

Inkpen Walk 4



Distance: 4.0 miles/6.4 km
Time: 1.25 – 2.0 hours
O.S. Explorer Sheet 158
Start: SU 359 643

This walk starts and ends at the Swan Inn PH, Lower Green, Inkpen.

It is a fairly level walk and involves no stiles.

The section through Anvilles Copse is usually soft underfoot throughout the year and will be quite wet and muddy in the winter months.

Copyright Inkpen Rights of Way Committee 2014

Details of 5 different circular walks around Inkpen, together with GPS downloads are available from:

www.inkpen-village.co.uk/maps.html

All maps used in this publication are Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey.

Print funding: West Berkshire Council.

Overview

This is a straightforward, fairly low-level walk through farmland and woodland. It includes an optional detour to Inkpen Church.

From 'The Swan' car park, turn RIGHT and walk along Craven Road for 1km, passing The Old Craven Arms on your right (one of Inkpen's four original public houses) after about 650m. After a further 350m, take the footpath on the LEFT between 'Woodmans' and 'Birnam' a short distance after the Royal Mail postbox. Follow the avenue of tall beech trees to emerge in Sadlers Road.

Turn RIGHT and after 100m, turn LEFT into the rhododendron-bordered drive of Totterdown House. Just before reaching the gateway into the garden, bear RIGHT to follow a track through poplar trees towards a stable block.

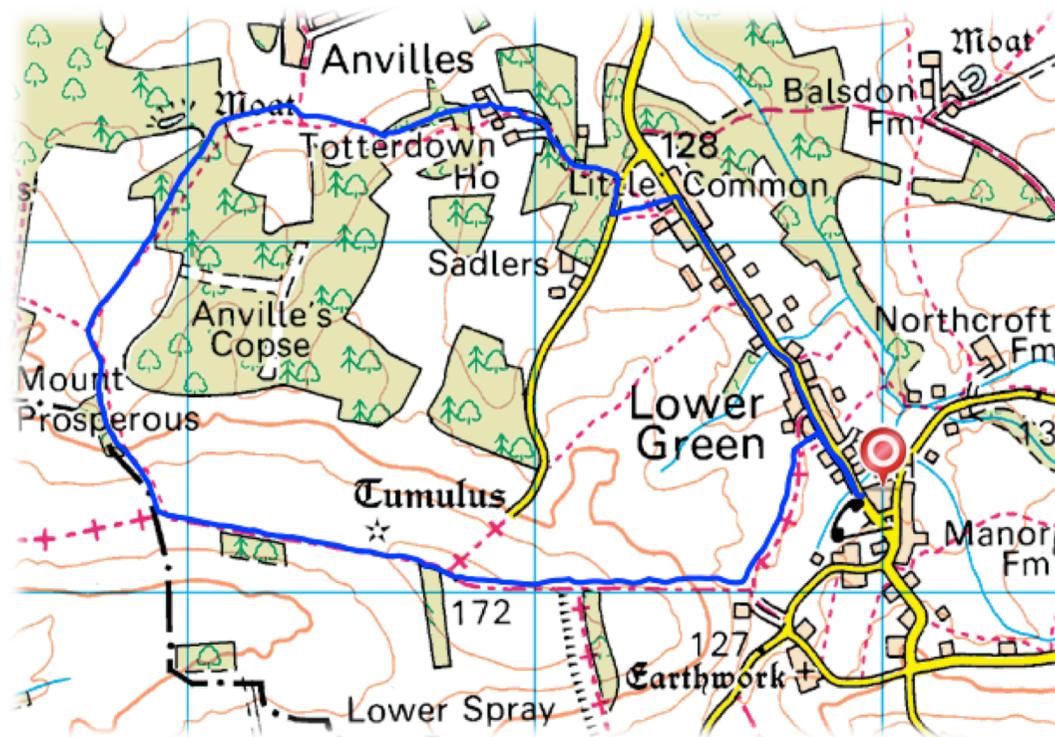
Near the house to your right, was once the Totterdown Brick and Tile Works.

Go through the kissing-gate and pass in front of the stable block. Go through the next kissing-gate and bear slightly RIGHT to a gap in the hedge in front and another kissing gate. Follow the edge of the woodland on your RIGHT to another kissing gate.

Go through the gate and follow the rightmost field boundary to the lowest point of the field and a field gate. Go through the gate and bear slightly RIGHT to a fingerpost at the end of the farm track from Anvilles Farm. With the farm buildings to your right, follow the obvious wide track across the field towards a field gate with woods beyond.

In the woods in front are the remains of a moat, probably from the original manor of Anvilles

Pass through the gateway and bear immediately LEFT into Anvilles Copse. Follow the path through the copse (it will likely be soft underfoot) to a stile on the far side where it exits to a field. Go straight across the field, as you reach the highest point you will see a hand-gate in front of you. Pass through the gate and go straight ahead through bushes to a fingerpost.



You are now standing where a farm/cottage, 'Popinjays', once stood (19th Century). To your right are the lands of Prosperous Home Farm, once home to Jethro Tull (the inventor of the horse-harrow, not the folk-rock group of the 1970s!).

Bear LEFT at the fingerpost and aim for the hand and field gates at the lowest part of the field. On passing through the hand-gate, turn RIGHT and follow the hedge round the field and up the rise where it becomes enclosed on both sides to emerge on the wide grass byway known as Bitham Lane.

Turn LEFT and follow Bitham Lane for 2km keeping straight ahead when passing first a turning to the left and then one to the right. Follow the lane as it descends to a point just before Bitham Farmhouse.

***Option:** A short detour straight ahead (300m) will take you first to the road which should be crossed and the lane ahead followed to Inkpen's church, dating from the 13th century, but largely restored over a 100 years ago. The Old Rectory (or Inkpen House) which stands above the church is a William & Mary house, with interesting gardens laid out in the style of Versailles. Return to the byway junction on Bitham Lane by Bitham Farmhouse.

Take the byway on the LEFT (RIGHT if you are returning from the detour to the church), called Sands Drove. Follow this for 600m until you see a white and brick cottage on your right, on the far side of a small paddock. Turn RIGHT through the hand-gate and pass through the paddock (Ada's Paddock) to emerge onto Craven Road. Turn RIGHT and follow the road for 200m back to The Swan.