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Goring Circular

Start and finish: Goring and Streatley station

Length: 18km (11.2 miles).

Time: 5 hours 30 minutes. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.

Transport: Trains go from London Paddington to Goring and Streatley, journey time is one hour. (Catching a fast train to Reading and changing there can reduce your travel time to 45 minutes.)

OS Landranger Map: 174

OS Explorer Maps: 159 and 170

Goring-on-Thames, map reference SU 602806, is in **Oxfordshire**, 25km south of Oxford.

Toughness: 4 out of 10.

Walk Notes: Please note that due to sensitive wildlife, access to Streatley Warren is only between 31st October and 1st March. If you wish to find out more information about a particular restriction, check the [Open Access](#) website or phone the contact

centre on 0845 1003298, quote OS grid ref. (for Streatley Warren) SU551810.
Alternatively contact

English Nature who look after Streatley Warren.

Walk options

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

b) Streatley Warren route. In winter you may vary the morning route by going through Streatley Warren by following the main walk directions until [3], to then follow the Streatley Warren route directions and then resume the main walk directions from [6].

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train nearest to 9.50 am from Paddington Station to Goring and Streatley.

WALK DIRECTIONS

[1] Coming off the platform *cross the footbridge for platform 1 and go west* along the platform and *after 60 metres turn left* through a gap onto a service road. In 25 metres at a T-junction continue ahead *down Station Road*, your direction 260 degrees. *After 150 metres* (just past a community centre on your right hand side), *turn right along a service road* (marked Private Road) sign-posted The Arcade and Village Shops, your direction 350 degrees. In 50 metres go by some metal car blocking barriers and after 60 metres *turn left along the High Street*.

In 250 metres cross over the Goring and Streatley road-bridge. (Which is in two parts: The eastern bridge from Goring to an eyot and the western bridge from the eyot to Streatley.) Having crossed the western bridge you pass by The Swan Inn at Streatley on your right hand side. In a further 45 metres, if you intend to take the route via Lardon Chase and Lough Down, refer to the directions (Lardon Chase and Lough Down r

oute) at the end of this text.

Otherwise, *turn right* (marked Thames Path) *along a road leading to the Parish Church of St. Mary*, your direction 10 degrees. After 60 metres follow the road to the right of the church.

In 120 metres *at a footpath junction* (with a footpath signpost on the right hand side). **[2]**

Fork left up a shingle car wide track (leaving the Thames Path), your direction 340 degrees. After 80 metres the

footpath narrows with a kissing-gate on your right hand side.

In 180 metres *at a T-junction*, go through a wooden gate and *turn left up a lane* (marked by a footpath signpost), your direction west. *After 140 metres at a T-junction* with the A329 *turn right* along the pavement. *In 240 metres turn left up Townsend road*, your direction west.

After 270 metres at a T-junction with the A417 *turn left*. *In 35 metres turn sharp right* (going partly back on yourself) *up Rectory Road* to join The Ridgeway, your direction 330 degrees. In 80 metres you pass by a house called Whitcote on your right hand side as the road levels and curves to the left.

In 500 metres you pass by the main entrance to Goring & Streatley golf club on your left-hand side. In 600 metres you pass by Thurle Grange Farm on your left hand side as the lane now goes uphill.

In 100 metres you reach a left turn (marked by a public footpath post) along a car wide shingle track. **[3]** If you intend to take the route via Streatley Warren, refer to the directions (Streatley Warren route) at the end of this text.

Otherwise, *turn left* (passing by a white painted house "Wynders" on your right hand side), your direction 200 degrees. In 80 metres go through a (normally open) fieldgate to continue along the (now) earth track. In 270 metres where the car wide track curves round to the right into the corner of a field, *fork left* (marked by a footpath post) *up a narrow footpath* following a lightly wooded field boundary, your direction 170 degrees. In 200 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded field boundary to continue up a

car wide field boundary gently curving to the right, your initial direction 210 degrees.

