BRAKSPEAR

PUB TRAILS

RISING SUN
WITHERIDGE HILL, HIGHMOOR
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

3 CIRCULAR WALKS
4.1, 4.3 & 7 MILES
We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at the Rising Sun. The Brakspear Pub Trails are a series of circular walks.

We thought the idea of a variety of circular country walks all starting and ending at our pubs was a guaranteed winner. We have fantastic pubs nestled in the countryside, and we hope our maps are a great way for you to get out and enjoy some fresh air and a gentle walk, with a guaranteed drink at the end – perfect!

Our pubs have always welcomed walkers (and almost all of them welcome dogs too), so we're making it even easier with plenty of free maps. You can pick up copies in the pubs taking part or go to brakspearaletrails.co.uk to download them. We're planning to add new pubs onto them, so the best place to check for the latest maps available is always our website.

We absolutely recommend you book a table so that when you finish your walk you can enjoy a much needed bite to eat too. At the weekend, please book in advance, as this is often a busier time, especially our smaller pubs.

And finally, do send us your photos of you out and about on your walk. We really do love getting them.

We would like to thank the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment and the volunteers who helped make these walks possible. As a result of these walks, Brakspear has invested in TOE2 to help maintain and improve Oxfordshire’s footpaths.

Reg. charity no. 1140563

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

Respect other people:
• Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
• Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:
• Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
• Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:
• Plan ahead and be prepared
• Follow advice and local signs

For more info visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code
Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Chilterns Hills West Ordnance Survey map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit.

Route 1: Shepherds Green – Nettlebed estate – Witheridge Hill
Distance: 6.6km (4.1 miles) Time: 2.25 hours

Route 2: Nettlebed estate – Deadman’s Lane – Highmoor
Distance: 6.8km (4.3 miles) Time: 2-2.5 hours

Route 3: Highmoor – Nettlebed Estate – Bix – Greys Court
Distance: 11.4km (7 miles) Time: 3-4 hours

The Rising Sun
Witheridge Hill
Highmoor
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire RG9 5PF
Tel: 01491 640856
From the pub, walk to the path which runs just adjacent to the car park and follow this path as far as the Stoke Row road.

Cross the road with great care to a footpath almost directly opposite and follow this path up an incline, through a kissing gate, across a meadow, (from which there are good views), to another kissing gate.

Pass through this and proceed until the path splits. Take the path on the right, passing through another kissing gate, and cross another meadow where there is usually a profusion of wild flowers in the summer to a further kissing gate.

Pass through this and walk diagonally right across the Highmoor cricket ground, staying well clear of the actual cricket pitch, until a kissing gate is reached in the right hand corner adjacent to the Nettlebed Road (B481).

Cross this busy road with care to the footpath opposite and proceed through woodland, ignoring a path to the left until a path to the right is reached. Take this path and continue to the edge of the woodland and take the left-hand path which runs diagonally left across the arable field and continue until a lane is reached (Rocky Lane).

Cross this lane to a bridleway immediately opposite and follow this bridleway as it curves through Padnell’s Wood until a four way junction of paths is reached.

Turn left here and walk to the edge of the wood, across a meadow, through a small wood, across another couple of meadows continuing straight ahead all the time via several kissing gates until the hamlet of Shepherd’s Green is reached.

Walk straight ahead along the northern edge of the green until a footpath with a metal kissing gate is met on the right hand side of the track. Continue along this path, through and alongside paddocks via kissing gates, until a wood is reached and there is a split of paths.

Take the path on the left and follow this straight ahead ignoring a path which cuts across it. Continue along this path which curves to the left in a descent, ignoring the permissive path to the right, the descent steepens and fairly soon after this, go through a wooden kissing gate into a meadow and follow the path across this to another wooden kissing gate which leads onto Rocky Lane again.

Turn right and, after a short distance, take a path on the left into the National Trust woods and turn left to follow this permissive path for about 300 metres until the path splits.

Take the left hand path and follow this through the woods until a cross section of bridleways is reached. Continue straight ahead in the same direction on the lower bridleway heading in a northerly direction until another a four way junction of paths is reached.

Take the path on the left and walk though Tartary woods until at the end a stile is reached.

Go over the stile and turn sharp left and walk up a short incline to reach a metalled road (bridleway) which goes through the Nettlebed Estate.

Bear left on this and walk along the road through the Estate to a cattle grid with an adjacent metal gate. Go through the gate until Rocky Lane is reached.

Turn right and then take a footpath almost immediately right through a bit of scrubland to an arable field.

Follow the path diagonally left through this field (we are now following the outward route in the reverse direction back to the pub) walk a short distance into the woods and turn left at the path junction.

Follow this path straight ahead to the B481, ignoring a path which leads off to the right.

Cross the road with care, walk across the cricket ground, follow the path straight ahead through the kissing gates and down to cross the Stoke Row road, again with great care as the visibility of oncoming traffic is very poor here.

Finally, walk across to the path opposite and back to The Rising Sun.

