

Bold Walk on 25th April 2018 - East Garston, the Lambourn Valley and Downlands

Start at 09:45 from the Queens Arms, East Garston, RG17 7ET (Grid Ref. SU 366 764).

To reach the start by car take the A338 south out of Wantage signposted to Hungerford, continue southward until you reach Great Shefford. Where the main road bends sharply to the left, turn right along the road signposted to East Garston and Lambourn. There is also helpfully a sign pointing to the Queens Arms. The pub is on the right just after you enter East Garston. You can park in front of the pub on the right but there is much more space on the left beside the Queens Lodge (part of the same establishment). There is going to be another lunch party for 30-40 in the Queens Lodge (we will be in the Bar/Restaurant of the Queens Arms) so please share cars wherever possible and park neatly and compactly to leave room for the other party. Those coming just for the lunch may wish to arrive in good time in order to be sure of a parking space.

The Walk(s)

We walk for about 5.5 miles from the Queens Arms, initially along the Lambourn Valley Way but soon turning off up into the downland.

Downland means wonderful panoramic views (weather conditions permitting). But . . .

Downland means up and downs . . .

Downland means gradients!

If you are able to ascend the Ridgeway (for example) at a steady pace then you will have no difficulty on this walk. There are two stiles.

If this sounds too much for you then Jenny is prepared to lead an alternative concurrent walk of up to 5 miles along the Lambourn valley. This is not a circular walk but returns along the same path after loops around the villages of Great Shefford and East Garston, visiting the churches therein. This much easier option will only happen if at least 5 people request it (in advance).

Lunch

We are booked in to the [Queens Arms \(http://queensarmseastgarston.co.uk\)](http://queensarmseastgarston.co.uk) for lunch at **12:45**. The menu being offered to us is attached. Please choose from this menu, *not* the one on the website. Special dietary requirements can be discussed directly with the pub (tel. 01488 648757). The sandwiches are on toasted ciabatta (and very good they are!).

Please note that the pub requires our order well in advance. **Please send your lunch choices to us by the end of Monday 16th April.**

Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Roderick and Jenny Smith
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Mobile on the day of the walk 07850 905782