

1 st walk check	2 nd walk check		
7 th May 2008	24 th June 2015		
Current status	Document last updated Tuesday, 1 st December 2015		
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Cholsey to Goring

Start: Cholsey station

Finish: Goring and Streatley station

Length: 23.5 km (14.6 miles).

Time: 6 hours 30 minutes. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 10 hours.

Transport: Trains go from London Paddington to Cholsey, journey time is about 80 minutes. (Catching a fast train to Reading and changing there can reduce your travel time to 54 minutes.) Buy a day return to Cholsey. If driving, park at Goring, which is one stop up the line from Cholsey.

OS Landranger Map: 174

OS Explorer Map: 170

Cholsey, map reference SU 583861, is in **Oxfordshire**, 21km south of Oxford.

Toughness: 3 out of 10.

Walk Notes: This walk offers a fine combination of gentle Oxfordshire countryside, wide grassy horse training gallops, a stretch of the Ridgeway with splendid views from the Berkshire Downs, and a final saunter along the banks of the Thames. Although the walk is fairly long, it has nothing too steep or demanding. The main walk is best undertaken from mid spring to early autumn. With a fairly late start to accommodate the early lunch stop at The **Red Lion** Blewbury. The suggested tea stop is a riverside

restaurant the **Beetle and Wedge** at Moulsoford, a place with 'Wind in the Willows' and 'Three Men in a Boat' associations. There are also plenty of hostelries in Streatley and Goring at the end of the walk.

Before starting the walk, devotees of Agatha Christie's detective stories might want to make a short detour to visit the novelist's grave in the churchyard of **St Mary's, Cholsey**. To do this, follow the walk directions for the first 180 metres till you reach the railway bridge, but instead of turning left under the railway, **turn right** and follow the path for 700 metres as it climbs up to the church. Afterwards, retrace your steps and pass under the railway to rejoin the directions.

Walk options

a) Goring circular walk via Moulsoford:

You may combine these directions with the Goring circular walk directions (17) for a 20 km (12.4 mile) Goring circular walk via Moulsoford, finishing with a 2.5 km southerly walk along the Thames. Use the Goring circular walk directions until the Bell Inn [6], then these directions.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train nearest to 10.00 am from Paddington Station to Cholsey.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Coming off the platform *take the pedestrian subway to come out of the main entrance of the station and turn left* along an alleyway parallel to the railway, your direction 330 degrees. In 100 metres you join a minor road and after 80 metres *turn left* along a car wide track (bridleway) *under the railway*, your direction 230 degrees. *In 320 metres at a T-junction with a lane turn right.*

After 45 metres turn left down a car wide grass track, your initial direction 220 degrees. In 200 metres you go under some HV cables to then after 25 metres go through some wooden gate posts to continue down the car wide track passing by Westfield Farm buildings on your right hand side, with the track veering slowly to the right.

After 800 metres the grass track comes out to a car wide shingle track. Ignore the track up to your left to continue along the car wide track in a westerly direction towards Lollingdon Farm. In 200 metres you pass through Lollingdon Farm Buildings.

Follow this bridleway for 1.7 km (which subsequently narrows before coming out to a small car wide track with houses on your right). *At a T-junction with a lane, turn right and after 20 metres at a triangular lane junction, veer left* towards Downs View, Baker Street, your direction 330 degrees.

In 50 metres ignore a bridleway (to the left) *to go through the village of Aston Tirrold*. After 320 metres the lane turns sharply to the left, to then pass by the Chequers PH on your right hand side. Follow the main road round to the left, and after a further 20 metres round to the right. In 35 metres you pass by the village hall on your left, *to reach* (after 50 metres) *All Saints Aston Upthorpe Church* on your left. Turn left along a shingle byway which curves to the right, after 35 metres, to continue up a byway, your

direction 280 degrees. After 80 metres *where the byway swings round to the left, fork right* up some steps along a footpath, your initial direction 280 degrees, to come out into a field to go (initially) up its right hand edge, your direction 260 degrees.

