



Eynsham

# Circular walks

in Oxfordshire



Four walks around  
Eynsham, taking in:

- \* Swinford Toll Bridge
- \* The Thames Path
- \* Pinkhill Lock
- \* South Leigh
- \* Freeland
- \* Church Hanborough
- \* Eynsham Lock
- \* Wytham

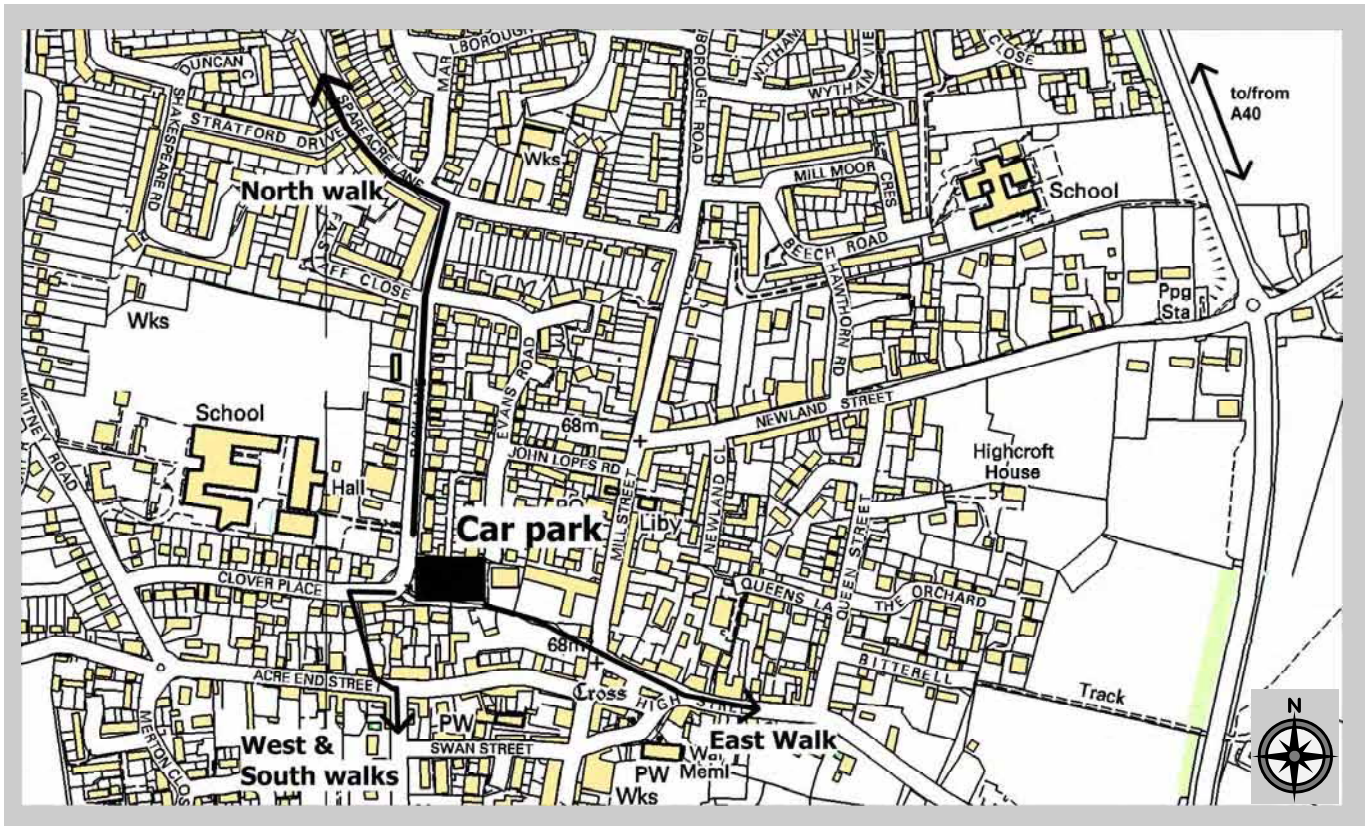


**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Getting to the start

All four walks start from the car park in the centre of Eynsham, which can be reached from either Clover Place or Back Lane. The car park is free (at time of writing).



