

## ABOUT THIS WALK...

This walk explores Charvil Country Park with its lakes and woodlands reclaimed from old gravel workings and now havens for wildlife.

You'll also see some magnificent examples of Brunel's railway viaducts spanning the many branches of the River Loddon.



If you remember your binoculars, keep an eye out for Pochards, Tufted Ducks, Great Crested Grebes, Grey Herons and Kingfishers.

The Lands End Inn and adjacent ford are half-way round the walk and alternative access is available opposite The Lands End Inn or from East Park Farm car park.

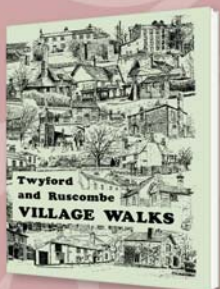
## USEFUL INFORMATION

**Refreshments:** a selection of pubs, restaurants and cafes in the village centre at the start or end of your walk, plus other pubs noted en route.

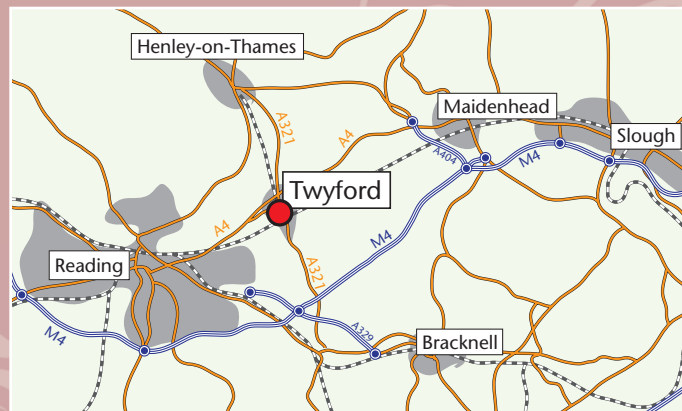
**Parking:** there are Pay & Display car parks in Polehampton Close (off the High St) and at the Station. There is also free 2 hour parking at Waitrose.

An essential companion on these Twyford walks is "*Village Walks*" produced by the Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society.

This is available from Newberry's, priced £3.50 and describes a complete History Walk.



## HOW TO GET HERE...



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**By car:** just South of the A4, at the junction of the A321 and A3032. Easily accessible from the M4 via J8/9 or J10.

**By bus:** on the Arriva 850 Reading - High Wycombe route and Thames Travel route 128 Reading - Wokingham.

**By train:** services from Reading, Henley, Maidenhead and further afield. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit the Twyford website for plenty more information on the village and its surroundings...



[www.twyfordvillagepartnership.co.uk](http://www.twyfordvillagepartnership.co.uk)

These leaflets, as well as a Twyford Walking Map, are available on the website or free of charge from Twyford Library, Newberry's Stationers, Twyford Surgery and local pubs.

This series of walk leaflets has been produced by the Twyford Village Partnership, with funding from SEEDA and support from Hidden Britain.



Design by Hidden Britain [www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk](http://www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk)



## CHARVIL COUNTRY PARK

3.5 miles

2.5 hours



An easy walk past lakes and woodlands. Don't forget binoculars and a bird book!

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## EXPLORE TWYFORD...

As its name suggests, Twyford developed where two branches of the River Loddon could be safely crossed. This crossing point was instrumental in attracting trade and travellers between the west of England and London, firstly with pack-horses, then wagons and stagecoaches. The village developed further with the arrival of the railway from London in 1838.



Twyford's long history has left a rich legacy of old and interesting buildings, with numerous inns and hostleries built to serve the travellers. But it is a very compact and 'walkable' village, home to a bustling community with a good range of shops, schools and all essential facilities.

Surrounding the village is a network of paths and bridleways exploring attractive undulating countryside along the banks of the River Loddon, Broadwater and the surrounding lakes.



WALKS IN THE LODDON VALLEY

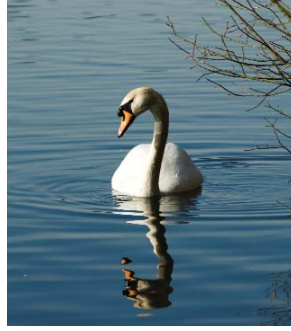
**1** Leaving Polehampton Close car park, cross the High Street and turn left towards Reading, crossing over the railway and several branches of the River Loddon. Immediately after the small industrial estate, re-cross the road to take the signposted footpath on the left.

**2** After 100yds of light woodland, with a factory on the left, the path comes into

4 mile walk past lakes and woodlands reclaimed from old gravel workings. Alternative access from Lands End Inn or East Park Farm car park.

subdivide somewhat but continue heading at first towards the railway line and then veering right to walk parallel to the railway, now on your left. Head towards the railway arch used previously.

**6** After returning through the arch, turn immediately to the left, walking parallel to the railway. This good path becomes a tarmac



open grassland; turn left at the junction of paths so that the buildings are still on the left. The path then curves to the right and keeps close to the bank of the lake. When the main path veers to the left, take a path on the right and continue walking in a clockwise direction with the lake on your right for 500yds.



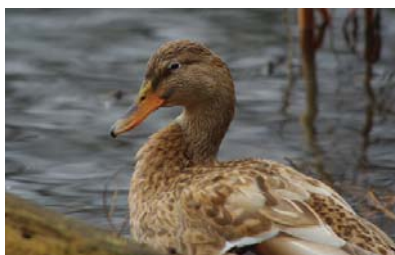
road and is a reminder of the former gravel extraction. Just before reaching Park Lane, take a narrower tarmac path on the right past a car park, sports facilities and a school continuing clockwise, on a sandy path, past East Park Farm pavilion on the left and wooden fencing around football pitches on the right.



**3** Once past the lake and in open grassland again, fork left on the path towards a wooden footbridge and the arches of the railway viaduct.

*(The section of Brunel's railway from Twyford to Reading involved not only these viaducts over the many branches of the Loddon but deep excavations of Sonning Cutting through solid chalk. Work on the Cutting meant that Twyford was the temporary terminus of the mainline from 1838 to 1840.)*

**7** When the sandy path veers off left into the housing estate, look for the footpath sign ahead and follow the grassy path as it sweeps left through an avenue of trees. The housing estate is still close-by on the left for a while but then the path



**4** Keep straight ahead under the arch, still walking southwards through a gate and ignoring a path off to the right. The path is slightly raised above a lake on the right and a river on the left. *(This old River is the original course of the River Loddon.)*

**5** After 500yds, the path bends right and there is a wooden kissing gate on the left. If you wish to visit The Lands End Inn or look at the ford, then drop down to Whistley Mill Lane here. If not, continue following the path in a clockwise direction around the lake. The paths may

continues straight ahead across open grassland. As you reach a gap in some trees and come near to the lakeside by a small bridge, veer left to go around the trees in a clockwise direction and soon the junction of paths at point 2 will be seen. Continue straight ahead with the factory buildings now on the right to exit onto the Old Bath Road and thence back to the starting point.



If you enjoyed this walk in Twyford, why not try another in this series?



Visit the website or Scan the code!