

# The Horse and Groom and Hare Hatch, Berkshire



Moderate Terrain

3.5 miles  
Circular  
1.5 hours

180214



## Access Notes



1. The walk is almost entirely flat and follows a mixture of field edge paths and grass tracks some of which can be a little overgrown, narrow and/or muddy at different times of the year.
2. There are a couple of short sections of road walking so take care of traffic at these points.
3. You will need to negotiate 6 stiles, the last 3 of which have wire fenced surrounds so dogs may need a lift over.
4. Two of the fields are likely to be holding horses so take care with children and dogs.

The Horse and Groom is a 300 year old coaching inn with beautiful beams and flagstones.

A 3.5 mile circular pub walk from the Horse and Groom in Hare Hatch, Berkshire. The walk gives you chance to explore the surrounding countryside, a mixture of large arable fields and horse paddocks with a few small sections of woodland and lovely views.

## Getting there

Hare Hatch is located between Twyford and Maidenhead in Berkshire. The walk starts and finishes from the Horse and Groom pub which is situated on the A4 Bath Road, at its junction with Milley Lane.

Approximate post code **RG10 9SB**.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Castle End Road



Standing with your back to the pub facing the main A4 road, turn right through the car park. By the vehicle entrance swing right down the rough path that takes you into Milley Lane. Pass a couple of properties on the right (Mulberry Cottage and Caserta) and then turn immediately right down the track signed as a public footpath. Pass under the left-hand of the two height restriction barriers and follow the tarmac lane ahead.

Where the main lane swings hard right, fork left to keep ahead on the stone and grass track. Continue ahead down a narrow fenced footpath, with horse paddocks now each side, and continue as the fenced path passes through a small belt of woodland. You'll emerge out into a crop field. Go straight ahead on the footpath crossing the centre of the field, heading for a telegraph pole at the far side. Cross the stile to reach a T-junction with Castle End Road.

You'll find this and many more walks at iFootpath.com. All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at [walks@ifootpath.com](mailto:walks@ifootpath.com)



## 1 ➔ 2 Castle End Road to Rail Side Path



Cross over and turn left along the grass verge taking care of any oncoming traffic. Pass a row of houses on the left to reach the left-hand bend in the road. Fork right here into the entrance of Castle End Business Park, signed as a public bridleway. Immediately before the main gates, fork right again through the gap in the fence, to join a narrow stone path following a fence on the left. At the staggered T-junction, bear right to join the wide grass and stone track. Follow this track for some distance enjoying the expansive views across the crop fields each side.

Hare Hatch was originally one of the old gates into Windsor Forest, presumably where hares were often seen. The hamlet emerged on the edge of the forest and, whilst farming has always been the main industry here, the building of the main Bath Road through the hamlet gave it a boost as a stopping off place for travellers to and from London.

Eventually you'll pass by a vehicle gate to reach the T-junction with the road. Turn left under the railway bridge, taking extreme care of any traffic. Immediately afterwards, fork left again down a grass footpath with a tall metal fence on the left.

## 2 ➔ 3 Rail Side Path to Milley Bridge



Keep ahead on this rail side path with a large open crop field stretching out to the right and the rail line running along the fenced embankment to the left. This train line is part of the main Reading to Paddington service, a popular route with commuters from Berkshire into London.

At the end of this very long path you'll come to a stile, cross this into a small playing field. Follow the right-hand edge to reach the wooden gates which take you out to a T-junction with Milley Lane. Turn left onto the road and follow this (taking care of traffic) to cross the railway via Milley Bridge.

## 3 ➔ 4 Milley Bridge to Scarlett's Home Farm



Keep ahead along the edge of the lane and continue to reach the second oak tree on the right, just before the right hand bend on the road. Immediately before this tree, turn right through the gap in the hedge where you'll see a signed footpath heading diagonally left across the crop field. Follow this path, heading for the far corner of the copse on the left.

As you reach the copse corner (Scarlett's Wood) keep straight ahead on the path running along the field edge with the field to your right and Scarlett's Wood to the left. The path is ill-defined here but stay close to the tall trees in the woodland to the left, passing a collection of newly planted trees on the right. Soon on the left you'll come to a footbridge into the woodland. Cross this, go over the stile and join a section of grass fenced path.

Cross the next stile which leads you to the corner of an open paddock (you may come across horses here). Cross this field diagonally left to reach the opposite corner, where the wooden fence meets the woodland to the left. Cross the stile into the next horse paddock. Stay close to the tree line as it swings left. As you reach the next fenceline ahead, turn right following the fence on the left for just a few yards to reach the stile in the field corner. Cross this onto the tarmac entrance lane where you'll see the entrance gates to Scarlett's Home Farm on the right.

## 4 ➔ 5 Scarlett's Home Farm to End



Turn left along the access lane, keep left at the fork and you'll reach a T-junction with Scarlett's Lane, with Scarlett's Lodge directly opposite. Turn left along Scarlett's Lane using the grass verges where you can and taking care to avoid any traffic. You'll pass the impressive White Lodge on the right and eventually you'll come to a crossroads with Milley Lane.

Turn right along Milley Lane signed to Reading and Maidenhead. Follow this road passing Waltham Court on the left, a converted barn complex now home to a range of small businesses. At the end of the lane you'll come to the T-junction with the main A4. Swing left around the grass verge where you'll find the Horse and Groom for some well earned refreshments.



## Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

## Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