## Public transport

For timetable enquiries, please call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

You will also find information and Oxfordshire County Council public transport timetables in most Oxfordshire libraries and Tourist Information Centres. Alternatively, write enclosing an A5 stamped addressed envelope to: Oxfordshire County Council, Public Transport, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford OX1 1NE.

## Easy-to-follow routes

Each walk is marked with metal signposts where the path leaves the road, and with waymarks on gates and stiles at every change of direction.

The appropriate Ordnance Survey map to use on this route is OS Explorer 180.

When out walking, it is always wise to let someone know where you are going or, if possible, have someone with you. Take your mobile with you, and make sure it is fully charged. If you use your car to access the route, please park with care – do not block farm gateways or village facilities, and do not leave valuables in view.

### Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

## Points of interest

- \* Evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlements has been found in this area. **Eynsham** is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle as 'Egonesham' when it was captured from the Britons by Cutha of Wessex in 571 AD. The recorded history of this former market town begins, however, with the foundation of a Benedictine Abbey and the definition of Parish Boundaries in 1005. Only scattered remnants of the Abbey stonework now remain in a few gardens or built into the walls of some houses.
- \* The **Bartholomew Room** was built in about 1703 as a court house and market hall on ground granted by the Lord of the Manor. It soon housed the Eynsham Free School endowed by a local benefactor, John Bartholomew. It is now the Parish Council Rooms, and the ground floor, once used to house the Parish fire engine, is now an Exhibition Room. The carved stone shield above the entrance may be from the demolished Abbey.
- \* **St James Church in South Leigh** is thought to have been built on the site of a pre-Conquest church, although there is no trace of Saxon work in the existing fabric. The features of particular interest are the 15th century murals, which were found under several coats of whitewash during work in 1872 and were restored in 1993. The most memorable, designed to catch the eye when leaving, depicts the Archangel St Michael weighing souls. John Wesley preached his first sermon in the Jacobean pulpit in 1725 and a second one in a house in the village in 1771.
- \* The **Thames Path**, launched in 1996, is a National Trail that follows the river for 180 miles (288km) from its source in the Cotswolds to the Thames Barrier. The route passes through peaceful water meadows, historic towns and villages, into the City of London. Further information is available at [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) or by calling 01865 810224.
- \* The **Swinford Toll Bridge** was built by the 4th Earl of Abingdon under a special Act of Parliament of 1767 to replace an ancient ferry. The ferry crossing was often hazardous and, in 1636, the ferry carrying some Welsh Sheriffs delivering ship money to Charles I capsized and several people drowned. The bridge was opened to traffic in 1769 and was used by heavy stagecoaches.
- \* At **Pinkhill Lock**, a pound lock replaced the old flashlock in 1791, when there was still commercial traffic on the upper Thames.
- \* East of the river is **Beacon Hill**. This 400-foot knoll was allegedly fortified by Offa of Mercia in 779 AD to defend the 'Swine Ford'. During the 16th century, the summit housed one of the beacons set up to warn of the approach of the Spanish Armada.

If you would like to let us know your comments on the route, or wish to know more about a range of circular walks throughout Oxfordshire, please call 01865 810226, visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside) or write to: Oxfordshire County Council, Countryside Service, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ.



