

## Visitor Information

Wellplace Zoo has a collection of birds and animals as well as a coffee shop, gift shop and children's play area. From Easter to the end of September the Zoo is open daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm. From October to Easter the Zoo is only open at week-ends and half-term until 4.00pm. Entry is £2.50 for adults and £1 for children (in 2004). For more details [www.wellplacezoo.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.wellplacezoo.fsnet.co.uk) or 01491 680473.

The King William pub in Hailey is open 7 days a week and serves food lunchtimes and evenings. There are picnic tables in the beer garden with lovely views. 01491 681845

The village post office and store is closed Saturday and Wednesday afternoons and all day Sunday. It is also closed at lunchtimes from 1-2.

The toilets at the Zoo and the pub are only for the use of paying customers.

## How to get to the start

Wellplace Zoo is located about 3 miles southeast of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and about 1 mile to the east of the A4074. The Zoo is well signposted.

**By train/taxi:** Goring & Streatley rail station is about 6 miles from the Zoo. You can take a taxi from the station to the Zoo but you need to book this in advance [www.traintaxi.co.uk](http://www.traintaxi.co.uk) There are frequent train services from Reading/London and Oxford. For train times and fares call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

**Parking:** There is parking at Wellplace Zoo but **you must check with staff at the Kiosk before going on the walk** for security reasons. Walkers must remove their vehicles from the car park **one hour before closing** or they will be locked in! On bank holidays you can only park at the Zoo if you are visiting the Zoo as well.

Alternatively you can park at the pub in Hailey if you buy food or drink, but please check with staff first.

This is one of a series of walks in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It mainly follows rights of way which are way marked as follows:



Footpaths (walkers only)



Bridleways (horse riders, cyclists and walkers)



Byways (open to all traffic)

**Please be considerate in the countryside:**

- Keep to paths and keep dogs under close control.
- Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.

If you have enjoyed this walk there are many other wonderful walks in the area including walks in the Chilterns, call 01844 271300 [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org); The Thames Path and Ridgeway National Trails [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk); walks in Oxfordshire [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk); The Chiltern Way [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk); Or buy Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 171 and make your own walk [www.ordsvy.gov.uk](http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk)

The Chiltern Hills were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1965. This is in recognition that the Chiltern countryside is amongst the finest in England and Wales. The Chilterns Conservation Board is the body charged with protecting the AONB. Call 01844 271300 or [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org).

If you, or a member of your community would like this leaflet produced in another language or format (large print or audio cassette), please contact the Chilterns Conservation Board.

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# Chilterns Country

## Family walks from Wellplace Zoo

**Distance:**  
1½, 2½ or 3½ miles

**Start/Finish:**  
Wellplace Zoo, Wallingford



## About the walk

These countryside walks have been designed with children in mind. There are great views and plenty of interesting things to see. There is an activity quiz in this leaflet for children to do as they follow the walk. There is a pub and a village store on the route to get refreshments or have a rest.

There is a choice of walks depending on how much time you have or how far you want to go:

To the pub and back	1½ miles
Short circular walk	2½ miles
Longer circular walk	3½ miles

The walk is on quiet lanes and unsurfaced footpaths. There are no stiles, steps or gates. The walks are suitable for All Terrain Pushchairs but may be difficult for ordinary pushchairs. At the start there is an uphill walk of 400 metres to the top of a hill (from where there is a great view) but after that it is nearly all downhill or level. There are seats at the pub and near the war memorial.

Wellplace Zoo has a varied collection of birds and animals from all over the world and is set in the beautiful countryside of the Chiltern Hills. Outside the zoo you can see wildlife such as red kites and in spring you can see lambs.

Walking gets you healthy  
and keeps you fit!!



### Walking on Quiet Lanes

On the two circular walks you will need to walk along quiet country lanes. These are open to traffic so please ensure that any children or dogs are under very close supervision. It is always best to walk on the right hand side of the road, facing any oncoming vehicles. A project has taken place in this area to try and encourage drivers to slow down and to share the road more considerately with walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

### Other features of interest

Ipsden Church was built in the late 12th century. Ipsden House is the home of the Reade family. Charles Reade was an author and dramatist. He is best known for books such as *The Cloister and the Hearth* and *It is Never too Late to Mend*.



**Red kites** are distinctive birds of prey which were reintroduced to the area from Spain in 1989-1994 after human persecution drove them to extinction in England by the end of the 19th century. They are mainly scavengers,

picking up carrion from the roads and surrounding countryside, but will catch small mammals, insects and worms. Sometimes teddy bears are found in their nests, presumably mistaken for dead animals! For more information about red kites [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org) or 01844 271 306.

### Activity Quiz

Can you answer these questions about some of the things you can see on the walk? To help you find the right place the number of the question is shown on the map.

1. What is the name of the tall trees which grow along the road by the Zoo (clue: the name is the same as a green lemon)?
2. As you walk up the hill why is the soil in the fields so white?
3. Which king is the pub named after?
4. What is the oldest date you can find inside the church (look on the floor)?
5. There is a well outside the church. Who gave the well to the village and when?
6. On the war memorial which family had the most men fighting in the 1914 -18 war?
7. The old barns in Ipsden are said to be the longest in England. How long are the two main ones? What are the slits in the walls for?
8. What was the very old building on stilts used for? Why is it on stilts?
9. At the entrance to the big house, what type of bird is on top of the gateposts?
10. How many of the big stones are there?
11. How many windows are in the front of The Old Vicarage?
12. Which animal lives in the holes by the hedge?

(Answers on the back of this leaflet)





## Walk information

The walks all start from the Zoo, and the route is described in an anti-clockwise direction. However you can also start from the pub or use the map to do the walk in the opposite direction.

### From the Zoo to the pub at Hailey

→ Turn right out of the Zoo car park along the road. After 200 metres turn right along the bridgeway and follow this uphill alongside the hedge/fence. Keep going until you reach the top and enjoy the view! Then turn left along the lane to the pub. If this is as far as you want to go then return to the Zoo the way you came.

### From the pub to Ipsden village

→ Carry on along the lane past the pub and houses until you reach a T-junction. Turn left along the road to the crossroads. Turn right along the road until you reach the church. Turn left along a bridgeway (opposite the church) and follow this past the war memorial, then past the bench and keep going straight on downhill to the road.

→ If you want to do the longer circular walk which takes in many features of interest then turn right and follow the directions for the "Extra Loop". If you want to return to the Zoo then turn left and follow the directions for "Back to the Zoo".

### Extra Loop (¾ mile)

→ Turn right and walk along the road for 300 metres. At the junction turn left along the road and follow this up the hill past the big house until you reach the entrance gates for the big house. Just past this turn left along the driveway next to the cricket pitch and follow the path straight on past the cricket pavilion and into the trees. At the stones carry straight on downhill to the road and turn right.



### Back to the Zoo

- Follow the road past the vicarage, houses and post office to the crossroads. Cross the road and follow the footpath which is to the right of the houses.
- Follow this path alongside the hedge for ½ mile, then at the end of the hedge turn left, following the path downhill to the road. Turn right and walk along the road to the Zoo.



## Key

— Walk routes



Public House



Zoo



Post Office



Church



War Memorial

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Activity quiz locations