In 450 metres *immediately before a small square metal water tank* mounted on breeze blocks, (in front of the garden fencing to Kiddington Cottage), *fork left* along a car wide track, (with garden fencing on your right), your direction south. In 40 metres you pass by the entrance to a house. After a further 120 metres, at a 3 way footpath junction **[4]**, *fork right into a field to go along its left-hand side*, your initial direction 200 degrees.

After 180 metres at the corner of the field, *follow the footpath round to the right*, to go along a car wide track bordered by a wood, your direction 250 degrees.

In 420 metres (the footpath having curved round to the right), *turn left through a car wide gap into the next field to go up across it*, your direction 260 degrees.

After 400 metres at a T-junction **[5]** with a byway, *turn left*. *After 230 metres*, where the byway again starts curving to the left, *turn right to cross a field*, your direction 260 degrees. In 220 metres at the far side of the field go over a footpath cross-paths, to go through a metal gate into the adjoining field, to go along a footpath across the field, your direction 220 degrees.

In 200 metres you join an enclosed footpath and in a further 200 metres you *come out onto a lane and turn right* to reach the lunch stop, **The Bell Inn. [6]**

From the front entrance of the pub continue straight ahead and in 35 metres

at a junction veer left along a lane sign-posted Compton, Hampstead Norreys, your direction 210 degrees. After 200 metres you pass by the lychgate entrance to a church on your right hand side. In 140 metres *where the lane forks, fork left to reach a T-junction* with the main road after 40 metres. *Turn left up this road and in 65 metres* where the main road curves to the left, *continue ahead up an (initially) shingle car wide track* (byway), your direction 140 degrees.

After 700 metres, at a T-junction with the Reading Road, cross over and turn right to go along a permissive path (through common woodland) with the Reading Road on your right hand side, your direction 150 degrees. In 160 metres cross over a car wide track (which leads to the corner of a field off to the left) and continue along the path ensuring you keep to the path which runs 10 to 15 metres from the Reading Road on your right hand side. In 150 metres **[!]** *turn right to cross over the Reading Road* (marked by a metal footpath signpost) *to go down a car wide track* along the left hand side of a wood, your initial direction 200 degrees.

In 450 metres go over a cross paths and continue along the car wide track. In 220 metres ignore a path up to the right to continue down the car wide track. After a further 30 metres *where the track forks, fork left*, your direction 190 degrees. *In 130 metres the car wide track swings to the right alongside a road*. Ignore some steps on your left (leading down to the road) to *continue up a permissive path* with the road on your left-hand side, your direction 280 degrees. *In 140 metres* go to the right of a metal fieldgate to *follow*

the track down to the road, to continue up the road.

In 150 metres turn left through a wooden gate (marked by a public footpath signpost) to go down a car wide track across a field, your direction south. In 120 metres having crossed the field veer left along its right hand side (bordered by a wood) for 100 metres to enter a wood.

[!] *Immediately fork left up a footpath leading off a car wide track, your direction 160 degrees. After 40 metres you pass by a wooden footpath post on your left-hand side. In 70 metres (the footpath having wound its way round to the left) you pass by another footpath post on your left-hand side to continue up a not too clearly defined footpath through the wood.*

[7] *After 160 metres at a cross paths marked by a metal signpost on your right hand side, continue ahead for 20 metres to join a car wide track, which goes along the left-hand edge of a narrow wood, your initial direction 150 degrees. (In muddy conditions there is a parallel path for part of the way off to your right.) In 250 metres you reach Ashampstead Green to continue along a tarmac lane with houses on your right hand side to then join the Green on your left hand side after 50 metres.*

In 120 metres the lane having curved to the right, turn left (marked by a footpath signpost) through a double wooden fieldgate and after 20 metres go through a wooden kissing-gate into a field, to go down its right hand side, your direction 110 degrees.

After 130 metres at the right hand corner of the field go through a wooden kissing-

gate to go down a fenced in footpath through a wood. In 50 metres go through a wooden horse-blocking barrier to turn left down a lane, your direction 20 degrees. In 160 metres (and 20 metres before a T-junction with the main road), turn right (marked by a footpath signpost) up a footpath initially along the left-hand side of a wood, your direction 160 degrees.