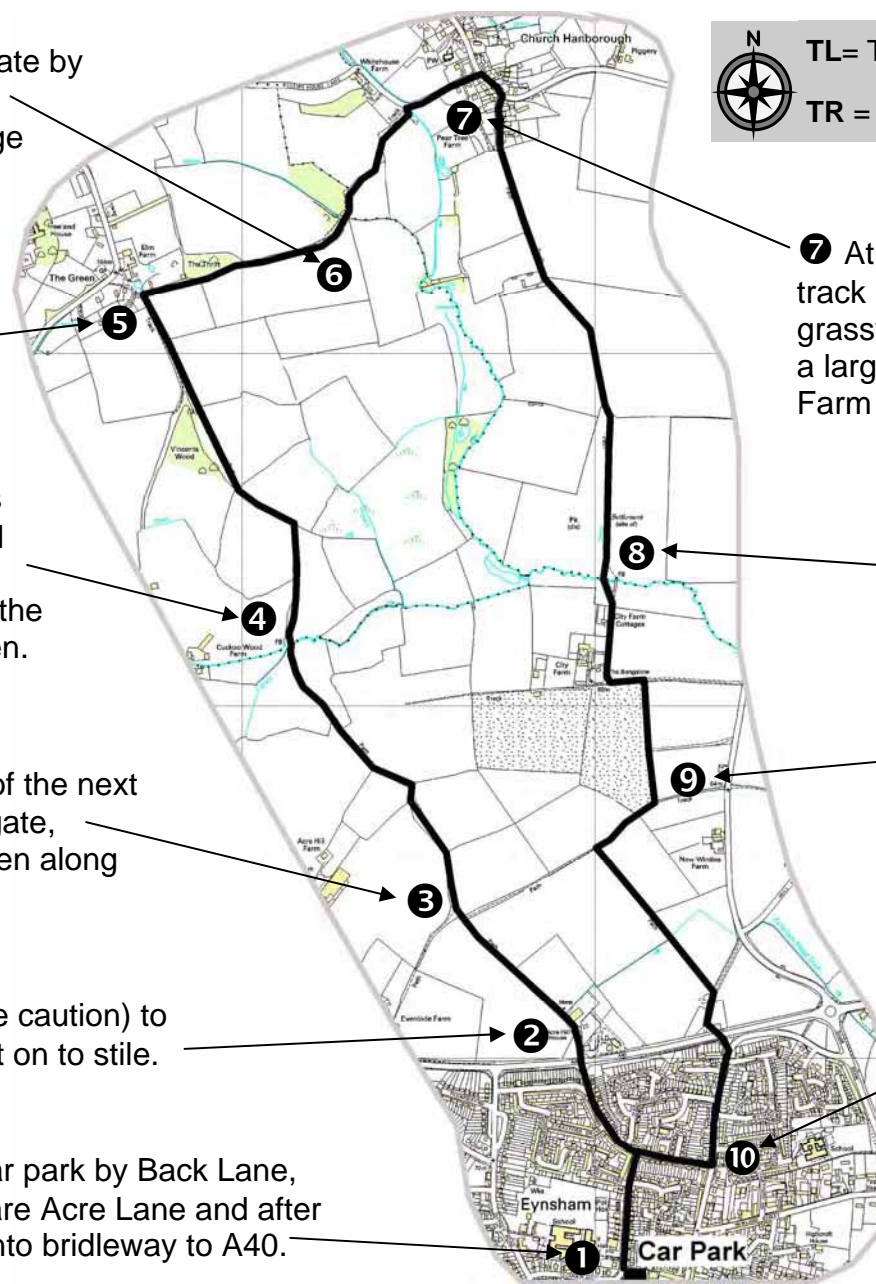


# Circular Walk: Eynsham – Freeland – Church Hanborough

Approximately 8 miles (12.8km)



TL= Turn Left	FL = Fork Left	BL = Bear Left
TR = Turn Right	FR = Fork Right	BR = Bear Right



**6** Follow left field edge round to gate by oak tree. Cross field to gate by telephone pole. Follow left field edge to gate in field corner. **TR** up hill into Church Hanborough.

**5** At end of lane **TR**, through gate onto field edge to gate. Straight on to bridge.

**4** Follow the left field edge. Cross next ditch and **BL** to follow the field edge past Vincents Wood. At the end of the wood **BL** and then onto the farm lane leading to Freeland Green.

