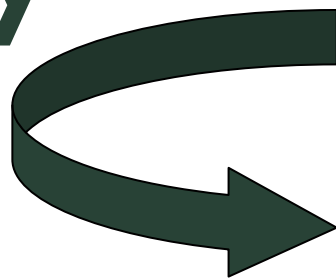


Oxfordshire Way

Points of interest from Beckley to Waterperry

To be used in cross-reference with the letters marked on the map



Points of interest

A **Beckley** stands on a ridge of the Oxford Heights, 350 feet above the plain of Otmoor. Otmoor contains a layer of Oxford clay and used to be a swamp, used for wildfowl and fish and ringed by rough pasture. This way of life persisted for centuries, until the moor was forcibly enclosed in 1830. The Otmoor Riots that followed are famous. 'Progress' won in the end and the River Ray was re-channelled, although these measures were never wholly successful in draining the moor and it remains a haven for birds and plants. Some say that Lewis Carroll had the idea for Alice's chess-board in *Through the Looking Glass* after looking down on the different coloured fields of Otmoor from Beckley. The **church of St Mary** was originally Norman and rebuilt in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. There is some early stained glass, wall paintings and a Jacobean pulpit.

B **Beckley Park**, now a listed building, was built around 1540, possibly as a hunting lodge, though the history of the site and three moats goes back many centuries before.

C **Waterperry** has an interesting and attractive church, with a surviving Saxon arch and unusual wooden tower. The eighteenth-century box pews still have their original brass candlesticks and there is a seventeenth century three-decker pulpit. The church also has some good glass, armorial

bearings and monuments and several brasses. **Waterperry House** retains a seventeenth century wing, though most of the house was remodelled in the eighteenth century. Part of the gardens now form **Waterperry Gardens**, offering day courses for gardeners, plants for sale and a café.



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