



## WALKS AROUND EARLEY



### Walk 11: Chalfont Park & Arborfield Church (revised Nov 22)

This is a suite of five mainly flat walks. The basic walk is a figure-of-eight that starts at Lower Earley's Chalfont Park, crosses the M4 by a footbridge to go out of the town, past Shinfield Studios and through farmland south of the motorway. You return via the Shinfield Arms and re-enter the town through Pearman's Copse. The walk is mainly on pavements, footpaths, byways and quiet lanes. There is a short section of Church Lane past Arborfield Church (points 6 to 7) where extra care must be taken. This road has a 40-mph speed limit and no pavement, though there is a broad verge along much of its length which may be used when vehicles pass. Arborfield Church has an unusual spire and is worth a visit; there are benches in the churchyard. There may be young calves in the pens just before point 9.

#### Lengths

Basic Walk	11.8 km	(7.3 miles)	Allow 2½ hours plus stops.
Alternative 1	8.8 km	(5.5 miles)	See point 10.
Alternative 2	10.8 km	(6.7 miles)	See point 10. Avoids muddy fields/flooding and grazing cattle.
Alternative 3	9.1 km	(5.7 miles)	See point 14.
Alternative 4	11.2 km	(7 miles)	See point 15. Avoids Shinfield Village & Black Boy.

#### Starting Point

<b>Car:</b>	<b>Chalfont Court Car Park</b> , Chalfont Way, Earley RG6 5HQ (adjacent Suttons Bowls Club) OS Grid Ref: SU 7413 7000. w3w: ///levels.tricky.price
<b>Bus: No 19b</b>	<b>Chalfont Court Asda</b> stop (next to car park entrance), or
<b>No 21</b>	<b>Chalfont Circle</b> stop and walk 300m along Chalfont Way past the red post box, or
<b>No 21</b>	<b>Chatton Close Asda</b> stop, walk 200m along Rushey Way to the roundabout at point 2

#### Refreshments

McDonalds, The Square, Lower Earley

#### Route Instructions (See map attached for numbered points)

1



SU 7412 7000. At the edge of the park and with your back to the car park, turn left and walk to a children's playground. Turn left and walk along the path past the courts to a metal barrier. Turn right and cross the road at the traffic island by the petrol station. Continue along Chalfont Way to the roundabout on Rushey Way. This is point **(2)**.

2



SU 7427 6986. Carefully cross Rushey Way at the traffic island to the right of the roundabout. Go straight on along the path across a green space with houses on your left to reach Bradmore Way. Turn left and walk downhill to the junction with Cutbush Lane. Turn right and soon come to the roundabout on Lower Earley Way. Bear right to a traffic island. This is point **(3)** below.

3



SU 7435 6964. Cross Lower Earley Way at the traffic island. Follow blue cycleway signs for 'Shinfield Village' as the tarmac path turns right and then immediately left uphill to cross the M4 by a broad footbridge. Go past the British Museum Archaeological Research warehouses to join Cutbush Lane. Ignore the left turning for Reading University Old House Farm. Walk on the pavement on the right-hand side of the road. Go past

the entrance on your left to the new Shinfield Studios (opened 2021). About 100m after the entrance, where there is a 'drop-down' in the pavement, come to a footpath fingerpost on your left (easily missed). This is point **(4)** below.

4



SU 7412 6903. Turn left at the fingerpost to join a gravel footpath with the fence to Shinfield Studios on your left and a hedge on your right. Follow the path to come to a kissing gate. Go through this and walk diagonally across the field to come to another kissing gate. This is point **(5)** below.

5



SU 7430 6860. Go through the gate and turn left onto a footpath. At a wooden gate (often open) bear right onto a broad dirt lane. Follow this lane to a concrete bridge across the river Loddon. (*The kissing gate just before the bridge is point 10 on your return.*) Carry on past a white-painted brick wall of an old building. (*The building –Youngstock Unit – is point 9 on your return.*)

Carry on along the lane, go straight on the crossroads by Arborfield Churchyard Ruins onto a broad avenue between trees with fields on both sides. At the end of the avenue go through a metal squeeze-gate. Continue on a lane as it passes the Old Rectory on your left and a large pond on your right to come to a road with a large house opposite. This is point **(6)** below.

6



SU 7535 6766. Turn left and walk on the right-hand side of the road next to the broad verge. Go past Arborfield Church –St Bartholomew's – on your left to come to a byway on your left just after an interesting cottage – Reading Room Cottage. The byway is opposite a house called 'The Pheasentries'. The byway sign may be obscured by vegetation. Another sign reads 'Monks Cottage only' This is point **(7)** below.

