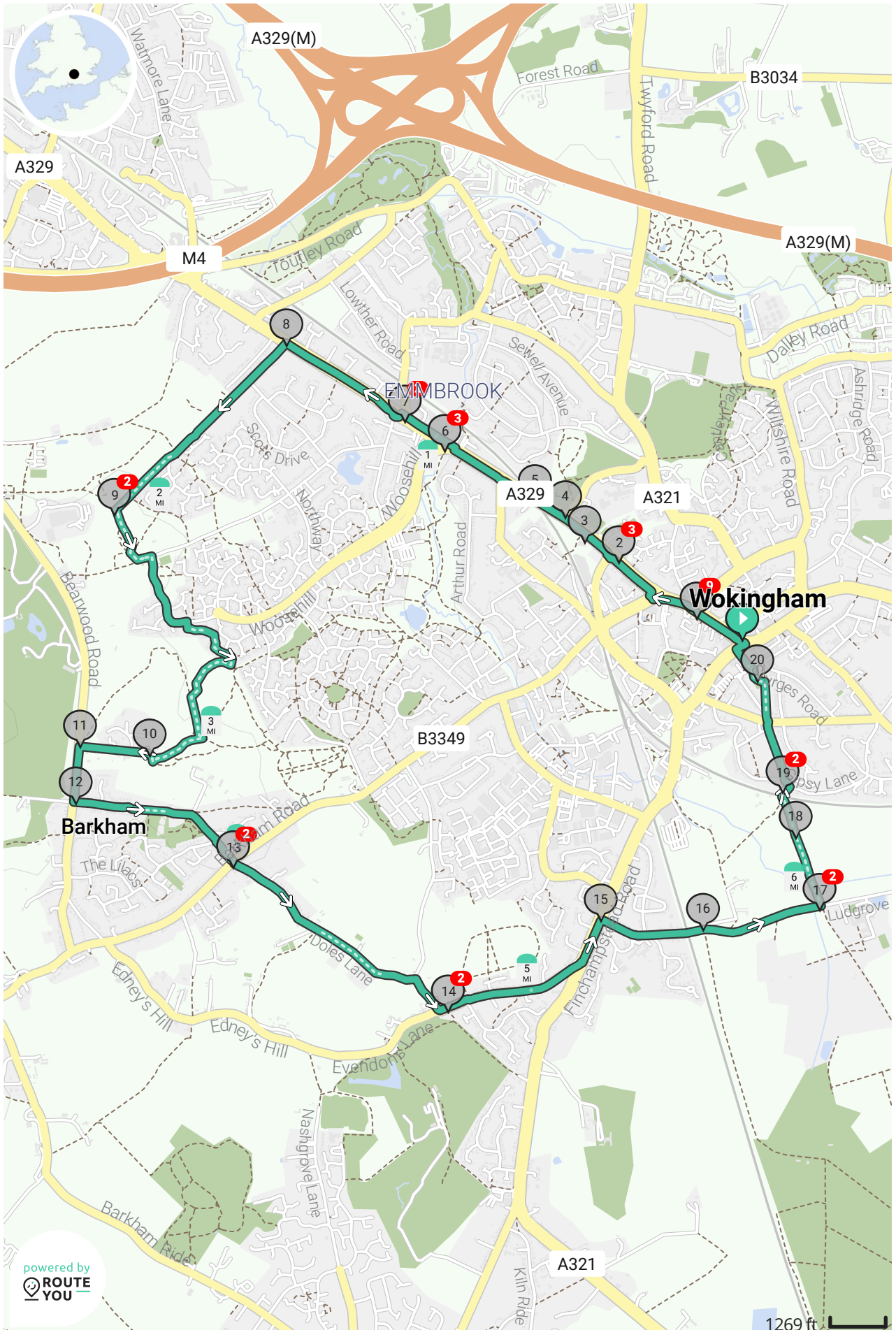


Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 7 Miles

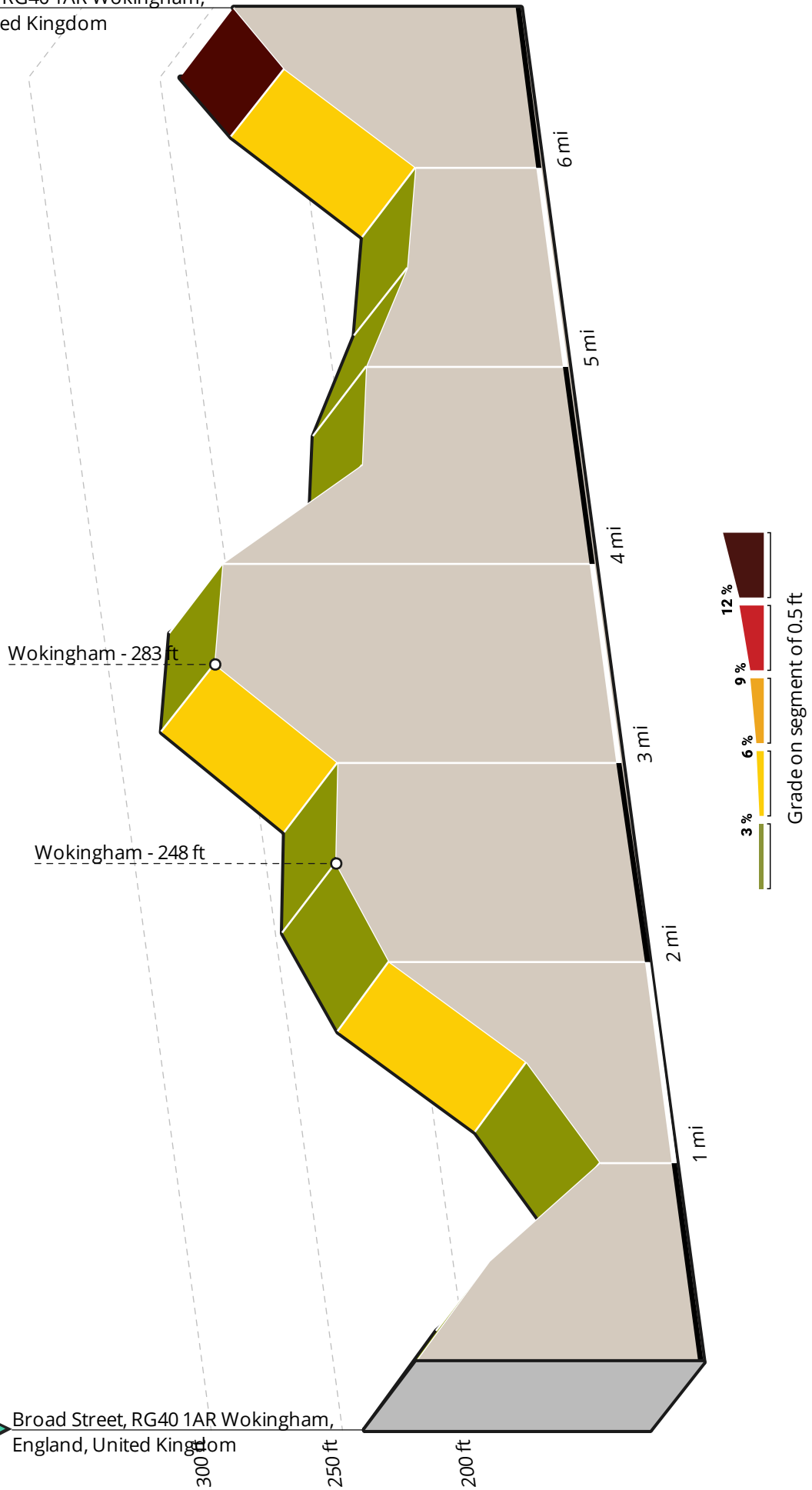
This route is offered to you by


The Wokingham Walk





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



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

Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 7 Miles



Length: 6.8 mi

Ascent: 295 ft

difficulty level: 7/10

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

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



Figure 1: Wokingham Town Hall

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. 16 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 a shorter walk of approx. 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: 0.01 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).



