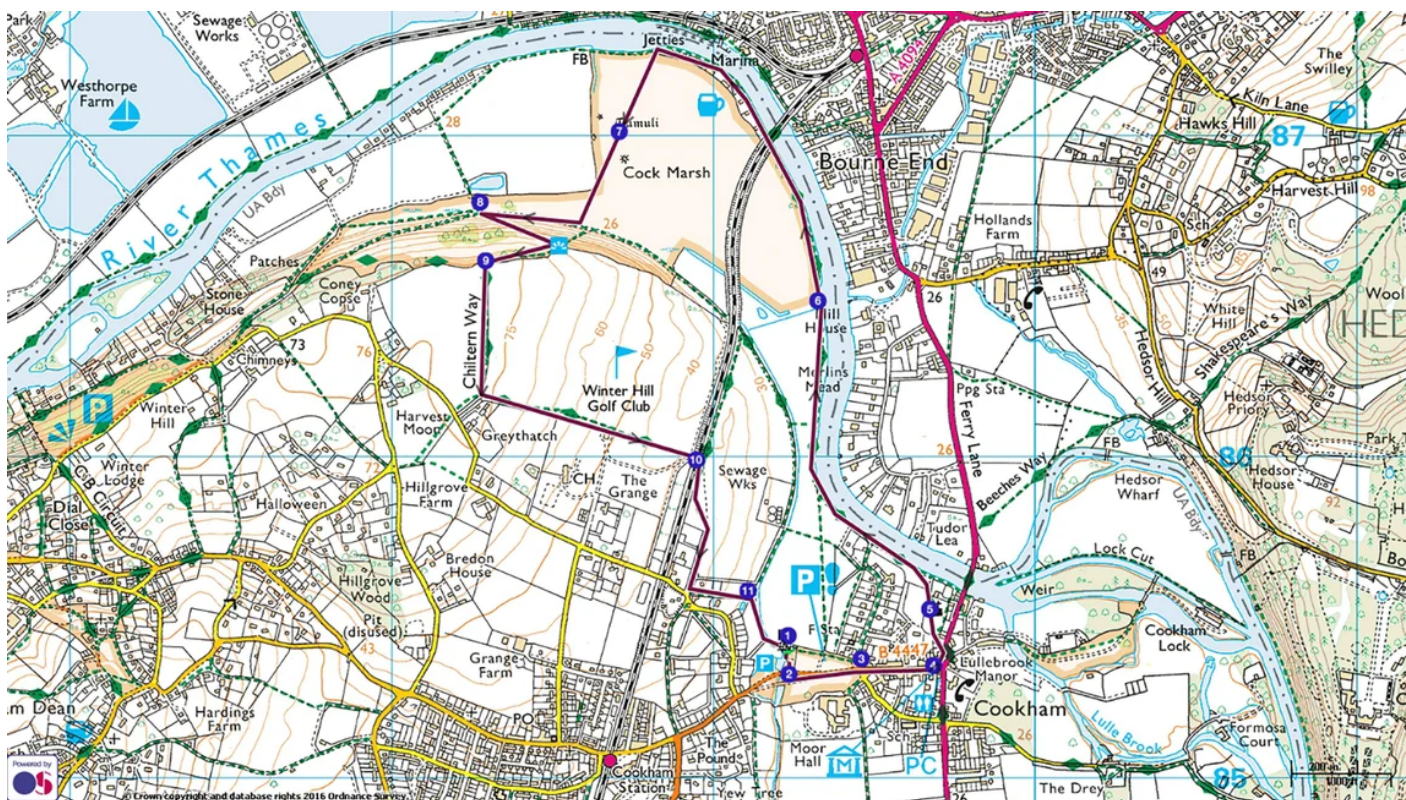


OXFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & BERKSHIRE

Cookham and Cock Marsh walk

Follow this circular walk along riverside paths, through lush meadows and over chalk grassland slopes and enjoy panoramic views across the Thames Valley.



