

## **SYRESHAM (KINGS HEAD PUB) TO BUCKINGHAM (OLD GAOL)**

Start your walk at the King's Head Pub in Syresham, Northants, outside which you'll find an information board about the Ouse Valley Walk. From here, walk up the road away the village (in a southerly direction) towards the nearby road junction. At the junction turn left (in the direction of the road signs pointing to Silverstone, Northampton and Towcester). Walk about 100 yards/91.4 m along this road and when you spot a stile and signpost on the opposite side, cross over and go over the stile.

Walk across the field, along its edge until you come to the farm gate at the other end. Here, turn left to walk along a hard-surfaced farm track. Follow the track over the bridge, which crosses the main A43, and go downhill towards another concrete bridge which this time crosses the River Ouse. This is the first time you will meet the river on the Ouse Valley Way.

Cross the bridge and continue up the farm track for a short distance until you see a stile in the hedge line over to your right. Cross the stile and follow the wide field margin to the far end of the field. Go through the gap in the hedge line and continue along the field margin until it meets a hard-surfaced driveway coming in from your right. Turn left along this and follow it down until you reach the road. The track comes out opposite Biddlesden Park.

Turn left at the end of the track and walk along the road, passing a public bridleway sign on the left with the large lake of Biddlesden Park to your right. After about 0.5 miles/0.8 km, turn left along the next track to Abbey House.

Cross the cattle grid and follow the hard-surface track towards Abbey House. Where the track forks, take the right fork away from the house. Follow this track which leads through a gate and into Whitfield Wood.

Continue straight through the wood, crossing a ride. Once out of the wood, walk across the field, bearing slightly right to go over a footbridge and towards a stile. Cross the stile and go across the next field, again slightly bearing right, cross the access track to Woodgreen Farm towards another stile.

After crossing this stile, bear diagonally right, heading for the top right-hand corner of the field. Cross the bridge and go over another stile. Then, turn left and follow round the edge of the field, keeping left, to the next stile. Cross this stile, cross the wooden bridge and immediately go over another stile.

Turn right and walk along the edge of the field, cross another stile and continue along the edge of the field, keeping right. Cross another stile (with three steps) and then follow the field edge path which runs to the right of the hedge in front of you. Keeping the hedge on your left, walk along the edge of the field until it meets a tarmac road coming in from the left. You will be able to see some impressive views of Stowe House ahead of you as you approach [Stowe Park](#).

If you look over to your left as you walk along this road, you should be able to see Wolfe's Obelisk and some of the other Stowe Park buildings on the skyline.

When the track meets the road in Dadford village, cross over and turn right. Walk along the road for a short distance and at the speed limit sign, turn left down a track that leads to Stowe

Estate Home Farm and into Stowe Park.

Follow the track, with the lake on your left, pass the estate buildings and where the track forks into three, turn left and take the middle track of the three ahead of you. Go up a slight hill and follow the track as it passes through open grazing land straight towards the impressive buildings of Stowe School.

At the junction in front of the school buildings, turn right on to the road. Cross the cattle grid and continue along the road (which usually has a moderate amount of traffic on it). Cross another cattle grid and then continue straight down the tree-lined drive, past more ornamental buildings.

After about 0.75 mile/1.2 km, the drive forks and you will see the ornamental Oxford bridge and Oxford Water in front of you. Take the left fork (away from the bridge). Cross over a cattle grid and past another lake on your left, go over another cattle grid and continue along the tree-lined road.

Go through the next gate and over another cattle-grid and follow the drive. With the Corinthian Arch on your left, turn right into Stowe Avenue, which sweeps ahead as far as the eye can see. There is path over to the left of the road along which you can walk, away from traffic, all the way down to the gateway at the end and towards the centre of [Buckingham](#).

After about 1.5 miles/2.4 km, the drive leads into a road lined with houses. At the end of this you come to a T Junction. Turn left into West Street and then left again into Market Hill, where you will pass Buckingham's Chantry Chapel, now the Property Office of the National Trust and the oldest building in Buckingham. Walk straight down Market Hill and you will see the historic Old Gaol ahead of you.

