

THREE SWANS HOTEL **ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS**

LOCAL WALKS

Kennet and Avon canal towpath: Stretches from Reading to Bristol! Can be walked west to Bedwyn (5 miles), or east to Kintbury (3 miles), and Newbury (8 miles). Each of these has a station with trains back to Hungerford.



Hungerford Marshes: This is an area of unspoilt countryside, laced with footpaths and trout streams, covering some 300 hectares, and reached via a bridge over the canal just past the church. It is an area of special scientific interest, home to a wide variety of birds and insects.



Hungerford Common: The common is used to graze the communally owned cattle, and can be reached either via the canal to the east, or by leaving the Hotel, turning left up Park Street, and the entrance gate (and Downgate Pub) are about ¼ mile up the hill.

Little Hidden Farm: At Hungerford Newton, two miles north of the town on the A338, Little Hidden Farm offers 30 acres of very attractive wild flower meadow land with all year round public access.

Leverton - a mile or so north of the town is the famous Victorian Walled Garden from the BBC television series. The Stocks are another interesting site nearby.

WHITE HORSES

Hungerford lies within a ring of White Horses cut into the chalk hillsides of the Downs. The oldest and most famous is at Uffington (10 miles to the north), but there are also another eight, many within easy driving distance, at Alton Barnes (near Pewsey); Broad Town (near Wootton Bassett); Cherhill; Devizes; Hackpen (near Broad Hinton); Marlborough; Pewsey; and Westbury. A map can be provided at reception, or visit <http://www.wiltshirewhitehorses.org.uk>.



DOWNLAND WALKS AND VIEWS

The Ridgeway National Trail runs along the crest of the Downs in a semi circle around Hungerford at a distance of about 8 miles. There are a number of car parks and access points for walks of various lengths and severity. For more details visit <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/Ridgeway/>.

To the south is a secondary ridge walk, and above Inkpen is a locally renowned **gibbet** at the peak of Coombe Hill. Nearby is **Walbury Hill**, at 974 feet the highest point in south east England. The 49 mile long **Test Way** starts here, as does the 70 mile long **Wayfarers Walk**. For further information visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayfarers_Walk and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_Way. A possible 10 mile circular walk is shown at <http://www.britishwalks.org/walks/2000/100.php>.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Crofton Beam Engines: One is the oldest working beam engine in the world still in its original engine house and capable of actually doing the job for which it was installed. Accessible on foot along the canal towpath (about 6 miles). Open summer weekends.

Didcot Railway Centre <http://www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk>

Kennet and Lambourn Valleys: feature many attractive villages of interest to both the walker and the motorist.

Fishing: There are various fishing opportunities in the area, including some of the finest rod fishing in the country, locally on the River Kennet and also on the Test.

Newbury Racecourse: Easy train journey from Hungerford Station.