

# British Walking Federation

## White Waltham Wander – PT329

Organised By

### The Royal Air Force Walking And Road Marching Association

**Contact:** Geoff Bullock **Address:** 11a Budes Rd, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 1PL

**Email:** gblock11a@gmail.com **Tel:** 07974974236

**Distance:** 12km **Entry Fee:** £1.00 (Cheques made payable to RAFWARMA).

**Award:** Award is not available yet

**Start Venue:** Shurlock Road Nature Reserve, Shurlock Rd, Reading RG10 0HN  
OS Explorer 160, GR; SU832 760. **HEIGHT RESTRICTION BARRIER**

**Car Parking:** Free parking at start venue. **Public Transport:**

**Refreshments:** The Bell PH, Waltham St Lawrence and The Beehive PH, White Waltham, both just off route.

**Terrain:** BWF Grade 1 – Minor roads, tracks, parkland, bridleways and footpaths.

#### ROUTE DESCRIPTION (Updated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023)

Enter the Nature Reserve through the gate towards the totem-pole. Bear right with play area on left, when level with swings bear right to go through kissing gate and over plank bridge to lane. Turn left and cross drive, continue on pavement on left. At the fork/junction by right hand bend, pass 'unsuitable for HGV' sign and bear left on lane passing de-restriction signs.

After last wooden post on left, turn left on 'Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit' on enclosed restricted byway. Ignore crossing track. At sharp left bend, cross stile, ahead into paddock towards gate opposite. Cross stile to left of gate and follow footpath then drive to road. Cross with care and turn right for 25m. Turn left, signposted 'Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit', through two gates into Shottesbrooke Park. Across grass between rows of trees to reach the tarmac drive.

Question 1) On the rusty fence on left is a red and white sign, what is written on it?

Go ahead to pass church and Shottesbrooke House on left, as drive bends to left go straight on, as indicated by low stone waymarker. Through avenue of trees to reach gate and road. Turn right on lane, around righthand bend to junction at the end by the War Memorial. Turn left, stay on lefthand pavement, pass 40mph sign and Grove House, 25m before 40 reminder sign, cross with care to gate opposite.

Bear half left on footpath across field through gate onto enclosed footpath through trees. At end descend steps to road. Cross with extreme caution to pavement opposite. Turn left, where pavement ends bear right into churchyard, lookout for the round column with carved ivy entwining it on your right, the memorial to John William Ferguson.

Question 2) How did he die?

Continue past the church and leave churchyard via gates. (Note covered stocks behind you on road). Stay on narrow pavement until just before junction. Bear right into trees, on footpath for 80m, turn right through kissing gate. Walk on lefthand side of field, go through gap ahead by waymarker (note arrow). Turn left on concrete track with green fence on right. At end of fence on right, at track junction, turn right signed 'Heywood Farm Barns'.

At lefthand bend by wooden fence, ahead through metal posts onto gravel track around lefthand bend. Ahead on unadopted lane past 'Paws Dog Grooming' on left. Continue on lane.

Question 3) What is the name of the first house on the left?

Ignore all turnings until the junction by giveway and 30 signs. Turn left into Sawyers Crescent, passing Heywoods Gardens and Heywoods Court Close on left. Pass White Paddock on right twice. At T-junction, turn right into Foliejohn Way. At mini-roundabout turn left and cross road with care to pass (unnamed) White Waltham Airfield entrance. See [Historical Note](#) below. Stay on pavement with airfield on right, around left and right bends and past Grove House to reach junction by War Memorial.

Question 4) According to the inscription on the War Memorial what year did the war finish?

(The Beehive PH is 200m ahead on left for toilets and refreshments) Bear right around cricket pitch boundary on footpath as indicated by fingerpost, pass bench on right through gap by fingerpost, down steps onto enclosed footpath. At stile, enter Shottesbrooke Park, follow worn path, bear right by lake towards church. Cross drive, through kissing gate into churchyard.

Question 5) Immediately before wooden gate in wall on left is a gravestone, what is written on it?

Leave churchyard through archway on enclosed path and ahead through trees over stile and along righthand edge of field. Cross next stile, now with wood on left, ahead through trees, then enclosed path with brickwall on left. Cross stile and lane, through kissing gate and across field on worn path. Through kissing gate into woods, follow enclosed footpath through a few gates past the allotments to road opposite "Paradise Cottages".

Turn left on pavement. (The Bell PH is 300m to your right for toilets and refreshments). At staggered crossroad by War Memorial, bear left and immediately cross with extreme caution into Shurlock Road, sign posted Shurlock Row, Binfield & Bracknell. Follow this lane for 400m, passing 'Stile House' and fingerpost on left, taking care around left bend to return to Shurlock Road Nature Reserve.

When you have finished this trail please use the Permanent Trail Entry Form. Send your entry to the contact name above.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

This trail is open until 31st December 2022

#### Historical Note

The Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), founded at the outbreak of World War II, was a civilian organization which made an enormous contribution to victory by taking over from service pilots the task of ferrying RAF and RN warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons. During the war, 1250 men and women from 25 countries ferried a total of 309,000 aircraft of 147 different types, without radios, with no instrument flying instruction and at the mercy of the British weather. Often they were presented with a type of plane they had never seen before. Air Transport Auxiliary's headquarters was at White Waltham airfield from February 1940 until 30th November 1945.