



Wychwood Walk No. 9: Woodstock - Wootton

Approximately 7 miles / 11.2 km

Parking: public car park, Hensington Road: GR 447168

(Please park with consideration to residents)

Part of a series of circular walks that link in with The Wychwood Way



TL - Turn left BL - Bear left
TR - Turn right BR - Bear right

5 At the end of the third field, TL and then immediately right passing a Cyprus hedge on the right hand side.

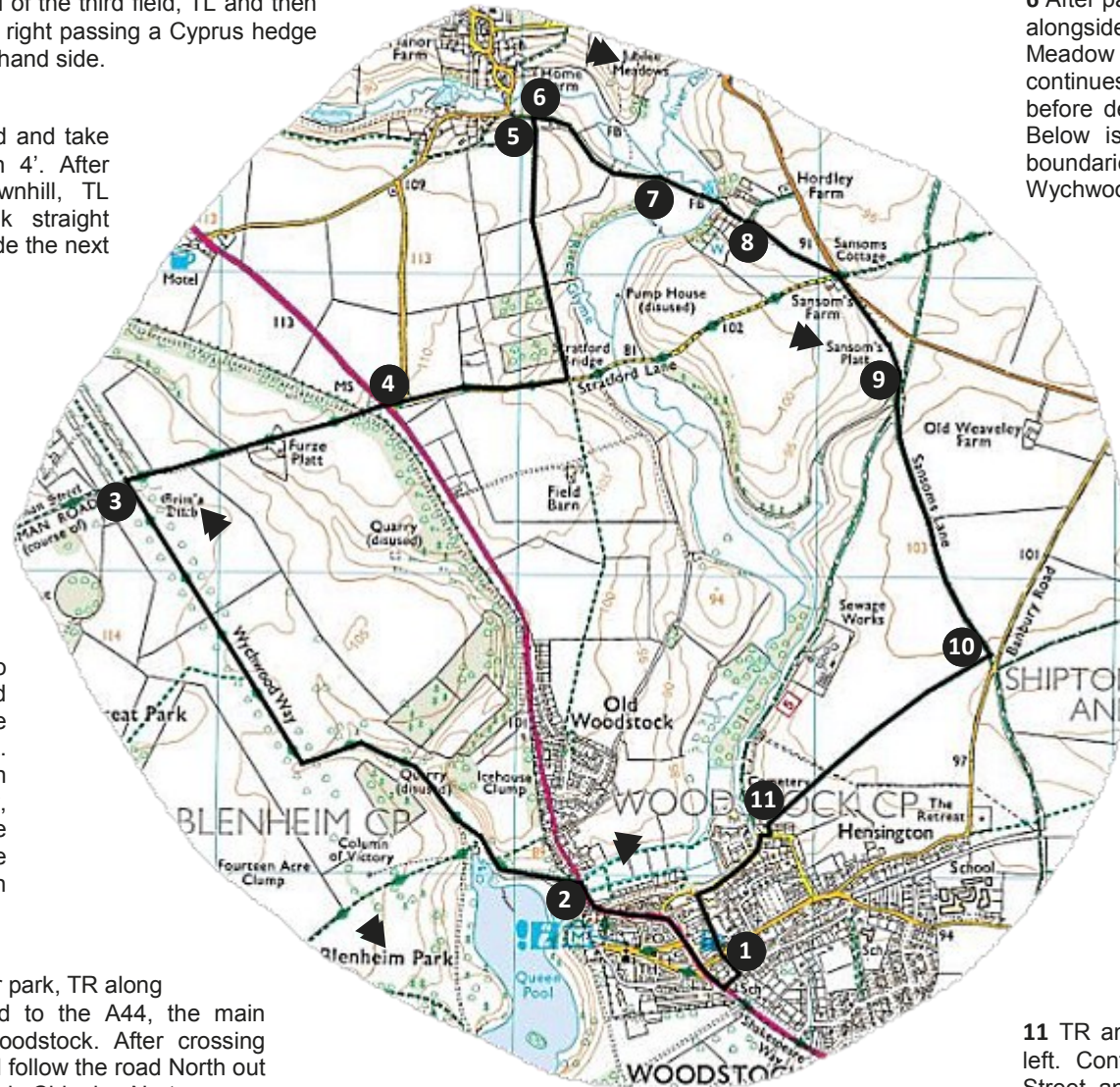
4 Carefully cross this busy road and take the lane marked 'Bletchingdon 4'. After about 500m (550 yards) downhill, TL through a kissing gate. Walk straight ahead, across and then alongside the next three fields.

