



FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under close control.

Know your rights and responsibilities.

For the full Countryside Code and information on where to go and what to do, visit

www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

Walking is recommended by the Government as a safe and health promoting form of exercise. However, it should be carried out with care and forethought. Always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking in the town or countryside.

Yattendon can be reached by public transport. Details of the service can be obtained from Newbury Buses. Te: 01635 567500

No responsibility is accepted by the authors of this leaflet for the state or condition from time to time of paths comprising these walks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Walk information from Yattendon Parish Council

Compiled by Dick Greenaway who also converted it to the present format.

Thanks to Vic Bates the cartographer responsible for producing the map and designing the original leaflet.



West Berkshire
Countryside Society



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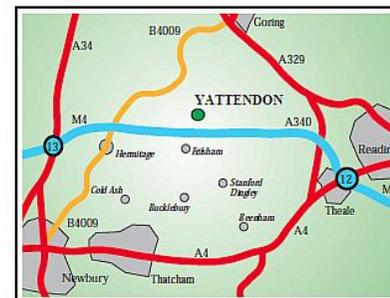
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YATTENDON

Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways



Yattendon Parish lies in the North Wessex Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

YATTENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Further copies of this leaflet may be downloaded from

www.westberkscountryside.org.uk www.yattendonparish.com

www.westberks.gov.uk

YATTENDON – FOOTPATHS BRIDLEWAYS AND BYWAYS

This leaflet gives descriptions of the footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways in the parish of Yattendon, West Berkshire.

Yattendon lies some ten kilometres (six miles) NE of Newbury in the valley of the River Pang and, like so much of West Berkshire, is in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The parish is a mixture of woodland, small fields and large arable fields. There is a school, one pub, a shop with a post office, a butcher, and a hairdresser. The West Berkshire Brewery with its shop and a wine merchant lie just outside the parish in a complex of other small work units. Details of public transport services can be obtained from Newbury Buses.

The path network consists of eleven paths of various classifications and several Access Paths with links to other parish networks. The paths offer walks and rides through differing terrains such as Ancient Woodlands, old coppices, across fields and along ancient drove roads.

Paths with red titles have obstacles such as stiles or steep hills which make them unsuitable for disabled people.

Those with black titles have no obstacles but may have uneven and muddy surfaces.

Those with blue titles have no obstacles and have reasonably sound surfaces.

A check by an able bodied person is recommended before use by a disabled person.

Ordnance Survey Explorer map 158 (Newbury & Hungerford) provides the bigger picture.

THE HISTORY OF YATTENDON

Yattendon Parish appears to have been settled at a very early date. Although no evidence has yet been found for Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation, flint implements of these periods have been found in the parish. The first early evidence was the discovery of a Bronze Age smith's hoard of scrap bronze on the site of Yattendon Court. There is also a round barrow (burial mound) in the SW corner of the parish and other ploughed out barrows elsewhere. Iron Age pottery has been found and Roman remains are plentiful.

The name 'Yattendon' was originally 'Geat inga denu' meaning 'the hollow of the Geat's people'. Their 'hollow' was probably the shallow valley east of the Square where the school stands.

Domesday Book (1086) lists the manor and records very little woodland.

In the medieval period the Norrys family of Bray near Maidenhead bought the manor. They built a fortified manor house on the ridge between the hollow and the slope into the Pang valley. The village then 'migrated' up to the ridge around a market place outside the manor moat. The same family built the present church in the 15th century – although there must have been an existing church somewhere because the list of rectors goes back to 1297. There is a notable memorial to a Sir John Norreys in the church. More recently the Square was the site of a famous 'revel' which later became Yattendon Fete – still an annual event. The architect Alfred Waterhouse bought the estate in the late 19th century and many of the buildings

Footpath 6

Leaves the Yattendon to Pangbourne road about 800 metres east of the village and leads south around the edge of a major chalk quarry. In the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries a complex of large mine tunnels was dug leading from the side of this quarry to extract chalk for brick making. The tunnels were large enough to accommodate a horse and cart and contain an amazing collection of graffiti on the exposed chalk! The entrances are now blocked. This whole area was extensively exploited for brick making. The kiln was where the Estate Office now stands to the west of the path. The path continues south and crosses the parish boundary before joining a path leading west back to village and east to the Stanford Dingley road.

