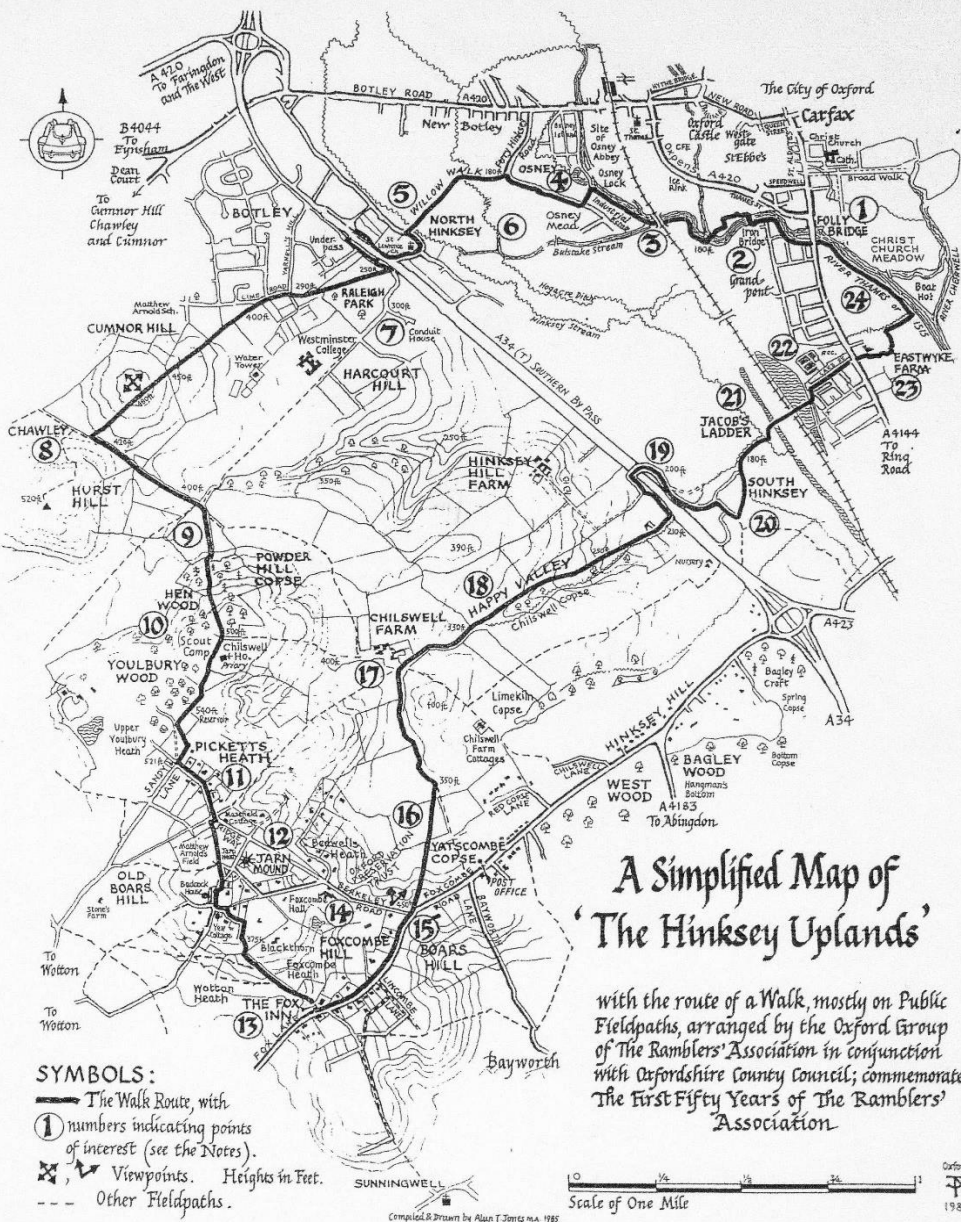


# Oxford Jubilee Walk inaugurated on 23rd June 1985



## Oxford Jubilee walk directions

Length of Walk 10.3miles/ 16.5 km

Proceed from Folly Bridge (1) along the Thames Path following the river upstream towards Osney Lock for 1.3km passing under the Iron Bridge, formerly the Gasworks Pipe Bridge (2), followed by the Railway Bridge (3).

Before reaching Osney Lock (4), and the lagoon, there is a Jubilee Walk sign marking the entrance to a passageway leading into the Osney Mead Industrial Estate. Go down the passageway and at the end turn right, along Osney Mead Road.

After 400m, the start of a track known as the Willow Walk is straight ahead over the mini roundabout. Proceed along the length of Willow Walk to North Hinksey Lane at the far end, where the route is again way marked (5). St Lawrence Church (6) can be seen on your left behind the trees.

