Circular Walk: Charlbury No.1 (Wychwood)

Approximately 9 miles (14km)

1. From the Rose & Crown pub in the centre of Charlbury on the corner of Market Street and Church Street, turn down Church Street in the direction of Witney. BL into Park Street.

2. After approx. ½km TR, down lane to Cornbury Park, crossing the railway and the river.

3. At North Lodge TL, through wooden door and follow footpath next to fence line on your right, down to fish ponds and across the dam.

4. At far side of dam BR through trees. Follow path through tree-lined avenue, crossing tracks to take track straight ahead by stone wall. Beyond end of wall, BL on field edge track with hedge on your right and follow down and uphill to gate. BR crossing Manor House gardens, through gap in yew hedge to stone stile. TAKE CARE, FAST ROAD.

5. TR through Finstock on the Witney/Charlbury road. Continue on passing the lay-by, until track turns off on right between houses.

6. Patch Riding Track descends and climbs again as a wide grassy avenue and curves around to join a surfaced track beside a wide woodland avenue into Wychwood Forest.

7. BR at stream crossing and follow the track uphill to emerge on an open quarrying area. Continue straight on along track to a wide grassy area.

8. TL in this clearing and take the clearly waymarked wide avenue. Continue for about a mile straight on through the forest to the Leafield road. (Short cut directions start at point 9a – see below.)

9a Short cut: At road TR. Continue along road for about a mile (1.6 km), then TL at fork, signed to Chadlington. On to Catsham Lane; TR onto bridleway at point 12.

9b TL along the Leafield road until you reach the next woodland (Sore Leap). Take footpath on right next to wood edge then shortly BR uphill on track. Take left fork track and follow this track around in

10. Continue on path out of woodland and along field edges through two fields, then bearing left to houses, to pass them on your right to reach road. TR and then take lane immediately left down to Chilson.

11. Half-way through Chilson village take the bridleway right marked Shorthampton. Continue as the track becomes a road, passing a 12th century medieval church on your left, to reach road junction.

12. TR and then take bridleway immediately left passing Walcot houses to main road. TL to Charlbury, passing the railway station and continuing uphill. At the top of the hill, TR back to the Rose & Crown.