

Route and Points of Interest (continued)

5. Just after a point where the Lane swings left, turn left into the edge of the woods and walk uphill beside a small stream, following the path as it curves to the right.

The large white building at the top of the fields on the left is Highlands, which began as an 18th century hunting lodge. The trees are secondary growth of ash, sycamore and oak, and during the 19th and early 20th centuries bricks were made from the clay dug out of the ground here. The clay pits now form ponds which often dry out in summer.

6. Turn left over a stile onto the open field known as Spencers Wood Common and follow the footpath across to Basingstoke Road, via a further stile.

If there are horses in the field, make sure that any dogs are on a lead. A well in the centre of this field supplied all the water for many families until after the Second World War. The pond near the road was the drinking source for horses pulling carts up the hill. As you come out from the footpath, you will see that there are several shops nearby, including the post office, a bakery and a restaurant.

7. Cross the road and walk uphill back to the start of the walk.

Many of the houses are good examples of late Victorian/Edwardian architecture, and have interesting brick features. The library opposite is a listed building which was donated to the village as a school in 1889. Note the spectacular avenue of Wellingtonia conifer trees further up the hill that show on the skyline for miles away. They were planted to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victories against Napoleon.

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.

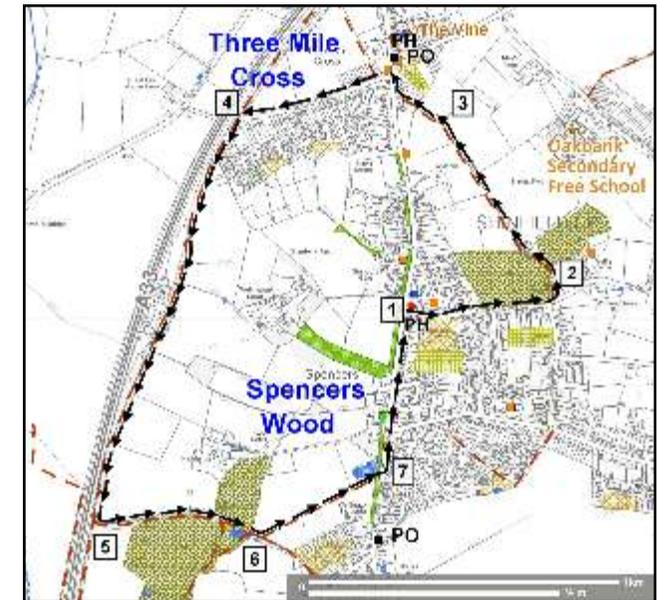
The walks are:

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 5

Three Mile Cross and Woodcock Lane



"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.



