

**2 WALKS FROM EWELME** - one taking in the historic village of Ewelme, the other in the local Chilterns countryside. Walk 2 can be either 2.5 miles or 4.5 miles. Both start at the Ewelme Recreation Ground car park, Cow Common. (Map ref. SU648912)

## Walk 1 Distance 2 miles

**1** From the car park take the higher of the two road forks on the left. Follow the road past Ewelme Church (where Jerome K Jerome of Three Men in a Boat fame is buried), then take a narrow path on the left at the end of the churchyard wall. Follow the path down until you reach the road and turn right. A few yards along take a signposted path on the left between the houses

**2** Climb the narrow path between gardens. At the top when the open field is reached turn right on the “permissive” path that follows the field edge. On the right you will see Ewelme Manor and the Ewelme Water Cress beds. (These are now run as a conservation project by Chiltern Society volunteers). Continue to follow the path along the field edge for about half mile until you reach the road.

**3** Turn right crossing the bridge over the stream. (You may want to stop by the bridge and walk around the local nature reserve on your left – also part of the Water Cress Beds conservation project). Turn right in front of the Shepherd’s Hut pub and then follow the road through Ewelme village. Pass the cress beds visitor centre (open on the first Sunday of the month) on the right until arriving at the village hall on the left.

**4** Turn left past the hall, looking out for the King’s Pool (where Henry VIII was supposed to have paddled!) on the right and the village shop (run by volunteers from the village) on the left. Climb the hill, winding round to the right and take the first turn right which brings you back to the church. Before returning to the car park, it is worth taking a look

inside the church and visiting the courtyard of the almshouses. Below the church is Ewelme primary school – reputed to be the oldest primary school in England.

## Walk 2 Distance 2.5 miles or 4.5 miles

**1** From the recreation ground (Cow Common) car park cross the road (to the grass triangle) and take the right (higher) fork on the left. After approx 75 yards take signed footpath on right (Chiltern Way), passing through allotments and then a narrow track until path opens up. Follow down the hill to the road.

**2** Turn left onto the road and continue for approx 200 yards, then take a signed footpath on the right. Follow the path along the left hand field edge and continue where path switches to right field edge.

**3** At cross roads of paths the shorter route (2.5 miles) turns right and longer route (4.5 miles) goes straight on (go to 5).

## Shorter route

**3** Turn right and follow lane for approximately 3/4 mile until reaching the road. Take the left hand of the two forks in the lane approaching the road.

**4** Cross the road and go through kissing gate into the meadow. Bear left diagonally following visible path across the meadow. At the top of hill turn left and follow the field edge back to the car park.

## Longer route

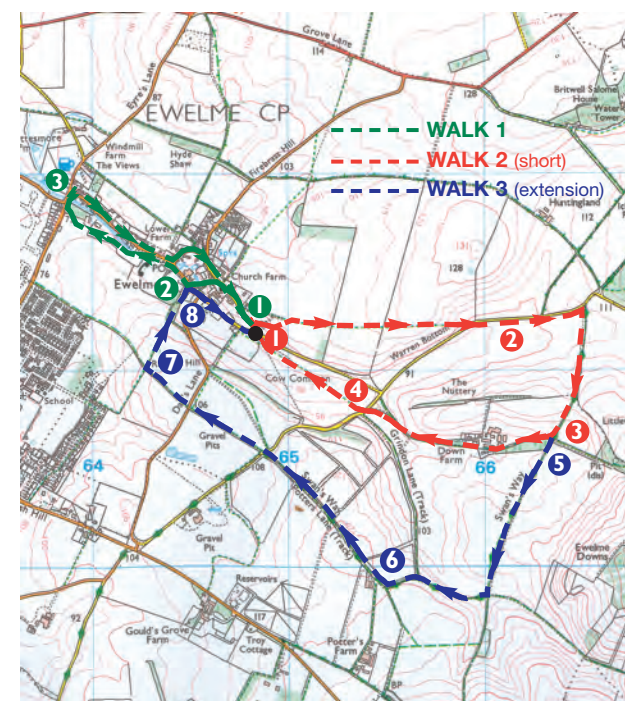
**5** Continue straight over at the cross road of paths.

At next crossroad of paths turn right and follow the path along field edge, passing a downhill path on the right.

**6** At farm barns and sheds turn slight right to find signposted footpath between two large hedgerows/trees. Follow the path for some time, crossing two roads.

**7** About 150 yards past second road crossing turn right at path crossroads. Follow the path down to the corner of the field.

**8** In the corner find a narrow footpath downhill between gardens and follow down to road (Ewelme High Street). Turn right onto road and walk back to car park, passing Ewelme Primary School (reputed to be the oldest in England).