**3** Over stile, following field edge of the next two fields to bridge. **BL** to stile by gate, continue on field edge to bridge, then along the hedged ditch to another bridge.

**2** Cross A40 (with extreme caution) to brideway opposite. Straight on to stile.

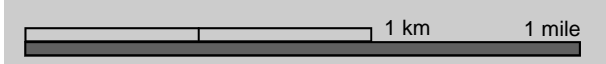
**1** Leave car park by Back Lane, **TL** onto Spare Acre Lane and after 150m **BR** onto brideway to A40.

**7** At T-junction **TR** for 100m then **BR** onto single track lane, straight on over gate onto a wide grassy track. Through two more gates, then over a large field heading towards the houses of City Farm to gates. **BL** to gate by lane.

**8** Follow the farm lane to the footpath signed on the right. Continue on the field edge, over a track, on to a gate.

**9** **TR** along the field edge brideway over two fields. **TL** down the field edges of the next two fields to a metalled brideway. **TR** to the A40. Cross over to path slightly to the left leading to a road into Eynsham.

**10** Spare Acre Lane is the third turning on the right. Back Lane, first on the left, leads back to the car park.





# Circular Walk: Eynsham – Pinkhill Lock – The Thames Path

Approximately 4 miles (6.4km)



TL= Turn Left	FL = Fork Left	BL = Bear Left
TR = Turn Right	FR = Fork Right	BR = Bear Right

**1** Leave car park by exit into Clover Place. **TL** almost immediately down Wastie Lane (a narrow walled footpath) to Acre End Street. **TL**, then **TR** into Station Rd.

**2** After approximately 150m, **TL** onto footpath and follow the brook into the playing field. Straight on, following field edge to a bridge. Cross bypass with care and over stile into field.

**3** Cross field to bridge in left corner of field. Continue to cross next two fields, then follow brook to stile onto Pink Hill Lane.

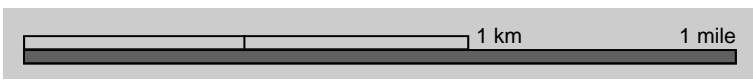
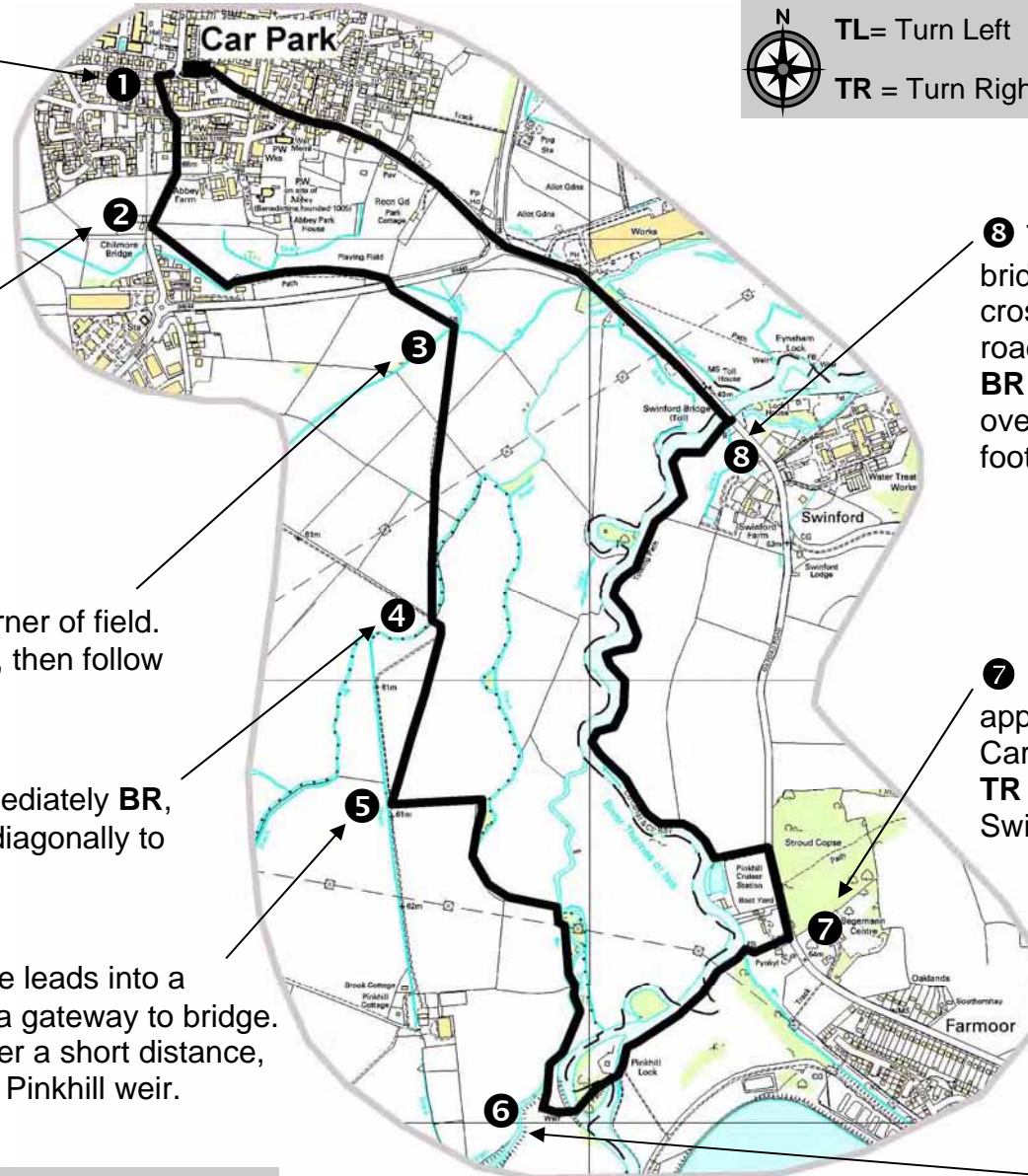
**4** **TL**, over iron bridge then immediately **BR**, over lane, then cross large field diagonally to right corner.

