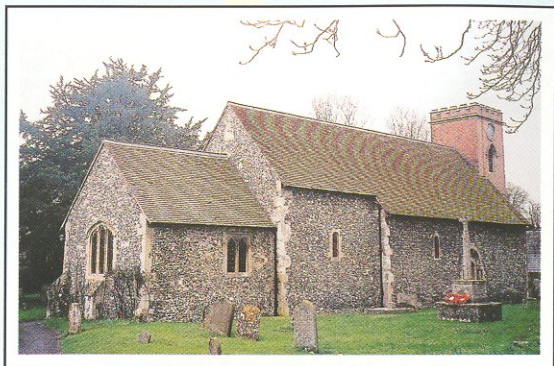


FRILSHAM

*Footpaths, Bridleways
and Byways*



FRILSHAM PARISH COUNCIL



FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

**Enjoy the countryside and
respect its life and work**

Guard against all risk of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

**Use gates and stiles to cross fences,
hedges and walls**

Leave livestock and machinery alone

Take your litter home

Help keep all water clean

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise

Always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking in the town or countryside. No responsibility is accepted by the authors of this leaflet for the state or condition from time to time of the paths comprised in these walks.

FRILSHAM

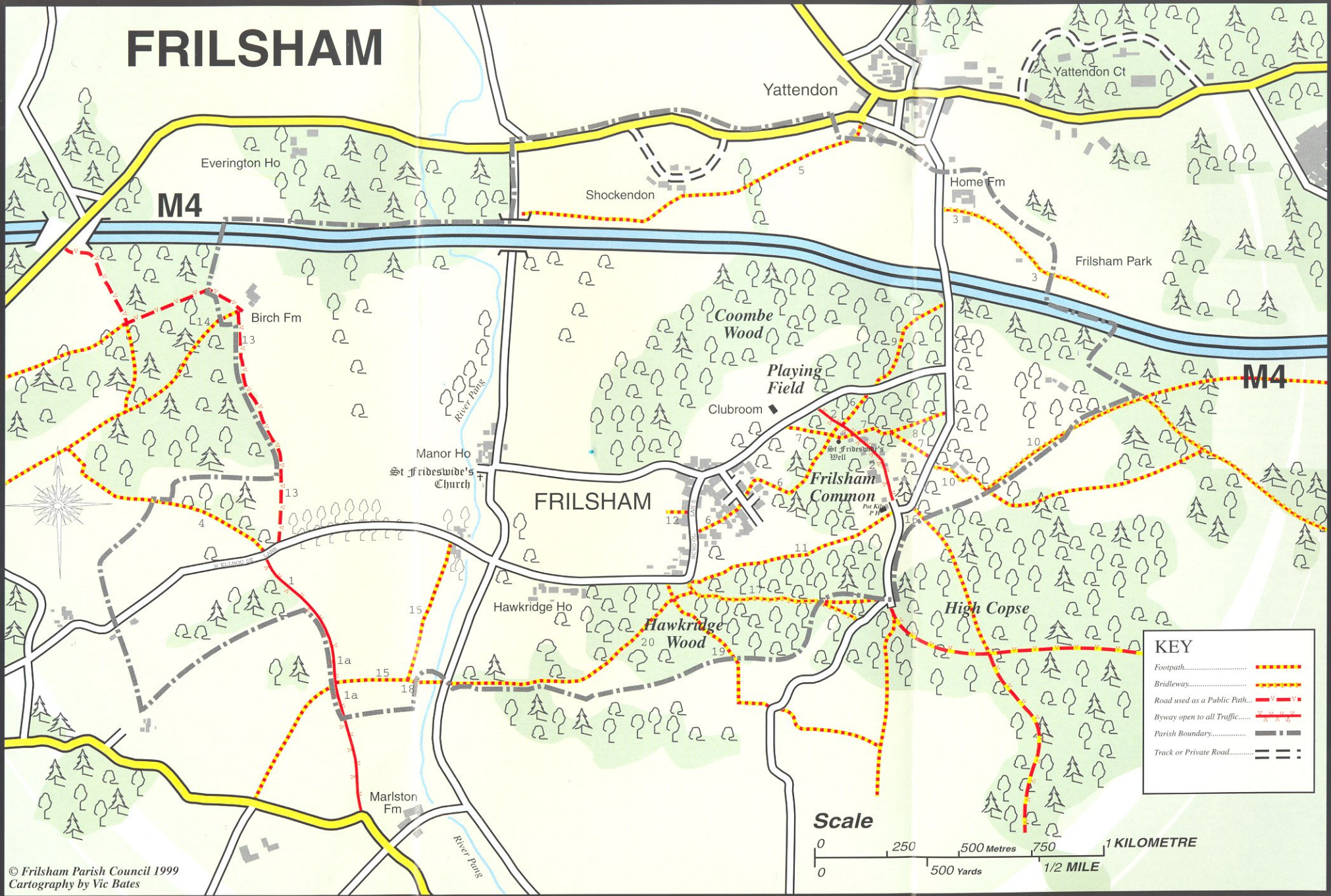
To HAMPSTEAD NORREYS

To PANGBOURNE

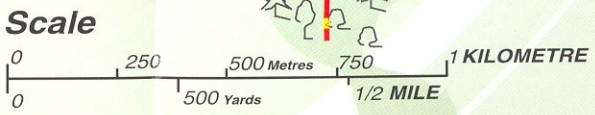
To READING LONDON

To HERMITAGE NEWBURY & BRISTOL

To HERMITAGE NEWBURY



KEY	
Footpath.....	-----
Bridleway.....	-----
Road used as a Public Path.....	-----
Byway open to all Traffic.....	-----
Parish Boundary.....	-----
Track or Private Road.....	-----



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Cartography by Vic Bates

To THATCHAM NEWBURY

To BUCKLEBURY THATCHAM

FRILSHAM -FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND BYWAYS

This leaflet gives descriptions of the footpaths, bridleways, byways and roads used as public paths in the parish of Frilsham. Frilsham lies 10 miles to the north-east of Newbury and like much of West Berkshire is in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The main village sits on a hilltop above the River Pang. Much of the settlement is hidden from view by the woodland that encircles it. The parish has a good network of footpaths and these provide plenty of opportunities to explore this scenic area on foot. The other public rights of way featured in the leaflet (bridleways, byways and roads used as public paths) can be used by horse riders and cyclists as well as walkers.

The local path network also provides excellent links with adjoining parishes should you wish to go further afield. For more information on the wider path network you will need to purchase an Ordnance Survey Explorer map for Newbury & Hungerford (Sheet no. 158). These maps show all public rights of way and are available from bookshops and some newsagents.

