

ABOUT THIS WALK...

The Walk starts at Ruscombe Church, which is certainly worth a visit in its own right. St James Church is a Grade 1 listed building, with a Norman flint chancel, a 14th century roof and inside in the window splays on the East wall are some mediaeval wall paintings.

After leaving the church follow lanes and footpaths and cross Stanlake Park with views of the Manor (not open to the public) and its vineyard (www.stanlakepark.com).



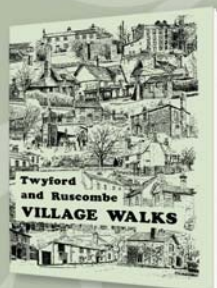
After crossing the Broadwater stream, you can either take the shortcut home through Broad Hinton or a longer walk down ancient Hogmoor Lane. Either way make sure to catch a glimpse of Penn's Garden, named after William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, who lived nearby from 1710 -1718.

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.

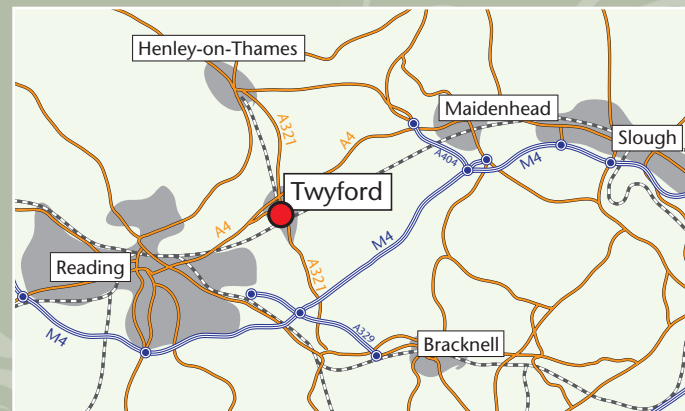
Parking: there are Pay & Display car parks in Polehampton Close (off the High St) and at the Station. There is also free 2 hour parking at Waitrose.

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.



Design by Hidden Britain www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk

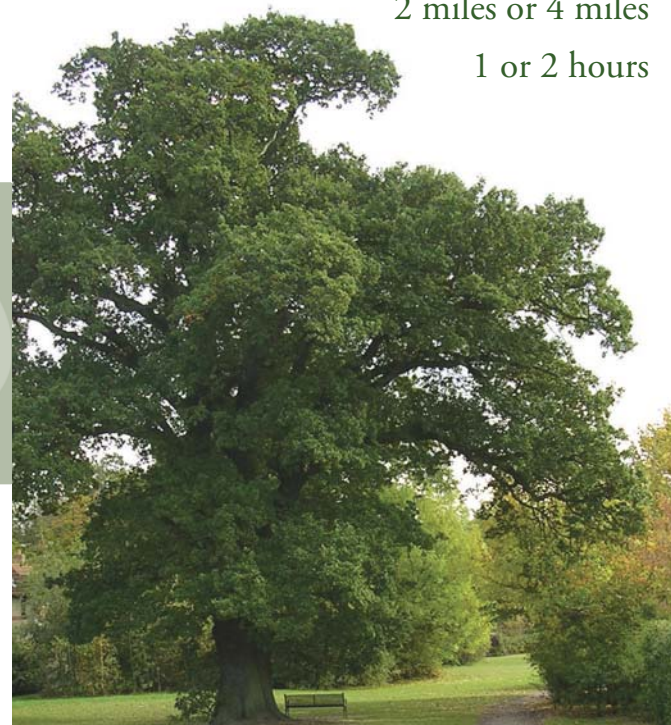


RUSCOMBE CHURCH

Through Stanlake Park & Broad Hinton

2 miles or 4 miles

1 or 2 hours



An easy walk with views of 16th century Stanlake Manor and the Broadwater stream

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

1 The Walk starts at Ruscombe Church. (*St James Church is a Grade 1 listed building, with a Norman flint chancel and 14th century roof. Inside in the window splays on the East wall are some mediaeval wall paintings.*) With your back to the main door of the church, turn left and then veer right down Southbury Lane, crossing the bridge over Brunel's main railway line from Paddington to the West of England.

4 miles or 2 miles, offering views of a Vineyard, 16th century Stanlake Manor and the Broadwater stream. Can be muddy in parts after wet weather.

6 Continue walking to the left on Waltham Road for 50yds, to a footpath sign. Cross the stile and continue straight ahead with a hedge on your left. Pass through a hedge into a second field, keeping in the same direction. There are often white circus ponies in these fields. In the far left hand corner, cross a stile and wooden bridge. The path then skirts woodland and leads to a metal bridge and then out onto a ploughed field. Cross the field and emerge onto ancient Hogmoor Lane.

7 Turn right along this Byway and follow it round to Hurst Road.

8 Here, turn right along the pavement, for 50yds, over the Broadwater stream and then turn right along Broad Hinton. In 100yds, as the road curves to the left, take the footpath to the right of the houses.



2 The lane bends to the left past Southbury Farm and descends gradually to three picturesque cottages – Lake Cottage, Thatch Cottage and Ferryman's Cottage. (*Until 1820, Ruscombe Lake extended from here to Waltham St Lawrence and was renowned for its pike, perch and eels. The area now drains via the Bray Cut into the Thames at Bray.*)



This pleasant path, with woodland and hedging on your right, follows the edge of the Broad Hinton housing estate, past a children's play area.



3 Retrace your steps to the footpath opposite Thatch Cottage, and go straight across the field to a kissing gate in a hedge. Continue in the same direction, along a fenced path with views over the Broadwater Stream to Stanlake Manor. (*Stanlake Manor - a private house - was built in the 1580's by Richard Aldworth, a rich London clothier. A vineyard was first planted on the estate in 1979 and there are now 20,000 vines covering 25 acres.*)



9 The path turns quite sharply left uphill past two large veteran trees. Cross Broad Hinton road and continue on the uphill path, and turning right past a second play area, with a copse of old trees on your right. The path emerges onto Verey Close, then back onto Broad Hinton. Turn left to the roundabout.

10 Cross the main road via the refuge and then use the unofficial path over a grassy bank. Turn to the left for 20 yds where a pedestrian gate takes you past the Pavilion into Stanlake Meadow. There are no formal paths here, so keep near the right-hand hedge. At the far end, there is an opening and stile onto Stanlake Lane.

11 Cross the lane and turn to the left. After 100yds, cross the railway bridge (*on your right is Penn's Garden. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, lived nearby from 1710-1718*) and in another 100yds, turn right at the slip road at Ruscombe cross-roads and then right again towards Ruscombe Church.



William Penn

4 Cross a grassy track (no access to Manor) by means of two gates and cross another meadow with the stream still on your left, to a kissing gate onto Waltham Road.

5 Turn left along the pavement for 50yds to the bridge over the Broadwater and cross the road. *For the shorter walk, descend the steps of the footpath to the left of Stanlake Farm Cottage, a half-timbered 16th century farmhouse. In 50yds, you reach a wider expanse of open space and rejoin the longer walk at point 9.*



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



Visit the website or Scan the code!