



BRAKSPEAR

**PUB
TRAILS**



FIVE HORSESHOES
MAIDENSGROVE, HENLEY-ON-THAMES
OXFORDSHIRE

3 CIRCULAR WALKS
4.1, 6.3 & 7.4 MILES



INTRODUCING BRAKSPEAR PUB TRAILS




We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at The Five Horseshoes. The Brakspear Pub Trails are a series of circular walks.

We thought the idea of a variety of circular country walks all starting and ending at our pubs was a guaranteed winner. We have fantastic pubs nestled in the countryside, and we hope our maps are a great way for you to get out and enjoy some fresh air and a gentle walk, with a guaranteed drink at the end – perfect!

Our pubs have always welcomed walkers (and almost all of them welcome dogs too), so we're making it even easier with plenty of free maps. You can pick up copies in the pubs taking part or go to brakspearaletrails.co.uk to download them. We're planning to add new pubs onto them, so the best place to check for the latest maps available is always our website.

We absolutely recommend you book a table so that when you finish your walk you can enjoy a much needed bite to eat too. At the weekend, please book in advance, as this is often a busier time, especially our smaller pubs.

And finally, do send us your photos of you out and about on your walk. We really do love getting them.

   @BrakspearPubs

How to get there



Driving: Postcode is RG9 6EX with a car park for customers.



Nearest station: Henley on Thames train stations is 6.4 miles away.



Local bus services: We couldn't find a bus service but if you know of one, please get in touch.



Brakspear would like to thank the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the volunteers who helped make these walks possible. As a result of these walks, Brakspear has invested in TOE2 to help maintain and improve Oxfordshire's footpaths.

Reg. charity no. 1140563

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

Respect other people:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

For more info visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-country-side-code

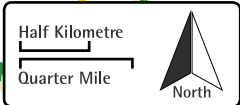
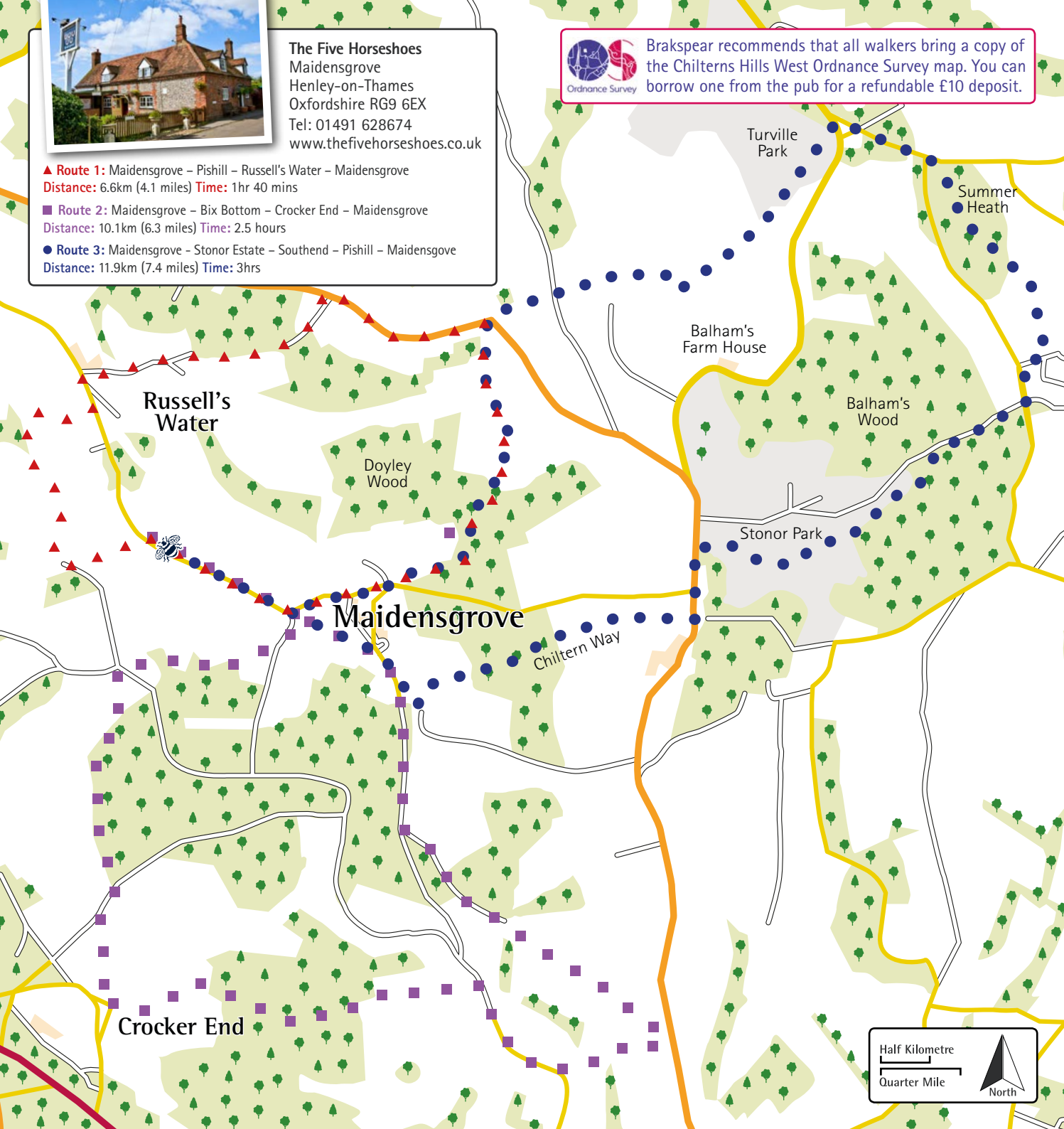


