

Upham Inns  
IDYLLIC PUBS WITH ROOMS



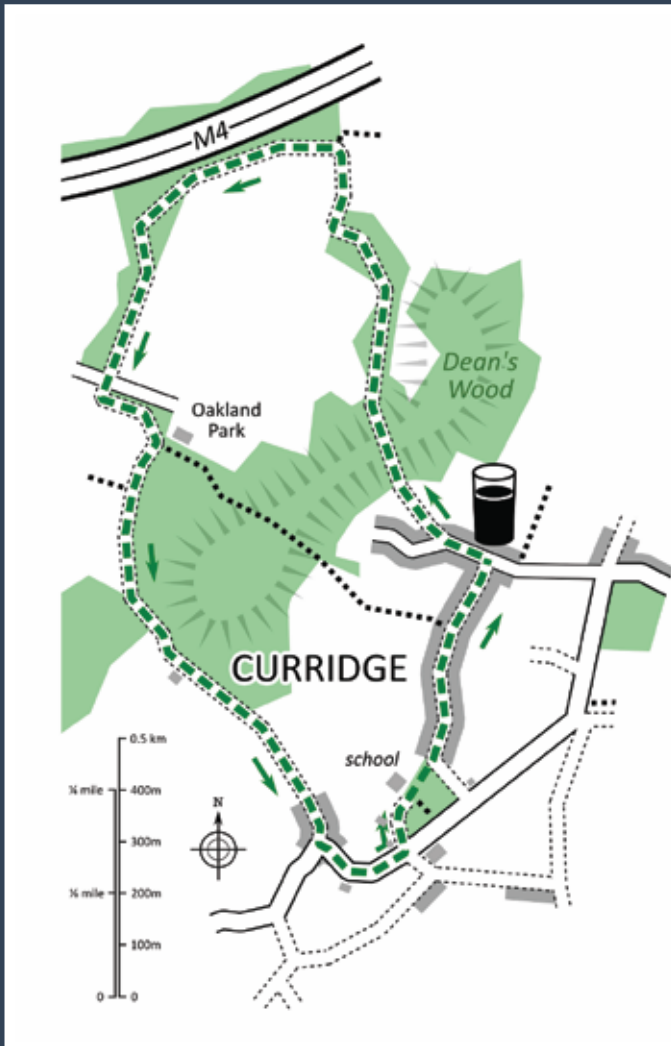
# The Bunk Inn

Deep in the heart of the Berkshire countryside, the Bunk Inn is tucked away in the small village of Curridge, just four miles from Newbury.



# Dean's Wood & Marsh Lane

A stroll around our local byways with opportunities for viewing deer.  
Allow 1½ hours. Gentle slopes; may be muddy in places after rain.  
Byways are used by motorcyclists.



In Dean's Woods



Pens Cottage



A few of the deer at Oakland Park



The Deans Wood and Marsh Lane walk offers a truly memorable experience. From the peaceful marshes and enchanting Deans Wood to the graceful deer at Oakland Park, there's beauty at every turn. Be sure to take in the historic Pens Cottage, a Grade II listed building dating back to 1608. It's a walk rich in nature, history, and tranquility – a perfect way to end your journey. From the car park entrance, turn right and keep straight on along Kiln Drive past the end of Chapel Lane. Before the road bends left, follow a hedged track on the right between two houses. This track passes behind gardens then climbs through Dean's Wood, before descending again. There may be deer in the fields to your left. Close to the M4, a bridleway continues ahead; turn left and continue along the track, parallel to the motorway.

After a while, the track curves away from the M4, along a belt of trees with fields on either side. Cross a service road then bear left along the edge of a field back to the woods. Ignoring a signposted footpath off to the left, follow the track round to the right past a couple of small ponds. Stay on the sunken track uphill and pass Oaklands Villa, a large modern house on the right. The track continues past a few houses to emerge at a triangular junction by pretty Pens Cottage. Follow the road left, signposted to Curridge and Cold Ash. After the bend, turn left beyond the postbox along the drive to Curridge Primary School, past the playground on your right. Follow the track as it bends right, then take a footpath straight ahead beyond the school entrance. This leads to Chapel Lane at a bend, where you bear left. Follow the byway back to the Bunk Inn.