**5** **TL** onto field edge path. A stile leads into a narrow meadow and on through a gateway to bridge. Cross stream and **TR** to stile. After a short distance, **BL** and cross field to bridge over Pinkhill weir.

**8** Take path up to road; **TL** over bridge to Eynsham. Take care crossing bridge. Continue to follow road to roundabout, straight over. **BR** at road fork into Thames Street, over road into narrow enclosed footpath back to car park.

**7** **TL** along the road for approximately 80m. **TL** again to the Caribbean Marina. At the bottom, **TR** along river bank and follow it to Swinford Toll Bridge.

**6** Follow the Thames Path, over the weir, through the trees and over Pinkhill Lock to gate. **TL** (Thames Path) along riverside to a bridge, then follow brief diversion to the B4044 road.





# Circular Walk: Eynsham – Swinford – Wytham

Approximately 8 miles (12.8km)



TL= Turn Left

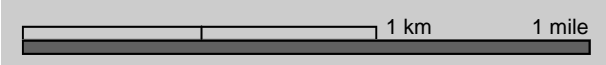
FL = Fork Left

BL = Bear Left

TR = Turn Right

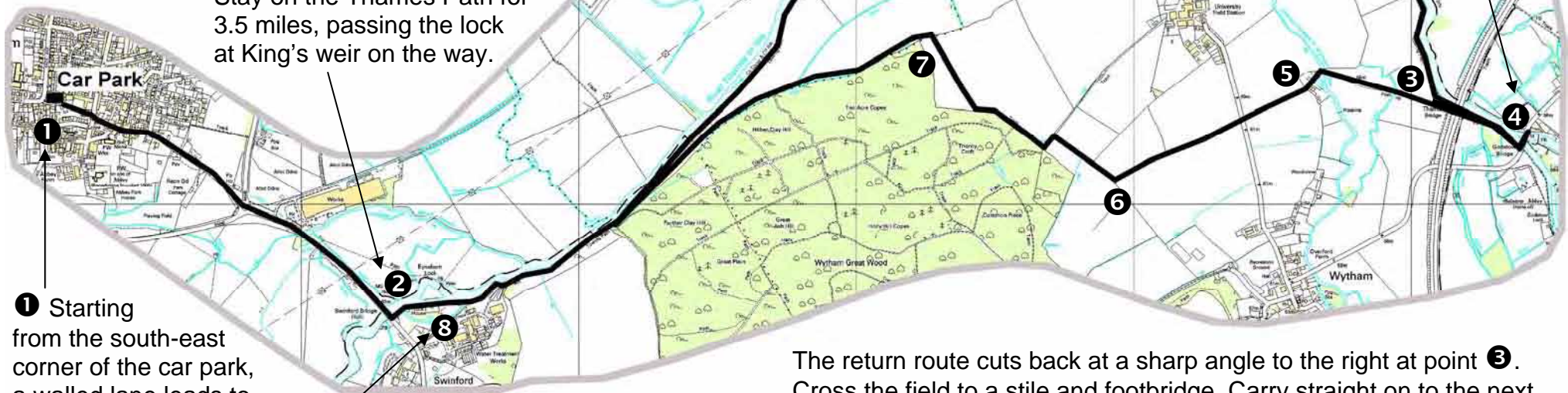
FR = Fork Right

BR = Bear Right



3 At the point where the ring road bridges the Thames, you may like to make a small detour of a few hundred metres along the river to Godstow to visit the famous Trout Inn overlooking the river at point 4.

2 Cross the bridge and immediately TL down onto the towpath. Follow the Thames Path away from the bridge. You will pass alongside the lock at Eynsham weir and over the weir bridge of Seacourt Stream. Stay on the Thames Path for 3.5 miles, passing the lock at King's weir on the way.



1 Starting from the south-east corner of the car park, a walled lane leads to Mill Street. Continue directly across Mill Street to Thames Street, and down the Oxford Road past the Talbot Inn to the Swinford Bridge.

8 At Eynsham Lock you have a choice of routes: either continue retracing your steps to the car park; or follow the signed permissive route over the weir, then BL, over the bridge and on to the far corner of the field. This takes you back onto Oxford Road. TR past the Talbot Inn and retrace your steps to the car park.

The return route cuts back at a sharp angle to the right at point 3. Cross the field to a stile and footbridge. Carry straight on to the next bridge. TL and cross the bridge.

5 Follow track between the Wytham Mill buildings and continue to metalled road (which leads to University Field Station). Straight over road and up a field edge path to field corner.

6 BR, then straight on over two more fields. TL to follow the track to the edge of Wytham Great Wood. Follow track down field to a stile.

7 TL onto field edge alongside the woods until you reach the Thames Path again. BL back to Eynsham Lock.



# Circular Walk: Eynsham – South Leigh

Approximately 6 miles (9.6km)



TL= Turn Left    FL = Fork Left    BL = Bear Left  
TR = Turn Right    FR = Fork Right    BR = Bear Right