The Five Horseshoes
Maidensgrove
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire RG9 6EX
Tel: 01491 628674
www.thefivehorseshoes.co.uk

- ▲ **Route 1:** Maidensgrove – Pishill – Russell's Water – Maidensgrove
Distance: 6.6km (4.1 miles) **Time:** 1hr 40 mins
- **Route 2:** Maidensgrove – Bix Bottom – Crocker End – Maidensgrove
Distance: 10.1km (6.3 miles) **Time:** 2.5 hours
- **Route 3:** Maidensgrove – Stonor Estate – Southend – Pishill – Maidensgrove
Distance: 11.9km (7.4 miles) **Time:** 3hrs



Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Chilterns Hills West Ordnance Survey map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit.



Route 1

A medium length walk but over quite hilly terrain and likely to be muddy in winter.

Directions

Distance: 6.6km (4.1 miles) Time: 1hr 40 mins

- 01 With your back towards the pub car park turn left and walk on the Common but following the road for about 1km, passing the footpath to Maidensgrove farm, until you reach a road off to the right to Maidensgrove.
- 02 At this point bear left on the tarmac lane opposite following the footpath sign.
- 03 Walk along the lane past some houses until the lane ends and becomes a footpath.
- 04 Continue on for a short distance along this path until you reach an intersection with another path (the Oxfordshire Way), turn left on to this path.
- 05 Continue following the white arrows downhill through woodland for about 700m and for a short distance uphill, along the edge of a field, then through two five bar gates to arrive at Pishill* Church via a hard track going right. (*The origin of the name derives from "Peose Hyll", where peas grew).

DID YOU KNOW! A highly unusual 'T' shaped country church in an enviable location overlooking the Stonor Valley.

It was originally an 11th-century Norman building but it was rebuilt in 1854. One of the stained glass windows was made in 1967 by John Piper who for many years lived less than 2.5 miles (4km) away in Fawley Bottom, Buckinghamshire.

- 06 Walk downhill until you reach a T junction; turn left and walk with care along the road past the Crown Inn and past "The Old Road".
- 07 Continue walking along the road until you come to a left hand bend; with a vineyard to your right, turn left on to a tarmac lane (Pishill Bank), with a footpath sign to Maidensgrove.
- 08 Walk uphill along the lane passing between a clutch of redbrick houses.
- 09 Continue to climb as far as Walnut Tree Cottage then look for a very narrow path immediately to the right of the five bar gate to the cottage driveway. It is poorly signposted at ground level. Follow this path through the woods.
- 10 At a fork continue straight on following the white arrows on trees; the path then levels out and emerges on to an open common.
- 11 Turn right by Upper Nuttals Farm and follow the track to Russell's Water and the local duck pond.



© Colin Bates, Wikimedia Commons

Maidensgrove Common

DID YOU KNOW!

The duck pond at Russell's Water featured in the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Truly Scrumptious drove into it several times throughout the film.

