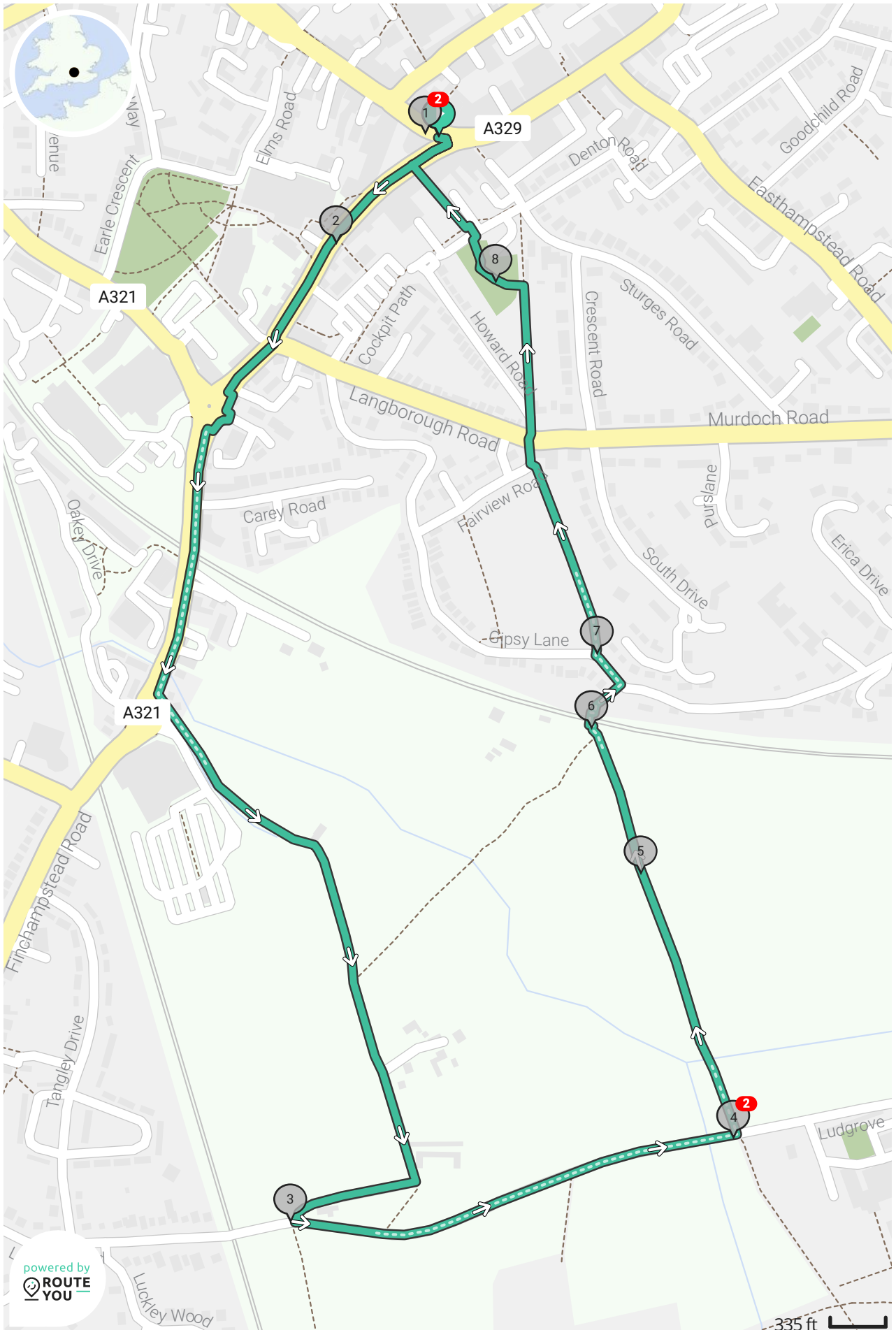

Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 2 Miles

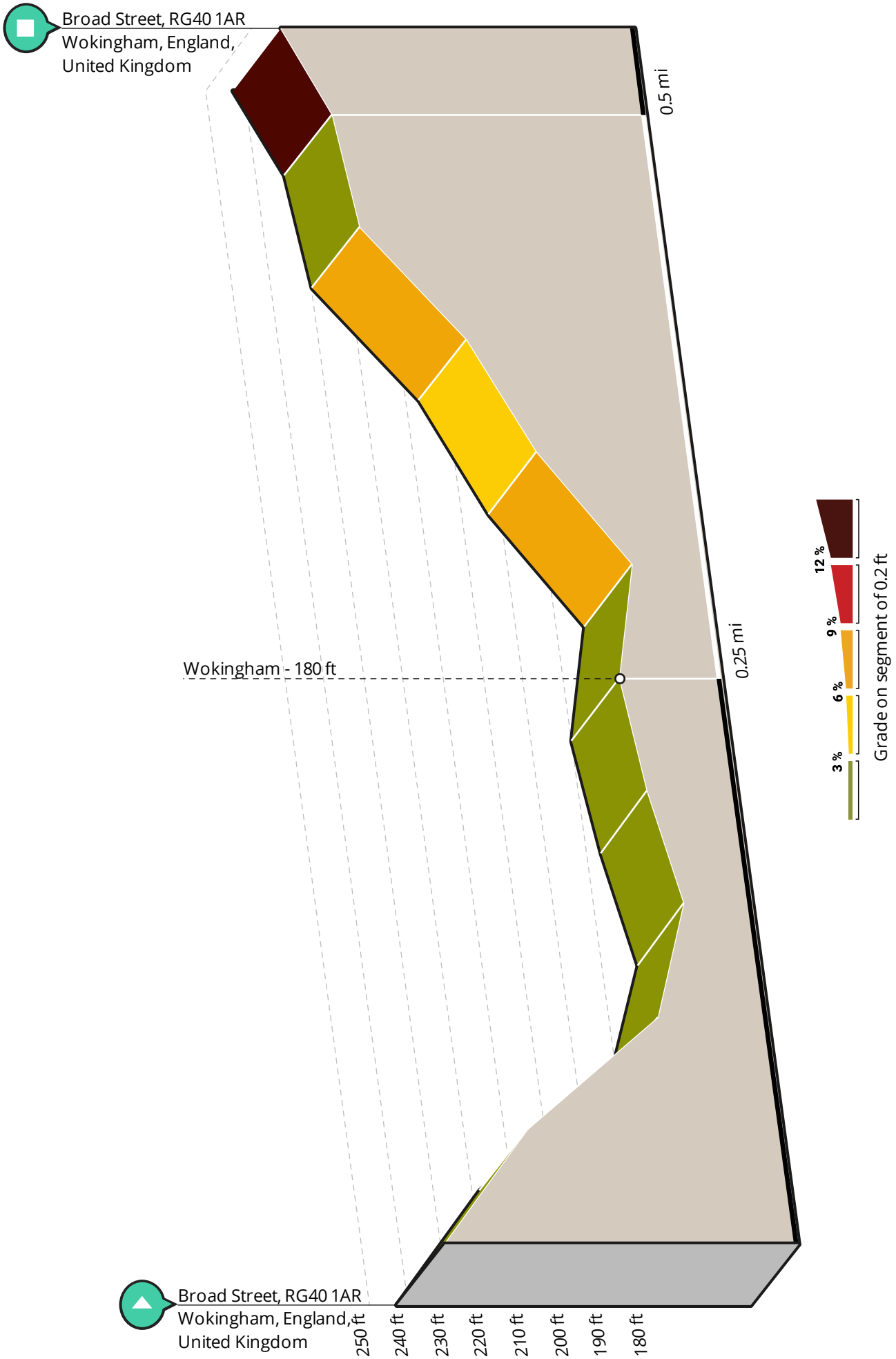
This route is offered to you by

The Wokingham Walk





map data: © OpenStreetMap Contributors; Cartography: © RouteYou



Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 2 Miles



Length: 2.2 mi

Ascent: 95 ft

difficulty level: 5/10

Broad Street, RG40 1AR Wokingham, England, United Kingdom

Broad Street, RG40 1AR Wokingham, England, United Kingdom



Figure 1: Wokingham Town Hall



Figure 2: Wokingham Town Hall

The first picture is from 1905, the second shows the earlier Guildhall.

Route description

'Beating the Bounds' was an ancient practice carried out to ensure the knowledge of parish boundaries was maintained and passed from generation to generation. This involved swatting local landmarks with branches to maintain a shared mental map of parish boundaries.

This new free event is being organised by Wokingham Town Council and Wokingham Lions Club, and features a route to walk as much of Wokingham town's boundary as possible. This will be approx. 13 miles following most of the perimeter of Wokingham Town Council's administrative area - the exact boundary cannot be walked due to inaccessibility in some areas. For people wishing to walk not quite as far, there will be shorter walks of approx. 2 & 7 miles taking in parts of the Town Council boundary to enjoy.