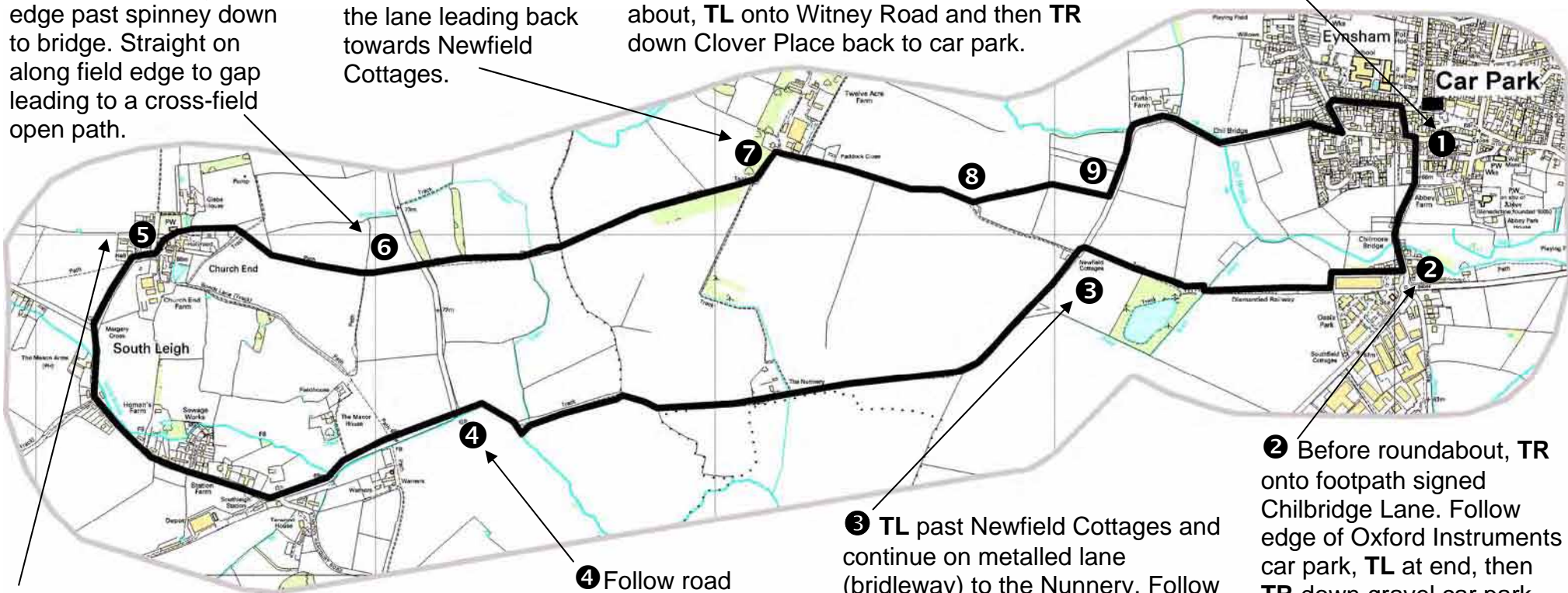
**6** Cross road to footpath opposite, following field edge past spinney down to bridge. Straight on along field edge to gap leading to a cross-field open path.

**7** **BL** onto farm track. **TR** at barn to the lane leading back towards Newfield Cottages.

**8** **BL** 100m before cottages and cross field to stile. Cross diagonally over next field to stile and road.

**9** **TL** along Chilbridge Road. At roundabout, **TL** onto Witney Road and then **TR** down Clover Place back to car park.

**1** Leave car park by exit into Clover Place. **TL** almost immediately down Wastie Lane (a narrow walled footpath) to Acre End Street. **TL**, then **TR** into Station Rd.



**5** Follow the path along the inside of the south wall of the churchyard, over a stone stile, then, after a few paces, over a wooden stile into a meadow. Straight on along field edge for approx 60m then right over stile. From footbridge, follow path over stile across field to hedge corner. **BL** to follow field edge, then through gap following field edge to road.

**4** Follow road straight on, **BR** past old railway station house and through South Leigh village. **BR** along Church End to St James's churchyard.

**3** **TL** past Newfield Cottages and continue on metalled lane (bridleway) to the Nunnery. Follow bridleway straight on, then **BR** along field edge to bottom of field by Limb Brook. **TR** up to gate onto disused railway. **TL** and follow edge of brook to the metalled Barnard Gate – South Leigh Road.

**2** Before roundabout, **TR** onto footpath signed Chilbridge Lane. Follow edge of Oxford Instruments car park, **TL** at end, then **TR** down gravel car park onto disused railway. After about 50m, **BR** over stile onto enclosed path. Over stile, **TR** onto farm track to lane.