



Walk 3: River Loddon & the Wood of Eagles

A flat walk at the eastern end of Lower Earley that uses the area's network of paths and walkways/cycleways to link the Meadows, river Loddon, Wood of Eagles, BMX track and other green spaces. **Warning:** After periods of intense rainfall the river Loddon is prone to flooding. The path beside the river from point 6 and in the Wood of Eagles after point 9 may be impassable. Alternative 'dryfoot' directions are provided in the route instructions should this be the case.

Length

3.1 miles (5 km). Allow 1½ hours plus stops.

Starting Point

- Car:** **Easington Drive, RG6 3XN** careful, considerate parking at end of the road
OS Grid Ref: SU 7633 7062, w3w: [///outfit.random.posed](https://www.outfit.random.posed) or,
Maiden Place Car Park RG6 3HA. Start/finish point 15
OS ref SU 7555 7052, w3w: [///clips.probe.verse](https://www.clips.probe.verse)
- Bus:** **No 21** Easington Drive stop
No 19a } **The George** stop, Wokingham Road. Walk down the road past garage to public footpath
No 4/X4 } sign opposite the George and turn right down the steps to start/finish at Point 6.

Refreshments

Seven Red Roses pub, Maiden Place, Lower Earley (near point 15)
Rustic Café, Maiden Place, Lower Earley (near point 15)
George pub, Loddon Bridge (near point 6)

Route Instructions (See map below for numbered points)

1



With the bus shelter on your left walk along Kilnsea Drive towards Rushey Way. Take the first left into Mill Lane (road sign low down on your left). Just after Welwick Close come to a crossing path. This is point **(2)** below.

2



Turn right onto the footpath. Cross Rushey Way at the traffic island and continue in the same direction on the footpath between the houses and Thistleton Way. Come to Tinwell Close. This is point **(3)** below.

3



Cross the road and continue on the footpath to come to metal railings. This is point **(4)** below.

4



Turn diagonally left onto the gravel path that runs next to a fence. (Not the first left a tarmac path). Follow the path with green space on your right 'The Meadows' to reach a wooden bridge. This is point **(5)** below. **Alternative Route:** If the Loddon has flooded turn right at the railings. Follow the gravel path past a children's playground to re-join the basic route at the pedestrian crossing on Rushey Way – just before point 7.

5



Cross the bridge and follow the path as it bears right to reach another bridge over a stream. Cross the bridge and continue on the path to reach the foot of concrete steps with white handrails. This is point **(6)** below. *The George pub is reached by going up the steps to Wokingham Road and crossing the road.*

6



At the foot of the steps turn sharp right and follow the path beside the river Loddon for 900m to reach the Lower Earley Way. Follow the path round and cross Rushey Way at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left and follow the pavement for about 50m back towards Lower Earley Way to come to a footpath on your right through the wood. This is point **(7)** below.

Warning. *After periods of heavy rainfall, the river Loddon may be flooded and the footpath under water or the river close to breaching its banks. If so, back track to point 4 and follow the alternative route.*

7



Turn right onto the path into the wood, immediately bear left and come to a green space. Follow the gravel path past an information board about the 'Wood of Eagles'. Ignore a left fork and, as the path bears right, come to a single storey brick building. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Leave the path and walk across the grass to the left of the building. Pass to the left of a children's playground. Continue in the same direction to the end of a fence. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Turn left through woods and go over a shallow ditch. At a T-junction with a gravel path, turn right and follow the path, bearing left at a litter bin (ignore the right turn) until it reaches a bridge with metal handrailing. This is point **(10)** below.

Warning & Alternative 'Dryfoot' Route. *After heavy rainfall, the area around the ditch may be flooded. If so back track to the children's playground. Take the path from the playground to the end of Wickham Rd. Bear left and take the footpath between houses to come to Hambledon Close. Turn right and reach a T-junction with Kitwood Drive. Turn left, go past Yoreham Close to reach the 'hammerhead' at the end of Kitwood Drive. Go left and take the footpath to reach a T-junction with a gravel path by a litter bin. (This path is the basic route). Turn right and soon reach the bridge at point **(10)** below.*

10



Go across the bridge and follow the path until it comes to a T-junction with a road (Elderberry Way). This is point **(11)** below.

11



Turn left and go to the end of Elderberry Way. Go through metal railings by the turning area and turn left. At the street sign 'Simmonds Crescent' turn right and soon left, opposite the street sign 'Gabriels Square' into Barn Croft Drive (no street sign). At the end of the houses come to two red brick pillars. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Pass between the pillars and take a path diagonally right to a gravel path. Continue in the same direction (not left to a play area), through some scrub to reach a gravel path by a litter bin and bench facing a green space. Turn left and follow the gravel path round past the BMX Track to come to a metal gantry gate with bollards. This is point **(13)** below.

13



Go past the gate to reach Paddick Drive. Cross the road and turn right onto a gravel path that runs parallel to the road. Continue on the path ignoring turnings left and right. Where the gravel becomes tarmac carry straight on to reach bollards just before Gypsy Lane. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Go through the bollards to reach Gypsy Lane 50m later. Turn right. Go through metal railings onto a pedestrian/cycle path. Continue to reach the pedestrian crossing on Kilnsea Drive. This is point **(15)** below.

Alternative Route. After the bollards turn sharp right into the recreation ground (Earley Events Park). Turn left and walk with the hedge on your left to a children's playground. The pedestrian crossing is the far side of this.

15



Cross Kilnsea Drive and continue on the alley to reach metal railings by a lamp post. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Turn right through the railings. Follow the path anti-clockwise around the green. In front of house No 80 turn right and follow the path between wooden fences. Ignore turnings left and right to reach a small green with a children's play area. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Take the left fork (i.e. do not turn right). Soon come to a crossing path by a lamp post. Go straight on between a wall and a fence to come to the green fence to Hawkendon Primary School. After around 100m reach a lamp post with a path on the right. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Turn right onto the path and then left into Hollym Close. Turn left into Easington Drive. After 50m reach Kilnsea Drive; the bus stop, and journey's end, is immediately to the left of the junction.