- 12 Turn left towards Maidensgrove, with the pond on your left. (At this point if you want to shorten your walk you can continue along the road to arrive back at the Five Horseshoes.)
- 13 To continue, walk as far as The Old Chapel, now a house, and turn right here on a bridleway following the blue arrow.
- 14 The path narrows as it goes downhill, at the foot of the hill turn left on to another path and walk along the valley bottom.
- 15 After 800m turn left through a small wooden gate and take the path (Shakespeare's Way) back up hill. When you reach the road turn right to the pub.



© Chris Denny, Wikimedia Commons

The duck pond at Russell's Water

Route 2

A medium length walk
with quite hilly terrain.

Directions

Distance: 10.1km (6.3 miles) Time: 2.5 hours

- 01 Come out of the pub car park, turn left, walk down the lane and continue along the side of the common for nearly half a mile until the road bears round to the left.
- 02 Walk straight ahead here along a path lined with trees and continue along this path for about 300m where you join a track coming in from the left.
- 03 Continue straight along this track/road for another 300m where the road bears round to the left towards Lodge Farm.
- 04 At this point take the sign posted bridleway to the right; follow this for about a third of a mile and take the restricted byway to the left marked Chiltern Way (Warmcombe Lane). There are good views to the right overlooking Bix Bottom.
- 05 Continue in a gradual descent along this byway path until just before the B480 road to Stonor is reached, where you take a footpath to the right.
- 06 Continue with this path up a hill then down to Bix Bottom where you turn right and walk along the lane past Valley Farm until the ruins of St. James church is reached.

DID YOU KNOW?

St James Church dating back to the 1600s was abandoned in the 19th Century. This location was on the main route to Oxford but this was changed when a new turnpike was built, the hamlet relocated to Bix and a new church was built there.

- 07 Take a path to the left here, (sign posted Crocker End 1 Chiltern Way Extension), and ascend through fields and woodland to reach pastureland.
- 08 Continue straight ahead until the hamlet of Crocker End is reached.
- 09 Go through the gate and continue straight ahead and walk on the green in front of cottages on the right, (sign posted Chiltern Way Extension Russell's Water 1½) then on the road past a post box until a sign posted path is reached on the right (Chiltern Way).
- 10 Take this path, go through the gate, and straight ahead across the field to another gate. Go through this gate to a road and continue straight ahead on this.
- 11 At a junction of paths and the entrance to Soundess House take the track which forks to the left (sign posted Russell's Water 1½)
- 12 Continue straight ahead along this track past Soundess Farm alongside woods and across fields downhill, with fine views across the valley, to a junction of paths and bridleways at the bottom.



Ruins of St James Church

DID YOU KNOW?

If you look across the valley in a northerly direction you should see the white painted dining room of The Five Horseshoes.

- 13 Here there are bridleways to the left, sharp right and straight ahead. Do not take any of these but take the Chiltern Way path to the right and go through a gate.
- 14 This ascends steeply across the field up to another gate where you can look back and admire the fine views.
- 15 Go through the gate then through a short piece of woodland, across a field, through more woodland and across another field to join a bridleway.
- 16 Turn left onto this bridleway which leads up to the road which links Upper Maidensgrove with Maidensgrove.
- 17 Turn left onto this road and walk back to the Five Horseshoes pub.



The Five Horseshoes pub

Route 3

A fairly long walk over hilly terrain
with two steep uphill sections.

