



Circular walks

in Oxfordshire



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Two walks around
Charlbury, taking in:

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



Charlbury



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Points of interest

A 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.

B **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

C **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.

D **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.

E 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 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, Speedwell House, Speedwell St Oxford OX1 1NE