

Route supplied by

MyFavouritePubWalks.com

The first national pub walks database offering an online space for people to share, download and review their favourite pub walks.



Ale Trail 2011

Cookham, Berkshire

MINIMUM TIME: 3.5 hours

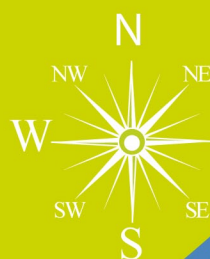
DISTANCE: 6.5 miles

LEVEL/GRADE: Easy

PATHS: Woodland paths, field paths, towpath, quiet country lanes

LANDSCAPE: Riverside, woodland, farmland, meadow

A varied walk through open countryside and a golf course, fields and woodland. Enjoy great views over the Thames before a stroll along the towpath back into Cookham



KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Your route
	Public road
	Footpath/Bridal Way
	River
	Railway track
	Points on the route
	Pub

SUGGESTED STARTING POINT

National Trust car park, just outside Cookham on the B4447.

OS MAPS

Explorer 172 (Chiltern Hills East) / Landranger 175 (Reading and Windsor)

THE WALK

1. At the far end of the car park take the path to the left (marked with a footpath sign) over a footbridge and a stone stile. Keep straight ahead with the fence on your left and as the fence veers to the left you follow it up the slope to a footpath sign and kissing gate.
2. Pass through the kissing gate, along the path and gravel track. Turn right and head to a footpath sign ahead to enter a golf course.
3. Keep to the edge of the golf course to the next footpath sign and turn left across a railway bridge. Go straight ahead through the golf course (beware golf balls!), keeping an old brown building on your left as you pass through a large gap in conifers, and keep going as you pick up a hedge on the left. At the end of the hedge, follow the footpath sign to the left and proceed to the road.
4. Cross the road, pass through the kissing gate and follow the footpath. When you reach the road turn left down Alleyns Lane until you reach Dean Lane at T-junction. Turn right and after a short distance turn left up Warners Hill. When you reach the pub, Uncle Tom's Cabin (☎ 01628 483339), turn right and follow the edge of Hardings Green.
5. Follow this road as it bends right then left up hill. After the church is The Jolly Farmer (☎ 01628 482905), owned/run by Cookham Dean village.
6. Turn left, back past the church and left alongside Cookham Dean village green in the direction of the sign "Sanctum on the Green". At this hotel and restaurant, turn right (as though you are going around to the back of the building – there's a public footpath sign on the gate). Follow this narrow path through a copse to reach a "step-less stile", and keep following the footpath markers.
7. At the bottom of the valley, ignore the footpath crossing your route and continue straight ahead, through a kissing gate to the road.
8. Look for the woodland path on the other side of the road slightly to your left (no need to go as far as the bridleyway sign). Enter the woods here and after a short distance turn right and follow the path that runs in the same direction as the road.
9. On reaching Quarry Wood Road, go straight ahead onto the signed footpath opposite then left when you meet another path. At the footpath sign, take the path on the right through the woods (look for helpful white arrows on the trees, especially in Autumn).
10. The path bends to the right. Keep the fence on your right it's joined by a path from the left. There is less of interest here but keep going for 15-20 minutes alongside the fence until you reach a gravel drive. Keep straight on then take the footpath on the left to the top of Winter Hill where there is a car park and a wonderful view.
11. Make your way along the grass verge with the view on your left until you meet the road again which you now have to follow. Continue past Gibraltar Lane until you reach a footpath sign leading you down a track to the left (opposite the gates of "Chimneys").
12. Keep straight on, following the main path ignoring left and right forks, and enjoy the views down to The Thames as the track slowly descends. As it levels out, follow the path round to the left towards the river, through a kissing gate and fields towards the houses. Before the houses, turn right by the footpath sign to join the Thames towpath and stay on this until you arrive at The Bounty pub (☎ 01628 520056).
13. On leaving the Bounty, proceed in the same direction along the towpath. Pass under a railway bridge (where the Thames Valley Path crosses) and continue on towards Cookham.
14. At the next bridge carrying the A4094, turn right, following the road and then take the right hand turn into Cookham High Street.
15. Bel & The Dragon (☎ 01628 521263) is on your right after a short distance. Keep going along the High Street until you see the War Memorial on the left side of the road and from here it is just a short walk across the grass area on your right to bring you back to the car park.

Please drink responsibly