Note that children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Place of interest

Wokingham Town Hall
(1), RG40 1AS, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.02 mi

You are starting your journey outside the Town Hall, built in 1860 to house not only the Town Council but also the Police and Fire Services. It replaced the earlier Guildhall, which had stood since Tudor times (Queen Elizabeth I referred to it as the 'clockhouse' in her 1583 charter for the Town).

Wokingham Workhouse
Denmark Street (55), RG40 2BB, England

2 - Distance along route: 0.12 mi



Figure 3: Wokingham Workhouse

Denmark Street contains many original 16/17th Century cottages which are now shops. No 22 is a Grade II listed building, believed to be the "Old Oakingham Whurkhouse" (now Kaanaanmaa Jewellers). However, records are scarce and the



Figure 4: Wokingham Workhouse


earliest reference to date is a 1776 inventory by Benjamin Beaver. Further evidence does occur later in the century, but with some confusion as to the exact location.

The building is a fine example of an early 16th Century timber framed structure with later brick infill, altered in 17/18th Century, but retaining its interesting architectural features. The small window in the passageway on the north east side on the first floor is said to be where bodies of the dead were lowered to the street below beyond the gaze of the inmates.

The workhouse was believed to consist of three premises – one with one room up and one down (no fireplace), two with one room down and communal sleeping upstairs. A fireplace existed in the kitchen, with a small side building for washing. Water was drawn by pump. The buildings would have been maintained by a Master.

In 1776 between 16 and 22 inmates were catered for with few beds, most sleeping on the floor. The inmates from Denmark Street were moved to the new workhouse in Barkham Road (now Wokingham Hospital) sometime after that was built in 1849, along with inmates from Wargrave and Swallowfield. Pictures: The building today and it's replacement in Barkham Road (now Wokingham Hospital).

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 5**

 - Distance along route: 1.0 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Luckley Road

 **Ludgrove School**
(28), RG40 3AA Ludgrove, England


 - Distance along route: 1.32 mi



Figure 5: Ludgrove School (Source: *Roque's map of 1761*)




Figure 6: Ludgrove School

There is a path down from the left-hand side of Lucas Hospital to the road that forked right. This road takes you to Ludgrove School.

In the 17thC this had been the site of Tangley Farm. In 1887 it was replaced by a new building to house Wixenford School, moved from Eversley in Hampshire.

Pictures shows Roque's map of 1761 and Wixenford School.

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 6**

 - Distance along route: 1.33 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Ludgrove

 **Luckley Path**


 - Distance along route: 1.53 mi





Figure 7: Luckley Path

Luckley Path leads to the town. To the West there are views over Chapel Green to the Lucas Hospital and Chapel Green Farm and House.

Most of this land has been approved for housing as part of the South Wokingham Strategic Development Location (SWSDL), with a new distributor road connecting to other parts of the SWSDL and to existing roads into Wokingham.


The image shows the developer's map of the housing and green spaces to the west of Luckley Path.

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 7**

 - Distance along route: 1.64 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Gypsy Lane Railway Crossing

 **Gipsy Lane**

 - Distance along route: 1.71 mi

Gipsy Lane, more likely to be associated with an Old English word for an occasional spring rather than with the Romany people. Ahead, you can see Langborough Recreation Ground, a village green since the early 19thC.

 **Howard Palmer Gardens**
Howard Road (55), RG40 2BX, England


 - Distance along route: 2.0 mi



Figure 8: Howard Palmer Gardens



Figure 9: Howard Palmer Gardens

Howard Palmer, born in 1865, was one of the three brothers who founded and were Directors of the Huntley & Palmer Biscuit Company. He served as a JP and High Sheriff for Berkshire and was a Governor of University College Reading.

In 1910 he was instrumental in saving the Wokingham Club, based in the Market Place and, after his death in 1923, his widow Ada and their son Reginald donated land behind the Club as a memorial bowling green.

The green became disused in the 1960s but was converted to become Howard Palmer Park in 1985, being renamed as Howard Palmer Gardens in 1998.

Picture: Out of the eight Huntley & Palmers directors in 1900, only one - William B. Williams, was not a Palmer. The other seven - Ernest, Walter, George

William, Charles, Albert, Alfred and Howard (bottom right), were all sons of George or Samuel Palmer.



Market Place

Market Place (2), RG40 1AT, England



- Distance along route: 2.15 mi



Figure 10: Market Place



Figure 11: Market Place

Boots, on the north side of Market Place, replaced the department store run by the Heelas family from 1800 until 1960. They also established a larger Department store in Reading, now owned by John Lewis.

The first photograph was taken in 1900 and the second about 1950.

Find the route on RouteYou

View on mobile



&rafsbsr