Figure 2: Wokingham Town Hall

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

Market Place
Market Place (2), RG40 1AT, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.01 mi



Figure 3: 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



Figure 4: Market Place

second about 1950.

The Electric Cinema, Broad Street
Broad Street 10 (3), RG40 1AB, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.06 mi



Figure 5: The Electric Cinema, Broad Street



Figure 6: The Electric Cinema, Broad Street

The building housing the Nationwide Building Society at 10 Broad Street was once the Electric Cinema, which opened in 1913. It later became the Savoy until closing in 1951.

Montague House
Broad Street (4), RG40 1AU, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.11 mi



Figure 7: Montague House (Source: *The house of Lt. Col. Williamson*)

Opposite the Elms is Montague House, with Chalk restaurant currently downstairs and managed apartments above. There was once an Elizabethan schoolhouse on this site, run by Henry Mountague, father and son. It was replaced by the current building at the start of the 18thC, designed for Lt Col Adam Wiliamson, at that time serving in the Army but later Governor of the Tower of London, as his country retreat.

In the early 20thC it housed Grosvenor House School, run by Laura Baker, before becoming a private residence and then a local authority adult education centre and library.

The Elms
Broad Street (5), RG40 1BA, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.13 mi

At 26 Broad Street The Elms presents a Georgian brick exterior which covers a much earlier wooden 16C interior. That material contributed to a massive fire in 2011 which gutted much of the building and destroyed the roof. It was renovated and now contains nine elegant flats.


The second picture shows the fire in 2011.



Figure 8: The Elms



Figure 9: The Elms

 **Tudor House**
Shute End (6), RG40 1BD, England


 - Distance along route: 0.17 mi




Figure 10: Tudor House

At the end of Broad Street stands Tudor House. At the beginning of the 20thC it was home to Laura Baker's Grosvenor School before she moved it to Montague House. It later became offices and a surgery before reverting to a private house again.

In the 1920s the brick frontage was replaced with

timber and plaster to give the house its current appearance.

Image: Tudor House when it was Laura Baker's Grosvenor School

 **Shute End and the Terrace**
The Terrace (7), RG40 1BP, England


 - Distance along route: 0.23 mi



Figure 11: Shute End and the Terrace

At this point Broad Street becomes Shute End, its name coming from the Anglo-Saxon word 'shete' meaning 'land that stands out'. On the right The Terrace is on a raised surface.

No 15 The Terrace is possibly the oldest building in Wokingham, although now covered by Georgian brickwork.

Opposite Station Road is the Queen's Head, a barn in the 15thC, becoming a pub in around 1777. It has a cruck (curved) roof frame, uncommon in the south of England.

The picture shows Shute End and The Terrace in 1859

 **St Paul's Rectory**
Station Road (8), RG40 2AD, England


 - Distance along route: 0.26 mi



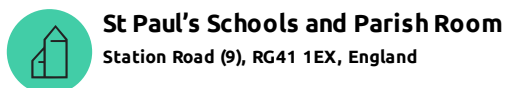
Figure 12: St Paul's Rectory



Figure 13: St Paul's Rectory

On the corner of Broad Street and Station Road are the Wokingham Borough Council offices. The central part was once the Rectory for St Paul's church in Reading Road ahead of you.

The second image is from a 1911 map.



1 - Distance along route: 0.31 mi



Figure 14: St Paul's Schools and Parish Room



Figure 15: St Paul's Schools and Parish Room

The building on the other side of Station Road once contained St Paul's infant and junior schools and a parish room in the reign of Queen Victoria erected by John Walter III of Bearwood, owner of The Times newspaper, and enlarged by his son Arthur Fraser Walter in the early 20thC.

The plaque (pictured) was designed and presented to the parish of St. Paul by Thomas Edward Ellison of The Elms in 1911.