Information

Address: Cookham Moor National Trust car park, Cookham, Berkshire. SL6 9SG.

OS map: OS 172 Explorer

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Trail includes one short, steep climb. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Please keep your dog on a lead or under close control and use the dog bins provided.

Full trail: Miles: 4 (km: 6.4)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour 30 mins - 2 hours

Terrain

Most of the walk is on level grassy footpaths with no stiles. There is one short, steep climb up Winter Hill which can be avoided if required (see walking instructions, point 7). Walking boots are strongly recommended and some parts of the route are prone to flooding in the winter. Cattle graze on Cock Marsh from April to November.

Total steps: 11

Start point: Cookham Moor car park. SU892853

1. Start at the National Trust Car Park at Cookham Moor. Cross the road (B4447) and take the short path up to the Fleet Bridge and onto the causeway.
2. Turn left at the bridge and follow the causeway towards the War Memorial and Cookham Village high street.
3. Staying on the south side of the High Street, continue through the village until you reach the Stanley Spencer Gallery on your right. You are now at the junction of the B4447 and the A4094.
4. From the Stanley Spencer Gallery, cross the High Street (B4447) and follow the A4094 north for about 75 metres past the Tarry Stone on your right. Turn left down Church Gate and after a further 50 metres, turn right into the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church.
5. Follow the path to the left of the church for about 200 metres, go through a gate and you'll reach the Thames Path. Here turn left again, following the riverside path as it gently curves to the north. After about a kilometre along the waterside, you'll go through a gate onto Cock Marsh. Commoners graze cattle here so please keep your dogs on leads or under close control.
6. Continue along the edge of the Thames, with Cock Marsh on your left and the river on your right. After another 500 metres cross under a railway bridge. You'll now have houses on your left and the river on your right. The Bounty pub can be found along this stretch of river. At the end of the line of riverside buildings go through a gate and immediately turn left. Heading away from the river, follow the broad grassy path towards the slope of Winter Hill. Look out for the Bronze Age burial mounds to either side of the path.
7. The path passes to the left of the largest of the burial mounds. Continue in the same direction for a further 250 metres, towards a wooden boardwalk. The boardwalk

crosses an ancient, abandoned channel of the Thames and still floods regularly in winter. Cross the boardwalk towards a wooden bench (be careful, it can be slippery when wet) and turn right onto a broad gravel and grass track. If you wish to avoid the short but steep climb up Winter Hill, turn left along the broad gravel track and follow it around the base of the hill and under the railway to reach point 11 on the route. This route is level all the way back to the car park.

8. Follow the track west with the steep slope on your left and Cock Marsh on your right. After about 400 metres you'll reach a junction of paths by a hollow in the hillside. Turn sharp left, taking the steep path uphill for 200 metres, where you'll meet a crossing path. Turn sharp right and continue on a reasonably level path for 150 metres. Look out for an uphill path to a wooden gate on your left.
9. Head up the slope, pass through the wooden gate and continue straight ahead along the edge of a field with a fence on your left. Here you can see downriver, with parts of Cliveden House visible on the distant hilltop. As you approach a cluster of buildings, turn left onto a waymarked footpath heading gently downhill following the hedge on your right. At the end of the hedge continue straight ahead along the public right of way across Winter Hill Golf Course. You'll eventually reach a bridge over the railway line.
10. Cross the bridge and turn immediately right, following the grassy path and keeping to the edge of the golf course. The path leads to a small car park and heads towards a lane. Just before you reach the lane turn left along a waymarked footpath, which is initially a track but soon becomes a narrower path between a hedge on your right and a paddock on your left.
11. On reaching a kissing gate, turn right following a footpath between a stream (Strand Water) on your left and some paddocks on your right. When the path meets a crossing track, turn right into Cookham Moor car park where you started the walk.

End point: Cookham Moor car park. SU892853
