

Countryside Walk 3 – footpaths directly around Oakley village (3.5 km, 2.2 miles, approx. 45-60 minutes)

Walks 1 and 2 are medium length walks (90 to 120 minutes each). However, often people just want to go a short walk. Walk 3 described below is a short walk (with options) along footpaths directly around the village. Sections of the walk, especially at the back of Little London Green, tend to be muddy so gum boots or walking boots are necessary.

Starting at Oakley village hall cross the playing fields to the far corner by the Mill Road housing estate. Enter the estate over wooden sleepers across a ditch on the left hand side and pass through the short alley way that leads into Meadow Close. Turn right into Meadow Close and then immediately left into Mill Road. Walk up Mill Road, cross Worminghall Road (watch out the traffic!) and enter the track straight ahead indicated by a public footpath sign. Continue for 75 metres (m) along the track until a gate is reached. Pass over the stile to the right of the gate and then follow the footpath straight ahead along the side of the field (with the hedge on the left hand side). At the far end of the field cross a footbridge over a stream, turn sharp left and continue along the grass strip between the stream on the left hand side and the cropped field on the right hand side. After 300 m one arrives at the B4011 after passing besides a small stile and then a wooden sleeper across a ditch. Great care must be taken crossing the road due to the fast moving traffic and the fact that drivers will not anticipate walkers crossing the road at this point. Having crossed the road there are two options:

Option M: Turn left onto the B4001 and continue for 100 m along the pavement on the right hand side of the layby. Opposite 100 Hassle Cottage pass through the kissing gate on the right hand side. Then follow the footpath across the field to a gap in the hedge at the back. Cross the stile, proceed straight forward and alongside the hedge on the right. Pass besides another stile through a further hedge gap and walk across the field to a third stile. Then turn left into the track with trees either side.

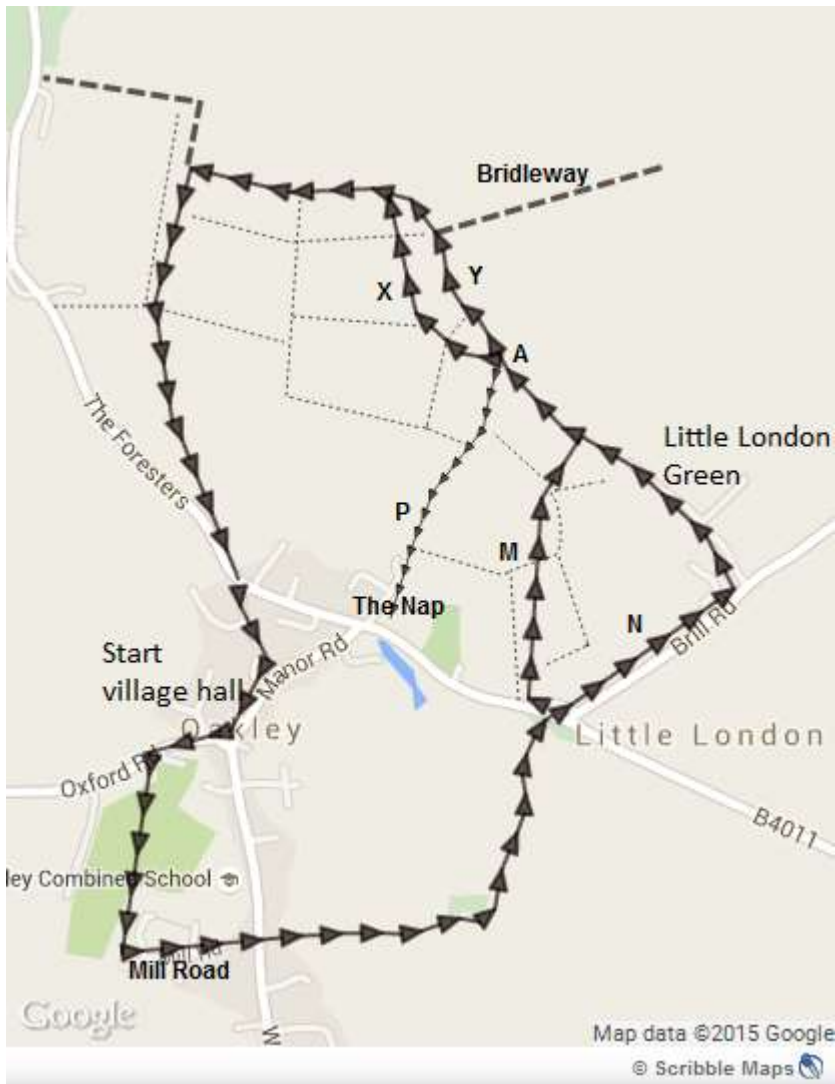
Option N: Walk along the pavement up Brill Road and turn left into Little London Green. Walk along the green (the green is common land and one can walk on the grass or on the public footpath that runs along the left hand side of the green). At the end of Little London Green enter the track with trees either side.

The track between the trees at the back of Little London Green is common land with open access for walkers. Continue along the track for 200 m. At this point (Point A on the map) there is a gap on the left hand side with two gates on the right and left. One possibility is to pass between two farm gates and continue down the rough footway (P on the map) that leads to the back of the Nap – but this footway is in a poor state. Instead two other Options are recommended:

Option X: Pass through the kissing gate beside the right-hand farm gate, continue straight across the field and proceed through a further gateway and a rough surfaced passage over a stream. Then bear right and continue across a field with the stream and accompanying woodland on the right. At the far side of the field cross over a stile between two tall oaks and then walk across the next meadow to a further stile. This meadow is interesting in that it has vestiges of “ridge and furrow” a form of feudal land allocation and land management that dates back to the Middle Ages (peasant families were allocated the strips to farm on). After crossing the stile turn left onto the bridleway.

Option Y: At Point A continue further down the Little London Green track for a further 250 m finally reaching the bridleway coming down from Brill. Continue across a wooden bridge and along the bridleway

After 300m, at a junction there is a gate on the left. Pass over the stile on the right-hand side of the gate and continue straight forward across the field following alongside a hedge/tree row on the right. At the end of the field cross another stile into a field. Walk across the field following the clearly visible path. At the far side of the field pass over a first stile in a gap in an earth bank and then a second stile 30m further one, whereupon one reaches the B4011. Cross the road carefully (problem of fast traffic again) and walk along the verge on the right-side towards Oakley. Turn right into the Turnpike and then walk back to the starting point.



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 in this series 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.