. Grid Ref. 738695, 2.5 miles, no stiles, 7 steps split between 3 locations

Route and Points of Interest

1. **START** from the grass area off Ryhill Way and walk towards the information board at the edge of the copse. With the information board on your left walk along the track ahead, over one bridge with three steps down, then on over a second wooden bridge. At the track 'crossroads', turn left. Continue to the next track junction. Pearman's Copse is named on old maps and is a special habitat of semi-natural ancient woodland. The coppiced trees are mainly ash, with field maple, hazel, and some standard ash and oak. The copse is managed traditionally with trees coppiced on a 5-7 years rotation. This will increase the number of plant species and preserve the health of the copse. On the right at point 2 there is a very large old coppiced ash tree.

2. Take the track to the left and at the next path junction turn right. Walk ahead, then turn right again at the next corner, with a step up over tree roots.

This part of the copse is planned as a community woodland with native tree species.

3. Walk along the path through the ash grove, parallel to Lower Earley Way. Ignore the first turn to the right. Where you come out in an open area, take the right fork

round and uphill to the gate onto Shinfield Road (A327). The bank by Lower Earley Way was constructed to help screen the road. The ditch on the opposite side of the path is a historical wood bank, with veteran field maple trees. The area at the top of the path was established in 2005, when the Black Boy roundabout was constructed. There is a wildlife pond and many native trees have been planted. The trunks of large trees that had to be felled were retained and later



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placed vertically in the ground to provide habitats for bats, woodpeckers, insects and fungi. (The area is nicknamed 'Woodhenge'.)

4. Turn left at Shinfield Road and cross at the traffic lights to get to the other side. Turn right and walk uphill approximately 50 yards then turn left along the tarmac footpath into the Shinfield Park housing area. Roadside trees were preserved as a setting for the new housing. The

adjacent Shinfield Players Theatre and the Foster Wheeler building can be reached through the housing area.

5. Walk ahead toward the tall trees, along Cirrus Drive and into Pascal Crescent. Go through the metal swing gate into the Nores Hill woodland.

The three magnificent old oak trees on the left are reminders that this area was once part of Windsor Forest and the royal hunting grounds.

6. Take the track ahead (on the left) through the trees and beside the metal boundary fence. Follow on downhill then turn right onto a concrete roadway. Walk along to a further point along the fence. Turn right and walk by the fence through the wood. Ignore small paths on the right until just before the path ends against the fence, then turn right where the track leads clearly uphill.

The wood is semi-ancient woodland and a Local Wildlife Site with a variety of wild flower and tree species. It has only recently been opened fully for public access. During World War II this was part of an RAF camp and the concrete roadway and one remaining lampost are relics of that time. Previously the woodland was coppiced in a rotation system whereby hazel trees in different areas were cut back to the ground at different times. The mounds that divided these areas are still apparent in parts of the wood. It is intended to restore the woodland and to start the coppicing again. This will maintain and should increase the biodiversity of the area and walkers are requested to keep to the paths.

7. Follow the track uphill. At the junction in the path take the left track then at the boundary fence turn right to continue uphill. (For an alternative, take the track to the right and go uphill through the

The walk can be started at any point and taken in either direction • Appropriate footwear should be worn • Dogs should be on leads