

# THE GREEN MAN AND THE COLNE VALLEY



Moderate Terrain

5 miles  
Circular  
2.5 hours

260917



## Access Notes



1. The walk is relatively flat with only a few gentle gradients, plus one short steep slope up to a canal bridge.
2. Most of the paths are wide, easy walking, but there is one stretch that is narrow between undergrowth (so shorts are not recommended unless you are immune to nettles!) and some of the woodland stretches can be very muddy after periods of rain and in winter.
3. There are no stiles or livestock on route, but you will need to negotiate several kissing gates, footbridges and steps.
4. You will cross a golf course for one short stretch, so allow golfers to play their shots before you cross and watch out for any stray flying golf balls.

The Green Man sits in the heart of Denham village, an idyllic setting, offering walkers a warm welcome with honest, home-made food, four real ales and a large garden.

A 5 mile circular pub walk from The Green Man in Denham, Buckinghamshire. This is a gem of a walking route with water and wildlife in abundance, enjoying sections of Denham Country Park, the Grand Union Canal, the River Colne and the Colne Valley Trail.

## Getting there

Denham is located about four miles north-west of Uxbridge and just 4 miles north of Junction 1 of the M40. The walk starts and finishes at The Green Man pub, located on Village Road in the centre of the village. There is roadside parking available along the length of Village Road.

Approximate post code **UB9 5BH**.

If you are coming by train, adjust the walk by starting and finishing at Denham rail station (close to Waypoint 5), calling at the pub along the way.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Footbridge



Standing with your back to The Green Man, turn left along Village Road, leading you between the beautiful village properties. Pass St Mary's Church on your left and then a pair of cottages also on your left (Cedar Tree Cottages, with an ornate black and white gable end). Immediately after this pair of cottages, turn left onto a

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tarmac access lane to reach the rear entrance for the church on your left and the tall stone gateposts for Buckinghamshire Golf Club on your right.

Turn right through the stone gateposts but do NOT walk ahead down the drive. Instead turn immediately right to join an unmade tree-lined path, heading back on yourself and then swinging left. This narrow path winds around the rear of some village properties, eventually crossing a large wooden footbridge.

## 1 → 2 Footbridge to Grand Union Canal



Immediately after the bridge, you will see a choice of two paths on your left. Take the first of these, passing through the gate (signed as the South Bucks Way towards Colne Valley Park visitor centre). Follow the stone path between fences and then emerging out to the edge of the golf course. NOTE: the next short stretch of our walk crosses a golf fairway, so please allow any golfers to take their shots (from your left) before you proceed and watch out for any stray flying balls.

Keep ahead, following the line of the stream on your right. Ignore the two footbridges over the stream, instead keep straight ahead to join the next stretch of enclosed footpath, with a fence on your left. Pass through the next gate and go straight ahead following the left-hand edge of a small grass meadow. Across to your right you will see a small fenced Roman Well and the Colne Valley Park visitor centre buildings, within Denham Country Park. Be sure to spot the timber-clad eco-pod with the timber sculpture of a heron overhead. The heron is the bird that appears on the Colne Valley Park logo.

At the far side of the small meadow, continue on the stone path (with the playground on your right) and cross the access drive via the two kissing gates. You will emerge into the next section of parkland, with a choice of paths. Take the middle of the three paths, signed to the Grand Union Canal and River Colne. The stone path leads you between beautiful meadows and out through a gate to reach a footbridge ahead. Cross this bridge over the River Colne and keep ahead for a few metres to reach a junction with the Grand Union Canal towpath.

## 2 → 3 Grand Union Canal to Railway Arch

Turn left along the towpath, with the canal running on your right, soon passing between Denham Lock and the old lockkeepers cottage. The Grand Union Canal, like many canals in England, is managed by the Canal and River Trust. It links London to Birmingham, passing through rolling countryside, industrial towns and peaceful villages. It is the trust's longest canal, forming the trunk route of the canal system. Today, the Grand Union Canal is alive with pleasure boats, walkers, cyclists and



day trippers.

Continue to the next canal bridge, Number 182. Use the steep concrete slopes to cross this canal bridge and, at the far side, you will emerge to a tree-lined track. Turn left to join this, signed as the Colne Valley Trail and passing the flooded remains of Denham Quarry on your right. Once a working quarry, this is now a haven for wildlife. Look out for herons and kingfishers, dragonflies and damselflies in the summer and over-wintering wildfowl in the winter months.

Further along, the track swings left and then right, leading you under the brick arch of the railway.

## 3 → 4 Railway Arch to Moorhall Road



Continue straight ahead on the tree-lined track, with the Grand Union Canal running just to your left (beyond the trees). Eventually your track swings right, leading you away from the canal and passing Harefield Marina through the fence on your left. The marina has 220 moorings for narrowboats and cruisers.

At the end of the marina, follow the track as it swings left, right and then left again through the woodland. Just after passing a wide metal gate on your left, look out for a waymarker post on your right. Turn left here, signed as the London Loop, Colne Valley Trail and National Cycle Route 6. The subtle path heads into the trees for a few paces and then bends right (now running parallel to the track which is across to your right).

At the first small fork, ignore the left-hand branch, instead keep straight ahead on the main path through the trees. Further along, pass through an old gateway and then a fence gap a few metres further ahead. Immediately after this you will reach a fork. Turn left here and follow the path which emerges through a concrete squeeze gap to reach a junction with Moorhall Road.

## 4 → 5 Moorhall Road to Station Path



Turn left along the pavement, passing the Harefield Marina car park on your left and crossing over the Grand Union Canal. Immediately after the canal bridge, turn left down the steps (still signed as the Colne Valley Trail), to reach a T-junction with the canal towpath. Turn right along the towpath, with the canal running on your left.

Follow the towpath which eventually leads you back under the rail bridge. Stay on the towpath to pass a small section of wooden fencing on your right (protecting a small weir overflow). About 80 paces after this, look out for a set of timber-edged steps on your right. Turn right down these steps to join a path back into Denham Country Park. You will soon reach a T-junction with a fence ahead. Turn right and follow the path as it leads you over two small footbridges and then swings left to cross a larger footbridge.

Stay with the path as it swings right, continuing its journey meandering through the trees and scrub. Eventually you will cross a very large wooden footbridge over the River Colne. Beyond this, stay with the main bridleway path which swings right and then left, to continue with the rail line running up to your right and with glimpses of the golf course visible to your left.

At the end of this stretch you will emerge to a junction with a tarmac path, alongside a tall fingerpost. If you are returning to the rail station, turn right along the tarmac path. Otherwise, turn left to join the tarmac path.

Follow the tarmac path directly ahead between trees and hedgerows. This path is part of the South Bucks Way. Further down, ignore the path signed off to the right and later, ignore a path signed off to the left. Instead, stay with the South Bucks Way which leads you down a small access lane between walls.

The lane swings left, passing the Old Bakery on your left and the village green on your right. The Old Bakery is one of the village's oldest properties, dating from the 1300s. Keep ahead to join Village Road and you will see The Green Man on your left for some well-earned hospitality.

### Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

### Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

## 5 → 6 Station Path to End



(NOTE: If you are starting the walk at Denham rail station, take the steps down to the tarmac footpath and turn right – south towards the village – along this, passing under the arch. Follow the path as it swings left and then right and then follow the directions from this point).

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