The Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Leave all gates as found
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public rights of way across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Keep to public rights of way across farmland
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Take special care on country roads
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Help to keep all water clean
- Take special care on country roads
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Help to keep all water clean
- Take special care on country roads
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Help to keep all water clean

Always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking in the town or countryside. No responsibility is accepted by the authors of this leaflet for the state or condition from time to time of the paths comprised in these walks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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History of Burghfield

The Parish of Burghfield lies in the eastern part of West Berkshire District, approximately 20km east of Newbury and approximately 7km to the southwest of Reading. The Parish consists of the following settlement areas.

* Burghfield Common;
* Burghfield Village; and
* Burghfield Bridge (including Burghfield Hill, Pingewood and Sheffield Bottom).

Despite Burghfield’s proximity to Reading, its residents retain a sense of remoteness with a degree of tranquillity and dark night skies.

The Parish has been inhabited since Roman times, and has a rural and farming history. The population in 1961 was 2,323, whilst by 2001 it had risen to approximately 6,000. Burghfield developed slowly during the late 19th century and without much pace until the 1980s. The rate of development increased rapidly however with the construction of the M4 motorway in the 1970s, and gravel extraction became a major industry in the Parish.

Burghfield then changed from an essentially farming settlement to a much busier dormitory community. However, the north of the Parish retains its open countryside in the Kennet Valley, with its river, canal and lakes offering facilities for leisure activities such as sailing and water skiing.

Burghfield Common, situated at the top of Burghfield Hill, along Reading Road, has witnessed recent, quality housing development and includes shops and three recreation grounds as well as two Public Houses, the Rising Sun and the Bantam. There are junior, primary and secondary schools within this area, and the village hall.

Burghfield Village remains largely unchanged and retains much of its original character, especially in the thatched Old School House and Public Houses of the Six Bells and the Hatchgate. There is a recreation ground and large area of allotments. This area includes the church of St Marys and a Primary School of the same name.

Walking for pleasure

A series of suggested walks available for public enjoyment in the Parish of Burghfield

Within the Parish of Burghfield there are nearly thirty footpaths which the Parish Council wish Parishioners to use and enjoy.

The Parish Council has incorporated the vast majority of these footpaths into a series of eight circular walks, so that maximum benefit and enjoyment can be obtained from using them.

We hope that you will like and enjoy our suggested walks. If you would like to comment on accuracy or you think that walks could be improved, please let us know.

1 The Burghfield Mill Kennet Walk
Incorporating footpaths 14, 15 and 24

From Reading, cross over Burghfield Bridge and take the first turning right into Mill Road. Proceed along Mill Road for approximately ¼ mile to the footpath sign 14 on your right-hand side. Start your walk from here. Walk the footpath and follow the river tributary to wooden footbridge. Cross over the footbridge and turn left. Follow river and canal path 24, passing Burghfield Lock on your left-hand side for approximately 1 mile until you reach the White Bridge. Turn left to cross over bridge and join footpath 15. Follow footpath parallel to the M4 on your right-hand side, passing Theale Ski Club lake on your left-hand side until you reach the road by Moatland Cottages. Turn left and walk along Mill Road. Walk for approximately ¼ mile back to your starting point.

Walk time: 1½ hours
Distance: approx. 3 miles / 4.8 km

2 The Burghfield St Marys Walk
Incorporating footpaths 10 and 13

From Burghfield Village, turn into the Theale Road. Take the first turning right into School Road, footpath 10 is about 100 yards on your left-hand side. Cross over stile, walk towards the oak tree and proceed across open countryside towards hedgerow.

Cross over stile and turn left to walk around field perimeter to the farm drive. Turn right at farm drive and proceed to the end to cross into field at the end of the drive by the footpath sign. Carry on walking, keeping the iron boundary fence on your right-hand side. Walk to the next hedgerow and cross into next field. Follow hedgerow in the direction of the road and cross over stile into Dean Copse Road. Turn left and walk for approximately 150 yards to Bennett’s Lane on your left-hand side. Turn left and walk along Bennett’s Lane for around 350 yards to the second farm gate opening on your left. Follow hedgerow (footpath 13) to your right, through open countryside to the next hedgerow. Cross stile and small bridge and walk across open field towards the Theale Road. Cross stile, turn left and then walk approximately ¼ mile back to your starting point.