[8] *In 500 metres at a 3 path junction (by the edge of a wood bordering the corner of a field), turn left to continue down through the wood, your direction 110 degrees.*

In 400 metres (15 metres before some wire mesh fencing) follow the footpath sharp left downhill, your direction 10 degrees. After 120 metres turn right down a road, your direction 100 degrees.

In 180 metres turn left up a tarmac lane byway (marked by a restricted byway post on your left-hand side), your direction 50 degrees. In 150 metres where the tarmac lane swings sharply up and round to the right, continue ahead in the same direction along what is now an earth car wide track along the left hand side of a wood, to reach a summit after 60 metres.

In a further 150 metres you emerge from the wood to go up the right hand side of a field with the wood on your right. In 70 metres where the car wide track swings up and round to right, continue straight ahead up across the field aiming for a footpath post on the corner of a wood, 120 metres distant, your direction 40 degrees.

At the corner of the wood continue up the left-hand side of a field (bordered by the

wood), your initial direction 50 degrees. *In 80 metres where the wood curves to the left continue up across the field towards a wood on the far side, 60 metres distant, to then continue (initially) on the right hand side of the field bordered by this wood aiming for a wooden footpath post marking the footpath leading into a wood.*

In 150 metres go past the footpath post into Bowler's wood, your initial direction 30 degrees. After 140 metres cross over an unmarked cross paths to continue along a well-defined path, your direction north.

In 350 metres *you emerge from the wood to turn left along a road, your initial direction 20 degrees. After 100 metres where the main road swings to the left, continue ahead (signposted Southridge), your initial direction north.*

[9] *In 120 metres where the lane swings to the left, turn right off the lane passing by a metal fieldgate on your left hand side to go into a field, and go down its right hand side, your direction 30 degrees.*

In 170 metres at the right hand corner of the field continue down a footpath (marked by a yellow arrow) into a wood with a fence on your right hand side, your direction 20 degrees. In 90 metres where the footpath starts to level *at a 3-way footpath junction* (marked by a metal footpath signpost on your left), *turn left* to continue down through the wood, your direction 350 degrees. After 40 metres you reach a dip and continue up the footpath.

After 150 metres go through a metal gate *to emerge from the wood and veer right into the corner of the right-hand field, to*

go along its left- hand side, your direction north. In 380 metres at the far upper left hand corner of the field go through a gap (to the left of a metal gate) and turn right along a lane. After 400 metres you pass under some HV cables and in a further 350 metres ignore a byway forking off to the left to continue down the lane.

[10] *In 70 metres where the lane curves to the right, continue ahead down a footpath (marked by a metal footpath signpost) into a wood, your direction 10 degrees.*

In 140 metres you emerge from the wood into a field. (The Official path turns left down the field for 100 metres then right down a lane for 80 metres. Although there is a permissive path down across this field.)

Turn half left down across the field aiming for the corner of the garden fence of the house on the left, your direction 10 degrees. In 100 metres cross a lane to go up a footpath with a wooden slatted garden fence on its right hand side, your direction 330 degrees.

After 45 metres follow the corner of the fencing round to the right to go up the right hand side of a field, your direction 40 degrees. In 110 metres at the end of the garden fencing, continue in the same direction now crossing the field up a clearly defined footpath.

After 300 metres at the top of the field cross over a stile into a wooded area now with a fence on your right hand side, your direction 10 degrees. In 60 metres you emerge from the wooded area to go along the right hand side of an open space with a hedgerow on your right hand side.

After 260 metres at the right hand corner of the open space, you enter a wooded area to go through a metal kissing gate after 40 metres, and continue down a footpath (with a barbed wire fence on your left-hand side), your initial direction 40 degrees. In 60 metres at the corner of the barbed wire fence ignore some steps up to your left to continue down the footpath, your direction 20 degrees.

After 40 metres the path curves right to reach an unmarked path T-junction with a view of Goring down below. Turn left down what soon becomes a steep path, your direction 20 degrees. In 180 metres you go down some steps and in a further 160 metres the path comes down to the main road; cross over and turn left.