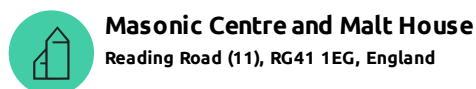
2 - Distance along route: 0.41 mi



Figure 16: WADE Centre

Past Imperial Court on the left is the day care centre for the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly (WADE). The main building dates from the late 16thC and is Grade II* listed.

Title deeds from 1671 describe it as a "house with outhouses, barns, stables, orchard and an enclosure of land". At some point it acquired the name Woodlands, changed to Litlecourt in the 1930s. It was bought by WADE in 1974.



2 - Distance along route: 0.41 mi

A little further along on the right is the Masonic Centre. Over the original entrance door in the brickwork is the date 1624 and initials R. and E. H. which are believed to refer to Richard Harrison and his wife. It is thought that in the early 18thC Richard Hawe, brewer, who owned property, including "Beches" and "Holt" had the Malt House built as part of his brewery.



Figure 17: Masonic Centre and Malt House

In the early 20thC it became a store house and then an indoor bowling rink before being acquired by the Masons in 1946.



Beaches Manor

Reading Road (12), RG41 1EG, England



- Distance along route: 0.44 mi



Figure 18: Beaches Manor



Figure 19: Beaches Manor

Beeches Manor Care Home is built on the site of Beaches Manor House. The Manor of Beaches dates from at least the 15thC and covered extensive land in this area. It is thought that the name derived from the de la Beche family, despite no record of them living in this vicinity. The name varies between Beaches and Beeches over time.

The Manor House was probably rebuilt on a number

of occasions, lastly becoming a hotel before being destroyed by fire in 1953.

The pictures/map date from 1910.



St Paul's Church

Reading Road (13), RG41 1EH, England



- Distance along route: 0.54 mi



Figure 20: St Paul's Church



Figure 21: St Paul's Church

By the mid-19thC Wokingham had become too large for its single parish and the church of All Saints at the east end of town. St Paul's Parish Church and its associated churchyard were created in the west end of Wokingham by John Walter III. He purchased the land and built the church at his own expense.

On September 2nd 1862 Mrs. John Walter laid the foundation stone and Bishop Samuel Wilberforce consecrated the church on July 23rd 1864.

The picture shows John Walter III

Holt Copse and The Holt
(54), RG41 1EH, England

4 - Distance along route: 0.62 mi



Figure 22: Holt Copse and The Holt

Holts Copse and Joel Park, an area of woodland and open green space managed by the Holt Copse Conservation Volunteers.

It is bordered on the east by Holt Lane, along which is The Holt, now a school but previously a house, once owned by the Heelas family.

The Holt estate was once part of the Manor of Beaches.

The picture shows The Holt when in private ownership

Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground
Reading Road (14), RG41 1EH Finchampstead, England

5 - Distance along route: 0.71 mi



Figure 23: Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground

You will soon cross over the railway line between Reading and London Waterloo. The line is at an angle below so the pink wall you pass on your left is called a



Figure 24: Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground

skew bridge.

Just past the wall is a turning to your left. This would take you to the Free Church Burial Ground, which was established jointly in 1921 by representatives of Wokingham Baptist and Wesleyan Churches, for the benefit of nonconformists of Wokingham and district. Other residents of Wokingham have also been buried there from about 1977.

