

## Route and Points of Interest (continued)

when they were walked from Hampshire and western counties up to the markets in London. The railway is the Reading to Basingstoke line, built to link the western and south western routes from London.

**4. Turn right along the footpath, then take the next path on the right. Pass under the railway and continue along the track called Shepherdton Lane. At the road junction take the footpath opposite, going diagonally across the field, then along the edge of the field and over the stile to the path by the Church. Turn right opposite the church, across the village green back to the school and the starting point of the walk.**

These are quiet fields and lanes. Holy Trinity Church is now closed, but the churchyard is open and has some fine trees including large yew trees. The church is Victorian, as are many of the houses in Grazeley. The second house from the church is Grade II listed, and is a careful conversion from the former Wheatsheaf pub, which had an early 19th century front part and a 16th century alehouse at the back. The pond on the right of the village green has an attractive range of marginal flowering plants. The village hall hosts many functions for Grazeley and the surrounding communities.

# 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 Perigee 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](http://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](http://www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk) and from the WBC site above.

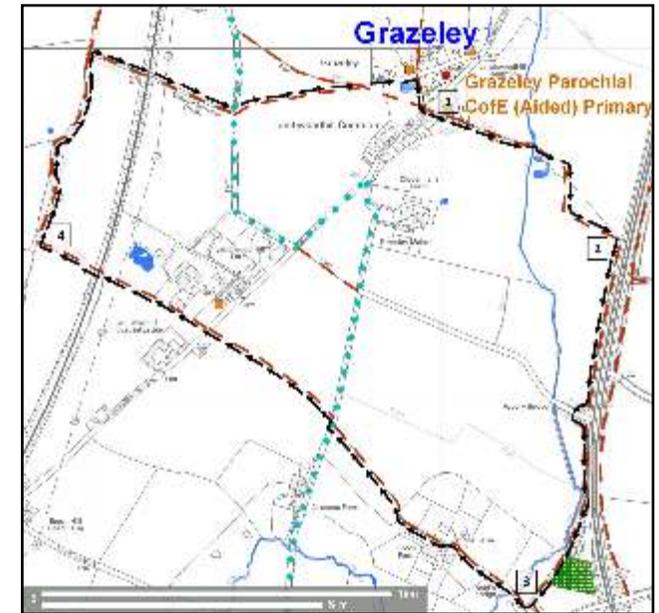
The walks are:

1. **Shinfield Village and Ryeish 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 3

### Around Grazeley



*"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.