To avoid walking alongside the dual carriageway, as indicated on the Simplified Map, follow the signs to Raleigh Park. Turning right, cross over North Hinksey Lane and head towards the residential side road by the entrance to the school. Further along the side road, 150m ahead on the left-hand side, there is a cycle way to Raleigh Park with a prominent sign visible on your right. The cycleway passes between the houses and the allotments and leads to a residential road alongside the bypass. On meeting the road, turn left and walk 50m to access the underpass. A short walk from the underpass will take you up onto Westminster Way.

There is a Jubilee Walk sign here. Turn left and walk along the lane for 100m to the first entrance to Raleigh Park (7) on the right-hand. There is a kissing gate here. This avoids crossing the dangerous road junction to the main entrance to the park further on. There may be cattle in the Park.

From here, at the first opportunity, head up the hill for 350m towards the right-hand corner of the park, and go through the double gates. The sunken path here leads through trees into Yarnells Hill. At the junction there is another Jubilee Walk sign. Cross over to Lime Road and walk up the road for 160m to the bridleway on the left behind the bus shelter.

Proceed along this path for 300m alongside the playing fields. There is another Jubilee Walk sign at the end. Proceed on up the hill through scrub for 250m. This section is sometimes very muddy. At the top of the slope carrying on in the same direction go through the gap in the hedge. Walk alongside the fence passing the beacon at the crest, where there are fine views across South Oxfordshire to the East, and to Farmoor Reservoir to the west. Continue to the hedge at the bottom of the field by the large oak tree.

The path meets a well-used track from Cumnor Hill/Chawley **(8)** to Chiswell Farm **(17)**. Turn left and walk along the track for 650m until you reach the second track on the right-hand side. A little further on, 50m or so and hidden from view, there is a gate on the right-hand side from which the official path leads up the hill to Powderhill Copse **(9)** and Hen Wood **(10)**. Continue upwards through the woods to reach a drive which passes the first of four

entrances to the Scout Camp on the right, and the Carmelite Priory on the left. Continue past the entrances to the Priory, past the underground reservoir and two phone masts on the left, to reach Sandy Lane, 150m or so from the reservoir. There is another Jubilee Walk sign here; also, a sign opposite pointing to Oxford.

Turn left here towards Oxford and walk along the road for 400m, **past** the red letterbox on the left, to two paths on the right, on the bend opposite Masefield House **(11)**.

Take the bridleway along the edge of the wood to Matthew Arnold's Field. Continue for 250m until you come to the road, Jarn Way, and the gated entrance and drive to Monckton House.

*(You may wish to climb up Jarn Mound **(12)** for the view, but now largely obscured by the trees. The steps up the mound, which are exceptionally large, are reached from the back of the picnic area just along Jarn Way on the left.)*

Take the gravelled track to the left of the drive to Monckton House. This joins Old Boars Hill Lane after 100m by Broom Close. Walk down the lane for 100m to Orchard Lane. Turn left here following the signs to The Paddock / Green Belt Way. Walk past Hornbeams bearing right. Towards the end of this drive, straight ahead, there is a path into the wood waymarked with a Jubilee Walk sign. Proceed through the wood for 250m until you come to a field with extensive views over the Vale of the White Horse.

Turning left proceed along the edge of the wood through two fields for 400m to come to Fox Lane just below the Fox Inn **(13)**. From the Fox Inn proceed up the hill, on the pavement of this busy road, for 600m to reach the junction with Berkeley Road at the top. Turning left, walk towards Foxcombe Hall **(14)**, now a Chinese university, to the stone seat commemorating Lord Berkeley **(15)**, from where there are exceptional views over Oxford.

Go through the gate opposite onto the Old Golf Course **(16)**, now owned and managed by the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT). Then walk in a northerly direction for 100m to the gap in the trees to arrive at the seat under the oak tree. From here head downhill for 300m to the gap in the hedge with a cattle trough in front.

Continue through the gate crossing over a foot bridge to the next field. Continue in a northerly direction for 180m to a wooden gate opposite. Go through the gate and over

another footbridge then bear right going diagonally across this narrow field for 100m to the fencing visible between the hedges.

Walk along a narrow path with hedges and fences on either side for 230m to a field with a signpost to Chilswell Farm. Proceed 250m towards the farm alongside the hedge to the next field then a further 150m, past the concrete water trough to the gate with a Jubilee Walk sign.

At Chilswell Farm **(17)** bear right for 30m along the road. Then go left down the track to Happy Valley Paddocks continuing in a north easterly direction for 200m. On reaching the paddocks keep to the right hand side for a further 200m to reach a gate leading into the Chilswell Valley Nature Reserve, known locally as the Happy Valley **(18)**.