3 Go straight along the Grand Avenue to a gate and then a second one with cattle grid. Just before the second gate, TR and follow a rough track leading to an old deserted farm. Continue alongside a wall to the left of the farmyard, through a small copse and across the next field. At the gate, TR and then left through a wooden doorway, leading out of the Park to the A44.

2 Shortly after passing a terrace of cottages called 'The Causeway', go through a pair of green gates marked '95' (this is a footpath). Go through the next gate on the left into Blenheim Park. TR and follow the road, continuing past an estate cottage. Continue up the valley, through a gate with cattle grid, along the road as it winds left and right through the parkland landscape, before turning North towards Ditchley Gate.

Start Point

1 Leaving the car park, TR along Hensington Road to the A44, the main road through Woodstock. After crossing this road, TR and follow the road North out of the town towards Chipping Norton.



6 After passing through a gate, TR alongside the top of the field and into Long Meadow Local Nature Reserve. The path continues along the top of the Reserve before descending gently to a field gate. Below is the River Glyme, one of the boundaries of the Royal Hunting Forest of Wychwood in Norman times.

7 Leaving the Nature Reserve carry on straight across the meadow, (ignoring the stile to the left). After crossing a bridge across the river, follow the path round to the right and onto a lane beside a farm.

8 Where the lane bears to the left, go through a gate on the right and across a small pasture. BL diagonally across the next field towards a hamlet, and at the corner of the field emerge by a T junction. TR onto the road, past Sansome's Cottage. After 100m TR onto a bridleway alongside a hedge.

9 At the end of this hedge, TR onto a track marked 'National Cycle Network 5'. After about 70m, BL and follow a bridleway for about 800m (900 yds).

10 Just before reaching a minor road, by an oak tree, TR through a gap in the hedge and follow the path straight ahead across a field. At the far side pass between two gardens, to emerge into Green Lane.

11 TR and follow the road around to the left. Continue uphill and TL into Union Street, and return to the Car Park.



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► Points of Interest

Between points 2-3: Woodstock Water Meadows, Blenheim Park

On the eastern side of the road are the ancient Woodstock Water Meadows. These were granted to the town by Royal Charter in the 15th century. The meadows are now managed as a nature reserve by the Town Council.

Blenheim Park is one of England's finest palaces and is the home of the Duke of Marlborough. The park was a royal hunting ground for several centuries before the current palace was built, and was once an integral part of the royal hunting Forest of Wychwood.

This route stays on paths that are public rights of way. Other parts of the park are accessible to paying visitors only. This section of the route follows the Wychwood Way.

Near point 3: Grim's Ditch

The trace of the earthwork here is part of the remains of a massive ditch and bank structure, that encircles a large part of the Wychwood area. The precise origin and purpose of the ditch is not known.

Between points 6-7: Jubilee Meadows

The land to the north of the path is part of the Jubilee Meadows - a nature reserve created and managed by the Wootton Conservation Trust.

Between points 8-10: Sansomes Lane

This is an ancient trackway that runs from north Oxfordshire towards Oxford city along the parish boundary. There is evidence of Roman settlement around Sansomes Platt.



The Wychwood Way

Wychwood Project
Signal Court
Old Station Way
Eynsham
OX29 4TL

T: 01865 815423
E: wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk
www.wychwoodproject.org
Registered Charity: 1084259