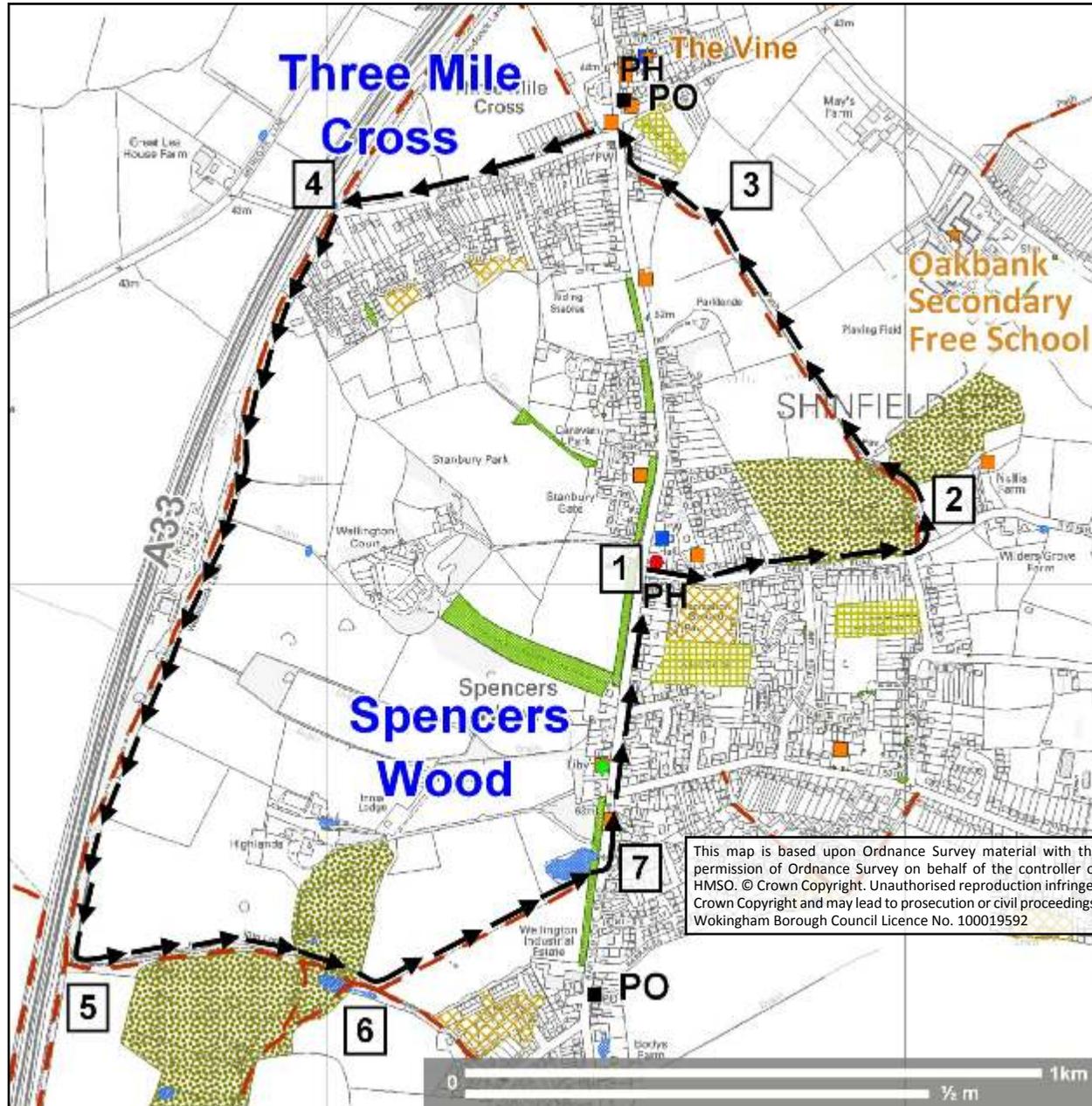
Route and Points of Interest

1. START at the junction of Basingstoke Road and Clares Green Road and walk down Clares Green Road to the corner.

This walk begins with the pub to your right and Spencers Wood village hall on the left. Beyond the village hall is St Michael's Church which has a café with internet access. The hall and church are typical of the well-constructed village buildings dating from the 1900s. The walk passes the recreation ground which is used for sports, fetes and carnivals, and the pavilion which is home for a pre-school group and the youth club. The field opposite, leading to the corner of the road, is a grassland Local Wildlife Site. Grazing cattle are penned in the cattle pound at the corner when brought to and from the field.

2. At the corner where Ryeish Lane starts, turn left into the track that leads to the Sports Pavilion. Just before the pavilion, follow the footpath on the left of the hedge. Continue downhill over a stile then turn left again below a hedgerow, over another stile and walk between houses to reach Three Mile Cross.

Near the animal pound is a pond with rushes and water plants. The Local Wildlife Site ends at the playing fields



on the right, and rough grassland habitat continues on the left. Deer, hares, foxes and rabbits have been seen here. There are wide views west and north over the Thames valley.

3. Look around Three Mile Cross. You will notice the ancient pub and the village store with its post office. Many of the small buildings are listed as being historically significant. Mary Russell Mitford lived in the small cottage here in the 1820s and 30s. She wrote for journals and the theatre, and was a friend of many literary contemporaries such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

4. Cross carefully over to Grazeley Road and walk to the end, then turn left and after about 150 metres continue along the old drove road, Woodcock Lane.

There is a new wildlife pond at the end of Grazeley Road. Woodcock Lane was the 'Low Road' to Swallowfield, Riseley and Basingstoke, before the 'High Road' (Basingstoke Road) was paved by Mr Macadam around 1850. The noise of traffic on the modern by-pass may affect the birdsong along Woodcock Lane, but the trees and bushes shelter it. Look out for violets and primroses in spring. This part of the walk is muddy in wet weather.