Local people wrote the route descriptions and production of the leaflet was funded by the Parish Paths Initiative. This scheme aims to encourage local people to become involved in looking after and promoting their path network. It provides parish councils and local groups with the necessary funding, help and advice to complete projects such as this. In Frilsham, a new parish map board and a number of practical path improvements have been financed in this way. The parish map board is next to the bus shelter in the village.

The Church of St. Frideswide

The church of St. Frideswide is of simple character and mainly composed of flint, with the exception of the more modern west tower. The tower is built of rather larger sized red brick. The Nave, Chancel and the Sanctuary belong to the Norman period although some of the windows were inserted in the fifteenth century.

The church was restored in 1834, when the existing wooden tower was demolished and the present tower and brick porch were erected. The wooden gallery at the west end of the church was removed at the same time.

The total length of the church is 69 feet, the Nave is 18 feet wide, the Chancel 13 feet 11 inches and the Sanctuary 11 feet 7 inches wide. The south door, inside the modern porch, has a plain semi-circular arch and jambs. On the west jamb there are marks of a sundial and there is a small votive cross on that of the east. On the south wall quite near the roof, there is a portion of a stone sculptured head. This was apparently set into the wall at a later date. The north doorway is much larger than the south, and it seems to have been the principal entrance.

Inside the church the wide and low semi-circular Norman arch, which separates the Chancel from the Sanctuary, is not exactly in the centre of the Nave.

The east window of late Perpendicular style comprises three lights, and on the north and south sides of the Sanctuary there is a two light, square headed window dating from the same period. On the south side of the Chancel is a three light Perpendicular window. A similar one can be seen on the south side of the Nave. On the north side stands the original plain Norman window in the Chancel and in the Nave.

