

Streatley-on-Thames is an attractive village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is not only a beautiful place, it has other historical and interesting associations. When the seas receded, calcified sea creatures remained to form the chalk Downs of West Berkshire. Here, centuries ago, Streatley had its origins. In ancient times, as now, it was the site for the meeting of transport routes as they crossed the Thames. The best-known is The Ridgeway, which from the Iron Age or before, served as a route 250 miles long along the top of the chalk ridges from Dorset to The Wash. In the valleys, the Icknield Way ran to Knettishall Heath in Norfolk. The habitats created by its development and history make Streatley special. Thus, the river, the water meadows, the chalk downlands and the woods all have their specific flora and fauna. Chalk grassland in particular, with its flora and butterflies, is now extremely rare. The flood plains, important in flood prevention, are of vital importance with the expectancy of flooding caused by global warming.



Meadow border

Walking and Wildlife in the Parish of Streatley

STREATLEY

Circular Walks



Red kite

Because of the importance of chalk grasslands, a large area of Streatley is owned by the National Trust. This includes Lough Down, Lardon Chase, The Hollies and Common Wood. These are managed to encourage wildlife.



Adonis Blue

Two circular walks are described (see map). One is via the Golf Course, Lough Down and Lardon Chase. The second is via The Hollies, the village and Lough Down. There are opportunities to vary these using other rights of way. When the second walk reaches the High Street, there is a pavement on the other side of the road, which joins the Thames Path.

Pyramid Orchid



There are two public houses in Streatley, The Bull and The Swan Hotel. Goring has several public houses, a cafe and a number of shops and restaurants. Petrol is available at Lower Basilidon & Moultsford.

Local Services

Parking

There is a village-centre car park in Goring. There is a car park at the top of Streatley Hill and at Streatley recreation ground (see map).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Goring and Streatley railway station is at Goring, with frequent local services. Contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

<<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>> .
Thames Travel bus services 132 and 133, and Heyfordian services 134 and 135 all stop at the railway station and The Bull public house in Streatley. 132 and 133 travel between Reading and the station. 134 and 135 traverse a loop to and from Wallingford, but all are infrequent. For details phone Travel Line on 0871 2002233 or www.traveline.org.uk <<http://www.traveline.org.uk/>>



THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Code for the Public

- ◆ Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- ◆ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ◆ Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- ◆ Keep dogs under close control
- ◆ Consider other people
- ◆ Know your rights and responsibilities
- ◆ It is against the law to pick any wild flowers, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

'Open access land' is land over which you may walk, run or sight-see. You must act responsibly and with consideration for others, and between 1 March and 31 July, or at any other time in the vicinity of livestock, dogs are only allowed if on a short lead.

There may be local restrictions: see notices on site or the website

www.openaccess.gov.uk
<<http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/>>.

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 comprising these walks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compiled by members of Streatley Parish Council, with text by Kay Baker

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



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