



## **Banbury Hill Circular Walk**

**OS Explorer Map 180 Oxford**

**Grid ref: SP 3572 1947**

**Distance: 2.2 miles (3.5 km)**

**Time 1 hour**

**Difficulty: Easy**

Leaving from the Coop (1) follow the Enstone Road to the left past the Health Centre to the crossroads . Take care at this busy junction and cross lane to the left of the junction. Then cross again to the right-hand side of Enstone Road and walk away from the junction.

Further down the road a public bridleway, Hundley Way leads straight on (2). Follow this bridleway and look to the left for a pleasant view over the valley and countryside beyond. Continue past all the houses until the track goes down the left-hand side of a field. Follow this for about 500m to a gate in the hedge which is marked 'permissive path to Banbury Hill Farm'(3). At this point you make take a longer route to Ditchley Park by continuing on the track. To continue the circular walk, go through the gate and down the steps to the corner of the field and turn right at the marker post. After 150m there is another way marker on the left and go up the footpath to a gate into the wood (4).

Follow the surfaced footpath to the left. After about 300metres turn left to follow the path along the boundary of the wood. If you wish to visit the Old Shed for refreshments follow the signs.

To follow the circular path to Charlbury turn right and then left. Continue on the path which winds along the boundary and finally come to a metal pedestrian gate (5). Go through this gate to the road.

Take care crossing at this point, it is a busy road with fast traffic . Once across the road turn left onto the wide verge. A little way down the verge at the corner go through a gate to the right of the hedge which runs along the side of the road. The footpath now goes down the left-hand side of a large field. At this point there is a fine view across to the Evenlode Valley and Wychwood Forest. Continue down the path through the gate. The public footpath to the right, leads to Spelsbury and provides a longer walk.

Go through another metal gate and then turn right to go through a wooden gate (6) which goes through Wigwell Nature Reserve. Follow the path which can become muddy at times until you reach the main field. Here the permissive path branches into two. The path going up the hill joins the public footpath to Spelsbury.

For Charlbury take the path straight on which goes across the field to a way marker where it turns left to go down to the stream. Go through the metal gate onto the footbridge (7) to cross this stream and then turn right to go up the bank on the other side. This leads uphill to a pedestrian gate. Go through this and continue straight on across the field when you will see the town Cemetery on the right. A public footpath goes through the gate into the cemetery and the Mill Field Circular path (see separate guide) If you want a longer walk this leads to the station and also back into the town.

To take the direct route go left on the path and then through a wooden gate onto Nineacres Lane. Take care crossing this road and then go up the steps to the path that goes to the right of the tennis courts and the Community Centre to the Spendlove Car Park . The Town centre may be reached by turning left past the Co-op store and going down Browns Lane.