Walk along the ridge above the valley for 300m to the exit then head downhill along the hedge to the houses at the bottom of the field and to the track/driveway. This takes you past the houses into the lane which runs alongside the ring road. (This lane leads to the garden centre where there is a small cafe and toilets, some 200m or so further on up the lane to the right.) To proceed, turn left along the lane for 250m to the bridge over the ring road **(19)**.

Go over the bridge and head towards South Hinksey village **(20)**. There are several routes through the village. The easiest is go straight down the middle to the General Eliot pub by taking the first turning on the left, 150m from the mini roundabout. This takes you along Manor Road past the junction with St Lawrence Road, eventually to reach the General Eliot pub (now closed: Oct 2018).

Carry on past the pub for another 50m to the causeway ahead known as the Devil's Backbone. Turning left, proceed along the causeway for 300m to reach the high bridge spanning the railway sidings, known as Jacob's Ladder **(21)**. This is followed by a long low bridge spanning the large lake **(22)**.

Turning left at the end, immediately enter Hinksey Park and proceed along the side of the large lake for 170m to reach a large pond on your right. Walk round the pond in an anti-clockwise direction for 150m to the exit of the park to your right followed by a barrier to the small car park. The open-air swimming pool will be on your right.

Walk through the car park to the Abingdon Road. Turn right and immediately cross this busy road to reach the entrance to the private (permissive) track diagonally opposite, owned by University College. Proceed down this track, past Eastwyke Farm **(23)** and the hotel on your right, walking for 400m to reach the University College boathouse and the Thames path **(24)**. Turn left and walk along the Thames Path for 700m to arrive back at Folly Bridge.

# Oxford Jubilee Walk

## POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Folly Bridge and Grandpont. The medieval 'Great Bridge'; once a 42-arched causeway running from the bottom of Hinksey Hill over the flood meadows of the river. It was rebuilt in 1825. There was a ford here before the Norman conquest: the original Oxen-ford.

2. The first railway line from London (1844) ended at Western Road nearby where there was a station. A track continued 400 yards to a loading jetty and crane.

The Iron Bridge nearby was converted in 1972 to a footbridge from its former use as the Gasworks Pipe Bridge. Oxford Gasworks (1818) was built on both sides of the River.

3. Railway Bridge. Now carrying the main line: the "second" line to London, opened 1863.

There is a monument on the towpath near the bridge to Edgar George Wilson who died aged 21 after rescuing boys from drowning (1889).

4. Osney Island past Osney Lock. Further on, past the marina and the lock, there is a riverside pub, the Punter. Note too, the 'Archimedes Screw' community owned Osney Hydro generator on the way to the Punter.

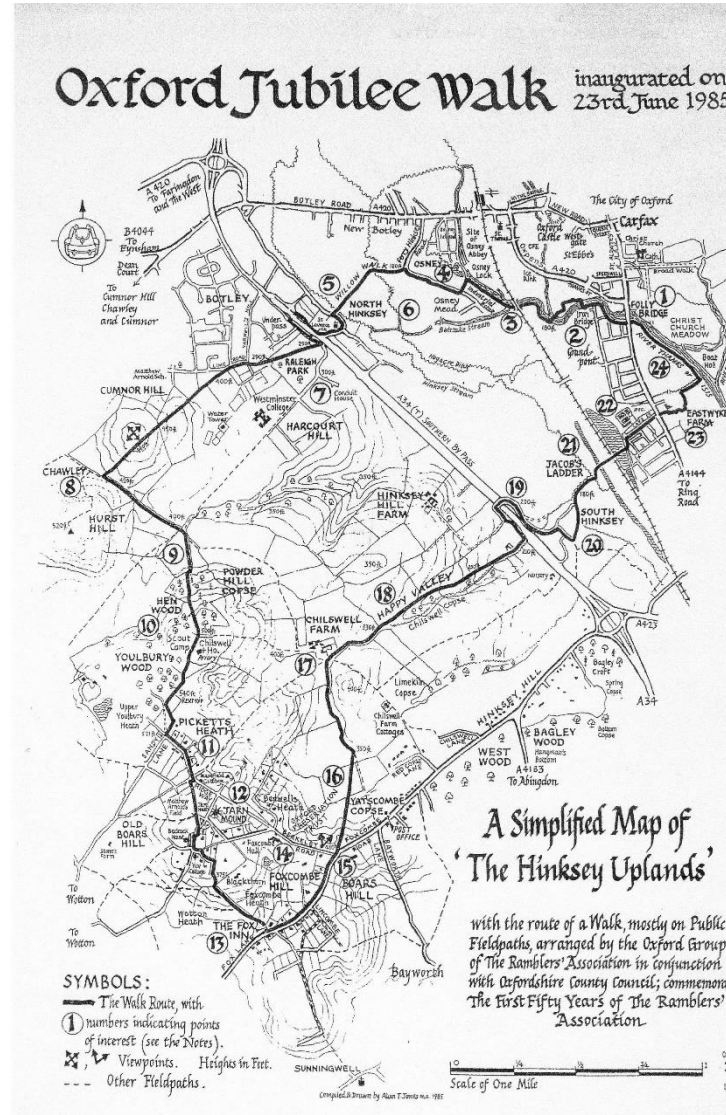
5. Willow Walk. At the North Hinksey end the scene of Ruskin's famous social experiment, that undergraduates should also do hard manual labour, with mixed result.

