

TRING PARK

Tring Park boasts the second largest area of chalk downland left in the county. At one time, only Oddy Hill held S.S.S.I. status, but recently English Nature has designated much of the parkland and all of the escarpment. The slopes of the valleys within the parkland have the impoverished soils typical of the high chalk scarp slope. Consequently, they provide the right environment for a varied flora with attendant insects and micro organisms.

With the lack of grazing in the last few years, the lower slopes and valley bottoms have become very attractive to mice and voles. These in turn have prompted the return of the Barn Owl. Kestrels have always found a ready food supply in the park. In some winters, they have been joined in the hunt by Long-eared Owls. Another regular winter visitor in some numbers, the Meadow Pipit, has recently stayed on in the spring to breed. In the woods above the park, many different species of bird breed, including all three British woodpeckers, Nuthatch, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap and other typical woodland species.

Mammals such as Badgers, Foxes, Grey Squirrels and Muntjac Deer make their homes amongst the Ashes, Oaks, Beeches, Hornbeams, Limes and Maples.

Butterflies include Speckled Wood, Orangetip, Tortoiseshell, Wall, Meadow

Brown, Marbled White, Peacock and other specialist species.

Whatever the time of the year, the park's many varied habitats provide homes to a richly diverse flora and fauna. Now, under the ownership of the council and the stewardship of the Woodland Trust, it is a safe and secure haven waiting to be explored.

Please follow the Country Code.

- Leave gates in the position you find them
- Leave only your footprints
- Take away your litter
- Keep dogs under control

Do wear sensible clothing for your own comfort. Strong footwear is recommended, particularly after rain, you may encounter some stretches of the route which are muddy.

This guide was produced on behalf of Tring Environmental Forum by John Taylor, Jonathon Iles, and Rodney Sims. Permission to use the illustrations by Patricia Simpkin and Debra Hindle is gratefully acknowledged.

Published by Tring Town Council.

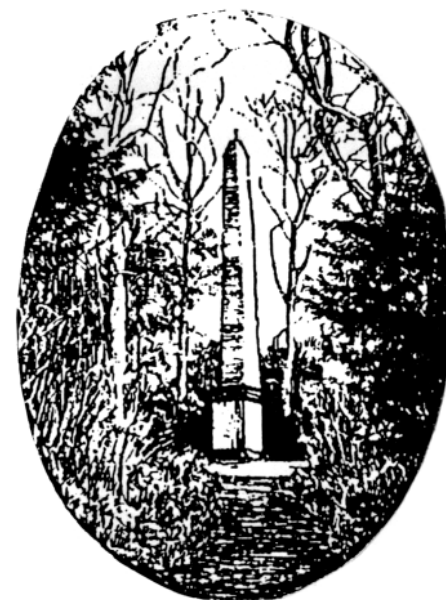
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Revised December 2000

TRING PARISH WALKS NUMBER 3 TRING COMMON

Approximate time : 3 hours 15 minutes

Approximate distance: 10 kilometres



From the car park, go to the High Street, pass the Bell Inn and cross the road to Bank Alley, between the National Westminster and HSBC Banks.

Follow the alley to Park Street. The footpath continues across the road and goes over a footbridge into Tring Park. The footbridge crosses the A41 bypass, opened in 1975 to relieve traffic congestion in the town. In the process it cut across the fine 18th century parkland. An avenue of large leaved Limes is immediately obvious from the footbridge. Throughout the lower parklands, many splendid specimen trees can be found.

ancient boundary ditch known as GRIMM'S DITCH.

Head south towards the distant treeline of ROUNDHILL WOOD crossing land that was once Common Land attached to Tring Parish Church until it was enclosed in 1797.

Having reached the trees, follow the flint path along the edge of the wood to Kiln Lane, so named because of the many brickworks once common to the area. This lane is bounded on each side by a magnificent Hornbeam hedge.

On the other side of the lane is HIGH SCRUBS WOOD. Pass through these woods to the green lane known as Browns Lane.

Turn right and walk on to the hamlet of Hastoe. From here, head in the direction of Tring Woods.

Descend the holloway (deep sunken pathway) to West Leith and join Duckmore Lane. Pass under the bypass and continue down the lane.

Turn right and right again into Park Road which will lead to Akeman Street, where a visit to the WALTER ROTHSCHILD MUSEUM is recommended.

Return to the High Street via Akeman Street.



Walk across the parklands to the steep woodlands and climb up through the trees by way of one of the carriage driveways, passing an obelisk dedicated to NELL GWYNNE and the frontage of an early 18th century summerhouse.

Continue upwards in the direction of Wigginton until the RIDGEWAY NATIONAL PATH is met. The path skirts the edge of the village.

When you reach Wick Road, turn left through the houses, then turn right across the playing field to join Chesham Road.

Follow the main road for about 400 metres, passing some allotments on the left. Presently take a footpath on the right side of the road and cross the field to briefly join the

