

Route and Points of Interest (continued)

new weir bypass which enables fish and eels to travel upstream to migrate and spawn. Follow the path (which is sometimes poorly defined) going slightly to the right across the fields to the Arborfield Road (A327). Leave the fields by a high stile at the road and turn right to walk carefully along the grass verge. Here you can continue the walk, or go back directly to the starting point at School Green, crossing the A327 to walk on the pavement into the village.

The fields can become very wet when it is advisable to cut across to slightly higher ground further away from the river. The A327 Arborfield Road was a major historic route south from the Thames Valley to Yateley or to Wokingham.

4. Immediately before the Magpie and Parrot pub turn right to the next footpath bypassing a stile. Walk along the path, cross the footbridge and bear left on the footpath beside the hedge, then take the farm track out to Cutbush Lane.

The path at present (2010) passes through pleasant open countryside with ditches and small copses. There are proposals for a major new road round the eastern side of Shinfield through these fields.

5. Return to the start point by retracing your route, turning left along Cutbush Lane, then left into the footpath to the unmade Oatlands Road. Walk a little way down Oatlands Road then turn right to walk along Fairmead Road. Cross the A327, then take the footpath back to School Green.

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 2

Shinfield Village and the River Loddon



"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.



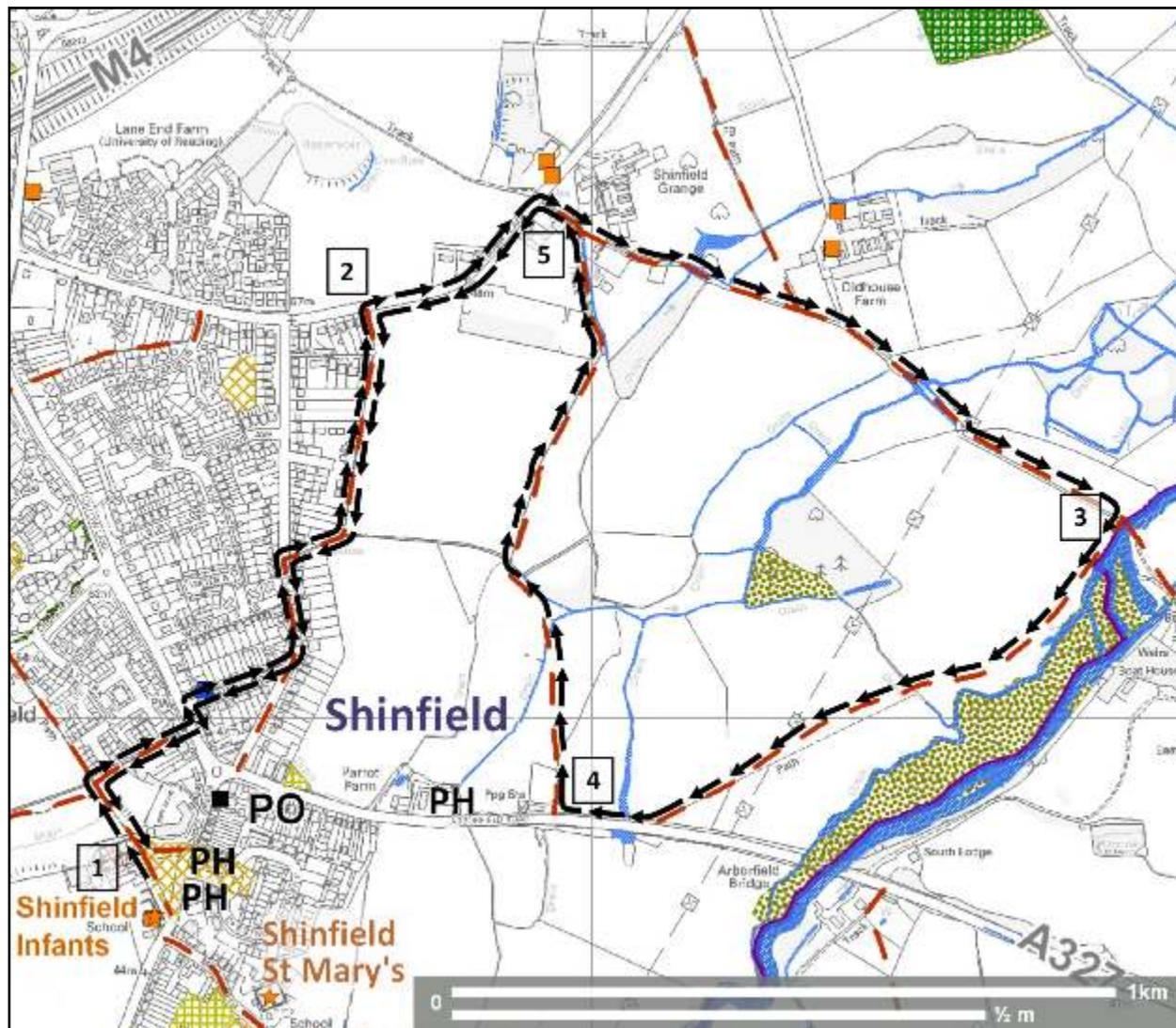
**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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 a little way along the footpath ahead. Turn at the first footpath on the right and walk through to the main road, the A327. Cross the road carefully at the nearby traffic island and walk uphill to Fairmead Road. Walk along Fairmead Road to the end, and turn left along the unmade Oatlands Road. Turn right onto the footpath opposite house no. 37 and follow the footpath behind the houses up to Cutbush Lane.

At School 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 footpath were worked for gravel extraction until the 1930s.

2. Turn right to walk along Cutbush Lane then right at the first footpath. Take the left fork at the kissing gate and continue between fields. Cross the footbridge with



Oldhouse Farm to the left and go along the farm track to a wider bridge over a branch of the River Loddon.

Cutbush Lane has retained its bridge over the M4 but it is only open for pedestrians. It offers a further footpath walk into Lower Earley. The barns and old houses on Cutbush Lane date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and are listed Grade II. The fields are part of the floodplain of the Loddon and are crossed by many streams and ditches with hedgerows and copses that are attractive for wildlife. To the right are the grounds of the University's landscape and horticultural departments, with many very large trees. At the river it is worth a short detour to cross over the bridge and walk a little way up the track opposite. The River Loddon was important for small scale transport and as a source of fish for local people. On the right is the site of the water mill and the mill race can still be seen. It is possible to wander round the ruins of the old Arborfield Church a short distance ahead. The Saxon village of Arborfield was in this area.

3. Return to the walk, through the wetland habitat beside the Loddon. This nature reserve was created in 2011/12 alongside the

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