

# 10 Leisure Walks of Discovery

## A Boot Up

### THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

Robert Wood

The Berkshire Downs are a line of downland hills, part of the North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They have attracted human habitation since prehistoric times. Geologically they are continuous with the Marlborough Downs to the west and the Chilterns to the east. They lie east-west, with their scarp slope facing north into the Vale of White Horse and their dip slope bounded by the course of the River Kennet. In the east they are divided from the Chilterns by the River Thames.

These walks cover more or less the length of the Berkshire Downs, from Ashdown House in the west to the National Trust properties - Lardon Chase, Lough Down and the Holies - in the east. The Ridgeway, the spine of the Downs, is never far away. Some walks stray into Oxfordshire but that is understandable; until 1974 an area like Moulsoford lay in Berkshire. Historical and literary associations are everywhere, from a battle fought by King Alfred (then a prince), possible complicity by a Catholic grandee in the Gunpowder Plot, two monuments to soldiers one very grand, the ubiquitous John Betjeman, a once-famous sheep fair, through to *Wind in the Willows*, *Three Men in a Boat*, *Worzel Gummidge* and Thomas Hardy's last novel *Jude the Obscure*.

The ten circular walks, ranging from 3 to 8 miles, suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area - its people, its history, and its working landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. Many of the walks feature a pub along the route.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the area.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In previous lives Robert Wood was a researcher, an academic and a business psychologist. Now he concentrates on writing walking books. *Walks into History: Hampshire* appeared in 2009. Apart from his technical books, which include a book on emotional intelligence, he has produced a memoir, *Mackem Mayhem*, and three novels - *Pushing Envelopes*, *Chekyll and Ide* and *Ten a Penny*. Following on from this volume will be further volumes in the Boot Up series.

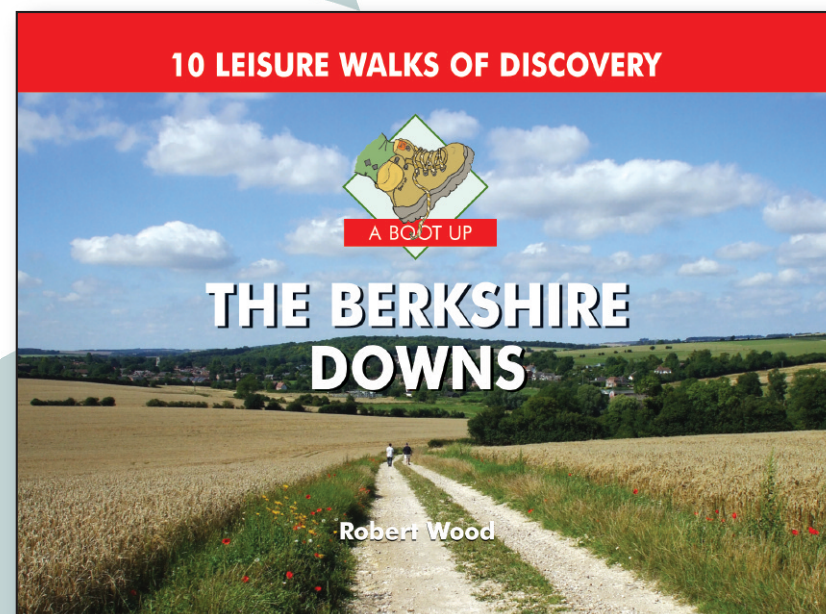
#### HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit [www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) for regional and category listings of available titles.

Trade sales:  
Helen Deakin -  
DDI 01823 653772  
[helend@halsgrove.com](mailto:helend@halsgrove.com)

Halsgrove Publishing  
Halsgrove House,  
Ryelands Industrial Estate,  
Bagley Road, Wellington,  
Somerset TA21 9PZ  
Tel: 01823 653777  
Fax: 01823 216796  
[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com)  
e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)

#### HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



**Format:** Hardback with full colour cover, 64pp, 110x155mm, illustrated with colour photographs and sketch maps.  
**Price:** £4.99  
**ISBN:** 978 1 906887 71 1  
**Imprint:** PiXZ Books  
**Published:** March 2010



## Great Books from your Local Bookseller



# A BOOT UP THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS



1776 milestone.



Cottages in Westbrook Street, Blewbury.



Starveall Farm from Kingstanding Hill.



Right: South Fawley Manor.



Example of a double-page spread.



Looking down on Churn Farm and the bed of the disused railway.