The Communion Table is of the Elizabethan period and there is some fine Jacobean work in the old-fashioned pulpit and reading desk. The roofs are high-pitched with tie beams and kingposts, probably of the fifteenth century restoration. The font is a tub shaped bowl with a band around the base.

The church is dedicated to St. Frideswide, the Saxon princess who became an abbess at Oxford. Her annual festival was appointed by the church's calendar to be celebrated on 19 October. The waters of St. Frideswide's spring or well are believed to have cured eye troubles.

WALKS DESCRIPTIONS:

Byway 1 (Burntbush Lane)

Leads off Wellhouse Lane, opposite the dairy unit.

The byway runs only a short distance southwards between high hedges and woodland before crossing the parish boundary into Bucklebury. The lane then continues south to Marlston.

Byway 2

This byway starts at the metalled track opposite the corner of the Recreation Ground and the water tower.

It crosses the old village common, which is originally where villagers were allowed to graze animals and collect wood.

Some of the cottages on the right hand side were built as estate cottages for Yattendon Estates. On the left hand side are the village allotments, which are now largely disused as the ground is so poor.

Look out for the banner flying at Laurel Bank Cottage - it changes with the season.

Further down the lane are dips in the ground to the left and right hand side. It is thought that these are old clay pits.

At the end of the track you come into the car park of the Pot Kiln Public House.

<i>Opening times.</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>12.00 -2.30</i>	<i>6.00 - 11.00</i>
	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>6.00 - 11.00</i>
	<i>Wed-Sat</i>	<i>12.00 -2.30</i>	<i>6.30 - 11.00</i>
	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12.00 -3.00</i>	<i>7.00 - 10.30</i>

The licensee of the Pot Kiln welcomes walkers but advises that if you wish to park your car there during opening hours to embark on a walk, arrangements should be made to use their additional parking area by telephoning (01635) 201366 or by calling in!

This was originally a pottery making bricks, tiles and earthenware although it has been serving beer for at least 100 years. The oldest part of the building goes back to the mid-16th century. The frontage is about 200 years old. Under the beer garden are the remains of an older building. Remnants of old sandpits and clay pits surround the pub. This is one of only two sources of 'London clay' in the county.

Bricks for Brockhurst School in nearby Marlston were ordered 2 years in advance. The Barr family who owned the site for hundreds of years also farmed and made hurdles and besom brooms.

The kiln was located at the top end of what is now the car park and was closed down in 1940 because of the 'black-out' regulations! The kiln was open at the top and the authorities were worried that it would act as a beacon for German bombers.

At the back of the pub is the West Berks Brewery. This small operation was set up three years ago and has won numerous awards for its Brick Kiln Bitter and other beers made with herbs and flowers. The Brewery is open to visitors by prior appointment (Tel: 01635 202638) and of course the beer can be sampled along with others in the pub.

Bridleway 3

Starts on Yattendon Road and heads south-east to the parish boundary.

Bridleway 3 is a well-defined track that gradually winds its way down to the parish boundary at Frilsham Park. The path then continues eastwards into the adjacent parish. The next footpath on the left will take you northwards and back to Yattendon.

Footpath 4

Leads off Wellhouse Lane to the left of the Dairy Unit.

This path can become overgrown in the spring and summer. The path runs for some 40 metres until it meets a small bridge. From here it is a short distance to a stile where the path continues across a field to another stile. From here the path continues over the parish boundary and joins up with a number of other paths.

Footpath 5

Starts north of Frilsham on the road towards Hampstead Norreys, just beside the bridge beneath the motorway.

This walk is for those who enjoy re-discovering lost footpaths. This path is well documented although in reality not many people use it, partially due to its proximity to the M4, but also because it does not go in the direction many people wish to walk.

Starting from the Frilsham end on the north-east side of the motorway bridge, the walk takes you past areas of foxgloves, young oaks and holly. At this point there is no track so the walker should stay on the field edge path. At the top of the field turn around to take in views of the Pang Valley extending to Eling Farm House and beyond. To continue along the path, go through the opening into a small copse. The path is obvious but not well used by mankind, judging by the length of some of the overhanging branches. At the end of the copse a stile with a single white arrow guides the walker on across a field bordered by horse chestnut trees. To the left is the walled garden of Shockendon House. In the corner of the field an elderly 'Berks C.C.' sign points the walker into a plantation of trees which is a haven for rabbits. Follow the path through the plantation and over a stile with a dog flap into an open field. From here you should be able to see a few of the houses of Yattendon through the trees. The path is not that obvious across this field but if you head straight across it towards the stile and the gate with a white cross you cannot go far wrong. Climb over the stile and through the old iron kissing gate. From here the path is well used. Keep to the left of the field; go through the gate and head for the stile in the left-hand corner. Go over the stile and into Yattendon village.