In 100 metres at some traffic lights (with The Bull pub on your left hand side), turn right down the High Street towards Goring. After 300 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 200 metres you pass The Miller of Mansfield pub on your left and in another 40 metres you pass by The Arcade on your right hand side to continue up the High Street. After 180 metres cross the road bridge over the railway and turn right to reach Goring and Streatley station after 200 metres.

b) Streatley Warren route

Follow the main walk directions until [3].

In 100 metres ignore a footpath off to your left to continue along the road which now levels (and then descends after 50 metres). After 550 metres you pass by a

row of red brick houses on your left-hand side. In 250 metres you reach a fork in the road with a brick encased post box on the fork.

Fork right (following the Ridgeway signpost) up a car wide shingle track (vehicle access only) through a tree arbour, your direction 280 degrees.

After 1.4 km the track is joined by a car wide track from the right (with a signposted footpath along it). **[4b]**

Continue along the shingle car wide track passing under a run of mini pylon cables after 50 metres. In 170 metres *turn left down a byway* (between hedgerows), your direction 160 degrees. In 230 metres at a dip in the track ignore a footpath off to your right. On your left you have a metal fieldgate.

If it is between 31st October and 1st March (winter) then you now have the opportunity to walk across the open access land of Streatley Warren. If you want to do this follow the directions at (i) Otherwise follow the directions at (ii) below.

(i) Route across Streatley Warren (accessible between 31st Oct – 1st March) Turn left through the metal fieldgate and turn right immediately through the pasture, aiming for Bower Farm which is just about visible at a distance of 800 metres, bearing 140 degrees.

However as there is a fence about 200m away across Streatley Warren, for the most direct route:

Go down across this field aiming for the upper right hand corner of the field (next to a run of mini pylon cables), along the field boundary on your right. After 220

metres at the right hand corner of the field, go through a double metal fieldgate into the next field. Go (initially) down across this field heading to the left-hand side of Bower Farm, aiming for a metal kissing gate 40 metres down from the far left-hand corner of the field, your direction 130 degrees.

In 500 metres go through the metal kissing gate and turn right up a car wide earth track, your direction 150 degrees.

After 80 metres you reach a junction (marked by a metal byway sign on your left-hand side). Rejoin the route at the asterisk [*] below.

(ii) Continue up the car wide track. In 580 metres *where the shingle track swings round and up to the right, turn left* through a metal fieldgate to go along a fenced in car wide grass track heading towards Bower Farm, your direction 100 degrees.

In 300 metres by a three-way signpost *just before a large corrugated barn* ahead (with a white thatched cottage on its left hand side) *turn left* through a metal fieldgate to go down a byway, your direction 50 degrees.

In 80 metres go through a metal fieldgate to enter a lightly wooded area.

In 35 metres *at a T-junction* (marked by a metal byway signpost) *turn right through a metal fieldgate up a car wide earth track*, your direction 100 degrees.

[*] In 60 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area along the right hand edge of a field with a hedgerow on your right hand side. After 120 metres *where the hedgerow ends, turn right through a metal gate* (to the right of a metal

fieldgate) into a field. Turn left across this field aiming for a point 2/3 down the field, your direction 155 degrees. In 160 metres go through a metal gate into a wooded strip and turn left along a clear path through it. In 80 metres emerge into an arable field, and turn right (marked by a footpath post) along its right hand edge, your initial direction 220 degrees.

[5b] After 280 metres *at a crosspaths* (marked by a footpath post on your right hand side) *turn right* into the adjoining arable field to veer left along a usually clear path towards the left corner, your direction 220 degrees.

In 230 metres you continue with a hedge on the left and a fence on the right and in 150 metres you *come out onto a lane and turn right* to reach the lunch stop, **The Bell Inn**

You now follow the main walk directions from [6].

Lunch and Tea places:

The Bell Inn Aldworth, RG8 9SE

(01635 578272) Plain simple warm rolls, soup and traditional puddings heated in the Aga and served noon – 2.45pm Tue - Sun. (Closed on Mondays.) Located 7.5km from the start of the walk.

The Swan at Streatley High Street, Streatley, RG8 9HR (01491 878800)
Possible tea stop.

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)