After 200 metres at the corner of the field fence on your right hand side, continue across the field in the same direction, with Blewburton Hill, an Iron Age hillfort site, on your right hand side. In 250 metres exit the field through a metal kissing gate on the left hand side and turn right along a bridleway (i.e. continuing in the same direction), which leads to Blewbury, your direction west.

After 1.2 km you reach a T-junction with the B4016, cross over to continue in the same direction (west) along Bessels Lea Road. After 250 metres *at a T-junction with South Street, turn left*. *In 80 metres turn right* (signposted Orchard Dean House) along a car wide track. After 120 metres go through a horse blocking barrier to continue along a tarmac path with a stream on your left hand side.

After 70 metres go through another horse blocking barrier to then *turn left* after 35 metres *into the churchyard of St. Michael's* to follow the path to the right of the church. After 100 metres exit the churchyard to continue along a tiled footpath between gardens, your direction south-west.

In 60 metres continue along a shingle path on the left side of a small green, your direction 200 degrees. After 70 metres cross over a stream to continue along a path between white thatched walls. In 100 metres you come out to a lane with the **Red Lion** on your right, the recommended lunch stop.

Coming out of the Red Lion, turn right up the lane to reach a T-junction with the main road after 180 metres. Cross over to go up a car wide shingle track, your direction 210 degrees. After 60 metres where the track forks both ways, continue

ahead up a footpath through a wooded area. (After 10 metres you have the option to go up some steps to your left to join a footpath (for part of the way) parallel to the one below – useful in muddy conditions.)

Keep to the footpath for the next 1.4 km to where the now car wide path (having now levelled) is joined by white horse track barriers on its right hand side. After 15 metres *the path joins a wooden fence between the footpath and the white horse track barrier. After a further 75 metres fork right* through a gap in the fence. *Veer right* down a fairly well defined footpath, your direction 210 degrees, *aiming for the right hand side of a line of evergreen trees*, which you join after 450 metres.

After 350 metres at the end of the line of trees on your left, veer right across a gallop along a broad grassy track, ignoring *a broad green path in the direction (just to the left) of Lower Chance Farm*. Go to the right of Lower Chance Farm Buildings, cross a concrete track and turn left at a T- junction with a restricted byway.

After 600 metres the byway merges with the Ridgeway, which you follow for the next 3 km until [*]

In more detail:

Veer slightly to the left to continue up the Ridgeway, your direction east. In 120 metres ignore a byway forking off to the left, to continue up the car wide (byway) Ridgeway, your direction 110 degrees. After 800 metres go over a cross paths to continue along the Ridgeway. In a further 50 metres cross over a byway (slicing the Ridgeway at a diagonal), your initial direction 140 degrees. After 650 metres go over another cross paths to continue up the Ridgeway, your initial direction 120 degrees. After 50 metres ignore a byway forking to the right to continue up the Ridgeway, your direction 100 degrees. In 500 metres you pass a footpath merging from your left. In 400 metres ignore a car wide byway forking down to

your right. *After 200 metres fork left over a stile* (to the right of a metal fieldgate).

[*] Go up a car wide track, your direction 60 degrees. *In 200 metres* at the end of the car wide track *turn left over a stile* (built into a fence) *to take the left fork through a wood*, your initial direction 330 degrees. After 350 metres go through a car wide entrance (20 metres to the left of a broken stile) to follow a car wide track to the right to emerge from the wood after 50 metres. Follow a footpath (marked by a footpath signpost) along a fenced in car wide track across fields, your direction 20 degrees. After 550 metres cross over a tarmac track to continue down a car wide tarmac track, your direction 30 degrees.

In 300 metres **[!]** *at the bottom of the track* (with a double metal fieldgate to your left), *turn right* along a fenced in car wide grass track footpath, your direction 120 degrees. After 150 metres, at the end of the fenced in track, cross left into the next field following the footpath along the bottom of the valley, your initial direction 80 degrees. In 700 metres go through a gap into the next field to continue along the valley bottom, your initial direction 40 degrees.

