



OPT circular walks

Since its foundation in 1926, Oxford Preservation Trust has sought to protect the city's beautiful green setting. Over the years, by purchase and through gifts, it has become the owner of 650 acres of land, some let to tenants and some maintained by the Trust as a public amenity. In the case of tenanted land, wherever compatible with agricultural use, public access is preserved, and these routes through Trust-owned land and on public and permitted footpaths have been devised to encourage everyone to enjoy a walk in the countryside.

Please be careful to shut gates and to keep dogs under control, particularly where there is livestock. This walk can be muddy in parts, even in dry weather.

A walk from Bayworth to Boars Hill

This circular walk is about 4¼ miles and takes a couple of hours at a steady pace.

Getting to the start

Boars Hill lies to the south of Oxford. At the ring road junction with the A34 to Abingdon take the road signposted Boars Hill and Wootton (Hinksey Hill). At the top of the hill continue on towards Abingdon. After 1½ miles turn right after the crossroads warning sign into the lane to Sunningwell, and then right again after ¼ of a mile (signed Bayworth). Park on bay at triangular green at the junction of Quarry Road and Green Lane where there are a number of spaces.

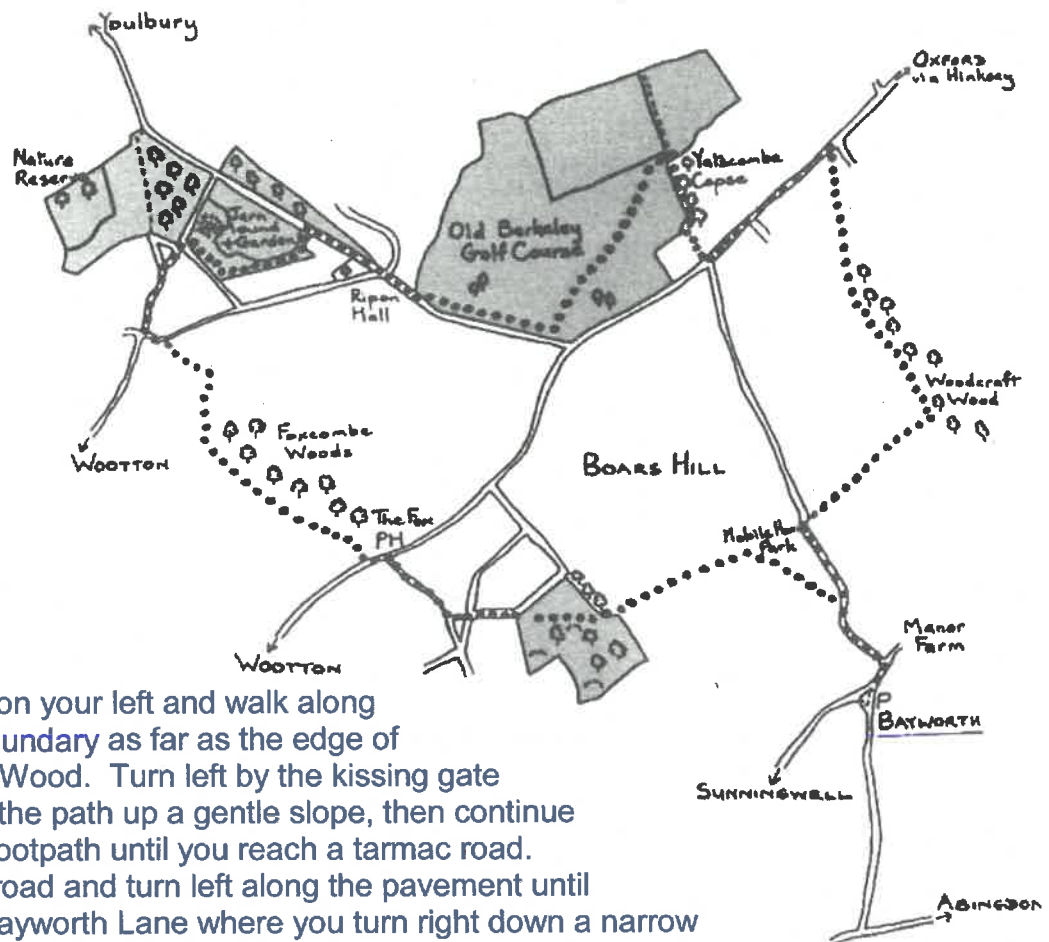
The route

Take Brumscombe Lane and follow it round the corner, ignoring the straight track ahead. Pass some houses and a chapel (dated 1900) and, just after the entrance to the Bayworth Park Mobile Homes, turn right off the road keeping

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the hedge on your left and walk along the field boundary as far as the edge of Woodcraft Wood. Turn left by the kissing gate and follow the path up a gentle slope, then continue along the footpath until you reach a tarmac road. Cross the road and turn left along the pavement until opposite Bayworth Lane where you turn right down a narrow bridle path. The path runs between houses and then passes Yatcombe Copse on the left as you go down the hill. On emerging from the trees go through a metal gate, then turn left through a large wooden gate onto the Old Berkeley Golf Course.

Head uphill with the copse on your left and, as you near to top of the hill you will pass a fenced seat under an oak tree from which there are splendid views of Oxford's dreaming spires. Continue to the right and follow the line of the road. Leave the field at the kissing gate next to an OPT information board. Turn right along the pavement and at the junction go straight ahead onto The Ridgeway which is marked as a private road. Go past a few cottages on your left, the last of which is called Ridgeway Cottage, and then immediately turn left through a kissing gate into the Jarn Wild Garden. Follow the meandering

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path through the garden to the kissing gate at the far end where there is an information board about this garden, created by Sir Arthur Evans in the 1930s, and some benches. Why not take a short detour in the opposite corner and climb to the summit of the artificial mound for the view.

On leaving the garden, take to road opposite, Old Boars Hill, and go down this hill until you come to Orchard Lane. Take the wide path opposite Orchard Lane (Yew Cottage is on the corner) and follow it along between gardens until it opens out into a field. Keep along the edge of the field with the fenced boundary of Foxcombe Woods on your left. There are fine views from here south-west towards the Downs. The path emerges on the road next to The Fox pub.

Take the path directly opposite the pub and follow it between garden boundaries going left where it forks. The path leads you straight onto a bend on Lincombe Lane. Bear left and you see some large brick gateposts on the right, at the entrance of a house called Withy Copse. Just after these gateposts, turn right through a kissing gate into another OPT field. Walk across the open part of the field to another kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate, ignoring the path which runs beside the gate. Once through, go right, along a narrow footpath through some trees to a metal gate which leads you to another field. (Beware of the barbed wire fence on the right of this narrow path.) Keeping the old field boundary to your left and the new game fence and view south towards Abingdon on your right, drop down the slope to, and walk through, the Bayworth Mobile Home Park and out onto Brumscombe Lane. Turn right down the lane and return to your starting place.

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