

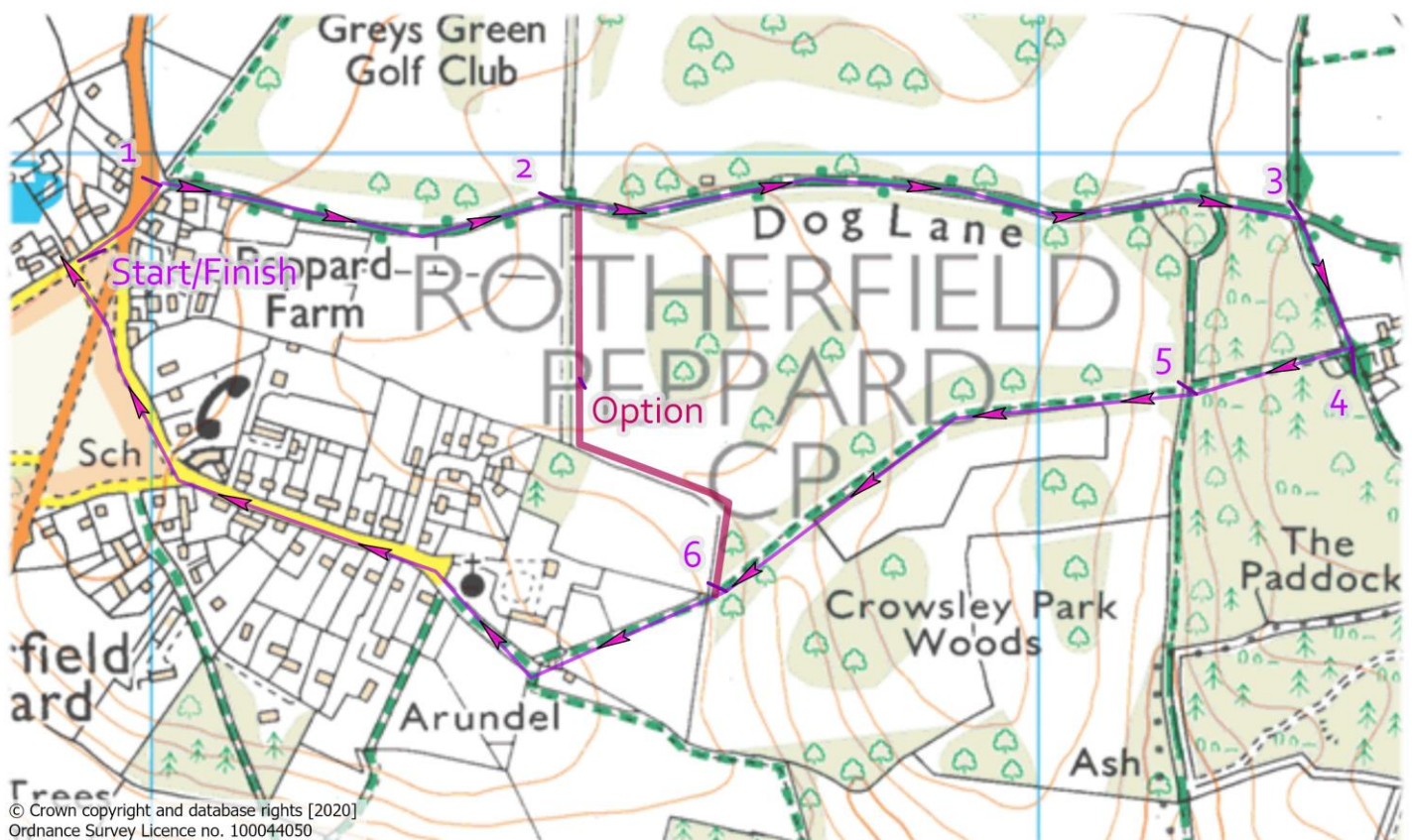
Peppard woodland walk

By Annette Venters, Chilterns Conservation Board

Summary

A scenic walk which starts in Peppard Common and follows Dog Lane, a wide tree-lined track, towards Rotherfield Greys. The route follows a short stretch of the Chiltern Way and then loops back through Crowsley Park Wood. A gentle walk on wide tracks.

Length:	2.1 miles
Terrain:	Gentle walking on unsurfaced paths and tracks
Accessibility	This is a stile-free walk with one gate
Start & finish:	Peppard Common, RG9 5LB
Food & drink:	Red Lion pub, Colliers Lane, Peppard Common
Maps:	OS Explorer 171, Chiltern Society 4
Parking:	Informal parking by the common opposite the Red Lion pub, Colliers Lane, Peppard Common. Or in the layby on the opposite side of the B481 Peppard Road (near the entrance to Greys Green golf club).
Local transport:	There are buses from Reading to the Stoke Row Road side of Peppard Common (opposite side).



Route

If you've parked by the Red Lion pub, walk down to the B481 Peppard Road and turn left along it. Cross over past the old pub to the entrance to Greys Green golf club, with a 'Restricted Byway' immediately to the right.

Waypoint 1 - Follow this byway (called Dog Lane), a wide and well surfaced track. It is one of the many historic drovers routes in the area linking to Henley-on-Thames, once the biggest inland port in the country. Follow this track for 450m to a crossing path for the golf course.

Waypoint 2 – Continue straight on for a further 800m ignoring side paths, until you reach a tarmac lane and cross-road of paths.

Waypoint 3 – Turn right along the Chiltern Way bridleway for 120m until you see the sign for Cross Lanes Farm on your left and White Cottage on your right.

Waypoint 4 – Turn right on the footpath just before White Cottage. Follow the path through the wood.

Waypoint 5 – Ignore side paths and continue ahead, passing through a wooden kissing gate. Follow this path down the hill and then back up, ignoring the many side paths (with coloured arrows and permissive paths) which are connected to the golf course. Towards the top of the hill, you will reach a crossing track and a metal kissing gate ahead.

Waypoint 6 – Do not go through the kissing gate, but turn right along the track and follow it back to Waypoint 2 on Dog Lane. (Please note: this is a well-used path but is not the official right of way, which is shown in blue on the map). Turn left on to Dog Lane and retrace your steps to the start.

Points of Interest

Peppard Common - Commons have been at the heart of our communities since Medieval times. They're incredibly important wildlife habitats, brilliant natural playgrounds and contain centuries of local history within them. There are 170 commons in the Chilterns, ranging from strips of grass verge to rolling hectares of wildflower-rich grassland and woodland. Peppard Common is well worth exploring, it is a mixture of open grassland and woodlands, rich in wildlife. The common lies in Rotherfield Peppard parish - 'Rotherfield' originated from the Anglo-Saxon for 'open land for cattle'. This reflects its age's old use for grazing until recent times. The older trees show the evidence of old coppicing and pollarding to produce a supply of small timber.

The Chiltern Way was set up as a millennium project by Chiltern Society volunteers. It's a circular walking route of 134 miles with two optional extensions and an additional loop taking the total route to a maximum of 220 miles. A new guidebook for the trail was published in 2017.