

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.

A walk from Wootton to Boars Hill

This circular walk is about 2½ miles and takes about an hour and a half at a steady pace.

Getting to the start

Boars Hill lies to the south of Oxford. At the right road junction with the A34 to Abingdon take the road signposted Boars Hill and Wootton (Hinksey Hill). At the top of the hill turn off to the right, signposted Wootton, and continue for about 2 miles to the junction with the B4017. Turn right and drive through the village until, at a staggered crossroads just before The Bystander Inn, turn right into a lane marked "access only". St Peter's church is about ¼ mile along this winding lane. Behind the church and to the right of a hawthorn tree are the graves of Ali Akbar Daryush and his wife Elizabeth Bridges, whose generous bequest to the Trust included their house Stockwell and the adjoining land, now the Elizabeth Daryush Memorial Garden. There is a car park opposite the church.

Wootton is served by the number 4 and 4B buses. The nearest stop is The Bystander Inn, opposite the lane leading to the church. Check times with the operator, Oxford Bus Company.

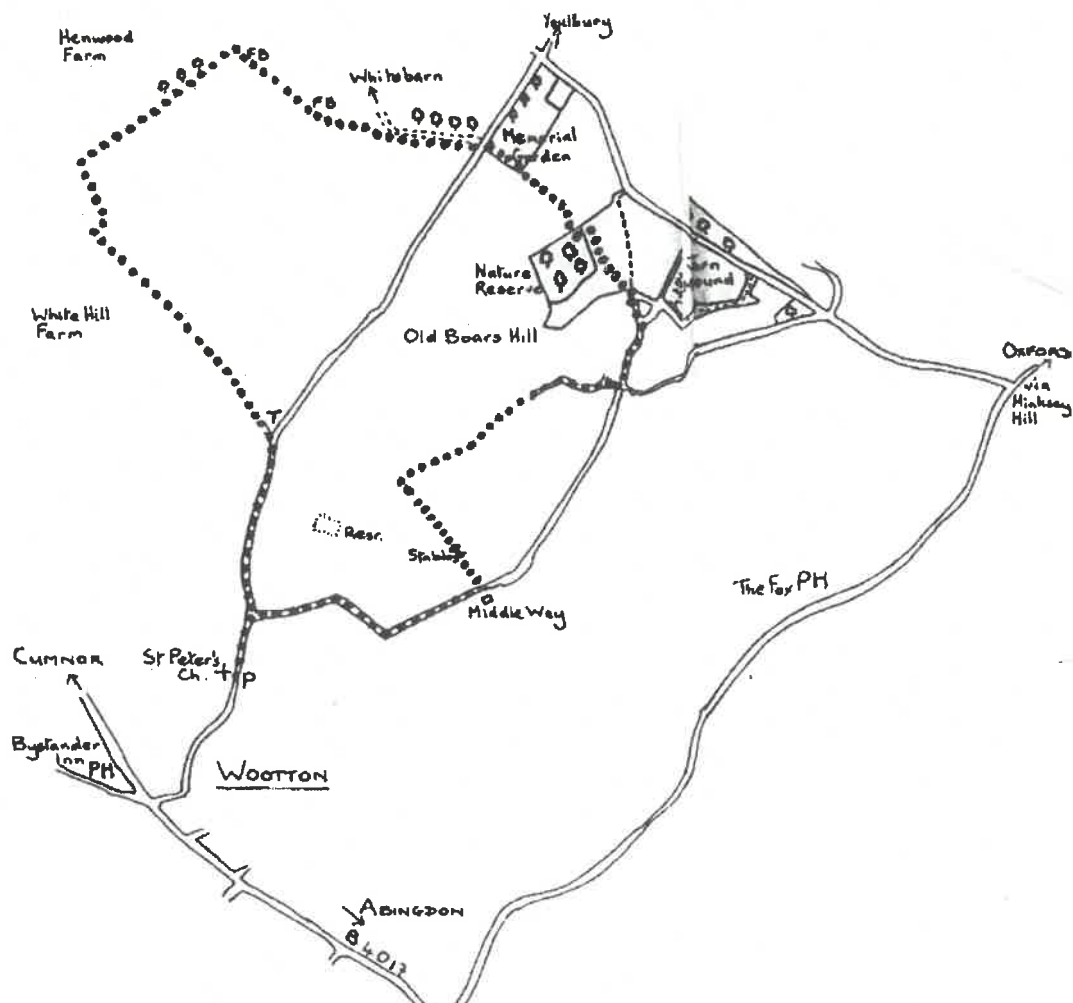
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The route

Turn right out of the car park and, after about 100 yards, turn right at the sign for Old Boar's Hill. About 500 yards up this lane turn left opposite a white cottage called Middle Way, sign posted for Linnings farm, and down a drive towards some stables.

Go over some stiles to the immediate right of the stable block and continue along the hedge and over two more stiles to the end of the field. Turn right here and over three more stiles keeping the hedge on your left. Go through a metal gate on your left and into a slightly sloping field. Follow the path between gardens and then the track up a gentle hill until you reach a road, Orchard Lane, with a cottage named Primrose Bank on your left.



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Turn left and walk up the road past Broome Close. You will emerge at Jam Heath and, to your right, Jam Mound and the Jam Wild Garden, all owned by OPT. Go through the kissing gate into Matthew Arnold Field (also owned OPT), bear right and keep to the top of the field passing a couple of benches. Continue along the top of the field for a short while and then head down to the bottom corner to a kissing gate which may be hidden behind bushes until you are near to it.

Bear right once you're through the kissing gate and then turn sharp right after about 20 yards and proceed along a footpath between gardens. Continue ahead, crossing a track, and coming into the lower end of the Elizabeth Daryush Memorial Garden (also owned by OPT) where there are seats from which to enjoy the views of the Berkshire Downs, a large pond and, beside the gate onto The Ridgeway, an information board. You may want to spend a few minutes exploring this tranquil spot.

This route leaves the garden directly opposite where you came in, into Sandy Lane. Cross this road and take the footpath on your left – not along the drive. Continue down this path through the trees until you cross a wooden plank bridge. Walk across the field until you come to another plank bridge with stiles on the opposite side of the field.

Follow a line of oaks which mark the position of a hedgerow, now removed, and cross the stile at the end of this row. Then take a diagonal across the next field to the opposite corner and cross another stile to exit the field. Turn sharp left and follow the path with the hedge on your left. Continue towards a group of three buff houses where the path will come out onto a lane. Turn right and walk back down the lane towards the church and the car park.

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