Walk time: 1½ hours
Distance: approx. 3 miles / 4.8 km

3 The Burghfield Clock Walk
Incorporating footpaths 10, 13 and 27

From Burghfield Village, turn into the Theale Road. Take the first turning right into School Road, footpath 10 is about 100 yards on your left-hand side. Follow the footpath for approximately ¼ mile, across open countryside, to hedgerow. Cross stile and follow footpath 27 to your left. Walk across open countryside, following the footpath signs, to arrive at Bennett’s Hill. Turn left and walk along Bennett’s Lane for around 350 yards to the second farm opening on your left. Follow hedgerow (footpath 13) to your right through open countryside to the next hedgerow. Cross stile and small bridge and walk across open fields towards the Theale Road. Cross stile, turn left and then walk approximately ¼ mile back to your starting point.

Walk time: ¾ hour
Distance: approx. 1.6 miles / 2.6 km

4 Burghfield - The Old and New Walk
Incorporating footpaths 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21

From Burghfield Village Hall, walk along Recreation Road and turn left at T junction into School Lane. Continue past Willink School on your left for around ½ mile, to Clay Hill Road. Turn right and walk a further ¼ mile, footpath 16 is on your right-hand side, just before Garland Junior School. Follow the footpath down the gradient until you reach a T junction at the bottom. Turn right and continue until you reach School Lane. Turn left and immediately right along the footpath through The Firs for about 150 yards until you reach the Reading Road. Turn left and...
then right into Bunces Lane. Carry on along Bunces Lane, continuing around sharp bend to the right then take the footpath to your left through the iron slow down gates. Continue along this footpath for about 150 yards and join the unmade road to your left that leads you down a slight incline until you reach a 5 bar gate. On your left is access to a short footpath that will take you into Russell Glade. Turn left and immediately right into Auclum Close, continue to the junction with Auclum Lane and turn right. At the end of Auclum Lane take the footpath straight ahead leading down to Glendower House. With Glendower House on your right continue into thick woodland and up the hill leading to a T junction where the footpath joins a public bridleway. Turn left at the T junction and follow the footpath to the right past the cottage and down into the valley to Pullens Pond. Continue past the pond and up the other side of the valley until you reach level ground. Turn right by a “No Tipping” sign, through a green iron gate and continue into an open area within the woods. Continue through this open area running parallel with Goring Lane for about 300 yards through the narrow pathway, around fallen tree, until you reach a junction, then bear left and follow the footpath. Go north for about 200 yards until you return to the public bridleway. Here turn right and continue for about 200 yards until you reach a public footpath sign. Turn left and enter back into the woodland, follow path down the slope and continue along this path between the houses and turn left at the top. Continue along this unmapped road until you reach a T junction. Turn left, keeping the Hawthorn hedge on your right, until you reach the metal 5 bar gate leading to the allotments. Enter the allotments via this gate and use the footpath alongside the allotments to the Village Store. Upon reaching the Reading Road, turn left and continue until you reach the Rising Sun Public House. Turn right into Hollybush Lane. Continue along Hollybush Lane and then turn right into Blands Close. Continue to the end of Blands Close and enter the playing fields. Cross the playing fields heading towards the children’s play area and Millennium Pavilion. Leave the playing fields via the gate and continue along Recreation Road to the Village Hall. Walk time: 1½ hours Distance: approx. 3 miles / 4.8 km

5 The Burghfield Church Walk
Incorporating footpaths 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

From Burghfield Village, walk towards St Mary’s Church along the Reading Road. Turn right onto footpath 8, just past Amber Lea. Proceed through the churchyard and cross stile. Turn right and then turn left at the next footpath sign. Walk footpath 7 across open countryside to the end of footpath. Turn left on to The Mearings and walk for approx. ½ mile. Turn right across fields and walk approx. ½ mile to join up with footpath 6. Follow footpath alongside Burghfield Brook, past Amners Wood to Burnthouse Lane. Turn left and follow footpath sign to your immediate right. Walk footpath 5 to Pingewood Road South. Turn left and follow road into Amners Farm Road. Approx. ¾ mile on left-hand side follow footpath 4. Walk across open countryside, south of Amners Farm to the Burghfield Road. Turn left into Burghfield Road and walk approx. ½ mile to your starting point. Walk time: 1½ hours Distance: approx. 3.7 miles / 6 km

