



09 OXFORDSHIRE WATLINGTON

▶ Distance: 10 miles/16km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



The Oxfordshire Way south of Pishill.

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Hill Road, Watlington, grid ref SU690944

Is it for me? Woodland and grassland, undulating, one steep climb

Stiles 2

PLANNING

Nearest town Watlington

Refreshments

Watlington, Christmas Common, Pishill Church

Public toilets Church Street, Watlington

Public transport Thames Travel T1, hourly from Oxford, Mon-Sat

Maps OS Explorer 171; Landranger 164/165



CHOSEN BY...

JULIE ROYLE

Watlington sits at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, its narrow streets packed with gorgeous cottages. Red kites swoop low over its rooftops and accompany you on the climb up Watlington Hill, where they share air space with buzzards and sometimes ravens. In early summer, you'll find Chiltern gentian and bee orchids on the hill, along with chalkhill blue butterflies. But whatever time of year, it's a delight, offering panoramic views. Wonderful though Watlington Hill is, on this stunning walk it's merely the support act for miles of fabulous footpaths through glorious beechwoods.

1 Start

Walk up Hill Road. After crossing Ridgeway find access on R to Watlington Hill (National Trust). Climb uphill on wide path which bears L at top. Continue in same direction through beechwood, car park and copse. Join road and turn R, then make two R turns at Christmas Common. Soon after passing pub take Oxfordshire Way on L. Walk through beechwoods to byway (Hollandridge Lane) and turn R. On entering Queen and College Wood leave Oxfordshire Way, going straight on along byway.

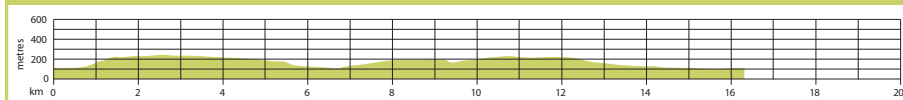
2 3 miles/4.7km

Soon after leaving woodland, turn R at cross-path,

rejoining Oxfordshire Way. Follow it to lane at Pishill. Turn R, then soon L. Pass Pishill Church and Old Vicarage. Ignore path branching L but then take brideway on R, leaving Oxfordshire Way. Go



GRADIENT PROFILE



09 OXFORDSHIRE
WATLINGTON▶ OS Explorer map 171 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop

DON'T MISS...



Pishill Church, with its colourful John Piper window and self-service refreshments.

straight on at junction and straight on at farm, across grassland to R of farm track. Aim for waymarked post at far side. Proceed to Kiln Cottages at Russell's Water, turn L to junction and then turn R. Pass a pond then go L along lane.

3 5½ miles/9km

Take Chiltern Way on R by Old Chapel. Turn R at junction and walk to road. Turn L and cross to path along edge of Cookley Green. At far side turn R on Shakespeare's Way. Walk past houses then straight on into woodland. Keep straight on at Coates Farm. At road, cross to bridleway opposite. Go straight on at all junctions, eventually crossing Ridgeway to join footpath.

**4 9 miles/14.5km**

Ignore first path branching R towards Watlington. Proceed to Willow Pond and either keep straight on or use permitted path on R – the two merge further on. R at next junction

to enter field. Go diagonally R to far side. Proceed to road at Watlington and turn L, then R on Gorwell, which leads to Church Street and then bends R to become High Street and then Hill Road. **CW**



PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



TRAILZILLA ID:
TZID29802

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