The Nettlebed estate is owned by the Fleming family. It is rumoured that Ian Fleming came up with idea of James Bond while living on the estate.

Road through Nettlebed Estate

Did you know? The Nettlebed estate is owned by the Fleming family. It is rumoured that Ian Fleming came up with idea of James Bond while living on the estate.
From the pub, walk to the path which runs just adjacent to the car park and follow this path as far as the Stoke Row road.

Cross the road with great care to a footpath almost directly opposite and follow this path up an incline, pass through a kissing gate, across a meadow, from which there good views, to another kissing gate.

Pass through this and proceed until the path splits. Take the path on the right, passing through another kissing gate, and cross another meadow where there is usually a profusion of wild flowers in the summer to a further kissing gate.

Pass through this and walk diagonally right across the Highmoor cricket ground, staying well clear of the actual cricket pitch, until a kissing gate is reached in the right hand corner adjacent to the Nettlebed Road (B481).

Cross this busy road with care to the footpath opposite and proceed through woodland, ignoring a path to the left until a path to the right is reached. Take this path and continue to the edge of the woodland and take the left-hand path which runs diagonally left across the arable field and continue until a lane is reached (Rocky Lane).

Turn left and then virtually immediately turn left again onto a tarmac bridleway through cattle grid and follow track.

Opposite Tartary Wood, before another cattle grid is reached, turn left onto a grass path to a wooden kissing gate in a wood called Scotland.

Proceed along this path bordered with rhododendrons until the junction with way mark post.

Turn right onto a bridleway and proceed along the bridleway past a house until a junction of paths is reached.

Follow the bridleway (tarmac) almost straight ahead for some way until reaching the B481. Close to this point is the Highmoor Trench.

Cross the road into Deadman's Lane. This is a bridleway which eventually reaches Swans Wood. The bridleway continues in the wood and then onto a tarmac road.

Continue uphill to the corner: Howberrywood Farm is to the right. Look back and admire the view towards Nettlebed.

Turn left at the way mark post and continue through the wood on a bridleway.

After a short distance, where the bridleway bends to the right, turn left onto a footpath (look for yellow arrow on a way mark post) and follow this well way marked path as it meanders through the wood (watch out for trip hazards of loose and protruding flints).

Continue past several fallen trees, cross a stile into a meadow from which there are fine views to the south.

Proceed directly ahead up a slight incline, to climb over another stile into a short section of wood, keeping straight ahead until nearly at the end of the wood a V junction is reached.

Bear slightly left here (look for a white arrow on a post a little way in the distance).

Proceed straight ahead into a field with fencing on the left of the footpath; follow the path through rhododendron and holly bushes arriving at a road.

Cross the road in a diagonally left direction, following the footpath. Walk across an access road noting yellow arrow disc on telegraph pole. Continue straight ahead (ignoring the path to the left) following a flint wall to the right of the path past the ‘Old Barn’ and Highmoor Farm until a kissing gate is reached situated adjacent to a farm gate. Go through the kissing gate and bear right walking by the side of a horse paddock until a wooden kissing gate is reached.

Go through the gate and walk slightly diagonally right through an arable field.

Walk straight ahead, through a metal kissing gate, across a track, through another metal kissing gate, along the left side of a field, through another metal kissing gate and keeping straight ahead on the path between houses until a track is reached.

Turn right and follow the track down a slight incline and with a bungalow to the right, take the track to the left and follow this for about 100 yards until a road is reached.

Turn left and walk up the hill and the approach road to the pub is second on the right.

Did you know?

Tartary Wood and much of the surrounding area are all part of the Nettlebed estate owned by the Fleming family. It is rumoured that Ian Fleming came up with idea of James Bond while living on the estate.

Did you know?

The Highmoor Trench is an ancient earthwork where the remains of many stone age tools and artefacts have been found.

Distance: 6.8km (4.3 miles) Time: 2-2.5 hours
From the pub, walk out to the entrance of the car park and turn right and walk along the road until you reach a T junction, turn left and walk up the hill towards Highmoor Village.

At the junction with the main road (B481), by the Highmoor Memorial Hall, cross over the main road, turn left and walk along the pavement in a northerly direction.

After about 250m and immediately after a derelict pub, turn right along a broad track.

Follow this track past Cherry Hill House and then turn right on to a bridleway.

Continue along the bridleway until you reach an intersection with a footpath. Turn left and follow the footpath downhill to a gate.

Go through the gate and bear left on to a tarmac farm road and at the cross roads turn right, following the sign to Bromsden Farm.

Opposite Bromsden Farm is a statue of a knight on a winged horse.

Continue on in the same direction with the farm on your left and ignoring the footpath sign to the right. Turn left on to a path heading south that passes the side of the farm buildings.

Pass through a gate in the middle of some iron railings and cross through an orchard. In the left corner you will see a gate by a tennis court.

Go through this gate and immediately on the right, through another gate then follow the path downhill through the woods until you reach a broad track.

Turn left following the yellow arrow and after 50 metres, turn right following another yellow arrow.

Walk up the broad track and at the top, follow the yellow arrow to the right of a bank.

