

Oakley Countryside Walks

Walk 7: Farm walk to the east of Oakley (8.3 km, 5.2 miles, approx. 120 to 150 minutes)

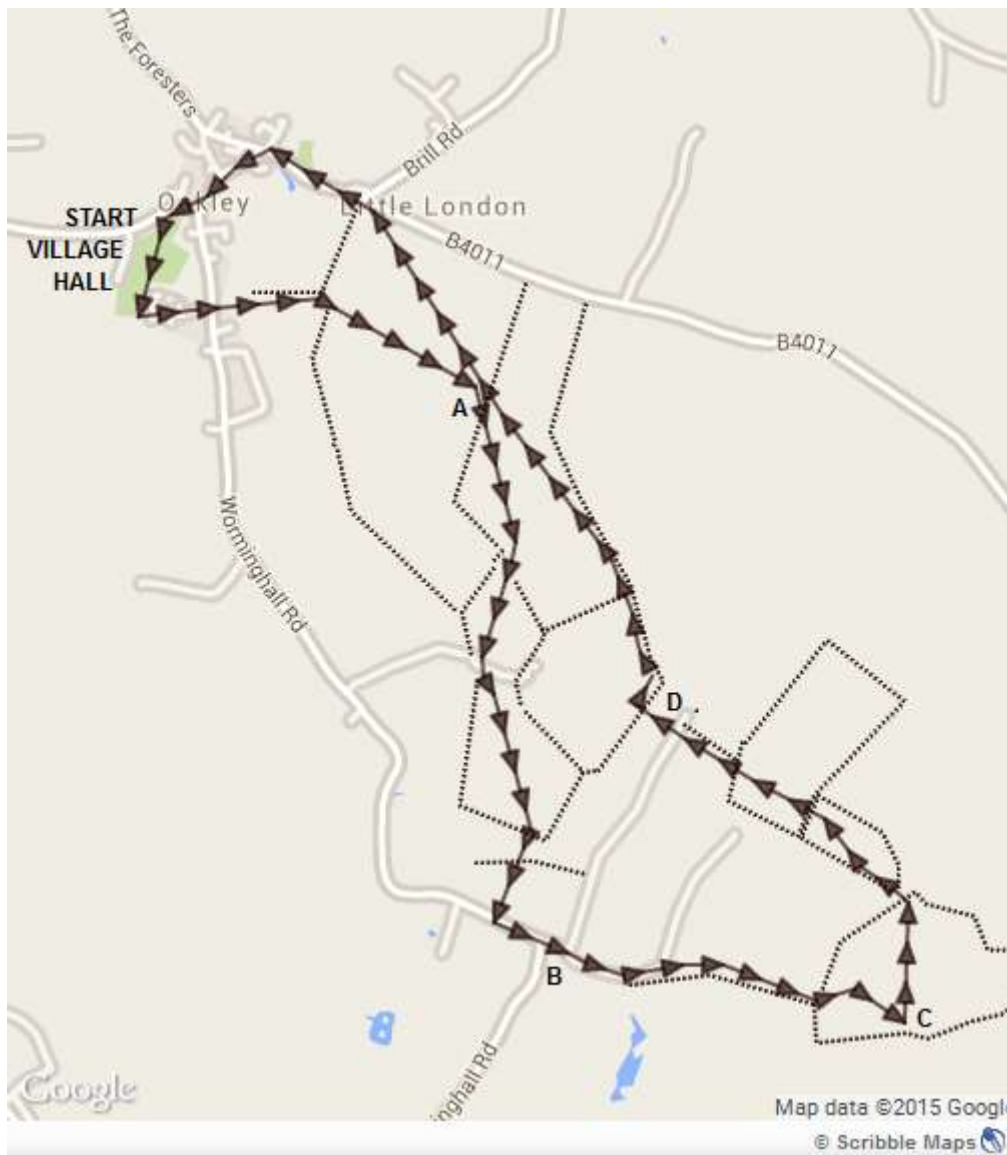
The monthly Down on the Farm article in the Oakley Informer provides excellent insight into the state of British and Oakley agriculture. Walk 7 is across farm land to the south-east of Oakley and gives one the opportunity to see first-hand what Derek is describing. The first half of the walk is along the Bernwood Jubilee Way. Walking boots or gumboots are essential. The walk includes five fields that normally have livestock and for this reason is not very suitable for dog walking. Dogs must be on leads especially when crossing any fields with sheep. In winter the cropped fields can be very muddy.

Starting at Oakley village hall cross the playing fields to the far corner by the Mill Road housing estate. Enter the estate over the wooden sleepers across a ditch on the left hand side and pass through the short alley way that leads into Meadow Close. Turn right 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 cross a footbridge over a stream and enter a large field. Walk straight ahead across the large field following the footpath through the cropped land. After 600m cross a footbridge over a ditch and enter the next field. At this point (point A on the map) the footpath splits into two: a path that goes straight ahead and a path that tracks diagonally to the right across the field. Take this diagonal path that after 500m arrives at a gap in a hedge to the left of a small copse. Pass over the stile in the hedge and walk straight across the meadow to a small gate in a metal fence.

Cross a small road, go through a wooden gate and proceed along a gravel track for 100m. Go through a large wooden gate into a large field that still has traces of medieval "Ridge and Furrow". Cross the field diagonally aiming for a gate on the far side. Pass through two metal gates (no stile), continue straight across a small field to another metal gate and across the final field at which point one arrives at Worminghall Road. Turn left into the road and walk for 100m (watch out for the traffic!) arriving at point B on the map. At this point proceed straight ahead down a dirt track. This track continues for 800m and changes from being a dirt track into a grass track. Do not turn up two farm roads on the left. At the far end of the track pass through a metal gate into a large grass field. Follow the footpath diagonally across field and after 250m one arrives at a wooden gate and wooden bridge (point C on map). At point C turn around 90 degrees to your left and walk diagonally back across the large grass field aiming for the far corner of the field over a small rise in the land. In a hedge at the back are a wooden bridge and two wooden gates. Pass through these, following the left hand edge of the field for 50m. Cross a triple stile on the left hand side into a cropped field. Walk diagonally across the cropped field to a stile in the far hedge. Pass straight across the subsequent sheep field arriving at a wooden footbridge to the right of some large willow trees.

Cross the footbridge and follow alongside the right hand edge of the field. Pass through a metal gate to the right hand side of a house. Cross a farm road and head straight across the next field with barns on the right hand side (point D on the map). Pass through a metal gate into a large cultivated field. Turn right and follow along the edge of the field. After 350m pass over a double stile into a grass field. Follow the right hand edge of the field and after 125m pass over a stile into a large cultivated field. Walk straight ahead along the grass track on the right hand side of the field. After 300m the footpath crosses the cropped area arriving at point A on the map (footbridge across ditch). At point A one can return to Oakley by taking the path straight ahead or by taking the path that goes diagonally to the right through the crop. This latter option brings one out at the bottom of Brill Road.

October 2015



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.