

The Lucas Hospital was founded in 1665 with £7000 bequeathed in the will of Henry Lucas. It is owned by the Drapers Company. Originally it provided accommodation and a pension for men from 32 surrounding parishes in Berkshire and Surrey. In 1924 the statutes of the Hospital were altered to allow the admission of women and married couples.

Go diagonally across the middle of the field towards the Lucas Hospital and pass to the right of a large clump of holly and brambles which hides a stile. Go over this and pass the main entrance to the Lucas Hospital. Continue along the lane with the Hospital wall to your right and, at the entrance to Chapel Green Farm on your right, go straight ahead through a fenced track between horse paddocks.

(For an alternative way back through the fields, turn right through a waymarked wooden fence about half way along the track).

At the end of this track keep to the left of the stables and bear left into a hedged track. On reaching the Finchampstead Road, turn right.

On your right is the Emm Brook, a small stream along which are the sites of some of the tanneries which once operated in Wokingham. Tanning, which included leather curing, was a major industry in Wokingham from 17th to 19th centuries. In the middle of the 19th century there were 47 shoe makers in Wokingham and the tanner Jame Twycross had 43 employees.

To return to the Denmark Street or Cockpit Path car parks, go under the railway bridge, up the hill and past the roundabout, with the new Wokingham District Council Carnival Pool on your left. Turn right by the Dukes Head pub. Where Gypsy Lane comes in from the right, cross Langborough Road and then turn left into Cockpit Path. This leads to the Car Parks.

The Dukes Head was once three 18th century cottages which, towards the end of that century, were converted into a public house. Cockpit Path runs along the line of the boundary of the medieval town and has probably existed from the late 13th century. It ceased to mark the town boundary when the town was enlarged and made a borough in 1885.

LUCAS HOSPITAL AND GORRICK WOOD

This walk is about 3 3/4 miles long and will take about 2 hours to do. An alternative way back is possible. If walked a second time, it is worth doing in reverse order to enjoy different views.

Although the walk starts from the town centre, much of it goes through open countryside and woodland. It passes the Lucas Hospital, a fine example of Restoration architecture and Wokingham's only Grade 1 listed building. To find out more about Wokingham's other historic buildings obtain 'Walk in Wokingham', produced by the Wokingham Local History Group from local bookshops.

Most paths are marked with sign posts or Countryside waymarks. Please follow the Walker's Code.

While many paths are made up, some can be very muddy. Stout shoes are recommended, and gum boots in damp weather.

The starting point is either the Denmark Street or Cockpit Path (off Sturges Road) Pay and Display car park, both of which are free on Sundays and on weekdays after 6.00pm. The walk can also be joined from Luckley Road, off the Finchampstead Road.

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work	Leave livestock, and machinery alone
Guard against all risk of fire	Take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control	Help keep water clean
Keep to public paths across farmland	Protect wildlife, plants and trees
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls	Take special care on country roads
	Make no unnecessary noise

This leaflet was produced with the assistance of

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Always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking in the town or countryside. No responsibility is accepted by the authors of this leaflet for the state or condition from time to time of the paths comprised in these walks.

