

Countryside Walk 6: Oakley – Fennemore – Honeyburge circular walk (6.0 km, 3.7 miles, approx. 90 to 120 minutes)

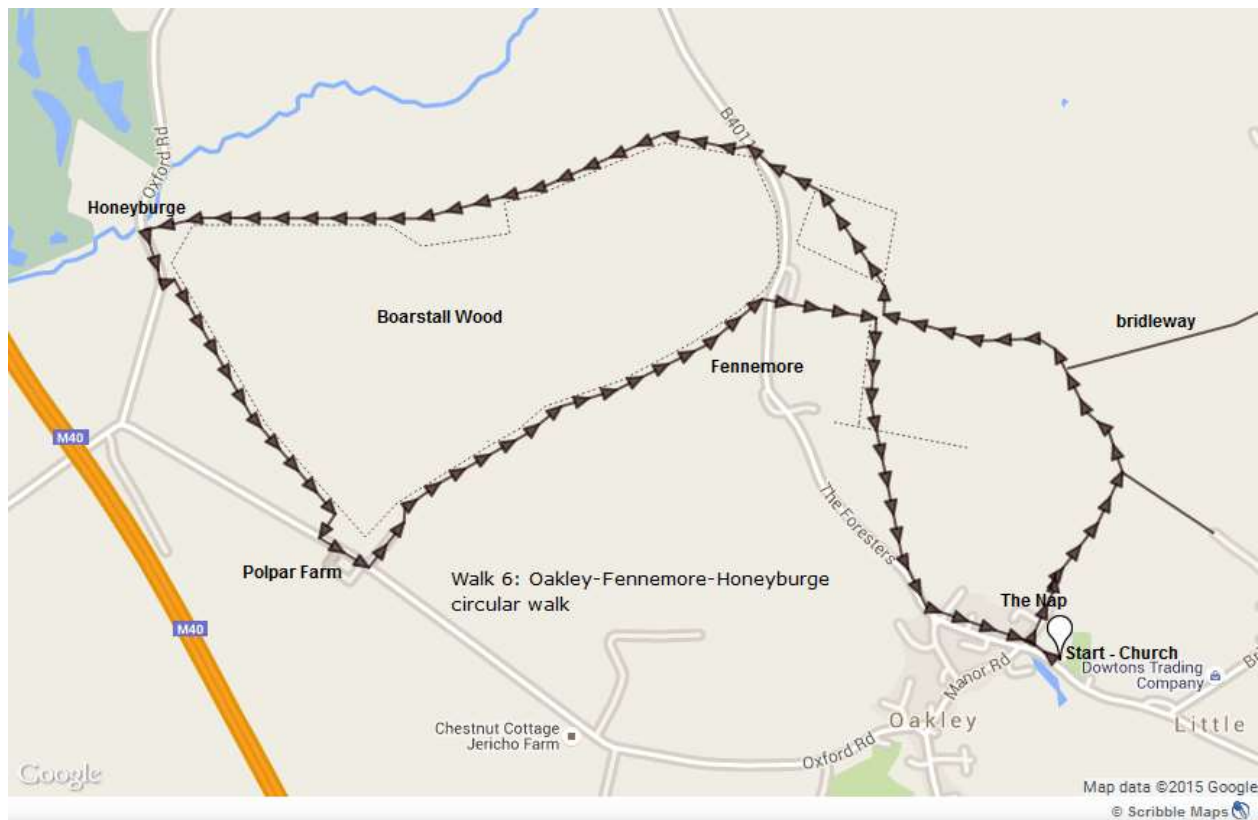
This circular walk takes one to the north west of Oakley. Over half of the circuit involves walking around the outside perimeter of Boarstall Wood that has a sizable deer population and also has areas of bluebells in spring on the Oakley side of the wood. Parts of the walk are very muddy in wet weather hence it is advisable to use walking boots or gumboots.

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 that becomes a mud track (very muddy in winter) between two hedge/tree rows. Follow the mud track for 300m, pass by two gates on the left and right and on reaching a T-junction of paths go forward and turn left onto the path that leads between trees/hedge. Continue along this path – after 200m it merges with the bridleway coming down on the right – follow the bridleway as it bears to the left. Proceed along a straight section of bridleway for 500m. The bridleway then turns sharp right, at which point pass over the stile in a gap in the hedge on the right. Bear left and follow alongside the hedge on the left for 75m until reaching a stile on the left that leads into an open field. Cross the field diagonally passing to the left hand side of a wooden electricity pole. At the far side of the field, pass through a kissing gate and over railways sleepers across a ditch. 20m further one reaches a grass track passing from left to right. Ignore this and instead walk straight ahead along a faint track through a wooded area. After 100m there a wooden post with a public footpath marker on it. Pass by the post and after 5m turn left down a footpath between blackthorn and bramble bushes. 50m further on one reaches the B4011 Oakley-Bicester Road. At the time of updating this walk in January 2020 the blackthorn and bramble bushes were completely blocking the footpath. If this remains the case then go back to the grass track and walk down it to the B4011 main road. At the B4011 turn right and walk 75m along the verge to Boarstall Wood Cottage. Be very careful of the fast moving traffic on this section of the road.

Cross the road (again beware of fast moving traffic) turn right and walk along the grass verge in front of Boarstall Wood Cottage. Shortly after the cottage pass over a stile on the left.

The footpath at this point is part of the Bernwood Jubilee Way and passes through a series of three fields on the edge of Boarstall Wood. Walk along the edge of the wood. After 100m ignore the option of bearing right across the first field. Instead keep to the edge of Boarstall Wood and pass over stiles in gaps in the hedges dividing the fields. After 1250m one arrives at Honeyburge. Turn left onto the small road, and after 100m pass over a stile in the hedge on the left. Bear left towards the wood. . On reaching Boarstall Wood turn right and walk along the rough grass strip on the outside edge of the wood. Continue for 400m beside the wood and pass over a double stile in a hedge/fence separating two fields. Proceed into the second field and follow beside the wood. After 250m turn right, cross the field and pass over a stile in the hedge alongside the road to Oakley. Turn left into the road, pass by Poplar Cottage and on reaching the drive of Slatters Farm on the left cross over the stile on the right hand side of the drive.

Follow along the fence line leading past Slatters Farm and on reaching Boarstall Wood walk beside the fence line through a series of three fields each separated by hedges with stiles/gates. After the third field the footpath runs along a raised gravel track beside a stream on the left. The track ends at the B4011. Cross the road (beware of traffic) and pass through a metal gate. Walk alongside the garden wall of Willow Close Farm and after 50m pass through a metal gate leading into a field. Follow the footpath across the field and cross two sets of stiles at which point one arrives at the bridleway. Pass over the stile next to the gate on the right and on entering the field walk alongside the hedge/tree row on the right. Cross a stile in a hedge at the end of the field and then follow the footpath that leads across the next field. At the far end of the field pass over a stile in a gap in an earth bank and then a bit further pass over a second stile, at which point one arrives back on the B4011 (beware of traffic). Turn left and walk along the grass verge and then pavement on the right hand side of the road and head back to the starting point.



The **Countryside Code** must be observed when walking:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs – and keep to public paths across farmland
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control especially near farm animals and during nesting season
- Consider other people

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.

September 2015, updated January 2020