

HOLMER GREEN WALKS

Walk 6: Holmer Green to Prestwood Nature Reserve Picnic Site

Destination: Picnic site with 3 fine picnic tables, and 2 more benches in the nature reserve

Distance: 6.8 km each way (total 13.6 km or 8.5 miles)

Ascent: 45m and 55m descent and ascent each way

Return: The same way, so **make sure you memorise where you have come from at each junction**. If you get lost keep walking SOUTH-EAST till you find somewhere you recognise – remember: your shadow points roughly north for much of the day

Start: **Holmer Green – Lynford Parade shops**

1. **From the shops** set off up the hill along Browns Road away from the pond, cross over and cross Parish Piece and Gables Meadow. After 500m **turn right** along Fox Road. At the end of the road **go left**, follow the road round and at the next T-junction (with Harries Way) **go left** again. Follow the road round again and at the main road (Watchet Lane) **turn left** and cross over.
2. Cross Brackley Road (see step 4 for alternative route) and at a service road in front of some houses **turn right** into Orchard End, to the left of No. 1.



3. Keep to the pavement on the right-hand side and continue in the same direction into a narrow and dark footpath with a tall hedge on the left and a tall fence on the right. The footpath crosses over a road (keep straight on), passes two green spaces on the right which lead into Brackley Road, and goes downhill to a main road at a junction.
4. [Alternatively you can turn right into Brackley Road, and shortly at the end of the road (T-junction) **turn right then left** and follow the road down the hill to a main road where you turn left to the road junction in step 2].
5. At the junction turn right-ish, cross Primrose Hill and pass a sign saying Widmer End, and then go up Brimmers Hill.



6. After 450m uphill you come to a zebra crossing, a few steps after this take the tarmac path **on the right** by a green metal railing fence. Pass a school on the left and at the end of the path (after it twists left) **turn right** along a cul-de-sac by the school entrance.
7. At the end of this road **turn right** into a main road (Windmill Lane), go down the hill a little way, cross over and take the public footpath on the left by a pole with a red top, passing a sign saying Brimmers Farm.



8. Follow the farm track with farm buildings right and house left for 200m (IGNORING a stile and footpath on the right) and where the track veers round to the left go straight on through a gate.



9. Enter an open field with the hedge on your right, then through a gate into another field. Follow the path for approx 1 km, ignoring an (unsignposted) path on the left crossing to industrial buildings in the distance, and pass through a gap in the hedge at the end of the field. (footpath sign left).
10. In the next field the path cuts across to the field boundary on the left, takes a turn to the left, then through a gap **on the left** into another field with houses and a gate in the distance.
11. The gate leads to a road junction, carefully cross over to the road opposite (Pipers Lane) marked as a no through road.



12. [Approx 200m along the main road to the right in a very fine recreation ground with several benches for refreshments now or later].
13. Cross Limmers Mead and keep on, passing Pipers Cottage on the left and opposite Pipers Croft (300m) take the footpath **on the right**, which immediately forks, go through the gate **on the left**.



14. The path continues with a hedge on the left (perhaps lots of blackberries in the Autumn) and a fence on the right. Go through another gate, cross a clearing and into an open field. Make towards the woods in the distance, in particular a distinctive lone telegraph pole.
15. The path goes steeply downhill, curves to the left at the end of the field and through an awkward gate into a road (Hatches Lane).

16. Here you can go straight across and scramble up and leftwards to a (tarmac road) footpath. Otherwise the route is to **turn right** along the road for 70m, then take the public footpath **sharply left**. [The road in this direction also takes you to the recreation ground mentioned at step 12].
17. Keep on the road to some iron gates set into brick gateposts, here take the footpath to the **left of the gates**. The path proceeds with a very fine fence on the right and woods on the left. This path proceeds through the woods for 1.8 km.
18. After a while the path forks; downhill to the left is a tree with an arrow pointing along, the right is unsignposted. The two paths meet up later on, but the path to the right has less of an ascent. Take the left path if you like hills.



19. Where the two paths meet up bear right. Pass a huge pylon on the right, and onwards through the woods. The path broadens out, goes steeply downhill and comes to a road (Perks Lane) through a gate, here turn **sharply left** down the hill.
20. Follow the road downhill for 700m, through a kink and then eventually with houses both sides, to a T-Junction, here **turn right**. After 2 houses on the right (100m) you have arrived at the picnic site.



21. Return to Holmer Green the same way.

Maps <https://streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=489000&y=197600&z=115&sv=489000,197600&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=719&ax=490500&ay=197500&lm=1> <https://streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=487800&y=198575&z=115&sv=487800,198575&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=719&ax=490500&ay=197500&lm=1>