



The Green Way – A Lifeline in Lockdown

For the last nine years, St Luke's Church has held a Christmas Tree Festival in the church. This has provided much joy, drawn people together and raised over £10,000 for charities and church funds. Sadly, this just can't be done this year, so the festival is becoming a **Christmas Tree Trail (CTT)** instead. Anyone can join in by decorating a tree. St Luke's will be publishing a list of all the trees so that people can go for walks and spot them. You can see the trees between 9th and 24th December.

Maidenhead Civic Society has hitherto sponsored a tree at the Festival and, in recognition of the role of the Green Way in helping residents cope with the current pandemic, will this year be placing its tree for the CTT on the Green Way at the junction of Green Way West and East, located just north of North Town Moor.

The Green Way, a joint project of the Society and East Berks Ramblers, was created as a streamside walk from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray. South of Maidenhead it runs through Braywick Park and is connected at both ends to the Thames National Trail

The **Lifeline Walk** described here will assist those unfamiliar with the Green Way paths north of Maidenhead and hopefully encourage those already familiar with the paths to re-visit and enjoy them afresh. As 2020 draws to a close, with new hope for a Covid vaccine in the not-too-distant future, Christmas seems a good time to celebrate one of the green lifelines we have on our doorstep.

The walk explores the northern part of the Green Way. The whole walk is some 3½ miles but it is also possible to walk shorter sections of it. The paths are well-signposted and level, without stiles. Not all are surfaced and can be very muddy, so appropriate footwear is advised.

The walk starts at the North Town Moor car park, although it is also possible to walk in from the junction of Blackamoor Lane and Summerleaze Road or from the larger car park on Town Moor off Blackamoor Lane.

A sketch map and walk directions are given overleaf.



Enjoy your walk and the Christmas Tree. Stay safe
and have a very Happy Christmas.





1. Cross the Moor from the car park and walk beside the ditch to the far corner and turn right through a metal gate. A phone mast is on your right. Go over the wooden footbridge. From 9th to 24th Dec you should see ahead the MCS Christmas Tree & banner **The Green Way – a lifeline in lockdown**. Bear left onto **Green Way West** to walk beside the stream (called Maidenhead Ditch) on an unsurfaced path.

2. Continue with the stream on your left and a crop field to the right. Ahead, you will see the raised bund of Norkett's Dam running away to your right and a bridge to your left. Carry straight on beside the stream until you reach a raised bank (the North Maidenhead Flood Bund). Turn right onto the bund, following the sign-posted surfaced footpath. Ahead you will see a short hedgerow as the surfaced path swings right.

It is possible to take a short cut here and reduce the walk by about ¼ mile: swing right and go to Step 5 below.

3. For the main walk, turn sharp left and take a muddy path across a crop field, heading for some houses in the distance. If you look up, you will be able to see Cliveden in the distance away to your right. As you near the houses turn right to cross a wooden footbridge. Carry straight on here on a surfaced path with a stream to your right. Soon cross another footbridge at the junction of Strand Water and the White Brook to join **Green Way East**.

4. Go ahead and pass through a wooden gate to enter Widbrook Common. Keep to your right and walk beside a hedgerow to a bridge crossing the White Brook. Go straight on and up a slight rise to pass through a gate and reach a large open space. Turn right and walk along the surfaced path with a hedgerow first on your right and then on your left. Turn left when you reach the short hedgerow facing you.

5. This is where you turned sharp left in Step 3. Follow the surfaced track between crop fields to reach a fork in the path. Both options will bring you to the same point: either go straight ahead along a short but muddy path across the crop field or turn left on the surfaced path and then dog leg back. Whichever option you choose, you then follow the path back to the Christmas Tree.

To return directly to the car park, simply retrace Step 1.

6. If you would like to see more of the Green Way with very little additional walking, turn left to walk along the road with the telephone mast on your left. After about 200 yards you will see a footpath to your right at a yellow 'footpath diverted' sign. Take this surfaced path to a path junction where you turn right towards two footbridges. Take either one to continue on and walk through a metal gate to return to the North Town Moor car park.