6 The Kennet Meadows Walk
Incorporating footpaths 2, 8, 12, 22, 23 and 24

From Reading, cross over the Burghfield Bridge and take the first turning left, opposite the Curning Man PH, into Pingewood Road North. Proceed for approx. ½ mile to crossroads and turn left into Berrys Lane. Walk for approx. 200 yards to join Searles Farm Lane on your left. Start your walk from here. Walk for approx. 150 yards down Searles Farm Lane, footpath 2 is on your right-hand side. Follow footpath between the lakes to join up with Berrys Lane by Kirton Farm Cottages. Turn left into Berrys Lane and proceed for a short distance till you reach Cottage Lane-footpath 23. Turn left and follow footpath until you reach a gate across the road. Turn left into the fishermen’s car park and continue to walk towards Milkmkids Bridge and Southcote Lock. Upon reaching the River Kennet at Milkmkids Bridge you have the choice of two routes. You can either turn left and follow footpath 8 alongside the River Kennet for around 1 mile to join footpath 24 by the weir, or you can cross over Milkmkids Bridge and walk footpath 24 along the canal towpath to the weir. Upon arriving at the weir proceed walking along the towpath towards Burghfield Bridge. Turn left at the bridge and proceed towards The Curning Man PH on your right-hand side. Carry on walking and take first turning left into Pingewood Road North. Proceed for approx. ¾ mile to crossroads and turn left in to Berrys Lane. Walk for approx. 200 yards to return to your starting point. Walk time: 1½ hours Distance: approx. 3 miles / 4.8 km

7 The Villagers’ Walk
Incorporating footpaths 8, 9 and 11

From Burghfield Village, turn into Theale Road. Footpath 11 is directly opposite School Lane, 100 yards on your left. Take the footpath to Sulhamstead Road. Turn right and take the first turning left into Clayhill Road. Walk pathway past Bedford Cottage to your left for approx. ½ mile to join footpath 9 at Pond House Farm. Follow footpath for approx. ½ mile past Pondhouse Copse to Hermit’s Hill. Turn left and continue walking down Hermit’s Hill to James Lane. Turn into James’s Lane and walk 100 yards to meet footpath 8 on your left-hand side. Follow the footpath across open countryside and continue your walk, turning left towards Burghfield St Mary’s Church. Continue your walk along the footpath past the church towards Reading Road. Turn left and walk through the village back towards your starting point in Theale Road. Walk time: 1 hour Distance: approx. 2.3 miles / 3.5 km

8 The Lakeside and Canal Walk
Incorporating footpaths 3, 23, 24, 25 and 28

Park in the lay-by outside St Mary’s school on Theale Road and proceed down School Road. Pick up path 10 at the corner of the field on your left and make your way across two fields to the farmhouse in the distance (Green Farm). Pass along Green Lane in front of the pig farm, lovely country aroma, and follow the footpath sign down the right-hand side of the next field on your left. Pass through the copse and arrive at Dean’s Copse Road. Pass over the road and join the footpath about 20 metres to the left. Walk this pathway for approx. 5 minutes and cross footbridge over stream, meeting footpath 28 alongside the motorway. Walk westwards for approx. 7 minutes until you reach a lake, Theale Lagoon. Continue to bear right alongside the lake with the motorway on your right-hand side. Theale Lagoon is joined to another lake, Moatlands Pond which is sited east of the motorway by The Cut. Use the footbridge to cross The Cut and proceed to The Kennet and Avon Canal (about 45 mins to hike). Turn left and footpath 24 alongside the River Kennet, passing Garston and Sheffield Locks on your right. At Sheffield Lock continue walking along the towpath to Theale Swingbridge. Carry on walking the towpath to the concrete footbridge over the stream coming in from your left. Turn left and follow path. Walk past lake on your left-hand side arriving at the road, to Bottom Lane. At junction turn left and pass Fisherman’s Cottage, Brewery Cottages and Malthouse Cottages on your right and continue to road junction. Take turning right and walk along road to the Oaks on your left. Take the footpath along the track and work your way up the slope on the right until you arrive at an open field. Cross the field just to the right of the pylon and take the marked path between the houses, eventually coming out on Folly Lane. Turn left and walk to Theale Road, crossing the road and making your way down Bennett’s Hill. Here the road turns right then left and about 800 metres down the road there is a marked path through a thin line of trees. Pass through here and follow the path along the left-hand side of the right-hand footpath, turning right at the bottom of the slope and then left across the wooden footbridge. Moving up the next field along the clear path brings you back to Green Lane by the farmhouse. Cross the road and proceed along the path to the join in the field where you were about 2 hours ago. Turn right for home. Walk time: 1½ hours Distance: approx. 5 miles / 8 km