

## **Countryside Walk 1 – circular walk Oakley-Brill-Oakley via Span Green (6.6km, 4 miles, approx. 90-120 minutes)**

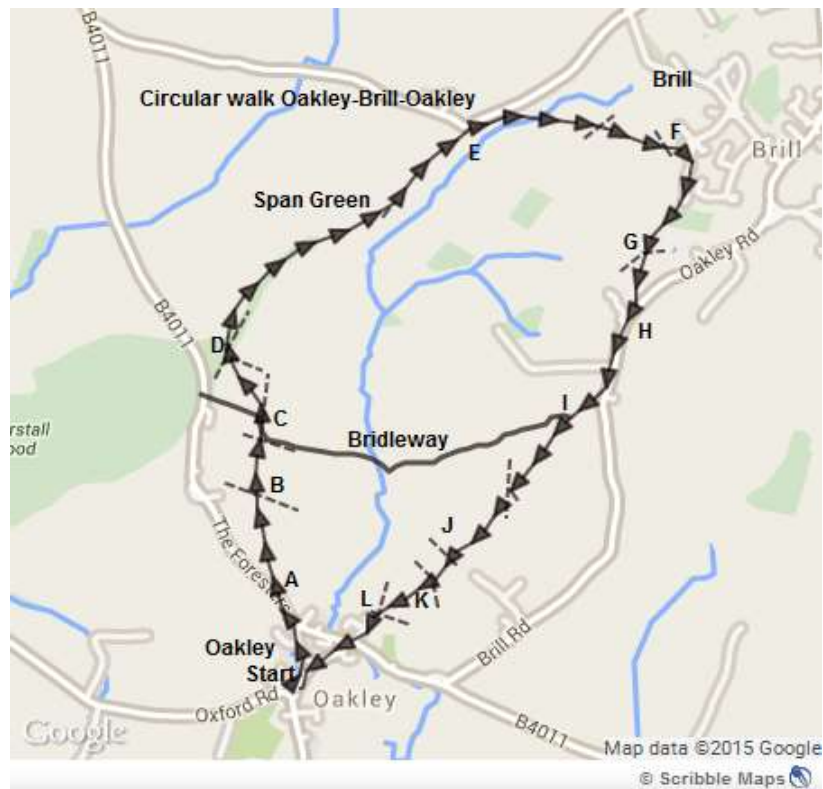
Starting at the bus shelter in the centre of Oakley walk 80 metres (m) up Manor Road and turn left down the Turnpike. On reaching Bicester Road turn left and walk down the verge on the left hand side (be careful of the traffic!). After about 80m cross the road and pass through entrance to Oakley Barn on the right hand side of road. Turn immediately left and cross a first stile leading into a field (Point A on map) and then a second stile in a gap in an earth bank. Follow the visible path across the field (this section can be very muddy). On reaching a hedge (Point B) go over the stile and then walk parallel to the line of trees/hedge on left hand side. On reaching the gate at far end of the field go over the style to the left of gate and continue down the track in front of the gate. After about 60m the track bears left. At this point (Point C) turn right and pass through the gap in hedge on the right. Then turn immediately left, proceed for 10m and go over the style on the left. Follow the path across the field passing by the electricity pole. In the far corner of field (Point D) go through the kissing gate and over a small footbridge, continue for a further 20m and turn right into Span Green, a grass and woodland track, used in former times by animal drovers, that heads towards Brill.

Walk along the Span that continues for 1km and is muddy in places. At the end of the Span one arrives at a small tarmac road (Point E). Proceed straight (do not turn left) up the road for 70m then turn right at the post with the Bernwood Jubilee Way sign. Pass through a 40m section of woodland and through a kissing gate, then veer left following the path just visible in the pastureland. The path cross a small stream and then heads up the hill towards Brill crossing a stile between two fields. After the stile, follow the green track going up the hill. Pass through a large gap in a hedge that comes down the hill, then follow the hedge on right hand side for 30m and pass over a style in the corner of the field just below a cottage. After the stile bear left, pass in front of the cottage (“Old Farm”) and proceed along the track up that goes up the hill. After 50m (Point F) turn sharp right and proceed along another track that follows the contour and passes by 16 Hill House. Continue along this track for about 200m. On arriving at a pair of cottages at the end of the track follow a small pathway that starts between the cottages (no<sup>s</sup> 17 and 19). After crossing a section with water springs the path rises up and then descends sharply. At the end of the descent go over two sets of styles (Point G) and proceed across the field to a further style to the left of the house, “The Wrens” on Brill Road (Point H).

Turn right onto Brill Road, descend it for about 300m and then veer right onto the bridleway opposite the bungalow. Follow the bridleway for about 50m and then go over the stile on left hand side (Point I). Walk down across the large field aiming straight for Oakley church in the distance. This path is historically interesting as it is the path that the parishioners of Brill used for attending Oakley church at times when Brill Church only served the royal hunting lodge in Brill, before the lodge was burned down in 1643 during the English civil war. Cross over the stile at the lower, right hand side of the large field. Continue across the next field and walk parallel to the hedge on the left side. Pass through the kissing gate on the far side of the field, cross a track and go over the facing stile (Point J). Then cross a small first grass field, go through a gap in a hedge (Point K) and then bear slightly right across a larger second grass field towards a new house. Pass through two kissing gates across a track in front on the new house (Point L) and then walk down the roadway to the Nap. Then cross the main road and continue down Manor Road to the centre of Oakley.

The walk can be shortened by taking the bridleway that runs through the centre of this circular walk.

April 2015, updated January 2020



The Countryside Code (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>) must be observed when walking:

**Respect other people:**

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

**Protect the natural environment:**

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

**Enjoy the outdoors:**

- be safe, plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

For all the walks it is best to use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 180 (can be purchased at the Book House and Martins in Thame). This provides clearer mapping than the mini-map accompanying the text above.