

# Walking in Wash Common

2024



West Berkshire  
C O U N C I L

# Five Ways to Wellbeing

There are lots of free and meaningful things that we can all do every day that will improve our mental health and wellbeing.

We want to encourage you, your community and local organisations in West Berkshire to adopt the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Explore this map for tips on how you can do this:

- 1 Connect
- 2 Keep learning
- 3 Be active
- 4 Give to others
- 5 Take notice

Why not commit to achieving your 'five a day' and improve your mental health and wellbeing? There are lots of ways you can do this in Berkshire [here](#).



# 1. Connect

## Wellbeing Walks

We offer free, regular, led [Wellbeing Walks](#) for people of all abilities. Our walks are friendly, welcoming and empowering and they are a great opportunity to explore the outdoors, discover new places and meet new people.

Our walk leaders are trained volunteers who are on hand to provide encouragement and support to walkers of all abilities.

The walks are free and easy, ranging from 30 to 90 minutes. Some walks stop for coffee afterwards in a nearby cafe; a good opportunity to socialise and relax after the walk.



## 2. Keep Learning

Wash Common was built upon the Newbury Wash - a flat open healthland overlooking Newbury. Its history is embedded within its community and it is now the home of the Falkland Memorial and Falkland Primary school, named after Lucius Cary, the 2nd Viscount of Falkland who died fighting in the First Battle of Newbury.

### [Avery's Pightle](#)

One of Berkshire's few remaining unspoiled meadows, Avery's Pightle's ancient 2 hectares of beautiful landscape is rich in insects, nesting birds and 137 plant species. Where most wet meadows of its kind have been drained, ploughed or fertilised for grass or grain, Avery's Pightle hangs onto a past appreciation for nature, thriving with life and beauty.

### [St Michael's Church](#)

On the edge of Hamstead Park, St Michael and All Angel's Church is a unique and well-loved local gem. Erected in the 12th century, it still has its original font, double piscine and famous Michael Bell (1260) which could be the oldest bell in any church in England. Surrounded by beautiful blooms in Spring and views of Beacon Hill, this unique community church holds services outdoors known as Forest Church.

## Falkland Memorial

The First Battle of Newbury took place on 20th September 1643 amidst a civil war lead by the Earl of Essex and King Charles I. Profound political, constitutional, religious and social conflict tore the country between King and Parliament. The Falkland Memorial was built in memory of those who fell fighting on the field of Newbury.

The East facing side of the memorial reads:

“Together they laid down their lives, each to receive undying praise, and to be entombed, more gloriously than where they lie, in the eternal memory of their deeds; for the whole earth is the tomb of great men.”

You can also visit [Newbury Library](#) to access more learning resources about West Berkshire, or [West Berkshire Museum](#) to uncover more amazing moments in history.

# 3. Be Active

## Run Together

If you're new to running, or just out of practice, there are a number of free running groups especially for beginners in West Berkshire to help you get off on the right foot. These are organised in partnership with [Run Together](#).

The weekly sessions are fun, friendly, and free of charge, taking place in parklands and open spaces. They're suitable for complete beginners or those who've been inactive for a while - you just need to wear some comfortable clothing and trainers to join in.



## 4. Give to others

There are so many opportunities in Wash Common to give to others, which as one of the Five Ways to Wellbeing has been proven to create feelings of happiness. This can be volunteering like the walk leaders of our [wellbeing walks](#) who arrange and run their own regular walk. Or backstops and mid markers who help manage the groups when they grow as keeping a team of 20 walkers together at all different paces can be a challenge.

With various roles across Berkshire available, you may like to consider volunteering yourself. Explore the opportunities we have available on our [website](#), from library assistants to community IT support.

The wellbeing walks community often become good friends and build their own network of support and encouragement which also helps people with staying connected. By using the beautiful pathways of West Berkshire we protect them and they are secure for future generations.

