

ABOUT THIS WALK...

The Walk starts in the centre of Twyford and takes you past the site of former silk and flour mills and along the old Mill Stream, before exploring the Loddon Valley.

This area, once a hive of local industry, with a landscape of lakes crafted by gravel extraction, is now home to Loddon Valley Nature Reserve. Twitchers should particularly look out for; Pochards, Tufted Ducks, Great Crested Grebes, Grey Herons and Kingfishers.



The route also passes close to the ford of the old River Loddon, (and conveniently the Lands End Inn) before turning back to Twyford through the Hurst Park Estate.

Keep an eye out for some historic architecture as you reach the crossroads at the heart of the village.

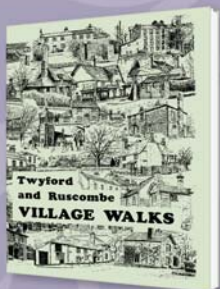
USEFUL INFORMATION

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.

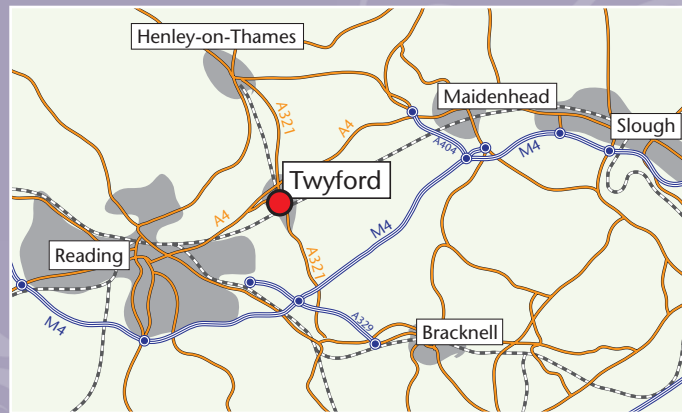
Parking: there are Pay & Display car parks in Polehampton Close (off the High St) and at the Station. There is also free 2 hour parking at Waitrose.

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 for train times.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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



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.

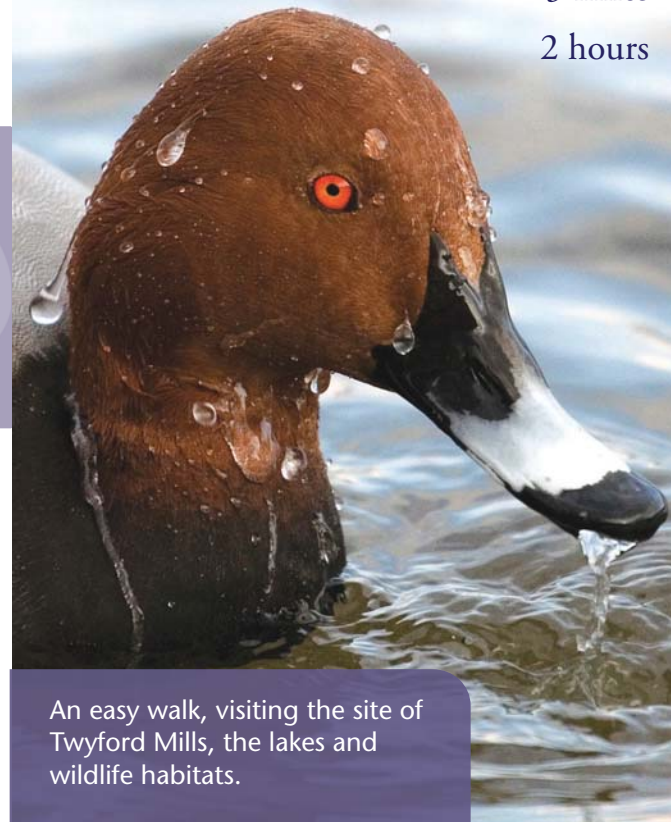


THE RIVER LODDON

Loddon Nature Reserve & Waltham Chase

3 miles

2 hours



An easy walk, visiting the site of Twyford Mills, the lakes and wildlife habitats.

2

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, turn left up Polehampton Close and left again along the High Street.

2 After passing over the Twyford to Henley branch railway line built in 1857 and then a row of terraced houses, take the gravel footpath marked 'Nature Reserve' and 'Dinton Pastures' diagonally left across the grassy area

3 miles, visiting the site of earlier Twyford mills, and lakes. These lakes now provide invaluable wildlife habitats. Paths can be muddy after prolonged rain.

There is a raised footpath on the right hand verge for 200yds which then transfers to the left hand side for another 50yds. The lane crosses the River Loddon at Whistley Bridge House and after 50yds, take the footpath on the left* which leads across restored gravel workings out onto Hurst Road. (*To continue to Dinton Pastures, walk along Whistley Mill Lane for another 50 yds and take the path on the right.)



and down to the bridge over the Broadwater. (The display board here explains the role of local rivers in the development of the various Twyford mills.)

3 Climb the steps, cross Weavers Way to the bridge opposite over the main branch of the River Loddon. Follow this path round to the left in front of the



7 Cross Hurst Road and turn left on the pavement towards Twyford. The stream crossed shortly is another stretch of the Broadwater. Cross Broad Hinton and at the next house (No.1), there is a footpath link through to a housing estate and Hurst Park Road. Follow this, ignoring all turnings until you reach the tarmac pathway between Nos. 33 and 35.



apartments and shortly reach the bridge over the outflow from the Mill Stream into the Emptying Pool. This can be an impressive fall of water after heavy rain.

4 The main path continues alongside the Loddon Mill Stream but after 50yds, and especially in wet weather, an alternative path off to the right leads onto a board walk nearer the main lake of the Loddon Nature Reserve. Both paths link up again as you approach the railway viaduct and the route then bends right, running between the railway and the lake.

8 This fairly level path runs the entire length of the Hurst Park Estate built in the 1970's. Ignoring any paths off to left or right, you pass two play areas. After skirting the second, an

alleyway over to the right emerges onto Wessex Gardens, where you turn right, then left into Colleton Drive and then right into Winchcombe Road until you reach Waltham Road with Stanlake Meadow ahead.

9 Turn left in Waltham Road (you may wish to cross over and walk through Stanlake Meadow instead), crossing Paddock Heights, Hurst Road and the railway bridge. Immediately after this, take the footpath on the left down to the station forecourt.

10 To complete the walk, cross the station forecourt and parking area, and turn right down Station Road, back to the village cross-roads and then left along the High Street to Polehampton Close car park.



5 After 100yds at a junction of footpaths, turn left under the railway and follow this track for half a mile until it emerges onto Whistley Mill Lane. (To see the ford of the Old River Loddon, turn right for 100 yds but to visit Lands End Inn across the ford, take the safe footpath route on the left through the field.)

6 To continue the walk, turn left away from the ford along Whistley Mill Lane.



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



Visit the website or Scan the code!