6. North Hinksey (Ferry Hinksey) a Saxon village (Hengists or Stallion Island). Early ferry across Hinksey Stream. St Lawrence Church, Norman and later.

7. Raleigh Park. Created for the post WW2 estates at Botley. The early C17 Conduit House nearby was built on the hill above North Hinksey with leaden pipes laid to carry spring water from the well-house to the Carfax Conduit in the centre of Oxford.

8. Cumnor Hill and Chawley. Extensive views across Oxfordshire on reaching the beacon.

9. Powderhill Copse



10. Hen Wood and Youlbury Wood: once the home of Sir Author Evans, the archaeologist: now a scout camp. Nearby, the Carmelite Priory.

11. Picketts Heath. Matthew Arnold's Field nearby. Purchased in 1928 by Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT).

12. Jarn Mound: Sir Arthur Evans's viewpoint mound: but the trees that he planted have grown.

13. Old Boars Hill; and The Fox Inn, at the apex of the walk, open and welcoming.

14. Foxcombe Hall. Home of Lord Berkeley (8<sup>th</sup> Earl). Originally built for the President of Trinity College.

15. Berkeley Corner: here, a stone seat for the enjoyment of the views.

16. Old Golf Course 1891-1905, built by Lord Berkeley, upwards from Chilswell farm. Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) bought these fields to preserve the view.

17. Chilswell Farm, now multiple residences. A reeded pond replaced the farmyard slurry pit.

18. Happy Valley: There are some friendly seats located along its length.

19. Footbridge over bypass to South Hinksey.

20. South Hinksey: C13 Church of St Lawrence . The General Eliot pub is closed.

21. The 'Devil's Backbone' causeway followed by the 'Jacob's Ladder' flight of steps leading to a footbridge spanning railway marshalling yards; finally to a footbridge over the lake.

22. The Lakes. Gravel extraction for the 1844 railway created the large Hinksey lake which, filled from natural springs, became a reservoir. Inverted to recreational use after 1934.

23. Eastwyke Farm: The Farmhouse is early C17. This was the site of a fort with trenches, part of the fortifications of this Royalist City during the Civil War.

24. Towpath. Eights (and Torpids) Bumping Races. Boat Houses

## Please remember the Country Code

- ▲ Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- ▲ Guard against all risk of fire
- ▲ Shut all gates
- ▲ Keep your dogs under close control
- ▲ Keep to public paths across farmland
- ▲ Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- ▲ Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- ▲ Take your litter home
- ▲ Help to keep wall water clean
- ▲ Protect wildlife plants and trees
- ▲ Take special care on country roads
- ▲ Make no unnecessary noise
- ▲ Wear stout footwear and practical clothing; the countryside can be wet and muddy even in summer
- ▲ Please walk in single file through standing crops



## The full Oxford Jubilee walk

**Length of full walk:** 10.3 miles /16.5km.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Steadily uphill once out of Oxford and over the ring road. Some muddy stretches of path will be encountered in winter. Sturdy walking boots are recommended.

**Shorter version:** 7.7miles/12.3 km. To walk the shorter version, continue from Cumnor Hill/Chawley (8) to Chilswell farm (17) along the track between the two, ignoring the path half way along which leads to Powderhill Copse (9).

### Introduction:

The full Jubilee Walk starts and finishes on the River the climbs gradually to Boars Hill, from where one can enjoy the vision of the city of 'dreaming spires' made famous by Matthew Arnold.

To safeguard these views the Oxford Preservation Trust purchased Matthew Arnold's Field and other land. Sir Arthur Evans, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum erected a great mound to enable people to see the view over the tree tops, the name of which, Jarn Mound, was taken from the old name of nearby Jarns Heath.

In spite of modern dwellings and highways, obtrusive pylons and the noise of today's mechanical life, there remains great variety of natural beauty, scenic value, and historic interest in this special Oxford countryside.

The walk became beloved by generations of City and University walkers. It was formally inaugurated in June 1985 by the Oxford Ramblers in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramblers Association.

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