

## **Walking route analysis from Brunninghams Farm, Heath Ride, RG40 3QJ to Crowthorne railway station, Dukes Ride, RG45 0QW.**

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### **1. Overall summary**

- Nearest station: Crowthorne is identified as the nearest station to Heath Ride, approx 1 mile away for nearby Heath Ride postcodes.
- Likely walking route distance: around 1.1- 1.2 via existing paths and roads (slightly longer than the straight line).
- Typical walk time: about 15–20 minutes for an average adult, depending on pace and surface.
- Route character: mix of rural restricted byway through National Trust woodland and then suburban roadside footways approaching the station.

This comfortably supports the argument that the site is "within about a mile" of Crowthorne station in spatial terms, with a realistic walk that is practical for many users.

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### **2. Indicative step-by-step walking route**

Based on Ordnance Survey rights of way descriptions and local walk guides for Heath Ride / Simons Wood / Finchampstead Ridges:

1. Brunninghams Farm to Heath Ride restricted byway
  - Start at Brunninghams Farm, Heath Ride, RG40 3QJ.
  - Join Heath Ride, which functions as a lane/restricted byway running roughly east–west along the northern edge of Finchampstead Ridges and Simons Wood.
2. Heath Ride through Simons Wood towards Wellingtonia Avenue
  - Walk north or north-east along Heath Ride using the restricted byway described in the Parish Rights of Way schedule as "Heath Ride, beside Simons Wood and through to Wellingtonia Roundabout".
  - Surface is typically unmade woodland/bracken track with some vehicle access for properties.
  - This leg is roughly 0.4–0.5 miles, mostly traffic free but unlit.
3. Heath Ride to Wellingtonia roundabout
  - Continue along Heath Ride until it links with the Wellingtonia Avenue / Lower Wokingham Road roundabout, as shown on National Trust and parish walking maps for Simons Wood and Finchampstead Ridges.
  - You may need to cross or join the carriageway for a short distance depending on the exact access point, but there are established crossing points associated with other promoted walks.
4. Along Wellingtonia Avenue towards Dukes Ride
  - From the roundabout, take the footway alongside Wellingtonia Avenue (B3348) heading east towards Crowthorne.
  - National Trust and Parish walk directions confirm a continuous footpath/track on or behind the line of trees along Wellingtonia Avenue between Simons Wood and Crowthorne.
  - Distance here is roughly 0.3 miles on a paved or compacted surface.
5. Dukes Ride to Crowthorne station
  - At the junction of Wellingtonia Avenue and Dukes Ride, turn left (north) along Dukes Ride.
  - Follow the pavement on Dukes Ride for around 0.2 miles to reach Crowthorne station, which sits on Dukes Ride at postcode RG45 0QW.

- The station entrance and car park are on the east side of Dukes Ride.

Putting those sections together gives a realistic walked distance in the 1.0–1.2 mile range.

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### 3. Route quality assessment

#### Surfaces and comfort

- Heath Ride section:
  - Unsealed, mostly woodland/track surface, used as a restricted byway. Can be muddy in winter and uneven in places.
- Wellingtonia Avenue & Dukes Ride:
  - Tarmac footways or parallel tracks behind the tree line as described by the National Trust and local walk leaflets, giving a more conventional suburban walking environment approaching the station.

#### Lighting and security

- Heath Ride / Simons Wood section is likely unlit, passing through National Trust woodland and rural frontage properties.
- Wellingtonia Avenue and Dukes Ride are public roads with street lighting nearer Crowthorne, but exact coverage should be confirmed via site visit.
- For planning evidence you might note that it is a pleasant daylight route, but evening/night-time access may rely more on cycling, bus or car.

#### Gradients

- The wider area is known as Finchampstead Ridges, but public walk descriptions class routes here as easy/leisurely with modest ascent, suggesting gentle gradients suitable for most users rather than steep hills.

#### Crossings and safety

- Key potential risk points:
  - Crossing or joining Wellingtonia Avenue near the roundabout.
  - Any crossing of Dukes Ride if approaching from the west side.
- However, the route does not require walking along trunk roads or dual carriageways, and uses established rights of way and pavements.