#### What to Bring for Your Walk?

We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes or lightweight waterproof boots, especially if the ground is damp. Dress in weather-appropriate layers, opting for breathable clothing in warmer months and a light waterproof jacket if rain is expected.

#### Enjoy a Packed Lunch from Our Pub!

To make the most of your walk, why not take a delicious packed lunch prepared by our pub? We offer a selection of fresh sandwiches, snacks, and drinks to keep you fuelled on your journey. Simply place your order in advance, and we'll have it ready for you before you set off!

# Grimsbury Castle & the Eling Estate

**Walk to an ancient hillfort and through glorious estate woodland.**  
Allow 2–3 hours. Woodland paths may be muddy. There are numerous paths and tracks within the wood, so a GPS or smartphone app may be useful for route-finding. Some road walking.



Woodland



The Eling Estate



Fishers Farm



From the front of the pub, turn left. After 50m, turn left through a kissing gate and follow a fenced path to the left of a paddock. At the end of this path, go through the kissing gate into the tree-lined drive to Copyhold Farm and turn right, away from the farm. When the drive bends right, turn left along a byway. This track (Crabtree Lane) runs along the side of a wood for ¼ mile then becomes a residential road near Denison Barracks. Follow the road past the end of Faircross (right) and the entrance to the barracks (left) out to the main road opposite a retail complex. Cross and turn left, picking up a fenced path running parallel to the road. Cross a service road and continue until you meet another track near a road junction. Turn right along the tree-lined byway (Doctor's Lane) and follow it for ¼ mile until it joins a driveway. Follow the driveway, with houses on your right and a field on your left, out to the B4009 in Hermitage opposite a thatched cottage. Cross and turn left along the pavement. Take the first right, Marlston Road. Pass the church on the left, opposite Lipscomb Close, and then the end of Briants Piece on the left. Pass under an old railway bridge and at the road junction continue straight ahead, uphill. Ignore any rides and paths into the woods on either side until, after a third of a mile, you reach a road junction. Turn right here and immediately right again onto a path with an Eling Estate sign for Grimsbury Castle Hill Fort. Climb the slope beside an open area then bear left to the obvious ramparts of the hillfort. Keep left of the earthworks and rejoin the road beyond. Follow the road past the 18th-century brick folly cottage, then turn left onto a track into the forest.

Beyond a barrier, keep right, ignoring a couple of tracks on the left. The ride continues for about 200m to a junction with views over the woodland ahead. Turn right here onto a descending track. The track rises slightly to pass a stand of conifers on the right with a board dedicated to Laurie Birch, the former Head Forester. Stay on the main ride as it descends and then climbs again to a right-hand bend. Here, leave the main track and continue straight ahead past a waymark post on a minor path. This path, indistinct in places, soon meets another ride. Turn left down to a wide ride, where you turn right along the second track on the right, which narrows to a path then climbs to meet another. Turn right and follow the track uphill; after a track joins from the left it becomes slightly sunken as it climbs, before levelling off and being joined by another track from the left. Bear right to reach a barrier at the end of the wood, beyond which you join a lane. Ignore turnings to left and right as you walk out to Hermitage Road. Turn left and follow the pavement for ¼ mile to a crossroads. Turn right into Fishers Lane and follow it as it descends between houses and woods with views towards Curridge. The road levels off and passes Fisher's Farm before eventually reaching a T-junction by a couple of houses. Cross into the byway opposite and pass to the left of a house. Take the first right, through a motorcycle barrier onto a bridleway that runs along the rear of the property then bends left. This meets a farm track and continues ahead across open fields and past some large barns on the right. Beyond a gate, the track continues past houses to Rookery Farm.

When the main track swings left after the farm, take the byway straight ahead. This fenced track reaches the road at the end of a driveway. Cross the road and turn right along the pavement. At the end of Crabtree Lane, turn left along Kiln Drive back to the Bunk Inn.