Directions

Distance: 11.9km (7.4 miles) Time: 3 hours

- 01 With your back to the car park entrance turn left and walk along the lane that skirts the common.
- 02 Continue along this lane until it bends to the left; ignoring a bridleway to the right, continue straight ahead on a path that bisects the south eastern corner of the common.
- 03 Arriving at a track bear slightly to the right and follow this track for a short distance, then bear right and follow a lane for about 300m.
- 04 Just before Lodge Farm turn left on to a path indicated by a Chiltern Way sign. This path goes between cottages and after a few metres you arrive at a junction of paths.
- 05 Take the right hand path and follow it in a diagonal direction across an arable field leading to Park Wood.
- 06 Follow the footpath straight ahead through the wood, then exit through a wooden kissing gate and take time to enjoy the superb views as you descend down the hill through pastureland.
- 07 Go through the wooden kissing gate at the bottom of the hill and proceed straight ahead to the Watlington Road (B480).
- 08 Turn left, taking great care in walking along the road as far as the Stonor Park footpath entrance on the right hand side of the road.
- 09 Go through a large black circular metal gate and follow the footpath up the hill adjacent to the deer park; continue straight ahead on this path with wonderful views all around and of Stonor House to the left. (At this point you might like to pause for some refreshments at the Visitor Centre's Pit Stop Café, if you do, turn left off the footpath when you reach the Pit Stop Café sign.)
- 10 Continue on the same path through the estate until a road is reached at the end; turn left and follow the road for a little over 100 yards until you reach the hamlet of Southend.
- 11 Turn right by the Southend notice board and walk along the road by the side of the common for about 100 yards then take a footpath on the left, the entrance of which can be hidden somewhat by bushes.
- 12 Climb over the stile, proceed straight ahead across the paddock and go through a kissing gate to a road.
- 13 Cross the road to a footpath opposite and follow this path by the side of a field until a gate is reached.
- 14 Go through the gate into a grazing field and proceed in a diagonally left direction (wonderful views towards Turville, Fingest and Cadmore End) to the edge of a wood (Summer Heath Wood).
- 15 As the wood is entered, go straight ahead ignoring paths to the left and right. Keep going on the same path through the wood ignoring a path coming in from the left and a path crossing the route until the road to Turville and Northend is reached.

- 16 Turn left onto this road and proceed straight ahead for just over a quarter of a mile walking past two roads to Stonor on the left.
- 17 After the second junction and just past the bus shelter on the right, take the footpath on the left hand side of the road following the access drive to a house called Saviours.
- 18 To the left of Saviours proceed through a couple of metal kissing gates which are very close together and walk round the perimeter of the garden of Saviours to two more metal gates.
- 19 Go through these gates and follow the footpath across the meadow to another gate. Go through this gate and proceed in a left diagonal direction across the field to another kissing gate (made of cast iron).
- 20 Turn right and follow the path down the hill (great views of the Stonor Valley and Stonor Estate). After a short distance there is a very useful bench situated where one can enjoy the views.
- 21 Continue along this path with some downhill sections and one ascent until a T junction of paths is reached.
- 22 Turn left and after a short distance the road to Watlington is reached.
- 23 Turn right and walk along the road for a few yards before turning left into Church Lane (signed the Oxfordshire Way).
- 24 Walk up the hill past Pishill Church and The Old Vicarage, continue past the Vicarage garden on the right, ignoring a path to the left until a junction of bridleways is reached.

DID YOU KNOW?

A highly unusual 'T' shaped country church in an enviable location overlooking the Stonor Valley.

It was originally an 11th-century Norman building but it was rebuilt in 1854. One of the stained glass windows was made in 1967 by John Piper who for many years lived less than 2.5 miles (4km) away in Fawley Bottom, Buckinghamshire.

- 25 Take the bridleway to the left (signed Oxfordshire Way); go through two field gates and follow the path as it descends down to a wood.
- 26 At the entrance to the wood follow the bridleway as it climbs steeply up the hill. Continue climbing and then shortly after the bridleway levels off take a footpath to the right (signed PS19).
- 27 Follow this path between houses as it becomes a road and follow this down to another road.
- 28 Turn right and continue along this road which leads back to the pub.

The Five Horseshoes

Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 12pm–2.30pm

Wednesday–Saturday: 12pm–11pm

Sunday: 12pm–6pm

Kitchen Open:

Tuesday: 12pm–2.30pm

Wednesday–Friday: 12pm–2.30pm & 6pm–9pm

Saturday: 12pm–3pm & 6pm–9pm

Sunday: 12pm–4pm

- Dog Friendly (beer garden only)
- Family Friendly
- Garden/Patio
- Park the Car
- WiFi Access

The Five Horseshoes

Maidensgrove, Henley-on-Thames

Oxfordshire RG9 6EX

Tel: 01491 628674

www.thefivehorseshoes.co.uk



Download the App

To follow Brakspear Pub Trails on your smartphone, simply download the free ViewRanger app from the Apple App Store or Google Play, then visit www.viewranger.com/brakspear to find the full collection of walks. Pick your favourite route, download it in the app, then follow it using ViewRanger's offline GPS navigation.

www.pub-trails.co.uk

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