**Extra care needs to be taken on the 600 m between points 6 and 7.**

7



SU 7596 6777. Turn left onto the byway which is an unmade lane. Follow the byway as it winds its way past a house with firewood logs carefully stacked outside and between trees to come to a kissing gate on your left next to a metal farm gate. Depending on farm operations the farm gate may be open. This is point **(8)** below.

8



SU 7575 6864. Go through the kissing gate and turn sharp left. Immediately in front of you is a farm gate with three metal posts to its left-hand side. Go between the posts onto a broad concrete lane. Walk along the lane past the Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR). The lane becomes tarmac between fences. Where the lane bears left, carry straight on past cattle pens on your right. Come to a T-junction beside the Youngstock Unit. This point **(9)** below.

9



SU 7497 6809. Turn right onto the unmade lane. This was on your outward route. Go across the concrete bridge over the river Loddon and immediately come to a metal kissing gate on your left. This is point **(10)** below.

10



SU 7479 6828. Turn left and go through the kissing gate. Follow the narrow path around the field margin with the trees and the river on your left to come to wooden bridge and a kissing gate. This path may be muddy. Go through the gate into the field. The path heads diagonally across the field. Aim for the left-hand end of a hedge across the field, often with cows, to your right. Come to a kissing gate by the A327 Arborfield Road. This is point **(11)** below.

**Alternative Route 1.** Go straight on at point 10 and retrace your outward journey. Turn right at point 5.

**Alternative Route 2.** Go straight on at point 10 and retrace your outward steps to point 5. Carry straight on to rejoin the basic walk on Cutbush Lane at point 14 – turn left. This route avoids fields that may have cattle and flooded fields after periods of intense rainfall..

11



SU 7410 6784. Turn right and walk for 160m on the broad grass verge towards a building on the right. This used to be the Magpie & Parrot pub.) Just before the building there is a footpath fingerpost that is often obscured by vegetation This is point **(12)** below.

12



SU 7394 6785. Turn right walk along the narrow footpath to the right of the building's property to a kissing gate. Go through it and head diagonally across the field towards a kissing gate. Go through the gate and immediately go through another. Go diagonally across the field towards the end of a hedge and the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road. These fields may have cows in them. Come to a kissing gate on your right. This is point **(13)** below.

13



SU 7388 6822. Go right, through the kissing gate and walk along the path with the hedge and oak trees on your left. Go through another kissing gate onto a narrow path. Turn left on a farm lane to come to Cutbush Lane nearly opposite an attractive barn conversion. This is point **(14)** below.

14



SU 7392 6877. Turn left along Cutbush Lane to soon come to the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road. This is point **(15)** below.

**Alternative Route 3.** At point 14 turn right along Cutbush Lane, go past Shinfield Grange on your right to point 4 of your outward route. From here retrace your steps back to the start.

15



SU 7386 6872. Carefully cross the Shinfield Relief Road at the traffic island. Go through the gap in the tall, brown, metal wall and walk on pavements to pedestrian crossings at Hollow Lane/Shinfield Rd. This is point **(16)** below.

**Alternative Route 4.** At point 15 turn right and walk alongside the Relief Road on the broad pavement. Go across a roundabout and continue on the Relief Road to turn right across Reading University Bridge. Cross Lower Earley Way at the pedestrian crossing and walk along the pavement to rejoin the basic route at point 18.

16



SU 7314 6868. Cross the roads at two places and turn right on Hollow Lane. Go past the Shinfield Arms pub to cross the M4 on the old bridge (now a pedestrian/cycleway with a separate bus lane.) Come to a major roundabout. This is point **(17)** below.

17



SU 7317 6901. Turn right and go anticlockwise around/across the roundabout using 5 pedestrian crossings. After the last crossing go right and walk down the B3270 Lower Earley Way. 60m past the end-of-speed-restriction sign come to a dog walkers' informal gap in the hedge (easily missed). This is point **(18)** below.

18



SU 7342 6912. Go through the gap and after 20m turn right onto a dirt path through Pearman's Copse. The path soon comes to an open grassed area. Walk through this keeping the trees on your right and houses to your left. Go through another copse and onto a grassed area. At the bottom of the grassed area come to wooden railings on Beeston Way. This is point **(19)** below.

19



SU 7424 6965. Go through the gap and turn left. Walk up Beeston Way to a roundabout. Turn left and walk up Rushey Way to a traffic island. This is point **(20)** below.

20



SU 7394 6977. Cross the road and go through metal railings onto a tarmac path. This is Chalfont Park. Journey's end is reached across the park at the car park.

