

Easy Going Route



Introduction



This easy going route around Cookham Village and along parts of the Thames Path National Trail is one of the prettiest in the whole of the Thames Valley. This is a very pleasant route year-round. The majority of the route is flat, and the surface is mainly either grass or tarmac. There are several bridges, the steepest of which

has a gradient of 1:4. Benches along the route provide a welcome resting place and refreshments are available both in the village and at The Bounty Cafe and Bar (seasonal) on the furthest point of the route at Cock Marsh. There are toilets at Cookham Lock (including disabled facilities) and on the corner of the High Sreet and Sutton Road.

There are several starting points

The most popular is from the National Trust unsurfaced car park (free) on Cookham Moor (P), west of the village and next to a pond where swans are usually nesting. From there two paths lead down to the river Thames; one, unsurfaced, to the left of the five barred gate, continues alongside the Strand Stream and the other crosses the centre of Marsh Meadow (grassed). A third and more accessible route to the riverside path is across Cookham Moor to The Crown public house and down Berries Road.



Contact Details

If you have any problems with the Public Rights of Way used in this leaflet, please contact the Rights of Way Team at the address below:

Public Rights of Way, Highways and Engineering Unit,
Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF.
Tel: 01628 683800

Email: PROW@rbwm.gov.uk

The local National Trust Warden can be contacted on:
Tel: 07818 427242

You can contact the Environment Agency on:
Tel: 08708 506506

The Lock Keeper at Cookham Lock can be contacted on:
Tel: 01628 520752

The Bounty Cafe and Bar details:
Open April 1 - Sept 30, midday til 22.30, 7 days a week.
Other times call ahead on 01628 520056

The Crown Public House: Tel: 01628 520163

For further information on the Thames Path National Trail please contact:

The National Trails Office on 01865 810224.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk

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THE VILLAGE ROUTE - B (2.5km)

Permission may be sought from the landlord of The Crown to use his car park to drop passengers; the driver can then continue to the car park on the Moor. Other parking in and around the Village is limited.

The tarmaced route down Berries Road is sign-posted where the road gives way to footpaths which pass the Sailing Club on your left. Cross a newly-built bridge over a small inlet and the river is before you.

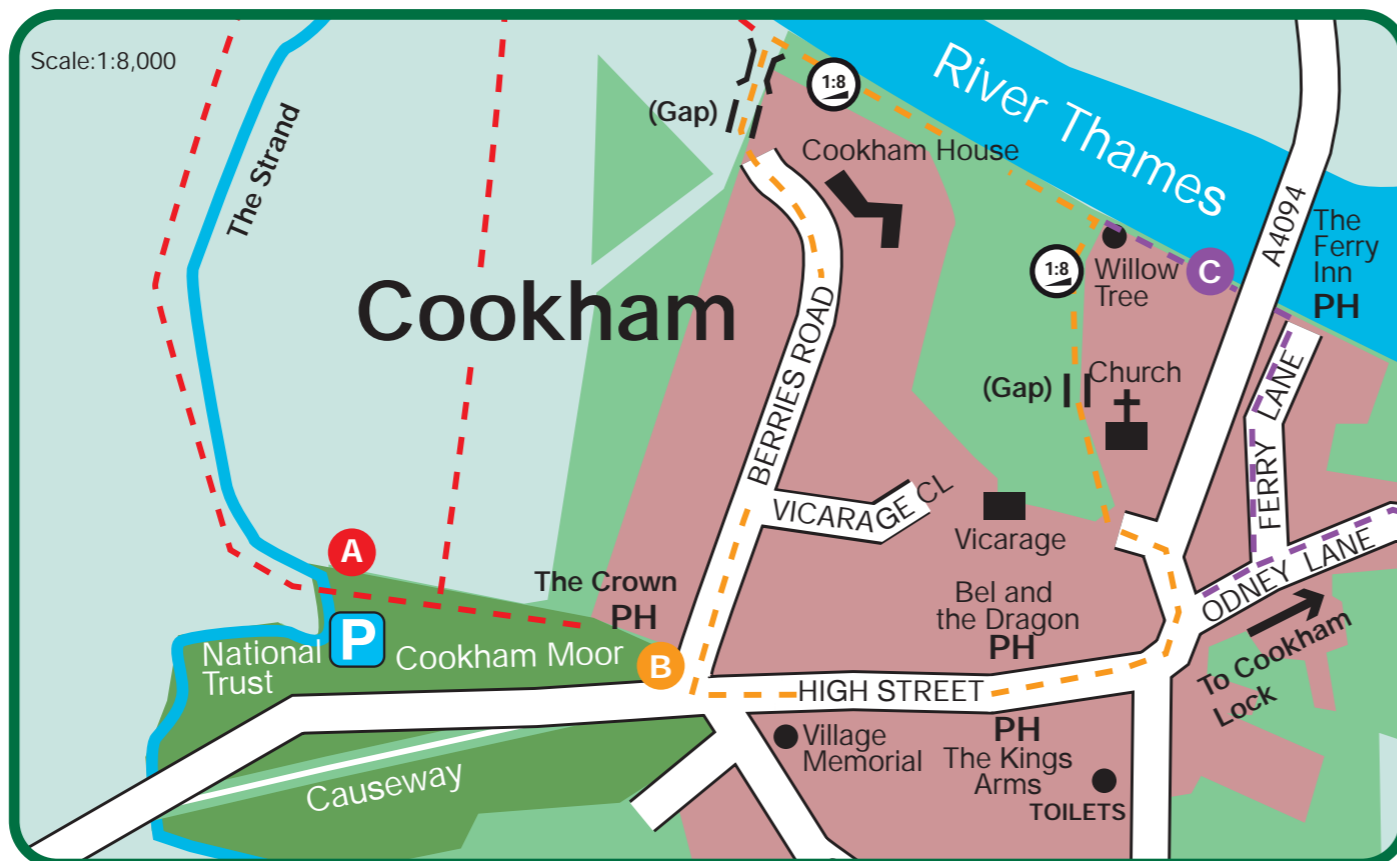


Before turning right at the sailing club, look out for the craft Monarch; her plaque bears testimony to her role as one of the thousands of small ships that made possible the evacuation and the saving of the lives of 300,000 men from Dunkirk in the early days of World War 2. Along the way look out for strangers to these waters. Besides the ever-present seagulls, terns have been seen fishing here; there will almost certainly be swans, ducks, moorhen, coots and the occasional great crested grebe. The riverbank is also a favoured mooring site. At the willow turn right away from the river and follow the route through the churchyard to the famous 11th century Church of Holy Trinity, a much-loved centre of an active parish life and one-time home of Stanley Spencer's famous painting of The Last Supper.

Continue through the churchyard and gates into Church Gate which brings you into Cookham Village. Immediately opposite there is the refurbished Stanley Spencer Gallery, once a Methodist chapel and now the home of Spencer's The Last Supper. Continue along the High Street, with the 14th century coaching inn, Bel and The Dragon on your right, and the 17th century King's Arms on the left. Close by is a welcoming tea-shop, once an antique dealers and, before that, thought to be where Stanley Spencer's grandparents lived. The names of the houses - The Old Apothecary, The Moorings - and a one-time butcher's tiled fascia established 1775 - give a clue to the past and varied occupations of the erstwhile villagers featured in Spencer's famous



paintings. The village is now well-known for its variety of restaurants and for its interesting and high-quality retail shops. Pass by the Forge Motor Company, which until the 1940s was still a blacksmith's forge.



Whichever choice of route you took, the route ends here at the village memorial to men of the village who died in both World Wars. Ahead you will see Berries Road, The Crown public house, and the National Trust car park.