



# Circular walks

in Oxfordshire



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A short walk around  
Kidlington, taking in:

- \* Hampton Poyle
- \* Hampton Gay
- \* The Oxford Canal
- \* Thrupp



Kidlington

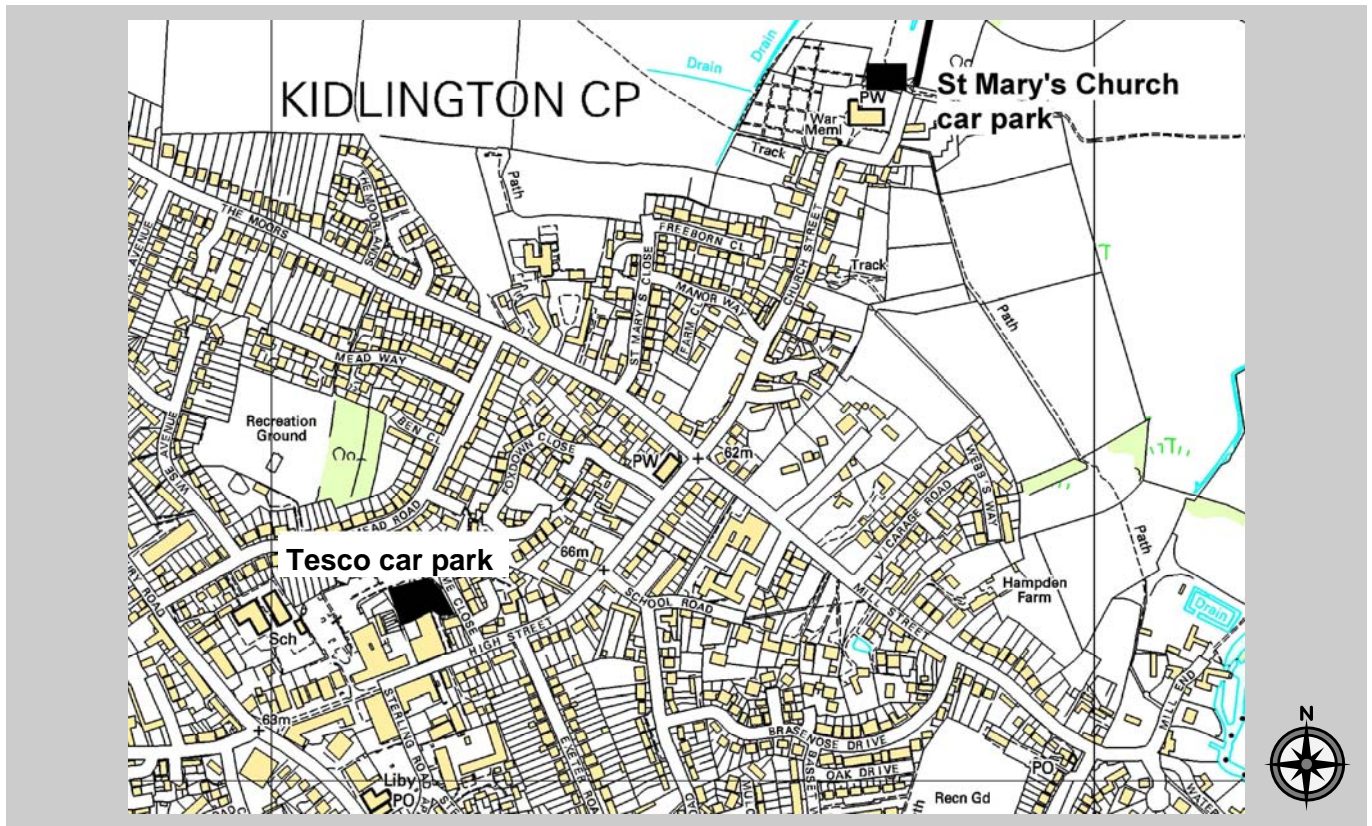


**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

## Getting to the start

The walk starts from the car park at St Mary's Church, postcode OX5 2BB. Alternative parking is available in Kidlington's main car park, situated behind Tesco in the High Street.



## 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

- A** **Kidlington** lies in the centre of Oxfordshire on the River Cherwell, which rises in Northamptonshire and forms one of the tributaries of the Thames. The name Kidlington was derived from the tun (Anglo-Saxon for settlement or farm) of Cydela. The first written form of the name appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Chedelintone.
- B** **St Mary's Church** provides a picturesque starting point for the walk. In the past, Church Street was a busy working area, with a butcher, baker and school. Now it is a quiet residential road. The present church dates from c.1220, but was built on the foundations of an earlier church of Norman or Saxon times. It was built in the Early English style but there were extensive later alterations, particularly in the 15th century, when the upper stages of the tower and the spire rising 170 feet above it were added.
- C** The **Almshouses** opposite the church were built by Sir William Morton in 1671 and endowed in his will. The Morton Arms can be seen on the north end of the house and the names of some of the Morton children are on the window ledges.
- D** The name **Hampton Gay** comes from the Old English 'Hampton', meaning village or farm, and the local de Gay family. The ruined manor house that you can see from the walk was built by the Barry family in the 16th century. It retained its original Elizabethan plan and features almost unaltered until it was destroyed by fire in 1887.
- E** Look out for wildlife. Many species of bird have been spotted on this walk, including **kingfishers** along the banks of the River Cherwell. You may also see **muntjac deer, rabbits** and **foxes**, to mention but a few.
- F** The **railway crash in 1874** near Shipton-on-Cherwell was the worst accident in the history of the Great Western Railway. More than 30 people were killed and 70 injured. At the time there was a rumour that a curse had been put on the manor house because the family in residence refused to help rescue the victims from the wreckage.
- G** The **Oxford Canal**, completed in 1790, linked Oxford with Coventry and so provided a continuous waterway between Birmingham and London. During the 19th century it was an important route for coal, lime and stone. The coal trade was the last vestige of the formerly diverse traffic. This declined in the 1950s and the last regular deliveries were in 1961. In 1971, the wharf at Thrupp was lengthened to accommodate the increasing number of pleasure boats.
- H** The tiny hamlet of **Thrupp** is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Trop', the Old English for farm or hamlet. Its size has not increased greatly since then, when the son of Wadard held it from Roger d'Ivry. Wadard was an officer of some importance in the Norman army and is pictured in the Bayeux Tapestry, busying himself with supplies for the troops. The main attraction of Thrupp today is the row of picturesque terraced cottages along the bank of the Oxford Canal.
- I** **Annie's Tea Room** on the route at Thrupp is open 7 days a week 10—5 in summer and Sat, Sun & Mon 10—4 in winter.

If you would like to give us feedback about these walks, you can email [countryside.reviews@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside.reviews@oxfordshire.gov.uk) You can also upload photos of your walk online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidephotoupload](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidephotoupload) Alternatively, call 01865 810226 or write to: Oxfordshire County Council, Countryside Service, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford