

Countryside Walk 11: Oakley – Brill – Dorton with return via Chinkwell Wood (12.3 km, 7.7 miles, approx. 2½ to 3 hours, but 1¼ to 1½ hours if starting and finishing in Brill)

Walk 11 is to Dorton and back via Brill Hill. The walk is halved in length if it is started and finished in Brill. In winter sections of the route are very wet and muddy and it is then best to walk in gumboots. At other times of the year walking boots are sufficient.

Starting at Oakley church follow the pavement alongside the B4011 towards the Oakley crossroads. After 100 metres (m) the crossroads is reached at which point turn right and walk up the small roadway "The Nap". Continue straight: the tarmac road leads onto a gravel track then a grass track. Before the start of the grass track and opposite the new house turn right and proceed through two wooden kissing gates on either side of a drive way and enter a field on the right. Cut diagonally across the field and pass through gap in the hedge in the far corner. Proceed straight across the next small field and over a stile. Cross a track leading from left to right and pass through a metal kissing gate into a large field. Follow parallel to the hedge line on the right. After 250m pass over a large stile and enter the next field. Bear left and walk upwards diagonally for 400m across the field aiming for the far top corner. 50m before the far corner is a stile that leads onto the bridleway coming up from the left. Turn right onto the bridleway and proceed for 50m until arriving at Brill Road Point A on the map). Turn left into Brill Road continue up the road for 1km (beware of the traffic), arriving in the Square in Brill. Aim for the Pointer pub on the right and walk up the lane between the pub and the village hall leading to the church.

On arriving at Brill church (Point B) turn left down the track towards the Brill Sports and Social Club. Having passed the clubhouse turn right and walk around the edge of the playing field. Just after a play area with vertical brown wooden posts pass through a gap to the left of two tall pine trees. Enter the tarmac road and continue straight down it with houses on both sides. Keep to the left hand side and after 100m the road becomes a track. Continue down the track for 50m and pass through a small metal gate into the top end of very large field (excellent views towards Waddesdon and Ashendon). Walk down the field between two lines of trees. After 500m go through another small gate into a second field and take the main path that tracks diagonally downwards for 400m towards Spa Farm. At the far end of the field pass through a wooden kissing gate, cross a small field and over a stile to the left of a barn. Walk to the left of the barn, a house and a second barn. After the second barn climb over a stile leading into a field on the left. Walk alongside the fence with a small wooded area on the left and then follow a line of telegraph poles that leads to the bottom corner of the field where there is a large wooden stile. Straight ahead is a track that leads to the left hand side of Ashfold School. Proceed down this track and arrive at Dorton Road (Point C).

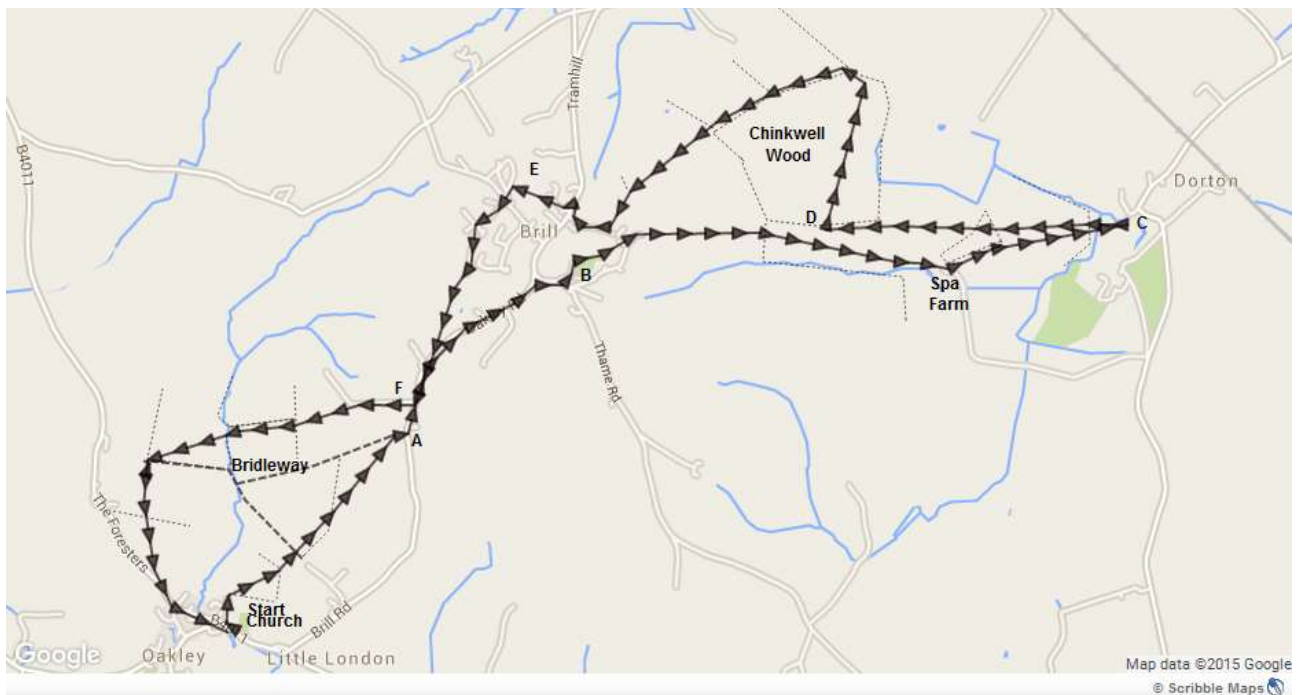
Then turn back and on reaching two wooden stiles take the right hand one and continue for 500m across the field aiming towards the Brill housing visible on the horizon. Pass through a small wooded area and for a further 500m across another field towards the bottom left hand side of Chinkwell Wood. Climb over the stile in the corner of the field and proceed up the next field alongside the edge of the Wood. After 250m turn right (Point D) and enter a track that cuts through the centre of the Wood. Continue along this track for 750m. At the far end climb over a low wooden fence, turn left and proceed up the grass footpath. On arriving at a stile pass over this turn right and over another stile to the right of a gate. Turn left and pass through a metal kissing gate. Then proceed 1400m to Brill following along the side of the Wood on the left and then up the hill through three grass fields. On arriving at the Brill playing fields continue straight ahead along the side of the Scout hut and tennis court. Then turn right onto the small tarmac track with metal railings on the left. The track leads into passage way between houses and onto Temple Street. Turn right onto the Street and left again down a side road called The Lawns.

At the end of The Lawns and behind house 33 a kissing gate leads into The Walks (Point E), a community owned green area. Take the path across The Walks, pass a kissing gate and turn left onto South Hills Road. After crossing Windmill Street proceed forwards and down North Hills Road. After 150m bear left and take a 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^s 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 stiles and proceed across the field to a further stile to the left of the house, "The Wrens" on Brill Road.

Turn right onto Brill Road and walk down the road for 200m reaching a Public Footpath sign (Point F) pointing down a farm track to the right leading through cropped fields. Proceed down this track (that has very good views to the south and west) for 300m and when the track starts veering to the right turn down the footpath through cropped land on the left. The footpath continues down the hill with Beckley telecommunications tower on the horizon straight ahead. At the end of the cropped land cross two stiles and proceed down a grass field following the hedge on the right. At the bottom of the field cross a footbridge across a small stream and enter into a further field. Rotate slightly to the left and cross diagonally across the field passing an electricity pole to the left. Pass over the stile in the corner of the field, cross the track and proceed over a second stile to the right of a gate. Continue straight forward across a grass field following a hedge/tree row on the right. At the end of this field cross another stile into a second cropped field. Walk across the field following the clearly visible path. At the far side of the field pass over two stiles whereupon one reaches the B4011. Cross the road carefully (problem of fast traffic) and walk along the verge on the right-side towards Oakley. Continue along the B4011 back to the church.

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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 or Martins in Thame). This provides clearer mapping than the mini-map accompanying the text above.