

LODDON BREWERY AND CHILTERN'S BOUNDARY TRAIL



Loddon Brewery is a friendly family-run brewery based in a 300-year old barn, where you can sample the beer or even enjoy a tour (walkers and their canine companions will receive a warm welcome).

A 3 mile circular walk from Loddon Brewery in Dunsden Green, Oxfordshire. With tables for visitors both inside the shop and outside on the front terrace, you can enjoy either bottled beer from the shop (open from 9am Mon-Sat) or a pint served directly from the taproom (open from 10am Thurs-Sat) after your walk. The walking route takes in the surrounding countryside, just south of the Chiltern Hills, and includes all the highlights you would expect from the Chilterns, from soaring red kites and tree-lined tracks to rolling fields, a pretty church and far-reaching views across the Thames Valley.

Getting there

The village of Dunsden Green is located about 3 miles northeast of Reading, in South Oxfordshire. The walk starts and finishes at Loddon Brewery, at Dunsden Green Farm on Church Lane. From the green in the centre of Dunsden Green, follow Church Lane to reach Dunsden Green Farm on your left, at the edge of the village. As you enter the main farmyard, turn immediately left to reach the parking area alongside the brewery shop and taproom. On Sundays the brewery site (and car park) is closed, but there is roadside parking available for a handful of cars on the lane.

Approximate post code **RG4 9QD**.

Walk Sections

Go 1 Start to Chapman's Farm

Leave the brewery car park via the vehicle entrance and, taking care of any traffic, turn right along the lane. The lane leads you back into the village of Dunsden Green. Immediately before you reach the village green on your left, turn left onto the tarmac access track (signed as a public bridleway).

On the edge of the green (on your right) you will see an information board with details of Dunsden Green's connection with a famous poet. The acclaimed World War I poet, Wilfred Owen, lived at Dunsden Green vicarage from 1911 to 1913, when he served as a lay assistant to the parish priest. Owen taught at the village school which was built in 1848 and is now the village

Access Notes

- 1. The walk includes several steady gradients and follows a mixture of bridleway tracks and field edge footpaths. Some stretches of the unmade paths can be very muddy in winter or after periods of rain.*
- 2. There are no stiles or kissing gates on route, but you will need to negotiate a few steps plus a narrow gap alongside a vehicle barrier.*
- 3. You will not be sharing any of the paths with livestock, although there are plenty of game birds in the area, so take care with dogs.*
- 4. There are a couple of very short sections along quiet country lanes.*

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**3 miles
Circular
1.5 hours**

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hall. He was killed in World War I at the age of 25.

Follow this access track (known as Tagg Lane) which swings left to pass Orchard Cottage on your left. A little further along, the track bends left to enter Chapman's Farm. Do NOT follow this, instead keep straight ahead to join the tree-lined bridlemway path.

1 → 2 Chapman's Farm to Binfield Heath Church



A few paces along, ignore the footpaths signed to the left and right, instead keep straight ahead on the main tree-lined bridlemway. Continue for about a further 500 metres to reach the next waymarker post on your right. Turn right here, leaving the bridlemway to join a side public footpath. This narrow path leads you between trees, with a fenced garden to your left and an open field across to your right. At the end of the garden, you will emerge to the corner of a large crop field.

Keep straight ahead, with the crop field on your left and a tree line running on your right. Part way along the field, look out for a waymarker post on your right. Follow the signed path which turns right through the tree belt and then turns immediately left to continue with the tree line now on your left. Take a moment here to look back over your right shoulder, for lovely far-reaching views to the south across Reading and the Thames Valley. The eagle-eyed amongst you should be able to spot the single wind turbine which sits near Reading's Madejski Stadium. The tree line on your left is dominated by a beautiful row of old oak trees, home to plenty of wildlife.

At the end of the tree line, follow the path as it swings left, cutting across the last section of field and emerging to a junction with Gravel Road. Turn right along this residential road to reach a T-junction with another road (Dunsden Way), with the small Binfield Heath Church directly opposite.

2 → 3 Binfield Heath Church to Path T Junction



The stately but miniature church in Binfield Heath was opened in August 1835. Known locally as The Chapel, it was built from Bath Stone in the Gothic Revival style. It was one of a number of chapels built as small reading stations, through an initiative led by a local charismatic preacher and supported by the Countess of Huntingdon.

Taking care of traffic, turn right along the road, passing the church and then Dunsden House both on your left. Immediately after Dunsden House, turn left onto the gravel driveway signed as a public bridlemway. Where the driveway swings left into the property, go straight ahead to join the bridlemway lined with trees and hedgerows.

You will reach a crossroads of tracks, marking a footpath junction. Go straight ahead on the bridlemway (marked with the blue arrow), a grass path leading you between low fences. You will have glorious views ahead and to your left. Continue on the enclosed path, leading you downhill to pass Round Wood on your right. At the bottom of the slope you will reach a path T-junction with a fence ahead.

3 → 4 Path T Junction to Ash Copse



Turn right to join a narrow tarmac path, a permissive path with the fence running on your left. (You will probably be able to hear the traffic on the A4155 across to your left). When the fence ends, follow the footpath which turns right up a handful of steps and then turns left to follow the bottom edge of a crop field, with a hedgerow on your left.

Follow this path for the full length of one field, to reach a hedge boundary. Walk ahead for a couple of paces and then turn right to join the footpath which runs through the centre of this hedgerow. Follow this path climbing steadily. When the hedgerow on your left ends, take a moment to catch your breath (the climb is over!) and enjoy the views that have opened



up behind and to your left. You will be able to see Caversham Lakes, once working gravel pits and now home to rowing, sailing and watersports clubs.

Continue ahead (with a hedgerow on your right) to reach a waymarker post and hedgerow ahead. Turn left to walk along the top of the crop field and then turn right to follow the edge of the next field, with the hedgerow on your right. At the end of the field, turn right and immediately left, passing alongside a metal vehicle barrier to reach a junction with the road, Ash Copse.

4 → 5 Ash Copse to End



Taking care of traffic, turn right along the road which leads you into the village of Dunsden Green. Pass the aptly named Brewers Cottage on your right, to reach a road junction at the corner of the village green. Turn left into Church Lane and this will lead you past the green on your right. Notice the former well (which dates from 1878 and is 150 feet deep), the war memorial and the community orchard (established in 2007) which sits behind the green.

Continue ahead on Church Lane and, at the edge of the village, you will reach Loddon Brewery on your left where the final part of your adventure awaits. Walkers (and canine companions) will receive a warm welcome. The shop is open Mon-Sat where you can buy bottled beer (to enjoy at the visitor tables or to take away), whilst the taproom serves draught beer Thurs-Sat. Brewery tours run once per month or you can arrange your own private group tour. The brewery also hosts social evenings for members of the Beer Club, wine and gin tasting events and live screen viewings for rugby and tennis events. Be sure to pop in, meet the team and find out the story of this local family brewery.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.