Emmbrook House
Rotherfield Avenue (15), RG41 2EX, England

6 - Distance along route: 0.95 mi



Figure 25: Emmbrook House



Figure 26: Emmbrook House

Near the Woosehill Roundabout there is a turning

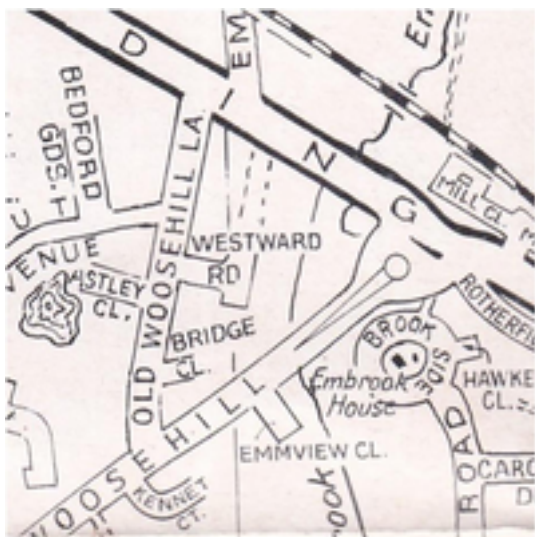


Figure 27: Emmbrook House

into Rotherfield Avenue, which runs parallel to the Reading Road. Once this was the site of Emmbrook House, described in 1771 as a 'mansion' and one of only five houses in Wokingham specifically named on a map of 1790. It became part of the Bearwood estate when John Walter III purchased it in 1836 and was substantially altered thereafter. In 1911 it was sold and in 1936 acquired for use as a residence and stables by the Francis family whose son was the Queen Mother's jockey and, later, crime writer Dick Francis. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the Brookside circle of houses.

The pictures show maps of the area from 1790, 1883 and the 1970s.

 **Wescott's Mill**
Mill Close (16), RG41 1EP, England


 - Distance along route: 1.02 mi



Figure 28: Wescott's Mill



Figure 29: Wescott's Mill

North of the roundabout there used to be the Emmbrook Mill (Mill Close marks its location), previously known as Wescott's Mill. The original mill was destroyed by fire in 1884, at which time it served as a paper mill. It was reconstructed as a corn mill and in 1904 it was bought by Frank Heelas, a member of the Heelas family who owned department stores in Wokingham and Reading. He widened the mill run for greater efficiency and managed the mill until 1962.

Images show Wescott's (not Westcott's) Mill and The Millhouse garden

 **Woosehill**
A329 130 (18), RG41 1HD, England


 - Distance along route: 1.04 mi



Figure 30: Woosehill

When you come to the Woosehill Roundabout, there is a large housing development of Woosehill, accessed by the Spine Road. It was built in the 1980s and, before then, it was largely grass and farmland.

The images show maps from the 1870s and 1970s.



Figure 31: Woosehill



The Rifle Volunteer
Reading Road 141 (21), RG41 1HD, England



- Distance along route: 1.13 mi



Figure 32: The Rifle Volunteer



Figure 33: The Rifle Volunteer

Near the roundabout, on the north side, is the Rifle Volunteer. This was built as an inn in 1859 and just called The Volunteer originally. It was immediately purchased by John Walter III, with the condition that no other pub should be built within three-quarters of a mile. It acquired its current name in 1883. The first picture shows The Rifle Volunteer in 1910



Brickworks
Reading Road 141 (20), RG41 1HD, England



- Distance along route: 1.14 mi



Figure 34: Brickworks



Figure 35: Brickworks

Near the Woosehill Roundabout you come to a Shell Garage. In about 1870 there were a brickworks and kiln on this site but they had gone by 1897.

Images show maps from 1870 and 1900.



Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 1



- Distance along route: 1.53 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Reading Road/Simon's Lane



Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 2



- Distance along route: 2.18 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Cameilia Way Extension

Simons Lane to Fox Hill
 Camellia Way (22), RG41 3NB, England

9 - Distance along route: 2.18 mi



Figure 36: Simons Lane to Fox Hill



Figure 37: Simons Lane to Fox Hill

Turning from Simons Lane takes you up to Fox Hill woods, once part of the Bearwood Estate and now an area cared for by The Friends of Fox Hill, with ownership partly private and partly in the hands of the Borough Council. There is a BMX track, sometimes also used by motorcyclists. Pictures: Base map copyright Wokingham Borough Council. Supplementary information by Friends of Fox Hill.