Footpath 7

Leaves the Yattendon to Hampstead Norreys road via a stile northwest of Manston Farm drive and heads diagonally across the field to gates either side of the private drive to Wyld Court. From the drive gates it continues NW over the ridge to a gate on the parish boundary close to the Hampstead Norreys road. The highest point was the site of a double Bronze Age barrow which was deliberately levelled in the 19th century. Fine views up and down the Pang Valley can be had from this path.

Bridleway 8

Runs north from the sharp bend in the Hampstead Norreys road at Manston Farm drive and crosses the parish boundary close to the south of Wyld Court. It ends on the road near the Living rain Forest and links to the Hampstead Norreys path network and to Permitted Paths on Haw Farm.

Footpath 9

Runs from Everington Lane near the western parish boundary and very shortly crosses the parish boundary and becomes Hampstead Norreys 6.

Footpath 10

Leaves Yattendon village near the 30mph sign on the Hermitage road and shortly crosses into Frilsham parish to become Frilsham 5.

Bridleway 11

Runs west from the south end of Path 6 to cross into Frilsham parish and become Frilsham 3.

Permitted Path

Runs from the south end of Path 6 alongside the M4 to the Stanford Dingley road. Good views but rather noisy.

Access Paths

These paths on Eling Farm were created as part of a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. **AP1** is outside the parish but is included for completeness. It runs WNW along the south edge of Down Wood from Path HN5. **AP2** Leaves Eling lane at the Path 6 mark and runs east along the hedge and down a track then through fields to the River Pang at a disused mid 20th century swimming pool, north along the river to cross HN5 and the parish boundary at St Abbs. From there it runs up the west bank of the river to the corner of Westbrook Copse.

The paths across the fields may not be marked and the map should be used as a guide.

Unofficial Path.

Runs from the roadside opposite Yattendon Primary School south to a group of houses called The Withys. This path is well used but is kept open at the discretion of the landowner.

WALK DESCRIPTIONS

Footpath 1

Leaves the Hampstead Norreys road close west of Yattendon Manor House and crosses Park Field. It runs close to a partially refilled chalk pit (see above) and passes through a hedge into Broad Field where it runs north alongside the hedge before crossing a stile into Sloe Pightle. A 'pightle' is a field created by clearing woodland. The northern edge of this field is the parish boundary. The northern section of this path can be difficult in summer due to bramble and nettle growth. The path links to paths leading to Haw farm and the Hampstead Norreys network and to the Ashampstead network.

Footpaths 2 and 2A

Path 2 cuts diagonally across the churchyard and joins 2A which skirts the western edge. Thereafter the path skirts the western side of Bowling Alley Close. The wooded area on the west of the path was a brickyard using clay dug in Yattendon Park to the east. The brick making has destroyed the ground flora. The wood next to the north is Oaken Copse. This hazel coppice with oak standards has a very rich ground flora – particularly very dense bluebells - a beautiful sight in Spring. At the end of the wood the path enters open ground with Oak Field Lawn to the NW and Lower Middle Lawn to the SE. It crosses the parish boundary near Calvesleys Farm and links to the very extensive network in Ashampstead Parish.

Footpath 3

Leaves the Pangbourne road 1¼ km ¾ mile east of the village down the drive to Old Park. This apparently ancient

House was actually built in the 1930s on the site of a small isolation hospital built to contain outbreaks of scarlet fever. The path runs to the right around the houses and then to the left for a short distance behind them before leaving the gravel track and entering a narrow woodland path to the right. This is marked with a wooden Waymark. About 400 metres north the path crosses a wide grass ride. This was created during World War 2 to provide timber to meet a quota. The then Lord Iliffe made a virtue out of a necessity by creating a 'vista'. The horse chestnuts lining the sides were planted by girls from a school that had been relocated to Yattendon Court to avoid the bombing. Shortly after the ride the path comes to a T junction. Turn left and then right onto a concrete road which passes through Calvesleys Farm to meet Path 2 just outside the parish boundary.