Footpath 6

This path starts at the roadside on the northern edge of Frilsham Common.

The path begins beneath old beech trees and leads across the Common past man-made trenches. These represent spoil from diggings to claim clay for the Pot Kiln. This is located at the bottom of the hill. The path crosses Pot Kiln Lane and continues towards St. Frideswide's Well off to the left. The path is cut through tall holly bushes although these soon give way to pine trees. Further on along this route you enter a younger plantation that was established following a fire in the early 1980s. The path then leads on over a small bridge and up a bank into the village of Frilsham passing behind houses in Beechfield to the right and Beechfield Lane to the left.

Footpath 7

This footpath starts opposite the Clubroom and takes you across the old village common.

The original village settlement was concentrated at the bottom of the hill near the church but gradually migrated up to the common where villagers could graze their animals and collect wood.

To the right hand side is an area cleared by the Parish Council to encourage re-growth of heathland plants still present in the earth from when the common was a heath and not covered with trees.

A hundred yards further on, in a dip to the right of the footpath, you can see the wooden covering of St.Frideswide's Well - actually a spring. The name of the village and the church stems from the legend of this 'sacred' well. Many people believe that the waters are able to cure eye troubles.

The ground is always wet around here because of the underground spring and the overhanging holly trees. As a millennium project the parish council organised improvements to the well and its surrounds. A small wall was built and a new well top fitted.

The cottages on the left and right hidden in the trees originally belonged to Yattendon Estates.

Footpath 7 continues on across Pot Kiln Lane, a well used track.

If you turn right down this track (Byway 2), you will find the Pot Kiln Public House.

If you turn left at the track, it will take you back to the Clubroom and Recreation Ground.

Continue along Footpath 7 past the cottage on your right and through the copse until you come to a waymark post. Take the right fork and cross the paddocks until you come to the road at the bottom of the hill.

Footpath 8

Footpath 8 starts at the junction with Footpath 7 and runs to the Yattendon Road.

Walking from the junction with Footpath 7, the first thing you will notice is the spectacular tree that appears to have had all its lower branches struck by lightning with only the very top branches showing life.

If the sounds of the M4 are muted, it is hard to believe that you are only a short distance from one of the busiest roads in England.

Footpath 8 ends at the Yattendon road near to Woodlands Nursery. If you turn right, further along the lane is the Pot Kiln Public House. If you turn left, then left again up the hill, you will be back at the Clubroom and Recreation Ground.

Footpath 9

Leads off Yattendon Road to the north east of Frilsham village, adjacent to the motorway.

From the bridge over the motorway proceed down the ramp and through an area overflowing with blackberry and honeysuckle plants and a new stand of trees planted following the storms of 1987. The path is narrow and well formed. Initially it runs in a southwesterly direction before turning and climbing the hill towards Frilsham where it ends at the roadside.

Bridleway 10

Leads off Yattendon Road to the east of Frilsham village.

From the Yattendon Road the bridleway leads down towards the farm buildings. The track then bears to your right in front of the buildings and winds its way to the bottom. At the three-way signpost, the track bears left and runs between the plantations of Christmas trees. At the next signpost there are two alternative paths that lead out of the parish.

Footpath 11

Starting in School Lane at the south corner of 'Little Orchard', the path runs along the edge of woodland.

A small mature pond can be found on the right some 400 metres into the walk. Locals have fished here over the years.

Where the field narrows the path then crosses it diagonally to join the Yattendon Road at the Pot Kiln Public House.

Footpath 12

Starting in School Lane, cross the stile between 'Parkside' and 'Middlewood'.

The path runs downhill for some 100 metres to a fence. 20 metres into the field the footpath ends at a spring, now unusable but once serving Frilsham with drinking water.

Short but sweet!

