



Circular walks

in Oxfordshire



*More downloadable leaflets available for free from
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/walksandrides*

Three walks around
Charlbury, taking in:

- * Cornbury Park
- * Finstock
- * Wychwood Forest
- * Chilson
- * Shorthampton
- * Walcot
- * Evenlode Valley
- * Hundley Way



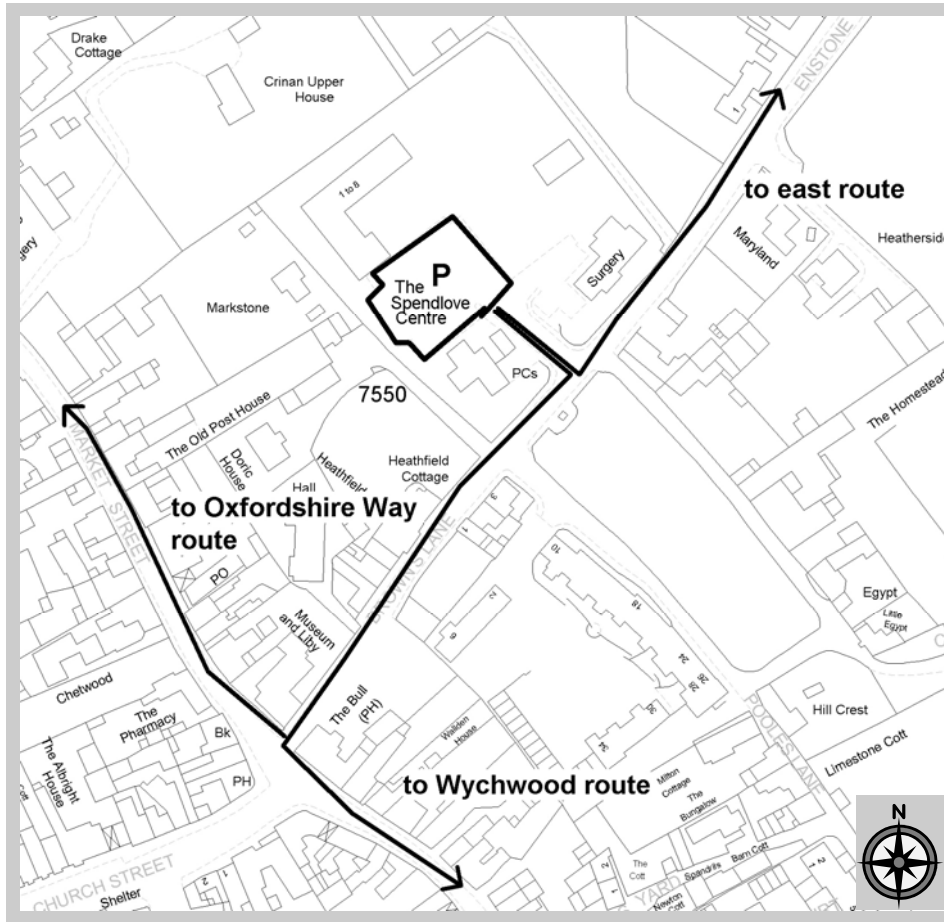
Charlbury



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Getting to the start



By car:

A car park (free at the time of writing) can be found at the Spendlove Centre, Enstone Road, Charlbury.

By bus:

Worths Service 69/71 (Chipping Norton to Witney)
Stagecoach Service 20A (Oxford to Charlbury)

By train:

Mainline service to/from London Paddington (Great Western); services also to Oxford and Worcester.

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 maps to use on this route are OS Explorer 180 and 191.

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

- * The name **Charlbury** is thought to be from the personal name 'Ceorl' and 'burgh', meaning fortified place. This area was probably settled in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Glove making was previously an important industry. The last manufacturer closed in the 1960s.

The centre of town forms a conservation area with attractive local stone buildings.

- * **Cornbury** originated as a royal hunting lodge in Wychwood Forest. By 1383 a stone wall was being built around the park and in 1642 Charles 1 gave Cornbury to the Earl of Danby, taking it out of the royal forest.

Cornbury Park Estate is now owned by Lord Rotherwick and contains some 647 acres that have been designated as a National Nature Reserve. There are a further 654 acres surrounding the reserve that have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

For historical information about the house and estate, visit www.cornburypark.co.uk

- * **Finstock** means 'the place frequented by woodpeckers'. Wychwood Forest used to cover much of this area but all that survives is Topples Wood to the north-east of the village.

Finstock Chapel was built in 1841. The churchyard contains the 1900 grave of Jane Baroness Churchill who had been Queen Victoria's maid for 46 years and was one of her closest friends.

- * **Charlbury Station** was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The station is now a listed building. The Cotswold Line, opened by the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Company in 1853 has given Charlbury its excellent communications link with Oxford and London.

- * The **Oxfordshire Way** is a 68-mile recreational walk that runs south-east from Bourton-on-the Water through to Henley-on-Thames. The route passes through the most rural and scenic landscapes of Oxfordshire, including two areas of outstanding natural beauty: the Cotswolds, with their characteristic grey limestone buildings and walls and the Chilterns, with their flint and brick architecture and famous beech woods.

- * For further information on the area, on local attractions, services and accommodation please contact:

- Woodstock Visitor Information Centre, The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 4SN. Tel: 01993 813276
- Witney Visitor Information Centre, 26a Market Square, Witney, OX28 6BB. Tel: 01993 775802
- www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org

If you would like to give us feedback about these walks, you can complete a route review or upload your photos online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside Alternatively, call 01865 810226 or write to: Oxfordshire County Council, Countryside Service, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ.