

Archaeological proof shows that there has been a human settlement here at Shrivenham, from at least 400 BC, although Mesolithic flints found locally suggest that the area has been lived in from as early as 4000 BC.

Remains of a Roman settlement have been uncovered nearby but one of the earliest records of Shrivenham, or Scrivenham as it was known, is in the Domesday Book (1086). The entry itemises a church in the village; probably where St Andrew's now stands.

St Andrew's: today's church, was substantially reconstructed in the 17th century around the tower from an earlier church which still contains the little Sanctus bell thought to have been cast in the early 14th century. The present font dates back to the late 12th century and is of Purbeck marble.

When Royalty visited their Friars Farm Estate, they were to be offered a gift of a white capon. Benjamin Disraeli had close friends in Shrivenham and is remembered with a plaque in the church, but despite the distinguished connections, Shrivenham survived as a small, quiet backwater for many centuries. It wasn't until 1934 that electricity finally came to the village.

Since the establishment of the Royal Military College of Science in 1946, the village has grown considerably but much evidence remains of the rich history of Shrivenham – one of Oxfordshire's oldest rural villages.

Use of the permissive footpaths is by kind permission of Home Farm Partnership and Shrivenham Parish Council.



Shrivenham Circular Walk

A circular walk around one of
Oxfordshire's oldest rural villages



LEAFLET PRODUCED BY



The Route

Distance: About 2½ miles

Terrain: Field paths, canal bank

Approx time: 1½ hours

The walk is fully signed. It can be joined, or left, at any point but is described as starting from Martens Road Car Park.

Walkers are reminded that they undertake the walk at their own risk.

- 1 From Martens Road Car Park, walk past the Bowls Club.
- 2 Turn into the allotments at the second gate and walk through to the road. Cross over and follow the signs onto Station Road.
- 3 Opposite Berens Road, named after Edward Berens; Vicar of Shrivvenham 1804 – 59, the walk turns right through a kissing gate in the hedge.
- 4 Follow the path to the next gate. Turn into the field.
- 5 Keep the hedge on your right and turn at the 90° corner. Bear left through the large gap and walk to the bottom of the field with the hedge on your left.
- 6 Cross the ditch and head towards the pylons and the canal at Stepping Stone Bridge. The bridge has recently been rebuilt by Wilts & Berks Canal society volunteers. It had been knocked down, being unsafe, in the 1950s.

- 7 Follow the towpath to Station Road bridge where it crosses to the South bank at the site of Shrivvenham Wharf. While boats were unloaded with Somerset coal and other cargoes, the mules & donkeys were changed. The stone wall on the far side of the road was part of their stable.
- 8 Follow the towpath to Stainswick Lane. Cross the road and turn left over the canal into the car park where the Canal Society has made a nature reserve.
- 9 Follow the shingle path past the pond and bear left to the kissing gate at another pond. Cross into Coppidthorne Meadow which was a village Millennium project named after the ancient field name.
- 10 Follow the path to the right of the meadow and after passing the cemetery, go through the gate and turn immediately right towards another gate. Cross and with the houses on your left, follow the path to Longcot Road.



Jasmine Cottage, a quaint 17th century cottage on the west of St. Andrew's churchyard. This was the head mistress's cottage next to the old school.



Shrivvenham Memorial Hall



The Domesday Book speaks of a church in Shrivvenham by 1086.

- 11 Turn left and follow the road into the village at the roundabout.
- 12 Turn right and walk away from the village. Cross the road and turn left into Claypits Lane past the old Almshouses towards the church.
- 13 Walk through the churchyard and take Bug's Alley between the Church Room (the old school!) and the high wall through to Manor Lane. Turn right and follow the road past the site of Shrivvenham Manor which mysteriously burned down in the 1930s.
- 14 Pass Manor Close and at the no entry sign, go onto the main path through the Recreation Ground.
- 15 Walk through the Recreation Ground and at the Highworth Road gate, turn right and first left, back to Martens Road car park.



Highworth Road

Stallpits Road

Martens Road

Townsend Road

High Street

Longcot Road

Stainswick Lane

Station Road