

Title	A tour of Broadmoor
Short description	This anti-clockwise route takes you through a range of scenery to the east of Crowthorne, including woodland, SSSI heathland which is important for wildlife including insects, lizards and birds, and a section of ancient Roman Road. You will also be presented with fine views over Broadmoor Hospital, which is a historic institution, and in parts has grade II listed Victorian buildings.
Long description	This walks starts south of Crowthorne, not too far from the M4 junction near Wokingham. It is 75% on paths and bridleways with a short section of quiet roads to return to the start. The first half goes eastwards and then north, partly using the same route as both the Three Castle Path and the Ramblers Route (see Additional Information, below). It then returns westwards for some way using The Devil's Highway, an old Roman road, and then cuts back to the start through a quiet part of the eastern edge of Crowthorne.
Access info	The walk starts at the Wildmoor Heath Nature Reserve car park just south of Crowthorne village - grid reference SU838629. Taking the Sandhurst Road south through Crowthorne, the car park is on the left just after the Edgebarrow Comprehensive School and then a left bend in the road.
Additional info	<p>1) Founded in 1863, Broadmoor is a special hospital providing treatment for psychiatric patients under secure conditions. The building of the hospital pre-dates the growth of Crowthorne village as a population centre. A major redevelopment is due to start in late 2013.</p> <p>2) The route of the Three Castle Path was inspired by the 13th century journeys of King John via the Castle built by him near Odiham. The route takes in Windsor Great Park to Ascot, the Crown Estate south of Bracknell, the Blackwater Valley, the Basingstoke canal, the Whitewater River and the River Itchen from Itchen Abbas to Winchester Castle Hall. In total it is 60 miles long.</p> <p>3) The Ramblers Route is a walking trail developed by Bracknell Forest Council, which circumnavigates Bracknell Town and is made up of two loops, forming a figure of eight circuit. Each loop can be completed as a separate circular walk; with the Southern Loop 13 miles long and the Northern Loop 19 miles long.</p> <p>4) The Wokingham Way was put together by Loddon Valley Ramblers, with the aim of designing a long distance walk, which followed the Wokingham Borough unitary boundary as far as possible, but with the over-riding goal of developing walks that would be attractive. It is a total of 55 miles long.</p> <p>5) The Devil's Highway is a Roman Road that once linked London and the Roman town of Silchester and is said to have got its name when local inhabitants, after the Romans had departed, thought that only the Devil could have constructed such a feat of engineering.</p>



1) Leave the car park by the exit near the notice board. Ignore the path that runs into the woods to your left; instead bear right and take the path that runs in the open, parallel to the edge of the woods, along the line of the electricity pylons. Follow this down the hill and eventually to a gate.



2) Pass through the gate and ignore the track that bends right – keep straight ahead. After approximately 40 metres turn left up a path towards the woods and a gate.



3) Go through the gate and onto the main bridleway, which crosses the site from east to west.



4) At the bridleway turn right. Pass through a gate and after a further 250m exit the nature reserve over a concrete footbridge and through another gate. Continue up a slope straight ahead for another 200m before exiting left onto a very short stretch of tarmac road (South Road). Turn left, heading for a gate, which bars the road to cars.



5) Pass through this gate, where the road now becomes just a track, and continue for some way along this straight track until you reach a barrier.



6) Pass through the barrier and turn right over a metal stile onto a cinder track (a public footpath). From here to The Devil's Highway you are on The Three Castles Path (and The Ramblers Route AND The Wokingham Way). The large buildings of Broadmoor Hospital can be seen on the high ground to your left. After approx. 300m the path turns left alongside a field and round through a small wood until you reach a tarmac road junction, with Broadmoor Farm on your right.



7) Continue straight ahead at this junction, passing a house and a cottage on your left. At the road end, pass through a stile onto a rough track which leads downhill towards the old reservoir at Butter Bottom.
NOTE: at the time of writing (June 2013) just before Butter Bottom the path meets a new road, being constructed to take the site traffic to the Broadmoor redevelopment site. It is not clear what the eventual crossing technique will be. Immediately after this road, as you reach the woods, the path forks – take the left fork.



8) Bear left at the pond, keeping it on your right (and keeping an eye out for herons on its banks). Continue straight ahead for a further 500m until you reach the Devil's Highway, a wide straight track running east to west. Here the other named paths continue north or east - you go west.



9) Turn left and follow the Devil's Highway for 800m before turning left onto a public footpath just after the hospital car park.



10) This heads uphill for a short distance before turning into a tarmac path, bearing slightly right. Follow this path alongside the road (Kentigern Drive), continuing straight on to the junction with Cricket Field Grove (right) and Chaplains's Hill (left).



11) Although the most direct route is to the right, I have chosen a return route that is marginally longer but simpler to follow.

Take a left, down Chaplain's Hill, past the high security walls of Broadmoor, then fork left down School Hill and continue until you reach the T-junction with Lower Broadmoor Road and ... the school!

Cross over and turn right here for a few yards. Almost immediately you will see on the left a gap in the corner of the hedge ("no right of way" it says but it is clearly semi-official and very short) onto Gordon Road, an unmade track.



12) Continue straight along Gordon Road for nearly 600m, past Pinehill Road on your right, and then re-entering Wildmoor Heath through two gates. You will eventually arrive back at the main bridleway – don't go through the gate here.



13) Turn right along the bridleway – you passed here earlier between Waypoints 4 and 5 on the way out. The electricity pylons can be seen very close, on the left, at the edge of the wood. Although you can take any of 2 or 3 paths to the left to return to the first track you took at the start, I suggest keeping along through the woods until just before the road can be seen and heard ahead.



14) This left turn very quickly returns you to the car park