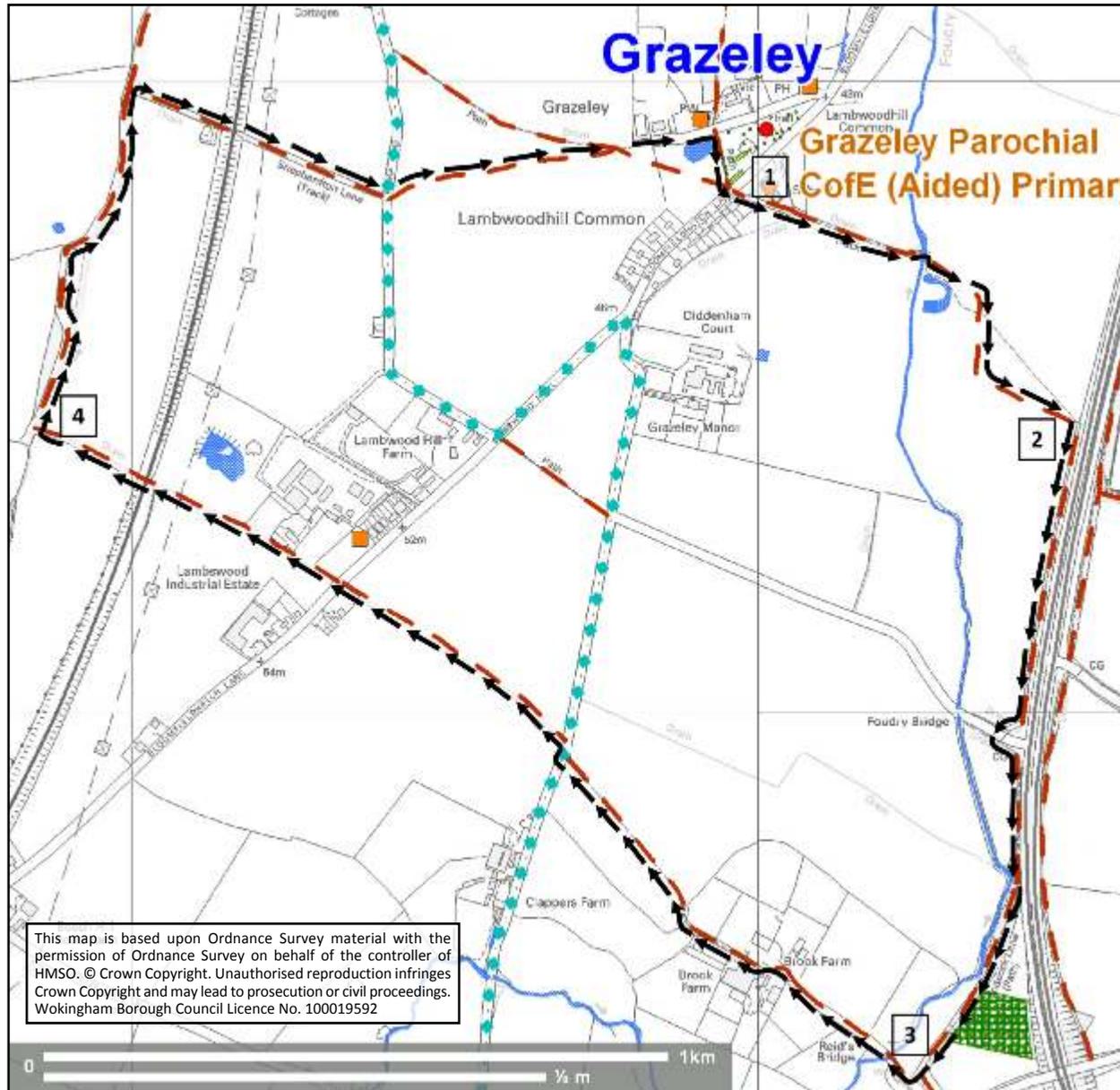


## Route and Points of Interest

**1. START** from the track beside Grazeley School and follow the footpath ahead. Cross the footbridge over the Foudry Brook and continue across the field to the far boundary. Lambwood Hill Common is on the left.

Grazeley School was opened in 1861 and is a popular primary school. The Foudry Brook flows north to link with the River Kennet south of Reading and thence into the Thames. The hills ahead across the by-pass separate this flat landscape from the Loddon valley and the rest of Shinfield parish to the east. Lines of trees mark the course of the Foudry Brook and its tributary streams. Beside the footbridge is an ox-bow lake, a former part of the Brook, and this harbours many plants, birds and animals special to wetland areas. In spring it is bright with yellow irises.

**2. Turn right** through the gate in the fence and walk along the footpath. Cross the minor road and continue ahead, with the Foudry Brook shortly on the right. The path then leaves the brook and widens into a track along the edge of woodland. Continue to a junction of paths.



The footpath winds between hazel, willow and other trees and shrubs, and young trees growing thickly on the banks of the by-pass muffle the sound of traffic somewhat. In the woodland, the track goes between raised banks, and may be an ancient track way. The woodland is Norman's Shaw, a semi-natural ancient woodland. Oak and ash trees have been grown here for their timber, and the hazel was coppiced to provide poles and smallwood. Now the wood is a wildlife haven where many butterflies can be seen on warm days.

**3. Turn right** and walk along the footpath ahead through Brook Farm. Cross the minor road and continue through the fields beyond. Cross the next road with Lambwood Hill Farm on the right, go over the stile and walk on to cross carefully over the railway. Continue ahead, crossing a wooden bridge.

Deer may be seen by quiet walkers. The path is part of the southern boundary of the Parish, and the first road crossed is part of the National Cycle Route. The names of the farms, roads and fields indicate how important sheep farming has been. In the past, sheep were rested here and fattened up ▶