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WALKS From WOKINGHAM TOWN



Lucas Hospital & Gorrick Wood

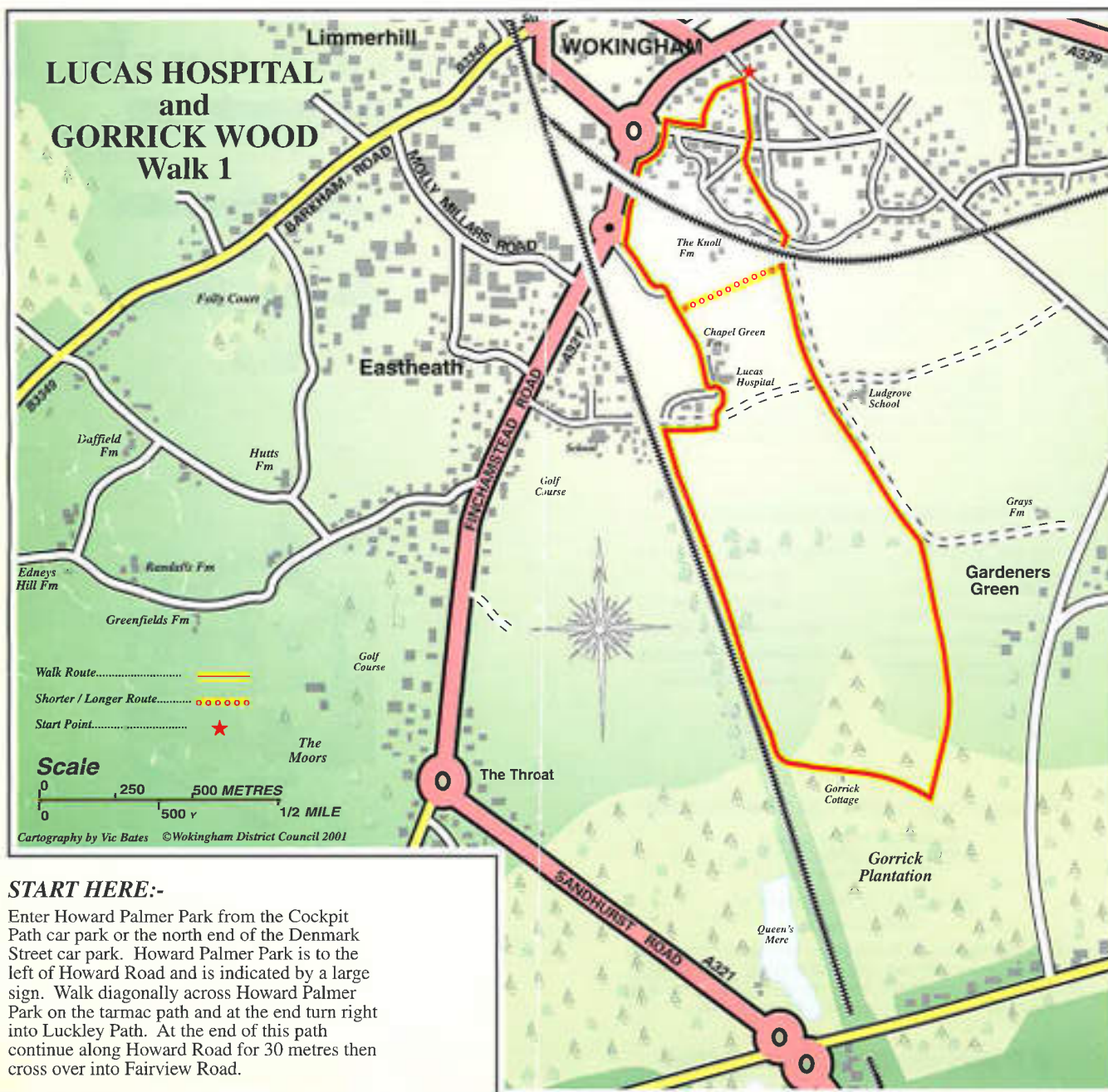
Walk 1



A circular 3¾ mile walk

Wokingham District Council

LUCAS HOSPITAL and GORRICK WOOD Walk 1



START HERE:-

Enter Howard Palmer Park from the Cockpit Path car park or the north end of the Denmark Street car park. Howard Palmer Park is to the left of Howard Road and is indicated by a large sign. Walk diagonally across Howard Palmer Park on the tarmac path and at the end turn right into Luckley Path. At the end of this path continue along Howard Road for 30 metres then cross over into Fairview Road.

Luckley Path is a section of a much longer path which stretched from the town to Tanley, a medieval house, then farm, on the site of the present Ludgrove School. The path has been in existence for over 500 years. Howard Palmer was one of the family that owned the Huntley and Palmer biscuit factory at Reading. He was a town benefactor at the beginning of the 20th century. This park and Howard Road are named in his honour. The park is now owned and managed by Wokingham Town Council.

Pass along the left hand side of Langborough Recreation Ground with a fine row of lime trees to your right. Turn left into Gypsy Lane, taking care about traffic, and after 30 metres turn right into a signed footpath. Go over the concrete railway bridge which crosses the Reading to Waterloo railway line.

Langborough Recreation Ground is the only part of the former Langborough common field which has not been built over. Gypsy Lane, originally Langborough Lane, ran along one edge of the common field. Langborough Recreation Ground is owned and managed by Wokingham Town Council. In 1992 the Council planted a new row of limes eventually to replace the old trees.

After crossing the railway bridge, take the path straight forward until you meet a tarmac road, the access road to Ludgrove School. To your right is Chapel Green Farm where equestrian events are held. Ludgrove School can be seen to the left. Go straight across the tarmac access road and through the metal kissing gate. This path eventually goes through some woods with a fence on the left. Ignore the green gates on either side of the path and continue straight ahead to where the path joins a track. Continue directly along the track with a football pitch to the right. At the end of the hedged track, go straight across the middle of a large field used for vegetable cultivation.

In the 18th and 19th century Luckley House stood on one of the playing fields to the right until it was demolished. It was the home of the second Duke of St. Albans, descended from Charles II and Nell Gwyn. Skylarks and meadow pipits can often be seen in these open fields.

Go straight through a small field with the remains of an old hedge on the left. Pass through the wooden fence into some pine woods, over a wooden bridge, and further on, through a stile. About 150m beyond the stile, at the point where paths and tracks cross, turn right down a straight wide track which presently narrows and passes through a denser plantation of spruce trees.

Gorrick Wood is owned by the Forestry Commission who fell sections on a rotation basis. Before the enclosure of the commons in 1817, it was a treeless heath. Roe deer hide in these woods. Goldcrests can often be heard in the tops of the conifers.

Go through a gate and follow the track, shortly passing Gorrick Cottage on the left. Continue through another metal gate and along a rough fenced road, at first through a copse of mixed hard-woods then open parkland with the Reading to Guildford railway line on your left. Ahead in the distance to your right, through gaps in the hedge, you can see the Lucas Hospital, the only Grade 1 listed building in Wokingham. At the end of the track pass through a wide metal gate and turn right along the tarmac road which passes through white posts with a notice saying Ludgrove. After 75m turn left through a kissing gate.