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 3

10 - Distance along route: 3.27 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Highland Avenue Woods

Bearwood
 Bearwood Road (23), RG41 4SR, England

11 - Distance along route: 3.46 mi



Figure 38: Bearwood



Figure 39: Bearwood




Figure 40: Bearwood

At the junction of Highlands Avenue and Bearwood Road, the Bearwood Estate is across the road. It was once common land as the map pictured indicates. The current estate was acquired by John Walter II, proprietor of the Times, in the early 19thC and his son, John Walter III, built a large mansion (now Reddam House School) as well as St Catherine's

Church and an inn (now The Walter Arms) opposite the entrance to his house).

The images are of a Thomas Pride map from 1709, Bear Wood (Now Reddam School) and St Catherines Church.

 **Sandy Lane**
Sandy Lane (24), RG41 4SS, England


 - Distance along route: 3.62 mi



Figure 41: Sandy Lane




Figure 42: Sandy Lane

Shortly you will turn left into Sandy Lane, which is a metalled road at either end but an unmade path in the middle. After the first set of houses you will see Barkham Recreation Ground (pictured) on your right.

The Lane passes Garden Angels before taking a bend to the right. Shortly thereafter on the left is a road called The Shires. This was recently sold at auction for £10 by a developer.

In 2023 a number of parcels of woodland along Sandy Lane were put up for sale or auction and, presumably applications for building permission will follow in due course (pictured).

 **Doles Lane**
Doles Lane (25), RG41 4BY, England


 - Distance along route: 4.11 mi




Figure 43: Doles Lane (Source: John Norden's 1607 map)



Figure 44: Doles Lane (Source: 1933 map)

Crossing Barkham Road you enter Doles Lane. Doles Farm is to your right, but 'Doles' as a location predates both the farm and the lane, appearing on a map drawn by John Norden in 1607 (Pictured).

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 4**

 - Distance along route: 4.11 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Doles Lane

 **Evendons Lane**
Evendons Lane (26), RG41 4EH, England


 - Distance along route: 4.82 mi



Figure 45: Evendons Lane



Figure 46: Evendons Lane

Going Down Blagrove Lane you turn left onto Evendons Lane. The earliest name for this area was Yhenedon (1241) but by 1600 it was also known as Indens, as shown on the map.

On the right is Manor Road, but the old Manor House was demolished in the 1860s.

At the end of the Lane is Evendons Junior School. In the early 1900s the main house was occupied by the Garard family, goldsmiths and jewellers to the Royal Family. It became White House School in 1947 and then, after considerable local effort, it became Wokingham's first free school in 2014.

Pictures: 1790 map and The White House School



Kimel Cafe



- Distance along route: 4.88 mi



Figure 47: Kimel Cafe

Kimel Cafe will be open for the duration of the Wokingham Beating the Bounds event and also has toilets.



Luckley Road
(27), RG40 3EX, England



- Distance along route: 5.37 mi

On Luckley Road, Luckley House (formerly Luckley-Oakfield) School is on your right. It was formerly a private house, built in 1901 and is now a listed



Figure 48: Luckley Road

building. Earlier, Luckley Manor was on this site, owned by the Palmer Family from the 17thC.

Passing under the railway bridge you find the road divides. The left fork takes you a little out of your way to Henry Lucas Hospital, Wokingham's only grade I listed building. It was formerly an alms house built in 1666 on land purchased from the Palmer family from a bequest in the will of Henry Lucas. It is now a private house.

The pictures show Luckley House and Lucas Hospital painted by later relative Frederick Lucas Lucas.



Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 5



- Distance along route: 5.65 mi

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



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



- Distance along route: 5.98 mi



Figure 49: Ludgrove School (Source: Roque's map of 1761)

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.



Figure 50: 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

17 - Distance along route: 5.98 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Ludgrove

Luckley Path

18 - Distance along route: 6.19 mi



Figure 51: 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

19 - Distance along route: 6.3 mi

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

Gipsy Lane

19 - Distance along route: 6.37 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

20 - Distance along route: 6.66 mi



Figure 52: 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.



Figure 53: Howard Palmer Gardens

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.

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View on mobile



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