#### What to Bring?

Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate layers. A light waterproof jacket is handy if rain is expected.

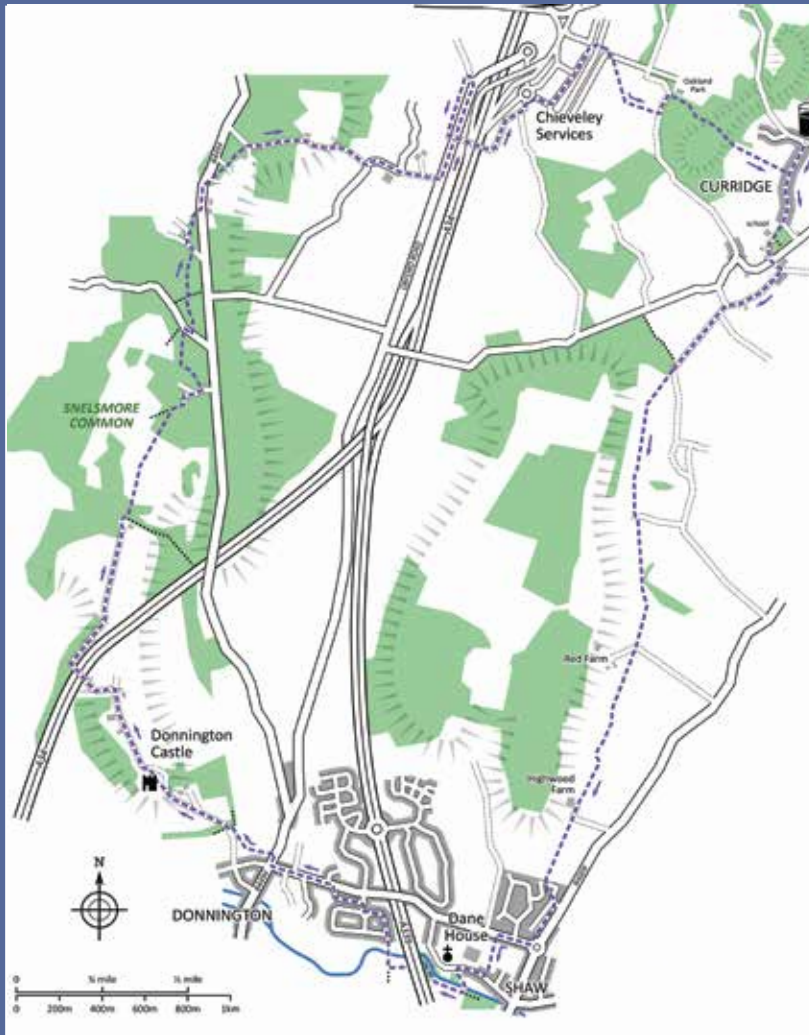
#### Grab a Packed Lunch!

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# Donnington Castle & Snelsmore Common

A long walk to a historic house, ruined castle and protected heathland.  
Allow 5 hours. May be muddy in places. Some gradual climbs and descents.  
Be mindful of busy traffic in the vicinity of Chieveley Services.



Shaw House



River Lambourn



Donnington Castle



From the car park entrance, turn right then immediately left into Chapel Lane. Ignore a footpath off to the right (our return route) after about 150 metres. After ¼ mile, when the lane bends left, take a signposted footpath on the right by a dog waste bin. Pass the primary school on your right and continue ahead, with the playground on your left, until you reach the road. 4 Turn right then left into Curridge Green. After 70m, turn right along another byway, past a house on the left. Pass another house after 250m then, at a junction of byways, take the left-hand turn and cross a field towards a wood. Continue to the left of the wood, past a small building. At a gate, take the path to the left, which runs between fences and then into fields. Continue along the bottom of two fields then head across the next to a gate into the driveway of Red Farm. Go through the gate opposite and follow the fence uphill, left of the farm buildings. Descend to the end of a hedge, and continue to the left of it. After alternating sections of enclosed and fieldside paths, follow a driveway briefly in the vicinity of Highwood Farm. When it swings left, continue straight ahead along a tree-lined path that leads you to the outskirts of Shaw. Ignore turnings to the right until you reach a residential road (Highwood Close). Follow the road to its junction with the B4009 Long Lane, and turn right along the footpath on the near side. At a mini-roundabout, turn right into Love Lane. Beyond the end of Kingsley Court, cross over and follow a narrow path beyond the last bungalow on the left. Turn right along Church Road at the bottom, and shortly take a look through the gates on the right at the impressive frontage of Shaw House. Continuing along the road, cross and take a path on the left, before the church, which leads shortly to a bridge over the River Lambourn.

