

# The White Hart, Bramshill and Mill Circular

## About the walk

**Start point:** The White Hart pub car park, Eversley Street, Eversley.

**Distance:** 7 km / 4.3 miles

**Walk time:** 1.5 - 2 hours

**Terrain:** The route is relatively flat with uneven ground which can get very muddy and wet in parts, particularly during winter.

**Parking:** The White Hart pub car park free to use for patrons - join us prior to your walk or on your return - please pre-book your table.

The route follows a section of the Blackwater Valley Path, a long-distance path that meanders alongside the River Blackwater, then continues through the beautiful Bramshill Forest before returning via the pretty old ford, weir mill Lower Common.

## Start to New Mill Lane

From the pub car park, cross the road Eversley Street, taking care, and turn right along the pavement.

The turning into the next footpath is fairly well concealed so take care to follow the next instruction carefully. Past Fabian Chic Antiques and the gateway entrance into Baker's Farm and after the curved hedge, turn left at the white brick and black wood converted barn, down a small concealed signed footpath.

Pass through the gate and stay close to the white wall on the left. Keep left to join the grass footpath with a tall brick wall on the left and a hedgerow on the right.

Continue to follow the narrow grass path, later with fenced horse paddocks on your left. When you reach a T-junction with a tarmac lane, cross straight over to continue on the Blackwater Valley grass path opposite, with more horse paddocks to the left.

Eventually you will come to a kissing gate ahead. Pass through this into a horse paddock and follow the path along the right-hand field edge.

At the far side pass through the metal kissing gate into the second paddock and, again, cross this following the right-hand boundary. At the opposite side cross the embankment bridge, via a kissing gate and wide metal gate, to reach the third paddock. Keep along the right-hand edge of this field, through the next kissing gate and on in the same direction through the next paddock. Keep ahead through a staggered barrier and two more gates to reach a T-junction with New Mill Lane.

## New Mill Lane to Well House Farm

If you glance to your right here, you can see the footbridge across the beautiful ford, which we will visit later on the walk. For now, take the track at about 10 o'clock - a gravel driveway which leads you past the entrance gates for The Old Chapel and Brook Cottage, both on your right.

Keep ahead to pass a vehicle barrier at the forest edge and, immediately afterwards, turn right to cross two sleeper bridges in quick succession.

Continue on the woodland footpath, with garden boundaries to your right. You will emerge via another footbridge to reach a T-junction with a stone path (with power lines running along it). Turn right onto this stone path and follow it as it swings left, passing a pylon immediately on your right.

Continue on the obvious path which winds along the edge of Bramshill Forest, with woodland to your left and fenced fields across to your right.

Stay along the forest boundary path and after 0.6 miles you will see a metal vehicle barrier on your right. Fork right to pass alongside this and then turn left to join the tarmac access lane. Continue just a short distance to reach the entrance drives for Bramshill Stud and Well House Farm, both on your right.

## Well House Farm to Fishing Lake Detour

Turn right here and cross the low and open stile, then follow the gravel farm driveway ahead. As you reach a vehicle gate ahead, pass just to the left of this to join the enclosed footpath between a fence and a wall. The path winds ahead, eventually emerging from the fences to cross a pretty stretch of the River Blackwater (leading us back into Berkshire).

About 60 paces after the river crossing, you will see a stile on your left. At this point you have two choices:

### **Option 1: Skip the Lake (Recommended for shorter walk)**

If you would prefer to avoid the optional detour, continue straight ahead to the next section.

### **Option 2: Visit the Fishing Lake (Optional - adds 1 mile)**

To visit the lake, turn left over the stile into the first horse paddock and cross this at about 1 o'clock. At the far side, take the stile-bridge-stile combination ahead to enter a second paddock and continue ahead along the left-hand boundary.

In the corner, exit via another stile, cross the sleeper bridge and pass through the kissing gate into a third paddock. Walk ahead along the left-hand boundary, ignore the kissing gate onto the Blackwater Valley Path, instead continue along the edge of this third horse paddock.

In the far left-hand corner, a stile leads you to a pretty fishing lake. Take time to enjoy this tranquil

setting (although please respect any fishermen using the lake). When you have finished, retrace your steps back through the three horse paddocks to re-join the main path.

## Fishing Lake Detour to River Footbridge

Standing on the main path (with the footpath which leads to the fishing lake on your left), walk straight ahead on the main path between hedgerows. Pass through the kissing gate ahead and follow the main enclosed path as it bends left to continue between trees. You will emerge at the end of a tarmac access track, known as Forges Lane.

Keep ahead to join this tarmac track and follow it, leading you around several bends and passing between a few farms and properties on each side. Just before you reach a T-junction, the track crosses a stream. Keep your eyes peeled here, as you may be lucky enough to spot the pair of white little egrets which frequent this stretch of stream.

At the T-junction, turn right to join New Mill Road and this will lead you to the pretty ford and footbridge on the River Blackwater. Cross the river via the long footbridge.

**About the River:** Over the last 200 years the river had suffered neglect but in recent years the water quality and banks have been improved. As a result, fish stocks are improving and other wildlife has returned including otters. The ford gives an ideal place to cool feet and paws in the summer months and the grassy banks, old mill and footbridge create a lovely vista to enjoy.

## River Footbridge to End

At the far side of the bridge, just before you reach the track junction, you will see a kissing gate on your left (which you should recognise from the outward leg). From this point you will be retracing your steps back to the pub.

To do this, turn left through the kissing gate and follow the footpath through multiple horse paddocks, passing through several gates. Beyond the paddocks stretch, keep ahead on the path with horse paddocks to your right, crossing a tarmac track along the way.

Eventually you will emerge to a T-junction with the main road in Eversley village, The Street. Turn right along the pavement, back past Fabian Chic, then cross over the road with care to reach The White Hart for some well-earned hospitality.