

Wokingham Way – Section 10 Thames Valley Business Park to Shiplake

This section follows the Thames path from the outskirts of Reading through Sonning, past Shiplake College into Shiplake.

Distance: 6¼ miles

OS Map: Explorer 159

Start: Wokingham Waterside Centre car park Grid ref [SU736740](#) Postcode RG6 1PQ.


Finish: Crowsley Road, Lower Shiplake Grid ref [SU772796](#) RG9 3JU

This section of the Wokingham Way has been altered to follow the bank of the Thames. This adds an extra mile to this section. In wet weather or for a shorter walk follow the alternative route.

From the car park walk a few yards north to the riverside, turn right and follow the Thames Path. After passing Reading Bluecoat School Boat Club, shortly reach Sonning Lock. After ¼ mile of tarmac path reach the brick built [Sonning Bridge](#). Follow the Thames Path sign, turning left and crossing the bridge on the left hand pavement. At the far end of the bridge, cross the road and enter a narrow concrete bridge signed [Thames Path](#) 'Shiplake 3 miles'. At end of bridge, turn right through a gate and follow riverside footpath for about two miles ignoring any paths which lead away from the river.

1 Cross a wooden footbridge in front of Shiplake College Boat Houses. The steep path behind the boat houses takes you to [St Peter's and St Paul's Church](#). Continue on riverside path passing through a metal kissing gate marking the edge of the grounds of [Shiplake College](#).

The river bank then widens out into a meadow, which you cross towards a metal kissing gate before reaching Shiplake Lock. Facing a flint wall, follow Thames Path left away from the lock. After 75 yards, turn right at road.

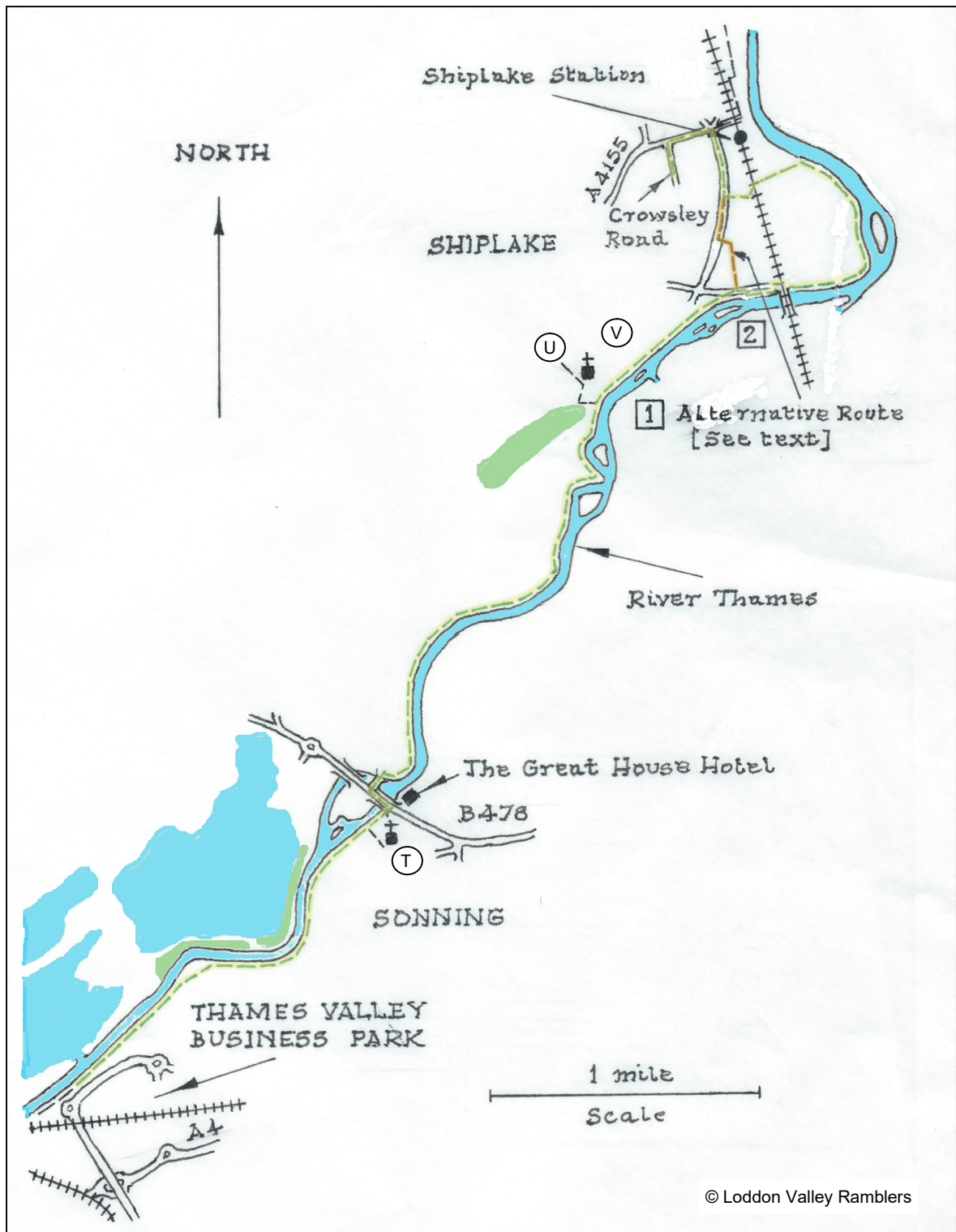
2 See  for alternative route. For main route follow "Restricted Byway". At Rivermead Cottages (signed above the sideways-facing door of the first cottage), go past the door and through a studded 6 ft gate to enter a garden (note public footpath waymark outside). Walk down the garden on the left side towards the river to pass through a gate in the left fence. Walk subsequently through the garden ends of approximately six properties, following the public footpath signs, keeping the river on your right and passing through gates in successive fences until exiting the riverside properties and coming to the railway bridge. *When walking through these properties please be sensitive to the privacy of the owners. Do not linger, make noise, take photographs or engage in any other intrusive behaviour.*

Walk along the river bank which loops round until reaching a metal gate next to a display board with a history of Lashbrook Ferry. Pass through the metal gate and go straight ahead across the meadow. Cross a wooden footbridge with gates at each end to reach a metal kissing gate. Turn left and with care go under the viaduct (about 5 ft headroom). Follow the path and go past the wooden Lashbrook Chapel. At road (Mill Road) turn right and follow it until you reach a cross roads. Turn left into Station Road and in 400 yards reach Crowsley Road.

➡ **Alternative Route:** After 20 yards turn left onto path signed Thames Path. In a short distance, the path opens into a field; follow left hand boundary straight ahead towards houses. Near the end of the field, veer left through a metal kissing gate to cross another small field to a second metal kissing gate followed by steps up to a drive. Turn left over a small brick bridge. At road (Mill Road) turn right and continue as for main route.

For information on public transport back to the start point, [click here](#)

When you walk this route, if you find any problems with map or instructions, please advise the Loddon Valley Ramblers' Footpaths Officer at paths@lvra.org.uk, with a description of the problem and enough information to identify the location, ideally with a grid reference. Thank you!



Legend

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Text reference |
| A | Point of interest |

