

Lambourn Valley Walks
Walk #1: Lambourn – Willis Farm - Lambourn

Circular Walk #1 – Lambourn – Willis Farm – Lambourn

Length: 6 km (4 miles)

Typical Time: 1 hour

All on marked public rights of way, no stiles to cross. Some rutted tracks. Wear stout boots or shoes. Can be very muddy in wet weather. There are sections which are across the open Downland which can be exposed to wind.

start Car parking in Greenways can be difficult so park in the main car park in the High Street. Leave the car park, **Turn right**. On your right you will see the old police station clearly identifiable by its big black studded gates. **Turn left** up Edwards Hill (One way for traffic). At the top **turn right** into Greenways. You will pass the school on your left as the hill rises steeply. After a sharp left corner you will pass the main entrance to the school followed by the paddocks of Meridian Equestrian yard. After a 300m while take is a turning to **your right**. Continue along this road as it turns into a track at Follyfoot stables.



1 You are walking due South as the track starts to rise up the hill. Continue right up to the ridge, past a turning on your right. Behind you there are spectacular views of the village nestled in the surrounding Downland. You are now on Coppington Hill.



2 As you come across the ridge and drop slightly down you will see Boldstart Farm to your left. This is one of many farms typically nestled in the bottom of valleys for protection from the prevailing westerly winds which sweep across the open Downland.

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	<p>3 The track joins a made up road – continue along here. After a left turn in the road you come to a junction where the made up road turns right. You continue straight on past some metal posts designed to stop vehicles.</p>
	<p>4 Walk past the barn which belongs to Willis Farm. The lovely red brick farm house is tucked behind the barn. You will need to open the latch and go through a 5 bar gate to continue along the footpath which now leads along the side of the garden of the farmhouse for a short while.</p>
	<p>5 The path then heads straight across the field. This is a market right of way so keep going. When the crops are growing you will typically be surrounded by wheat or barley.</p>
	<p>6 Having crossed the field, turn left along another track which will lead you past Dance’s cottage on your left. When you reach the made up road, turn right and follow the road.</p>

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7 You are now on part of the old Membury Airfield which was used in World War II. To your right you can just make out the buildings which are now part of the Lowesden Works Light Industrial area but which in their day were engineering workshops for the airfield. The road turns to the right after 500m, you carry **straight on** past some trees on your right.



8 After a further 200m take the marked path which branches **off to your left** across the field towards the woods. As you cross the field you will see the flint stones are in abundance. Flints such as this were used by the earliest settlers of the Downland to make stone axes and cutting tools since the chipped edge of a flint can be razor sharp. Rooksnest House is in the trees on your right.



9 As you enter the woods you will note a total change of scenery. The broad path winds its way down the hill. If you walk quietly you may be able to see some of the red deer which live freely in the woods. The wood to your right is Ox Wood and the one to your left is Berry's Wood. You will also see many different flowers and species of grasses in this sheltered spot. On leaving the woods you join a made up track.



10 Before you proceed **to your left** along the track, take a look directly across the fence. Hidden away in the field is a dew pond. These ancient ponds are man made by digging a shallow dish shaped hole and lining it with clay. Dew and of course rainwater accumulates and fills the pond which serves as a drinking water supply for animals on what is otherwise very dry chalk Downland.

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11 Proceed along the track until you come to a junction where a number of paths lead off. Across to your right is a little cottage nestled in the trees. Take a **left turn** along the track called Stoney Lane which is usually very rutted. The track is part of the network of byways which can be used by cars, walkers, horses and motorcycles.



12 After a short climb up a hill you will see the White Shute nature reserve on your right. Although not on the route it is worth making a short deviation. Enter the reserve using one of the styles. A board at the entrance explains the flora and fauna which you can find in this small area of protected Downland.



13 Continue along the track which leads uphill. From the brow of the hill you can see Bockhampton and Long hedge gallops on your right. The well drained and springy Downland turf make the perfect combination for training race horses. As you progress along the track Lambourn itself comes into view with the white buildings of Meridian in the foreground.



14 Just as you enter the outskirts of the village you will see Coppington Yard on your left where Brendon Duke trains racehorses including some recent winners.

Finish The track rejoins Greenways and you will recognise the fork where you turned off previously at the start of the walk.