



Circular walks

in Oxfordshire



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

Two walks around Shotover, taking in:

- * Shotover Plain
- * Shotover Country Park
- * CS Lewis Nature Reserve
- * Forest Hill
- * Stanton St John
- * Woodperry
- * Beckley
- * Barton



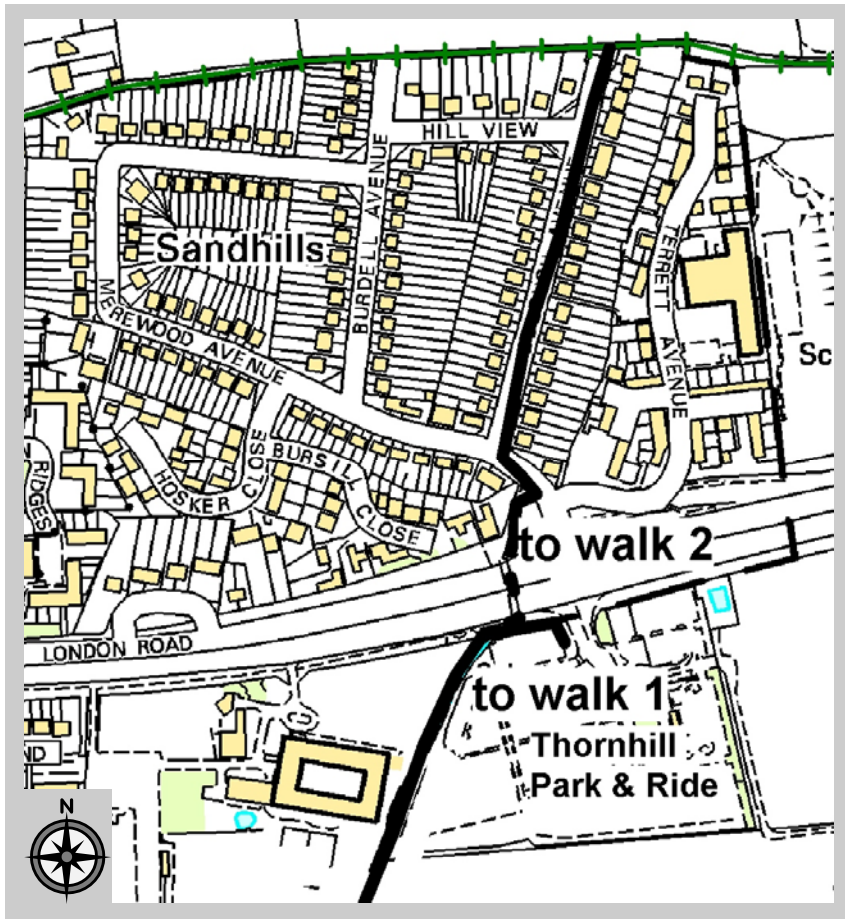
Shotover



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Getting to the start



Both walks start from Thornhill Park and Ride, OX3 8JA, which is situated off the A40 (London to Oxford) on the eastern outskirts of Oxford City. It is signposted from the main roads in the vicinity.

Parking is free of charge. Limited street parking is also available in the villages along the route.

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

Walk 2 is a circular route 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** For centuries **Shotover** hill and forest was part of the royal forest of Wychwood. In 1701 the estate passed to Sir James Tyrrell, Oxford Scholar and friend of the philosopher John Locke and of Robert Boyle, scientist and founder of the Royal Society. James Tyrrell had Shotover House built but unfortunately died in 1718 before its completion. The garden was begun in 1718 and completed in the 1730s. It has long avenues and cross walks, with a beautiful canal running the length of the driveway up to the house.
- B** **Shotover Country Park** covers 117 hectares (289 acres) on the southern slopes of Shotover Hill and provides spectacular views across south Oxfordshire. The park is an intimate mosaic of hidden valleys, various landscapes and diverse habitats. There are three way-marked trails to guide you through the Park. They all start at Mary Sadler's Field, near the car park. Assuming a relaxing pace, the red trail will take you half an hour, the yellow 45 minutes and the green about 2 hours. There are also 5km of bridleways to follow through the Park, follow the blue arrows.
- C** BBOWT's **CS Lewis Nature Reserve** is a 2 hectare (5 acre) tranquil woodland and large pond that used to belong to celebrated Oxford author CS Lewis. It was said he enjoyed wandering here while writing his classic children's book series which begins with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. There are a range of walking paths around the reserve. For more information see [BBOWT's website](#)
- D** **The White Horse in Forest Hill (also on route 2)** has a £5, two-course Special Thai Lunch menu that runs from Tuesday to Sunday, hailed by The Oxford Mail review in 2008 as "fabulous" and "defying belief".
- E** Much of **Stanton St John** is owned by New College, Oxford University. On the unusual village sign you will find the college arms.
- In the early 17th century John White lived opposite the church. Mr White founded the Massachusetts Company, which sent settlers to start the new colony in America.
- F** **Woodperry House** is a beautiful Georgian house built in 1728–31 for a London banker, John Morse. The house is in a very grand style. The approach along the avenue is also formal, through the magnificent iron gates with the emblems and arms of John Morse. The house was enlarged in 1879–80. The church is said to have been destroyed by fire.

If you would like to give us feedback about these walks, you can email countryside.reviews@oxfordshire.gov.uk You can also upload photos of your walk online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidephotoupload Alternatively, call 01865 810226 or write to: Oxfordshire County Council, Countryside Service, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TL.