RUPP 13

Enter the track from Wellhouse Lane to the right of the Dairy Unit.

Continue up the hill - wonderful views of the countryside, for about 1200 metres until the junction of paths opposite Birch Farm. The track bears to the left and crosses the boundary into the parish of Bucklebury.

Footpath 14

This path starts on RUPP 13 opposite Birch Farm.

Footpath 14 runs through a small area of woodland to the parish boundary. The path continues on through some newly planted trees at Box Wood and joins up with a number of other paths on the western side of the wood.

Footpath 15

From Wellhouse Lane to Burntbush Lane.

The track leads down past Parsonage Farm Cottages and through the field gate at the end. Please remember to shut the gate behind you, as there may be livestock in the field. It continues along the left-hand side of the field adjacent to the fence line. The field can be muddy in winter largely due to its proximity to the river, the large willow trees to the left bear testament to this. The path continues beyond the 'squeeze stile' into the next field. After a couple of hundred metres there is a stile on the left. Footpath 15 turns right at this point and runs across the field over two more squeeze stiles through another field and over a final stile to join Burntbush Lane.

Footpath 16

Starts a short distance to the east of The Pot Kiln.

The path starts at the roadside, over a stile and down to a small stream at the bottom of the field. The stream forms the parish boundary. The path then continues on towards High Copse and thence on to Stanford Dingley.

Bridleway 17

Starts at the main entrance into Hawkridge Wood.

This bridleway starts at the roadside and proceeds through a gap onto a well-worn track that meanders through mixed woodland. During the spring and summer the light creates a beautiful dappled effect through here and there is a feeling of space and tranquillity here in amongst the oak, ash and beech trees. The path gradually winds down to an old wooden gate and from there onto a wider track that runs through denser coniferous woodland and then into another area of mixed broadleaved woodland to the parish boundary. The path ends on the road between Hawkridge Farm and Frilsham.

Footpath 18

A short section of path between the parish boundary and Footpath 15.

To appreciate this path it is best walked from east to west. It starts at the roadside next to the River Pang. The path crosses the river and leads to a stile giving access into a small field. At the other side of this field beyond the second stile the path then runs down to a lake (one of two) which is replete with aquatic plants. The path then skirts the edge of the lake and goes over two footbridges to the stile where the path joins Footpath 15.

Footpath 19

Starting in School Lane, opposite 'Hill Cottage', once the village shop.

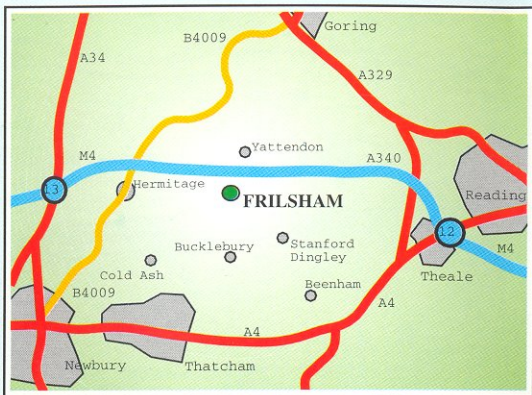
The path leads through woodland, passing a recently created pond. Pull up a log and linger at the water's edge to take in the tranquillity.

Follow the signs through the wood, crossing two small bridges over a stream until you reach the stile, which marks the parish boundary. The path continues through the field to a kissing gate at the roadside by Hawkridge Farm.

Footpath 20

Starts at Brocks Lane and runs in an easterly direction up through Hawkridge Wood.

From the roadside fingerpost the track heads up the hill between the trees. Eventually the path emerges into a series of paddocks that contain a wide variety of interesting grasses and ground flora. After traversing several stiles it joins a gravel track and heads north-west to the Kennels and Cattery (you will soon hear the barking!). At the kennels the path leaves the track by way of a stile and heads back into the woods before crossing Footpath 19 and terminating at the junction with Bridleway 17.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go out to all those involved in the production of this leaflet and in particular to those parishioners and members of the parish council responsible for walking the paths and writing the descriptions.

Thanks also to Vic Bates, the cartographer who was responsible for producing the map & designing this leaflet

PARISH PATHS
partnership
A COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION INITIATIVE

West
Berkshire
COUNCIL

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