In 1.1 km you join a car wide tarmac track to continue in the same direction, now 60 degrees. After 70 metres ignore a stile to your left and continue down towards Starveall Farm. In 180 metres *turn left up a tarmac lane passing a corrugated black barn on your right hand side*, your initial direction 20 degrees.

In 400 metres at a T-junction with the main road (A417) turn right for 20 metres to cross the road with care, to pass round to the left of a double metal fieldgate, to follow a footpath up across a field, your direction east. After 180 metres the footpath joins a wooded boundary on your left-hand side. In 650 metres *follow the wooded field boundary round to the left, to then go through a car wide gap after 70 metres into the next field and turn right* down its right hand side, your

direction 80 degrees. After 130 metres you pass under some HV cables and in a further 100 metres *at the bottom right hand corner of the field turn right for 7 metres and then turn left* through a gap in a wooden fence. *In 10 metres at the corner of a small field turn right* along its right hand edge, your direction east.

In 70 metres at the right hand field corner *turn right along a fenced in footpath* along the left side of a small field, your direction 160 degrees. *After 130 metres turn right to follow a minor road* to reach a junction with the A329 after 350 metres. Cross over to go down Ferry Lane (joining the Thames Path) to arrive at the **Beetle and Wedge** after 160 metres.

If not taking refreshments at the Beetle and Wedge go to its left side and turn right at the river to continue on the Thames Path now alongside the river. After 2.5 km, having gone through some gates along the way go through a wooden gate into a small field, to follow the footpath round to the right, to then after 100 metres go through a wooden gate and cross a footbridge. Continue between trees and in 120 metres follow the main footpath round to the left (ignoring a footpath forking to the right) to emerge after a further 80 metres onto a car wide track. Follow this track, passing by the Parish Church of St. Mary on your right hand side after 100 metres. In a further 60 metres at a T-junction turn left along the High Street towards Goring. After 45 metres you reach The Swan at Streatley on your left-hand side, a possible tea stop.

Cross the western and eastern bridges over the Thames to Goring and continue along the High Street. In 240 metres you pass by The Arcade on your right hand side to continue up the High Street. After 200 metres cross the road bridge over the railway and turn right to reach Goring and Streatley station after 180 metres.

Goring circular walk via Moulsoford

Use the Goring circular walk directions until The Bell Inn [6] and then follow the directions below.

From the main entrance of the Bell Inn turn right along Ambury Road, your initial direction 300 degrees. After 500 metres ignore a footpath to the right. In a further 1.1 km *just past a house on your left-hand side, turn right* along a fenced in footpath (parallel to a shingle driveway on its left and Starveall Barn beyond). After a further 40 metres go into a field to continue along its right hand side, your direction east.

In 400 metres *at a T-junction with a car wide track (byway) turn left* up it, your direction 350 degrees. *After 220 metres at a path T-junction turn right*, your direction 120 degrees. *After a further 200 metres fork left through a metal gate* (to the right of a metal fieldgate).

*You now follow the main walk directions from the asterisk *).*

Lunch and Tea places:

The Blueberry London Rd, Blewbury OX11 9NA (01235 850296) Food served 12noon - 3pm Tue-Sun (but all day Sat).

Red Lion Blewbury OX11 9PQ (01235 850403) Food served 12noon - 1.45pm Tue-Sun. Located 6.8 km from the start.

The Beetle and Wedge Ferry Lane, Moulsoford OX10 9JF (01491 651381) Located 4.3 km from the end of the walk.

The Swan at Streatley High Street, Streatley, RG8 9HR (01491 878800)

Pierrepoints Café High St, Goring-on-Thames (01491 874464) Open Tue-Sat 8am -5pm

Other Possibilities in Goring:

John Barleycorn Manor Rd, Goring-on-Thames RG8 9DP (01491 872509)

The Catherine Wheel Station Rd, Goring-on-Thames (01491 872379)