



# 05 BERKSHIRE GREENHAM COMMON

▶ Distance: 9¼ miles/15km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 52

The old fire-training plane near point 2.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...

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Greenham Common is a name known

to many from news bulletins of the 1980s when a group of women set up a peace camp to protest the presence of American nuclear missiles. The weapons were removed in 1991 and the airbase closed in 1993, but the camp continued until 2000 as the women campaigned for the land to be returned to the public. It is now a wild shelf of upland heath patrolled by buzzards and red kites, with a short stretch of runway at its centre and the missile silos in its south-west corner as a stark reminder of its history. This walk visits the Greenham

Peace Garden and a stretch of Kennet & Avon canal too.

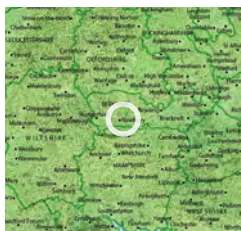
## 1 Start

From car park take path to R of control tower, through gate onto common. At junction, turn R to walk west on track that runs round perimeter of old runway. Continue to junction at corner where main track starts bearing L and go ahead past log bench, then very soon turn L. Follow this path on a loop through scrub, rejoining main perimeter path near missile silos and walking to high fence – the outer of three! – that surrounds them.

## 2 1½ miles/2.3km

Walk past silos (off to your R) and at first signpost, turn R

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Parking (£3 donation) at Greenham Common Control Tower, grid ref SU499651, nearest postcode RG19 8BZ (NB: this takes you to golf club on other side of the road!)

**Is it for me?** Gravel paths, towpath, short section by road

**Stiles** 1

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Newbury

**Refreshments** Cafe at control tower (Thu-Sun).

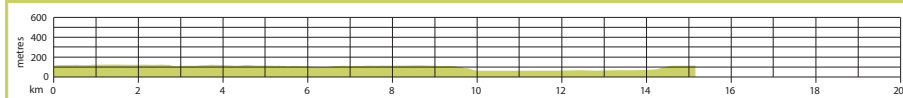
**Public toilets** None

**Public transport** None to start. 103B and Newbury-Basingstoke LINK bus stop at Greenham Business Park (point 4). Train to Thatcham, near point 6.

**Maps** OS Explorer 158; Landranger 174

and follow blue plane waymarkers to a rusting mock-up plane in a pool which was once used for fire training. →

## GRADIENT PROFILE



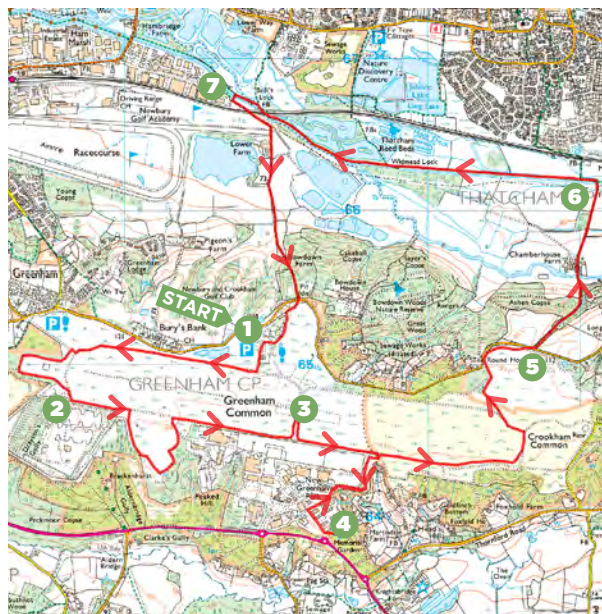
05 BERKSHIRE  
GREENHAM COMMON► OS Explorer map 158 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

Continue on this wide path as it loops back to main perimeter track. Turn R and start walking past Greenham Business Park on R. Go L at next track junction to reach historic runway, the small surviving chunk of a runway that stretched almost two miles.

**3 2¼ miles/4.6km**  
Return to perimeter track beside business park and turn L to continue east. Soon after last building, turn hard round to R to pass through gate and follow path through edge of industrial estate to road. Turn L, then L again when you reach t-junction. As you approach roundabout bear L to enter Greenham Peace Garden, built on the site of the Women's Peace Camp.

**4 3¼ miles/6.2km**  
Retrace your steps back to common and turn R to continue east on perimeter path onto Crookham Common. When path splits into parallel tracks, keep to the L one, later curving L to join another track and reach a fork ahead. Go L, then R at next fork, on fainter path towards woods. When you meet a broader track, turn R and follow as it curves round to parallel the road and reach a gate on L.

**5 5¼ miles/9.2km**  
Go through and cross road to take bridleway ahead down the hill. Follow track down over



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river and through farmyard beyond, and then on to cross bridge over Kennet & Avon canal to towpath on far bank.

**6 6½ miles/10.5km**  
Turn L and walk along towpath for 1½ miles/2.5km, passing a lock and going under railway. Continue ahead over footbridge and past another lock to reach bridge over river on L.

**7 8 miles/13km**  
Cross bridge and go ahead to tarmac lane. Turn L to walk back under railway and keep R at split beyond, signed footpath. Follow round to R with views along Newbury

racecourse, keeping ahead with track over stile and all the way up the hill to meet a road. Cross carefully and go up bank opposite, through gate onto common. Bear R towards control tower, keep R at next junction and just past gate, turn R again through trees. Continue through gate marked Greenham Common and back to car park. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING

