

This walk starts at Goring and Streatley Station, located in the lovely town of Goring which boasts plenty of places for refreshments and shopping. Along the route there is plenty of history, an optional stop off at a nature reserve and some stunning views across the River Thames and the Wessex Downs beyond.

Distance: 4 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy – mostly gentle slopes, but with an optional steep loop.

Start point: Goring & Streatley Train Station, Gatehampton Road, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 0EP

Getting here:

Goring is located off the A329, 8 miles north-west of Reading.

Train: There are direct services to Goring & Streatley rail station from many destinations. For train times and fares call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

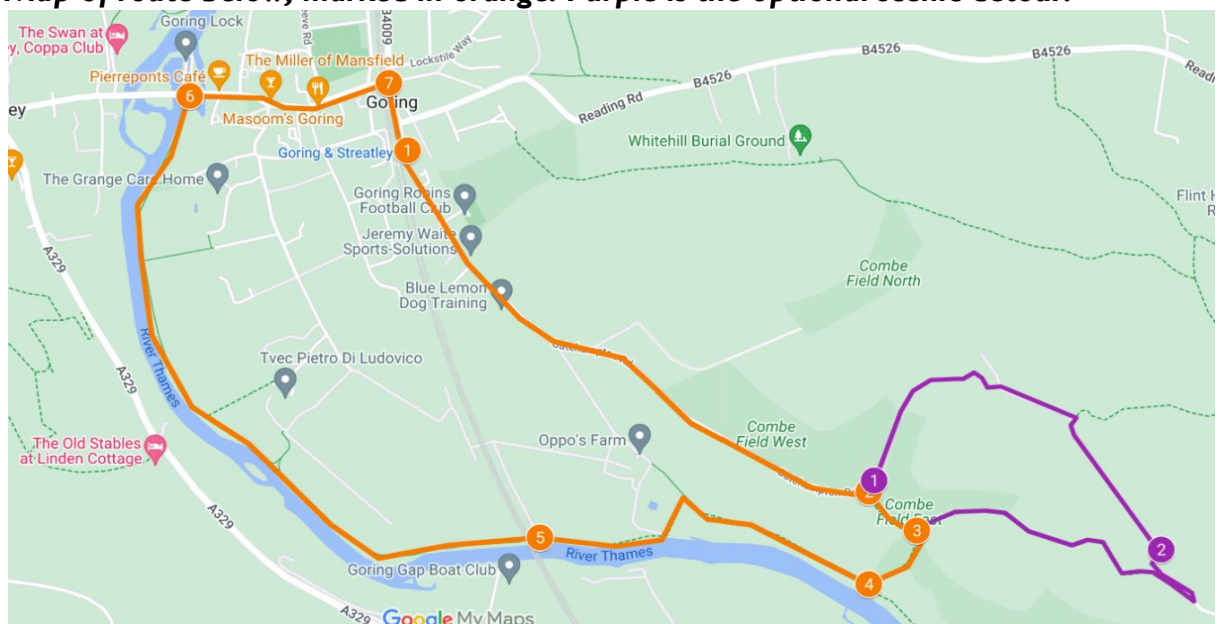
Buses: from Reading and Wallingford. For bus times call Travel line 0870 6082608 www.traveline.org.uk

Parking: There is pay & display parking at the rail station or Goring car park.



Rest stop on the route

Map of route below, marked in orange. Purple is the optional scenic detour.



Route Description:

Leave the rail station by platform 4 (ticket office). Turn right outside the station and walk along the pavement past the houses, then along the lane. Continue to follow the lane to the left, gently uphill, then past the large houses and for a further 500m until the lane bends sharply to the left.

Additional steeper scenic route, marked in purple on the map: For the uphill scenic route continue to follow the lane uphill, then past some farm houses and after a further 600m the lane turns sharply to the right, as it then bends sharply to the left take the path straight on, then right downhill for 700m. Eventually turn left joining a footpath through a gate into Hartslock Nature Reserve.

For the easier route, at the bend leave the lane by turning right along a track. After 100m turn right through a gate into Hartslock Nature Reserve. Hartslock Nature Reserve is managed by Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust. Call 01865 775476 www.bbowt.org.uk

Follow the left hand path to the information board, then turn right walking alongside the fence. Then downhill and through a gate.

Then turn right along the Thames Path bridleway. After the horse paddock on the left turn left following signs to river and Thames Path (if you reach the houses you have gone too far!).

Cross the footbridge and then turn right following the Thames Path alongside the river for 1.5 miles back to Goring. When you reach the bridge over the River Thames turn right.

Turn left and cross the bridge for the North Wessex Downs Walk. To return to Goring station carry on along the High Street past the shops and then over the rail bridge. Turn right to return to the station.