Footpath 4

Is a very short path running from Path 3 on the east side of Old Park to the east along the north side of the field to cross the parish boundary and link to the Ashampstead Path network.

Footpath 5

Another short path linking the two roads at Burnt Hill. It passes between the area of houses and the underground reservoir built by Dr Watney between 1906 and 1907. Dr Watney was a major local landowner and a qualified Public Health expert. He realised the importance of clean, safe water and used his own fortune to provide piped water over a large area. It is now owned and managed by Thames Water.

in the village, including the well in the Square, are his work. In 1925 the estate was bought by Sir Edward Iliffe whose family still own the manor.

FARMING, FORESTRY, XMAS TREES.

The whole village and most of the surrounding parish is owned by Yattendon Estates. This is a very up-to-date mixed agricultural and forestry business producing large volumes of cereals and other arable crops, milk from a large dairy herd with a computer controlled dairy unit and timber from the surrounding woods and plantations. The Estate is one of the largest producers of Christmas Trees in the country. Shooting is an important aspect of their business, as will be apparent to any walker during the winter.

GEOLOGY

The underlying rock is chalk but areas of the overlying soils are composed of very acid clays, sands and gravels. To make these fertile enough to grow arable crops, particularly cereals, very large volumes of chalk were quarried, spread on the fields and ploughed in after frosting over winter. These chalk pits can be seen in many woods and as hollows in many fields. Alongside the Pang are peaty alluvium soils laid down as the large Ice Age river dwindled and silted up as the climate warmed. These soils provided rich hay meadows for early farmers and helped to keep plough oxen, horses and breeding stock alive over winter. The clay, sands and chalk in the east of the parish, together with wood fuel from the surrounding coppices, were used for brick and tile making from at least the early 17th century.

NATURAL HISTORY

The woodlands – apart from the conifer plantations – are mainly hazel and ash coppice with oak standard trees. Many of the woods are Ancient Woodland (there since 1600) and have rich ground floras. Oaken Copse (Path 2) has a dense carpet of bluebells in Spring with many other beautiful plants such as wood anemones, primroses, violets and wood sorrel mixed amongst the bluebells.

The fields are intensively used for arable crops, for grazing parts of the large dairy herd and for providing it with fodder. The Estate joined the Entry Level Stewardship Scheme several years ago and this has resulted in gapped up hedges and wide field margins.

The bird life reflects this land use.