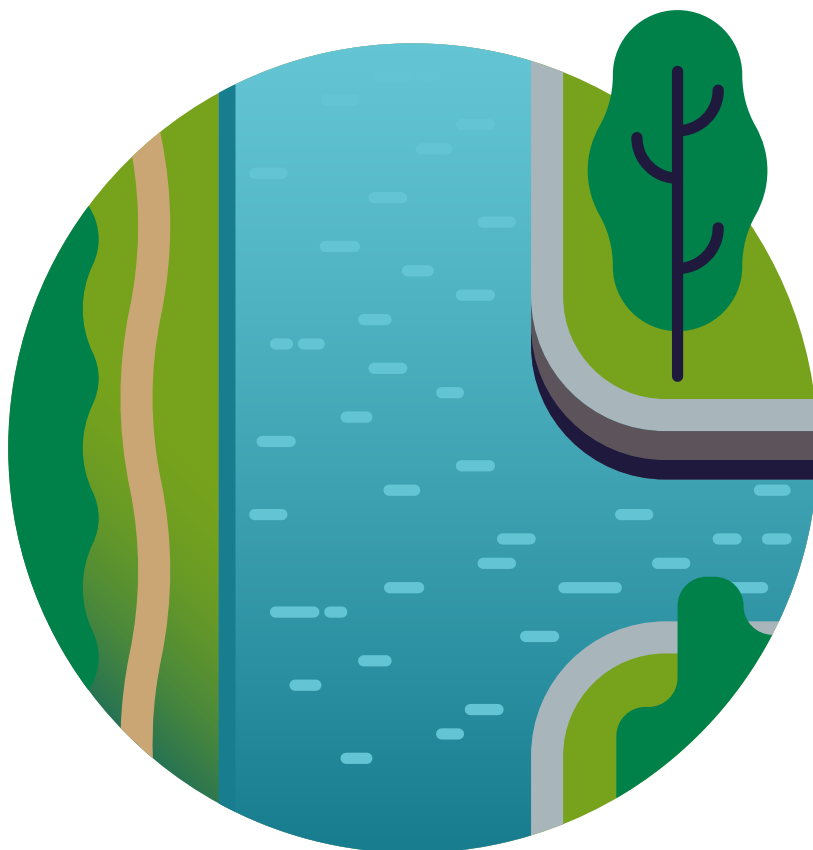
Remember your day forever - capture yourself or your group on your walking route with a photo near your favourite view or rest stop! We love to see your photos on our [Instagram page](#). Tag us [@westberkshire](#).

## 5. Take notice

It can be hard to turn away from our busy lives and pause, and enjoy the moment we are in. There are places in Wash Common where you can practice this such as Avery's Pightle meadow, from the picturesque ground of St Michael's Church and along the bank of the river.

Walking is such a good way to get close to nature. Wash Common is near the river where you can enjoy the sound of rushing water and the sights of dragonflies and ducks, the slow movement of a canal barge and the shapes it makes in the water.

Focusing on details helps us to access a sense of calm through taking notice.