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# Walks in Benson & Ewelme

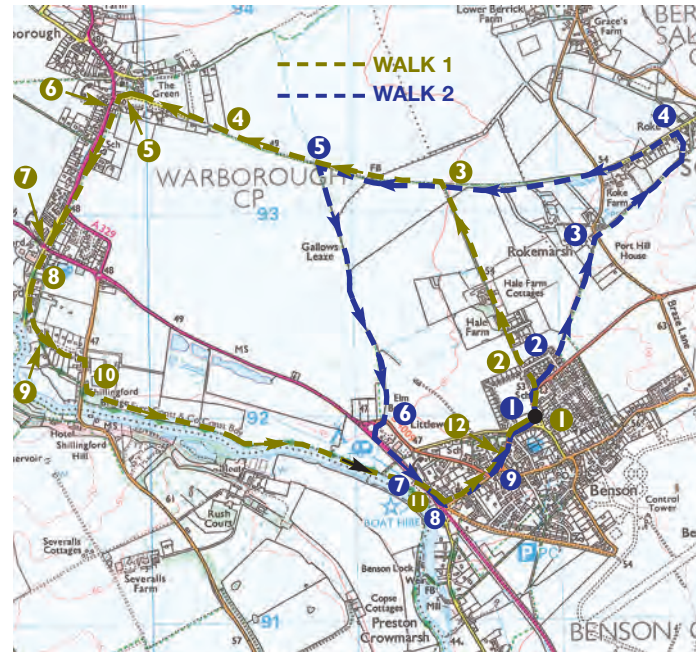
*Four Walks –  
Two walks starting in Ewelme, one taking in the historic village and the other venturing into the Chilterns countryside.  
Two walks from Benson, one taking in the Thames Path and the village of Warborough and the other to the village of Berrick Salome.*



**2 WALKS FROM BENSON** - one taking in the Thames path and the village of Warborough, the other through Berrick Salome. Both start at the Benson Parish Hall. (Map ref. SU617920)

## Walk 1 Distance 4.5 miles

- 1 From the Parish Hall car park walk between the tennis courts and the road, following the hedge until it meets Hale Road and turn left (retirement bungalows on the right).
- 2 Follow Hale Road past Hale Farm. Continue on the wide farm track between the hedges. At the end of the hedges, the field opens out. Follow this for a further 100 yards until the path reaches a T-junction.
- 3 Take the path left and follow for approximately half a mile, crossing two small bridges over streams.
- 4 You are now approaching the picturesque village of Warborough. Follow the road alongside the village green on your right and past the Six Bells public house.
- 5 About 50 yards past the pub turn left between the houses and follow the path to the end, where it turns right into a narrow gap between the house and a disused tennis court.
- 6 Next turn left onto the path alongside the road and a deep ditch. Follow the path until the left hand bend in the road. Cross the road and find a tarmac path immediately opposite that runs above a road.
- 7 After approx 150 yards you get to the busy main road opposite the Kingfisher pub. Cross this road with care (it is advisable to walk to the left before crossing to improve the visibility of oncoming traffic).
- 8 Take Wharf Road (to the right of the Kingfisher) and follow this until you reach a lovely stretch of the river Thames. (A bench by the river provides a useful spot for a rest).



- 9 The Thames Path turns left in a narrow opening alongside the house. (Note the high water marks from bygone floods).

At the end of this short path turn right and follow the narrow path, past the entrance to the house on the right and continue until you come to a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and turn left on the Thames path until reaching a road and Shillingford Bridge.

- 10 Cross the road and take the narrow path to the left of the bridge and onto the river bank. Continue along the river bank until you arrive at the boatyard

and the Waterfront Cafe – an excellent stop for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea.

- 11 Take the kissing gate out of the cafe area (on the left facing the river) and turn left immediately in the play area and up to the main road, cross and take Church Road (slightly to the right) until Benson War Memorial. Follow the road round to the right and then wind left past Benson Garage. Ahead is Benson's parade of shops.

- 12 The road back to the car park is off to the left (just before the shops) along Chapel Lane. At the end of Chapel Lane cross the road into the parish hall car park

**NB** A half hourly bus service (weekdays) runs from Wallingford to Oxford (via Benson). Alight at Benson Marina and start/end the walk at point 11.

## Walk 2 Distance 4 miles

- 1 From the Parish Hall car park walk between the tennis courts and the road, following the hedge until it meets Hale Road and turn left (retirement bungalows on the right).
- 2 Turn right at end of bungalows into Sands Way and follow road (turns right) to main road. Turn left and, after a few yards, turn left at Footpath sign (to Rokemarsh) onto narrow tarmac path between hedges.
- 3 Follow path to the end and cross straight across road. Find stile and footpath in front of houses on right. Follow this path, along field edge to next stile. Go over stile, follow path to road.
- 4 Turn left onto road and follow past houses on left until T junction. At junction take signed Footpath straight ahead and follow for approx half mile, crossing one small bridge over stream.
- 5 At second bridge (flat concrete) turn left after

bridge following path alongside the deep ditch. Follow this path until arriving at main road/roundabout/BP garage. Cross road, then cross entrance to BP station and follow path around to right along main road.

- 6 After about 30 yards look out for Footpath sign on opposite side of road. Cross carefully and take footpath down to river. Turn left at river and walk through chalet/caravan park on riverside path.

7 This brings you to the boatyard and the Waterfront Cafe – an excellent stop for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea.

- 8 Take the kissing gate out of the cafe area (on the left facing the river) and turn left immediately in the play area and up to the main road, cross and take Church Road (slightly to the right) until Benson War Memorial. Follow the road round to the right which then winds left past Benson Garage. Ahead is Benson's parade of shops.

- 9 The road back to the car park is off to the left (just before the shops) along Chapel Lane. At the end of Chapel Lane cross the road into the parish hall car park.

**NB** A half hourly bus service (weekdays) runs from Wallingford to Oxford (via Benson). Alight at Benson Marina and start/end the walk at point 7.