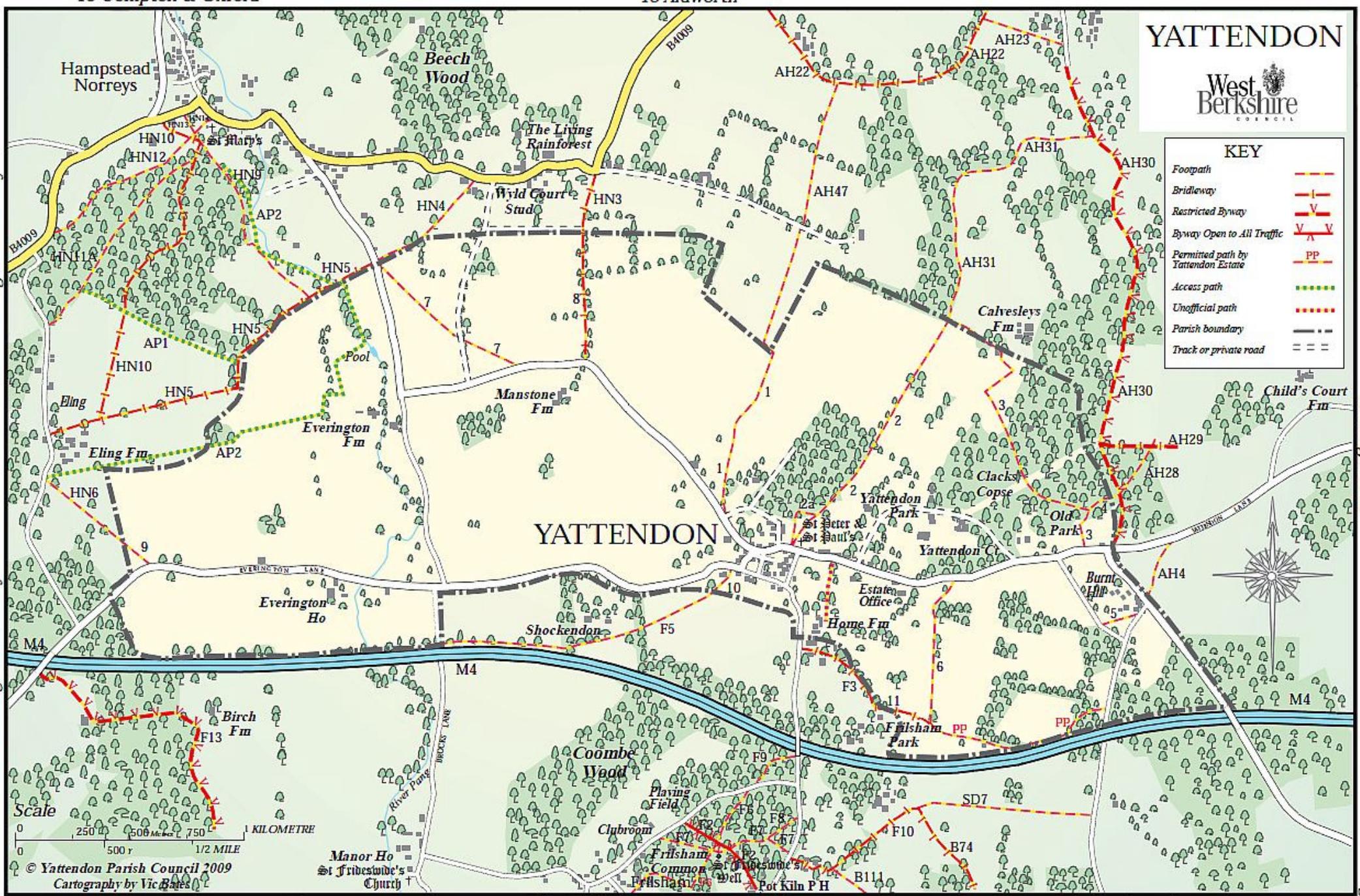
Pheasants are everywhere, particularly in late Summer when they are released into the wild. Larks are increasingly common in the fields and rooks and jackdaws are always around searching for grubs. In the woods and along the hedges the tit family is well represented, together with pigeons, woodpeckers and jays. At night tawny owls and an increasing number of barn owls may be seen. Buzzards and red kites have become common. Aerial battles take place as rooks drive them away from their nests. If you are lucky you may hear a nightingale on a warm summer evening. The woods harbour large numbers of muntjak and roe deer. These, and the all too common grey squirrels, have to be heavily culled because they do so much damage to trees and other plants within the woods and plantations. There is also a rapidly growing population of badgers and polecats have been seen.

YATTENDON



KEY

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Permitted path by Yattendon Estate
- Access path
- Unofficial path
- Parish boundary
- Track or private road



To Hermitage & Newbury

To Hermitage & Newbury

To Pangbourne

To Bradfield & Reading

To Compton & Oxford

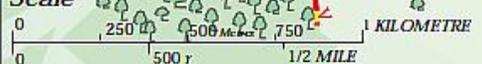
To Aldworth

To Bucklebury

To Bucklebury

To Bucklebury

To Stanford Dingley



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Cartography by Vic Bates

Manor Ho
St Frideswide's Church