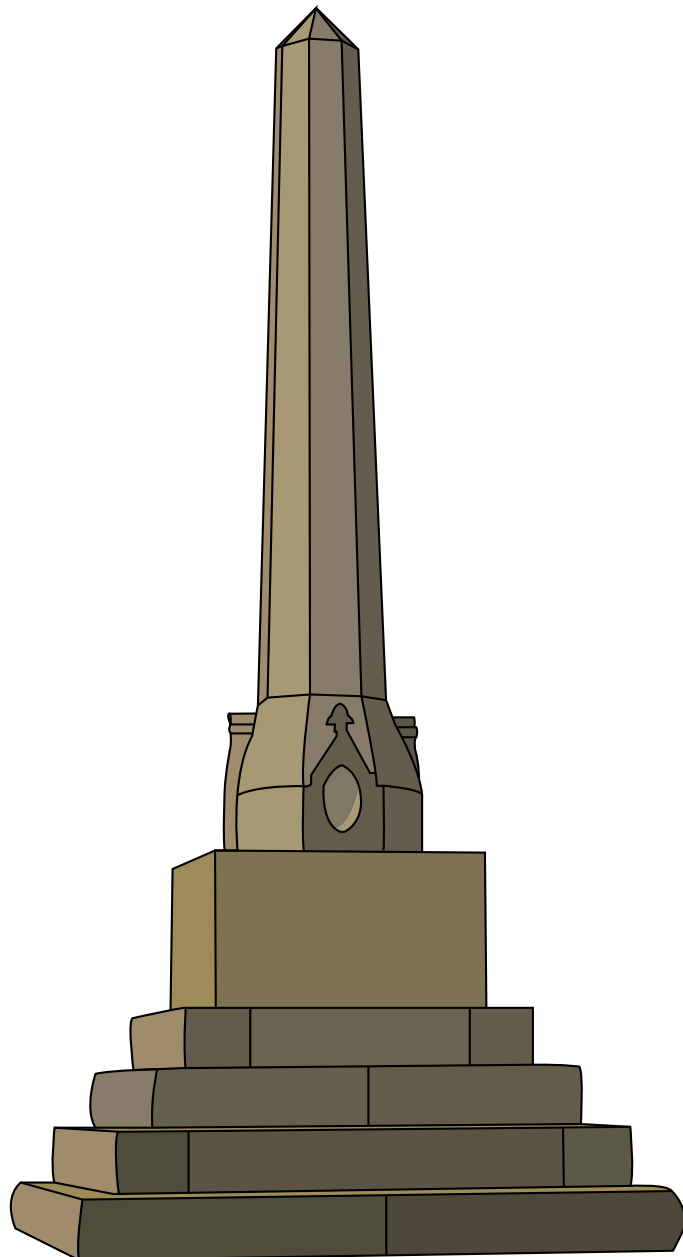




# Walking in Wash Common

Walk to improve your health, your mind and your environment. Here are a few places in Wash Common you can walk to visit.

- 1 Falkland memorial
- 2 Avery's Pightle
- 3 Northcroft Footbridge
- 4 St Michael of All Angels Church



# Accessible Walking

West Berkshire Council is committed to enabling and improving access for all. This map may be available in other formats upon request to the Council on [publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk).

For further information about access for people with disabilities, email [info@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:info@westberks.gov.uk) or visit [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk).

## Disclaimer

Care should be taken on all routes. The Highway Code and the usual rules of road safety should be observed.

Extreme caution is advised when near water and railway lines, especially with young children.

Whilst we try to ensure the accuracy of all routes, we do not accept liability for any use made of them by you.

The routes are intended as a guide only, neither the Council nor any officer or agent of the Council will be legally responsible for any inaccuracies.

Routes and paths shown on the map are not necessarily rights of way. Some routes may only be open during business hours of the premises they serve.

# Contact

If you would like more information on the walking routes in Berkshire or would like to get in touch, please contact us at

**West Berkshire Council**

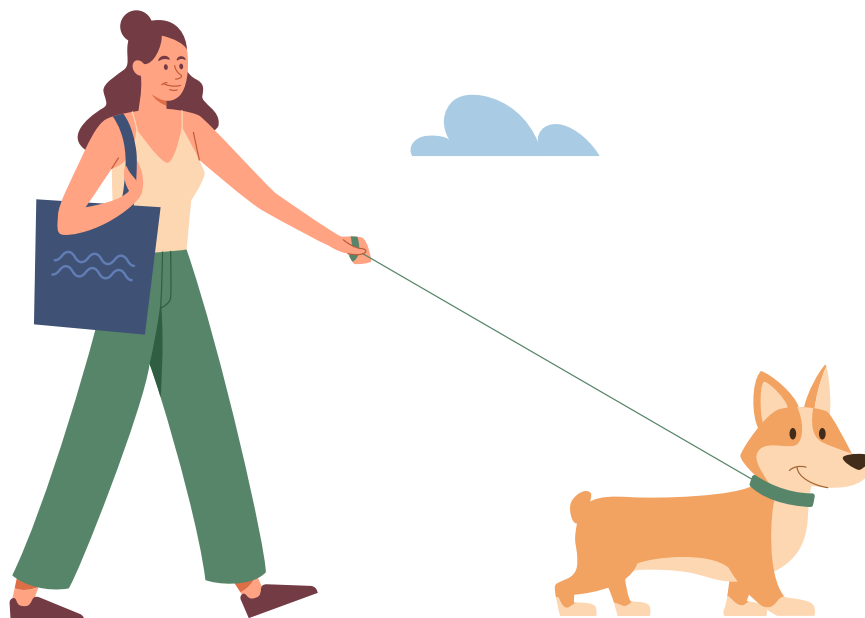
**01635 551 111**

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	Bus Stop		Promoted Route 1
	Play Area		Promoted Route 2
	Park		Other Walking Route
	Public Building		Stile
	Steps		Gate

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# WASH COMMON

