

Route and Points of Interest (continued)

In spring and summer a wide variety of wildflowers flourishes on the verges and banks. The ditches widen into ponds at corners, and all are full of water during spells of wet weather. At times the water spreads across the lanes. Trees and bushes on banks above the ditches shelter the lanes in winter, and remnants of copses remain along the route. Where the walk leaves Clares Green Road, a few yards down the track opposite is the timber-fenced animal pound that is used when cattle are brought to graze in the adjacent Local Wildlife Site fields.

4. Go across the junction to walk beside the end house, then carry on across the fields. Follow the path ahead to a junction of tracks. Go obliquely across, and continue until you meet the path leading downhill on the right which leads back to the start of the walk.

Where the route leaves Ryeish Green, old maps show 'Ryeish Gate' and this is an old pathway on the high drier ground between Basingstoke Road and Shinfield. It is proposed that this section of the walk will be widened to become a joint footpath and cycleway. The open farmland contrasts with the tree-lined lanes on the lower land, and larks nest here in 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 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. 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.

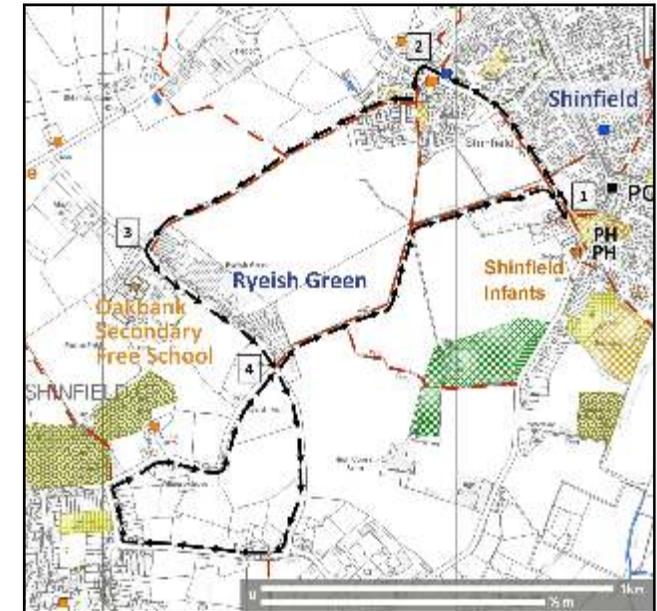
The walks are:

1. Shinfield Village and 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 1

Shinfield Village and Ryeish Green



"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.