Cross the bridge and turn right along the riverside path. When you reach the A339, keep left through an underpass into a recreation field. Walk past the children's playground then turn right to another bridge over the Lambourn. Continue into a housing estate and follow the road ahead, uphill and round a left-hand bend. Take a footpath on the right then turn right out to Love Lane. Turn left and follow the road past the school on your right. After the entrances to Donnington Park on your left and the Castle School on your right, you meet the B4494. Keep right to a gate. Turn right past the Castle pub, then cross and go through the gate into Donnington Recreation Ground. Cross in the general direction of the pavilion then head for a gate in the top right-hand corner. Turn left then right through the gateposts reading 'Private Road'. Walk up the driveway, past Castle House on the right to a car park on the left. Follow the path through the gate from the car park up to Donnington Castle. Having viewed the remains, continue to a hand-gate leading onto the track that skirts to the right of the castle. Turn left and follow the track through woodland and past a house on the left. At Castle Farm, bear left and descend to cross the bridge over the A34. Take the right-hand track on the other side, uphill, then curve left away from the A34. Stay on the main track to the right of the golf course, and pass to the left of a large house to reach a gate at the edge of Snelsmore Common. Continue past the notice and take the track ahead, shortly passing under power lines and following the blue waymarks. Follow the obvious track across the heathland and then through woodland to the car parking area. Turn left through the first car park then right before a picnic shelter, and follow the service road. Just before the toilet block and café, turn left along a permitted bridleway past some picnic tables and follow it through damp woodland.

Keep right to a gate. The path winds through woodland to a gate and barrier onto a road. Turn right for a short distance, then left between two waymarked posts. Follow the winding path then, at a junction with a waymark post, keep left along the permitted bridleway. Keep left at the next fork (close to the road) until you meet a driveway. Turn left, then right at a junction along a similar track. At a waymark post, turn right off the track and follow a path down to the B4494. Turn left past a house then, beyond the next driveway, follow the waymarked permitted bridleway on the right. Cross another driveway and continue through the woods until you meet another byway. Turn right and follow the track to the left of the property. The byway descends through woodland and then past a cottage and between hedges down to a lane. Turn left and follow the lane round a right-hand bend. When the road bends left again, walk down the driveway straight ahead. Beyond a house entrance, this leads down to Oxford Road. Turn left and follow the pavement under a bridge (irritatingly, with no way up the embankment). When the road bends right, turn left into a byway and immediately left again, parallel to the road and back to the overbridge. Cross Oxford Road and the A34 and follow the track left on the other side. Beyond a gate, follow the road to a roundabout. Turn right and then bear left past the petrol station. Continue ahead through the lorry park and behind the Travelodge. At the end of the lorry park, turn right to a service road and then left through a concrete barrier. Turn immediately right on a footpath by a stile and continue to the access road to Oakland Park. Turn left along the road for a short distance, then right onto a footpath. Cross the field to an isolated tree, then bear left to the woodland edge. Cross a footbridge and turn left along the byway past a couple of ponds.

Turn right onto a signposted footpath past a building then follow the deer fence uphill through the wood. Descend through the trees to a fenced footpath along the side of a field. When you reach Chapel Lane after a couple of kissing gates, turn left back to the Bunk Inn.

#### What to Bring?

Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate layers. A light waterproof jacket is handy if rain is expected.

#### Grab a Packed Lunch!

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