At the top of this path, you will see a large tranquil pond on your left.

Continue over a stile, bear to your left and follow the path round the edge of the field up to another stile.

Climb over this stile, turn left and walk along a broad fenced track.

At the next yellow arrow, cross the stile and walk diagonally across the field to the next stile.

Go over this stile and cross a track and over another stile following the yellow arrows.

Do the same again at the next two stiles. Walk through three fields and over the stiles towards a large white house.

Bromsden Farm has a beautiful tiled barn which forms an arch into the farmyard. The farm is part of Nettlebed estate owned by the Fleming family. It is rumoured that Ian Fleming came up with idea of James Bond while living on the estate.

It is believed that the horse was a prop in one of the James Bond movies and the wings and rider were added later.
Go over a stile next to the white house on to a narrow footpath emerging at a busy main road (A4130).

Cross the dual carriageway with extreme care; cars pass here at speed.

On the far side of the road turn left, then at the Finger Post indicating Bix Bottom, turn right and go straight ahead on what can be a very muddy track.

Halfway across the field turn right on a track that leads towards some houses. Pass between the houses and turn right on to a tarmac road.

Walk pass the Village Hall on your left and beyond it you will see an open stretch of land known as Bix Common. Next to the Village Hall is St James’ Church and opposite is The Old School.

Continue along the road until you reach the A4130 once more which you need to re-cross, again, with care.

Take the road opposite, pass Bix Manor on the left and on the right is the Water Tank at Bix.

Bix Common is owned by a group of nine householders by virtue of their ownership of houses in the parish.

The establishment of the Commons dates back to 1300s and is not unique in England. In the 1800s a small weekly livestock market took place on the Common. During the 1939-45 War the scrub was cleared and the land used for cultivation. The present owners meet periodically and decide on its management. Currently it is leased for hay making according to a strict timetable.

In 1875, St James’ Church at Bix replaced the tiny ruined Church at Bix Bottom.

The Water Tank at Bix was constructed in 1895. Water has always been scarce in the Chilterns but during the second half of the 19th Century it was discovered that a lack of clean drinking water was not just an inconvenience, but the cause of significant and often fatal diseases such as cholera. Consequently, efforts were made to improve the water supply. After the advent of piped water, the tank fell into disuse and became derelict but was eventually restored between 1998 and 2002. Boris Johnson MP took part in the commemoration ceremony.
Continue along the road until you reach the sign for Lawrence Farm then turn right along the track.

At the gate to a cream cottage with a very prominent 'Private' sign, turn right and enter a small field through an iron gate.

Enter the wood through another iron gate, bear left and keep straight on through the wood, despite the mud and paths crossing, to a kissing gate.

Where the path forks, take the left hand fork, pass through a second kissing gate and cross the track and follow the footpath sign, taking you past some farm buildings.

Follow the yellow arrow through two gates and past some attractive ponds. Continue over a wooden bridge next to one of the ponds.

Follow the yellow arrow through three more gates, the last with a picnic table on the left.

Follow the path to the main drive to the wonderful Greys Court one of the many jewels in the crown of the National Trust.

Continue on downhill and just before the road, take the right fork on to a grass path.

Follow the green National Trust footpath signs (green arrows) and where the path forks, take the left fork.

The path runs parallel with the road (Rocky Lane) so you can use the road if you prefer. However, sticking to path is preferable especially when the bluebells flower, the woods are ablaze with colour.

Keep the road in view and when the path forks again go left and exit on to the road via a broken stile.

Continue walking uphill along Rocky Lane passing some large houses, among them Rose Farm, Rocky Lane Orchard and Rocky Lane Farm. When the lane makes a sharp left, continue straight ahead on the footpath following the yellow signs.

Follow the path diagonally across the field and walk a short distance into the woods. Turn left at the path junction.

Follow this path straight ahead to the B481, ignoring a path which leads off to the right.

Cross the road with care, and enter the Highmoor Cricket Ground via a kissing gate.

Walk across the cricket ground, follow the path straight ahead through the kissing gates and down to the road to Stoke Row.

Cross the road with great care as the visibility of oncoming traffic is very poor here.

Finally walk across to the path opposite and back to The Rising Sun on opposite site of the car from where you departed.

Greys Court is a stunning Tudor country house with gardens. It is well worth taking a break from the walk to enjoy what it has to offer.

Follow the yellow arrows along the main drive, passing Greys Court on your right. This path affords excellent views of the house and grounds.
The Rising Sun

Opening Hours:
Monday–Thursday: 11am–3pm & 5pm–onwards
Friday–Sunday: Open all day from 11am

Food Service:
Monday–Saturday: 12pm–3pm & 6pm–10pm
Sunday: 12pm–8pm

- Disabled Access • Dog Friendly
- Family Friendly • Garden/Patio • Hold a Party
- Park the Car • WiFi Access

The Rising Sun
Witheridge Hill, Highmoor
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire
RG9 5PF
Tel: 01491 640856
www.risingsunwitheridgehill.com