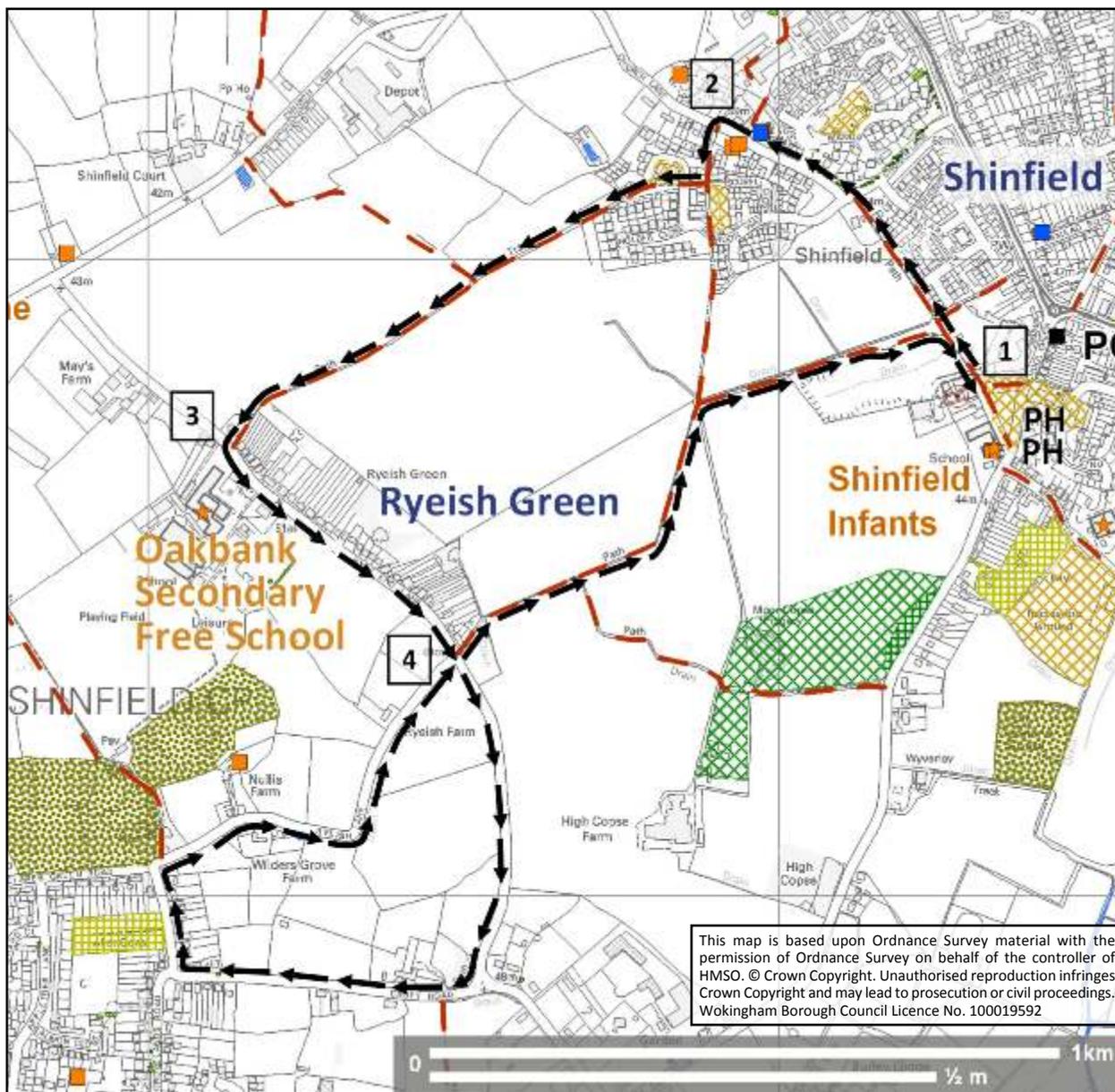


Route and Points of Interest

1. START from the Parish Hall at School Green, cross the access road that leads to the Health Centre and walk ahead uphill, coming out on Church Lane. Cross the road and walk ahead to **St Mary's Church**.

Near the Green, the village post office and general store is one of several facilities that include the petrol filling station with its shop and café, the cycle shop and estate agents. The Parish Hall and British Legion hall hold many functions and the Green is used for the May Day Fair and other events. The Infants School with its bell tower is a Grade II listed building dating from 1707. The fields around the path used to be worked for gravel extraction. St Mary's Church dates in part from Norman times. It has a special window depicting the features of the parish. Opposite the Church are several interesting old buildings including Church Farm House and its granary on staddle stones.

2. Opposite the church hall walk down the tarmac path and take the first turn on the right (just at the beginning of the cemetery on the left). Continue to the end of the path, keeping the play park to the right. Follow the path keeping to high ground across farmland to



Ryeish Green. Turn left at the road and walk along it to the road junction.

From the fields there are extensive views looking north over the Thames Valley beyond Reading to the Chiltern Hills in Oxfordshire. Ryeish Green is a small settlement with some early twentieth century houses, many of which have distinctive decorative brickwork. The old school buildings date from 1910. When the local authority school was closed in 2010, a vigorous community campaign resulted in the establishment of the Oakbank Secondary Free School in 2012. Part of the playing fields remains in the ownership of Shinfield Parish. The plant nursery is a long-established family business.

3. This section of the walk includes narrow lanes with grass verges. They are one-way lanes which have very little traffic. You walk facing traffic and must be prepared to stand on the verges if any cars come along. Walk straight ahead at the intersection down to the next junction. Turn right along Croft Road and walk along to its end. Turn right and walk up Clares Green Road to the corner, then turn right again and walk along this lane to return to the intersection at the start of this loop.