

Three Locks, Great Brickhill

This 6 mile walk includes a part of the Grand Union Canal towpath and the hilly wooded countryside of the Greensand Ridge. The Three Locks Picnic Site makes a convenient starting place. A shorter walk of 2.5 miles starts from Great Brickhill Village

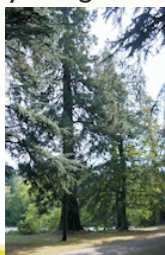
Circular Walk

Directions

- The route is described in a clockwise direction, starting at the picnic site just south of the Three Locks. Follow the canal until the first bridge is reached, turn right over the canal and head towards Paper Mill Farm.
- Continue on the bridleway past the farm buildings. Now there is a choice of routes, continue straight on for the short cut, or turn left towards Great Brickhill for the main route.
- At the main road in Great Brickhill turn left and then right along Ivy Lane opposite the Old Red Lion public house. Turn right along Heath Road and immediately down Cuff Lane, out of the village and into Black Dog spinney.
- The short cut rejoins from the right and from here carry straight on along the Greensand Ridge Walk emerging onto Bragenham Lane by Rushmere Lodge. Turn left and immediately right at the crossroads onto Old Linslade Road and follow the road until turning right at the canal bridge. The towpath will take you back to the Three Locks.
- Refreshments can be obtained at the Three Locks pub and at the Old Red Lion in Great Brickhill

Features of Interest

- 1 The Three Locks were opened by the Grand Junction Canal Company around 1800 and were improved and repaired throughout the 19th century (see the dates on the stonework). On one side of the canal is a pump house built in 1838 which originally contained a steam engine for pumping water back up to the top of the locks.
- 2 A line of grey poplars can be seen on the opposite side of the canal. These trees have a distinctive grey bark and, due to the lack of rigidity in the central stalk, the leaves flutter in the lightest of breezes making a distinctive rustling sound.
- 3 The original course of the Ouzel is crossed on the first bridge after leaving the canal, the main branch now running a short distance to the east down what was once a mill-race. The site was mentioned in the Domesday book and nearby Paper Mill Farm records the use to which the old mill was put in the 18th century.
- 4 Attractive buildings abound in Great Brickhill including several instances of timber framing with brick infill, a fine example being Cromwell Cottages opposite the top of Stoke Lane.
- 5 At the end of Cuff Lane, the path enters a long stretch of woodland that continues for 1 ½ miles. This first part is known as Blackdog Spinney, the trees mostly being Scots Pine are well suited to growing in this poor sandy soil.
- 6 Many exotic trees have been planted around Rushmere Lodge, including several examples of the world's largest tree, the Wellingtonia or Giant Sequoia. Originating from California's high sierras, these giants



were frequently planted in English country estates during the 19th century. As they have been shown to live for 3,500 years, the seemingly enormous specimens here are mere tiddlers!

- 7 The Church of St Mary and Old Linslade Manor mark the original site of Linslade village; the present settlement developing around the London and Birmingham railway station which opened in 1836.
- 8 Three important transport links run along the Ouzel Valley. As well as the Grand Union Canal there is also the main railway line to Glasgow and the A4146 Hemel Hempstead to Bletchley road. The valley has much charm and the surrounding meadows attract a great variety of wildlife.
- 9 Dating from 1793, the Grand Junction Canal runs from Braunston in Northamptonshire to Brentford on the River Thames, a journey of 93 miles. The waterway was later renamed the Grand Union Canal following a general merger of canal companies in 1929.



Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Further Information:

Rights of Way & Access, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UY
Telephone: 01296 382171

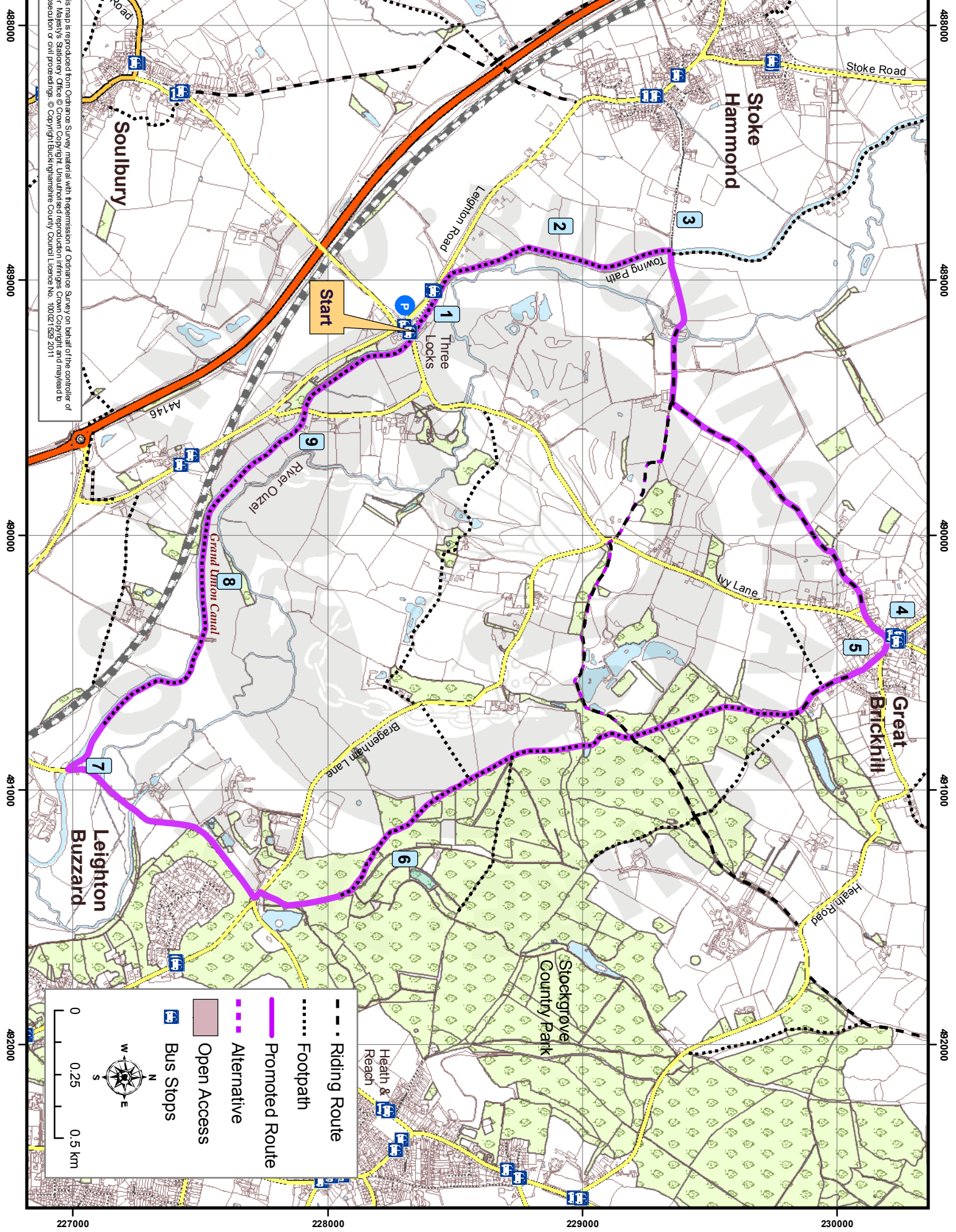
Email: row@buckscc.gov.uk

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Three Locks & Great Brickhill Circular Route

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Legend

- Riding Route
- Footpath
- Promoted Route
- Alternative
- Open Access
- Bus Stops

Scale

0 0.25 0.5 km

Compass Rose

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S
E
W