

Description:

A picturesque countryside walk centred on the historic Day's Lock. Enjoy peaceful riverside scenery, grazing meadows, beautiful views across the Thames and the distinctive backdrop of the Wittenham Clumps. This is one of the most scenic rural sections of the Thames Path.

Distance: 4 miles**Duration:** 2-3 hrs**Difficulty:** Easy

Parking: Parking is available in Dorchester, just a 15 minute walk from Day's Lock. Some limited parking is also available near Little Wittenham village and at Earth Trust (subject to opening arrangements).

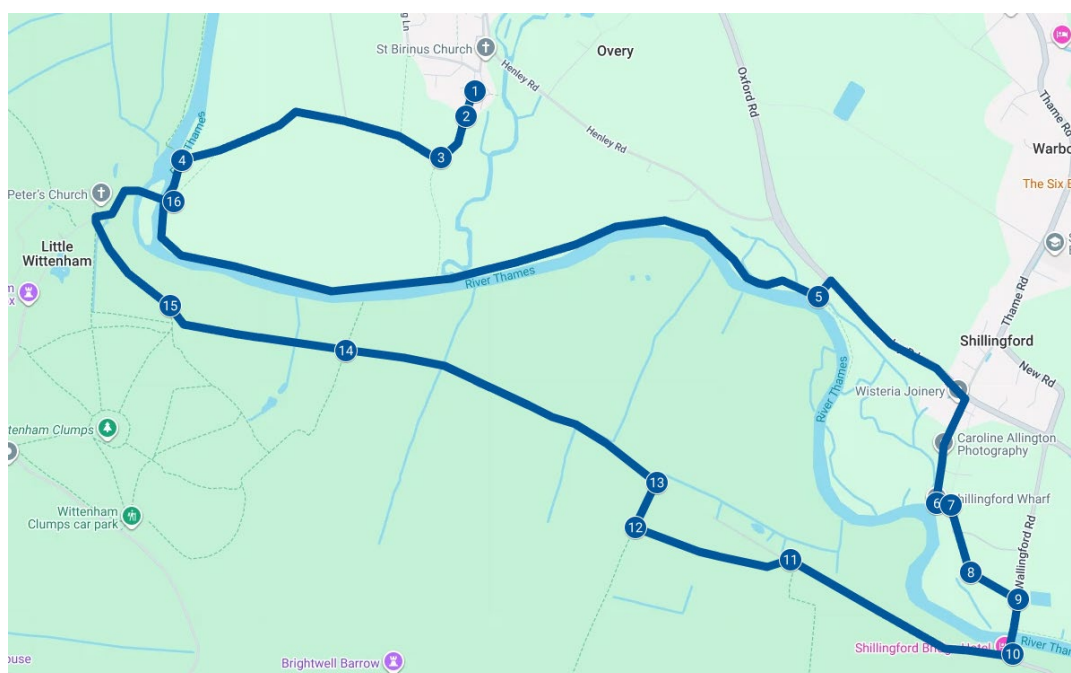
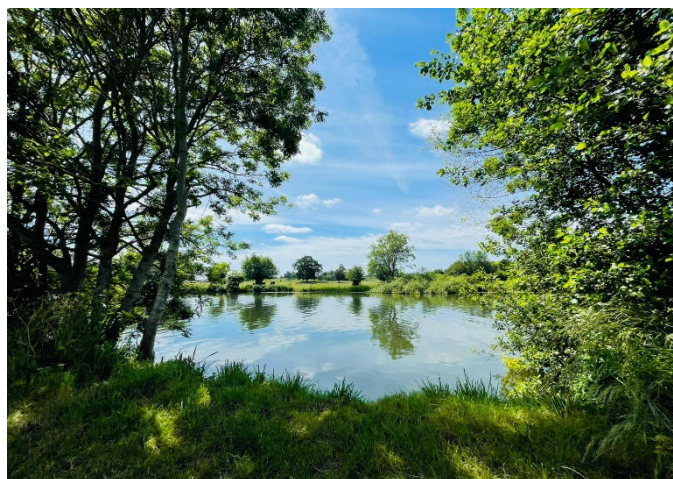
Refreshments / toilets:

Public toilets are available in Dorchester along with numerous cafés, pubs and shops can be found in Abingdon town centre. Earths Trust have toilets if open.

Highlights:

Day's Lock, Wittenham Clumps views, Peaceful riverside meadows, Wildlife watching opportunities

Map of route (link to online navigable map: [Days Lock Circular Interactive Map](#))



Full Route Description:

Our route begins and ends at Day's Lock, but because there is no parking nearby, please use on-street parking in Dorchester-on-Thames.

Take the Public Footpath from Bridge End, where there are public toilets next to the car park. Opposite St Birinus church walk down Wittenham Lane, and follow the green Public Footpath signs into the countryside. Take a right turn to walk past Dyke Hills, an Iron Age fort, and across a field until you arrive at Day's Lock. Turn left onto the Thames Path National Trail and walk beneath Little Wittenham Bridge, known as the Pooh-Sticks Bridge because the World Pooh-Sticks Championships used to be held here.



Continue along the Thames Path National Trail with the river on your right. You will come to a bridge over the River Thame which flows into the River Thames. Look out for the information board about St Birinus who is said to have baptised King Cynegils here.

Follow the Thames Path with the river on your right until you see a wooden Thames Path fingerpost where you turn left and walk to the main road (A4074). Cross this road with care and walk along the pavement towards Shillingford. After the bus stop, cross the road again with care to reach Wharf Road. There is a pedestrian crossing further along the main road in Shillingford if you prefer to use that.

At the end of Wharf Road there is a bench with a lovely river view. Turn left just before the bench and follow the signs along an alley behind houses until you reach Shillingford Bridge. Cross the road at the traffic lights and take the pavement across the bridge towards the Shillingford Bridge Hotel where you can stop for refreshments.

From the entrance to the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, walk through the car park and onto a Public Bridleway track. This takes you past North Farm, onto a short section of a Roman Road, past fields, and into Little Wittenham Wood designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation reflecting its international importance for wildlife. It is owned and managed by the Earth Trust. The woodland paths provide welcome shade in summer and are rich in wildlife throughout the year.

As you go through the gate to leave the woods, there are two options for your walk. If you turn left you can walk up the hill towards Wittenham Clumps. You can walk around both North Hill and Castle Hill and return to our route. Alternatively take the path towards St Peter's church in Little Wittenham. There is a bench on the right from where you have good views of the River Thames at Day's Lock.

Go through the gate and turn right to walk past St Peter's church and down the track to the lock-keeper's house and Little Wittenham Bridge (aka Pooh-Sticks Bridge). Go over the bridge and walk straight on to rejoin the footpath that you walked along from Dorchester-on-Thames.