

## **Adderbury Circular Walk & Village Trail Update, May 2018**

### **Things to Note**

- The 'Additional Information' and contact details on the back cover are out of date. If you have any queries, please make contact with Cherwell District Council via the website.
- The specific details about places to have and buy 'Food and Drink' are out of date.
- A feedback form is not currently available on the website.
- Some of the historical information and web links may have changed.

### **Things to Remember**

- Much of the route is across cultivated and grazing land. If you bring your dog with you, keep it under close control and on a lead through stocked fields. However, current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.
- You may come across temporary fencing not mentioned in the leaflet as farmers will use this in different places to manage their livestock throughout the year. Provision for walkers to get through this fencing safely should always be made – please let us know if this is not the case.
- Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring, so please keep them under close control.
- Remember that the countryside is a working place – leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone. Leave gates and property as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.
- Respect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Take great care when crossing or walking along the roads.
- Park your car responsibly. Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.
- The walk in this leaflet is based on village streets and official public rights of way (footpaths or bridleways). The publishers accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone using this leaflet.

## **Preparation**

- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather conditions as parts of the route are often wet and muddy. Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles.
- Carry water and take a mobile phone if you have one but bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

## **Route advice and text amendments**

There is only one stile on the circular walk at direction 13.

**Direction 2** – new house building is now encroaching on the path

**Direction 4** – “On reaching a farm track, turn left through a kissing gate. Turn diagonally right and walk uphill, (following the line of telegraph poles) to a kissing gate in the top corner (here you can turn and look back for a picturesque view of the village and church spire)”.

**Direction 5** – “Go through the gate and along the field edge, with the hedge on your right (views of Bodicote ahead and Sor Brook Valley (B) to the left). At the point where the hedge goes round to the right, continue straight ahead and downhill across the field”.

**Direction 6** – “At the bottom, go through a gap in the hedge (across a plank bridge) then turn left. Follow the ditch as it turns the corner, then turn left to cross over it and immediately right to go along a grass track. This stretch is narrow and so problematic when muddy”.

**Direction 8** - "On passing a reservoir (on your right behind hedging), turn left onto a wide track and go over the bridge [C] [D]. Follow the track between the buildings and uphill”.

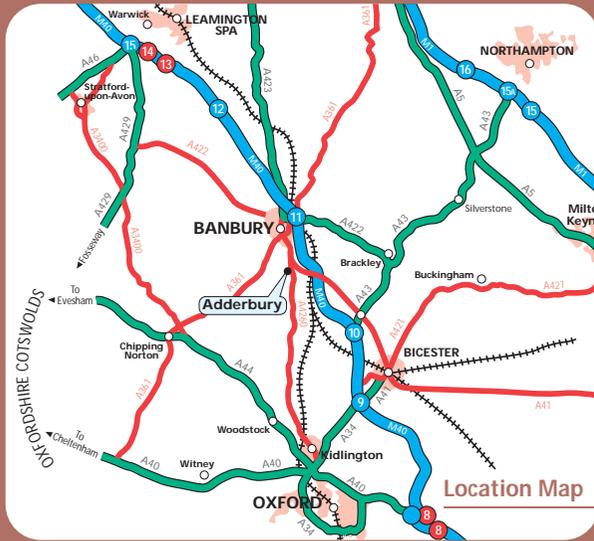
**Direction 9** – “Continue to walk gently uphill along the field edge (fences on your left and right) towards Bloxham Grove [E] on the hilltop. Continue to the corner of the garden wall on your right (from here there is a view of the windmill and, in the distance, Bloxham Church)”.

**Direction 11** – “At the end of the avenue follow the path diagonally left, up a slope then across the centre of a field and through a metal kissing gate (next to a stile)”.

**Direction 13** – “Go over the stile taking care - this is old and worn but is firm in the ground. Walk across the water meadow and through a kissing gate. Cross Sor Brook via the footbridge”.

**Direction 14** – “Turn right and walk uphill (now on a permissive path), then through a gate between stone walls and high fencing. Walk along the alleyway and through a second gate onto Manor Road”.

**Direction 15** – “Turn left along Manor Road [F] and continue until you reach Le Hall Place [G] just before the junction (Notice the blue plaque for Janet Heatley Blunt). You can join the Village Trail instructions here (at point 12) or continue along Cross Hill Road to your start point at The Green”.



#### Acknowledgements

This booklet was researched and written by Adderbury Village Appraisal Footpath Committee. Photographs by Judy Hurd and Emma Watson  
Additional research: Bloxham Village Museum

#### Additional Information

The text of this booklet can be made available in other languages, large print, braille, audio or electronic format on request. Please contact 01295 227001

Jezeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innej formie, prosimy dać nam znać. 01295 227001

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੇ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ। 01295 227001

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。01295 227001

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔  
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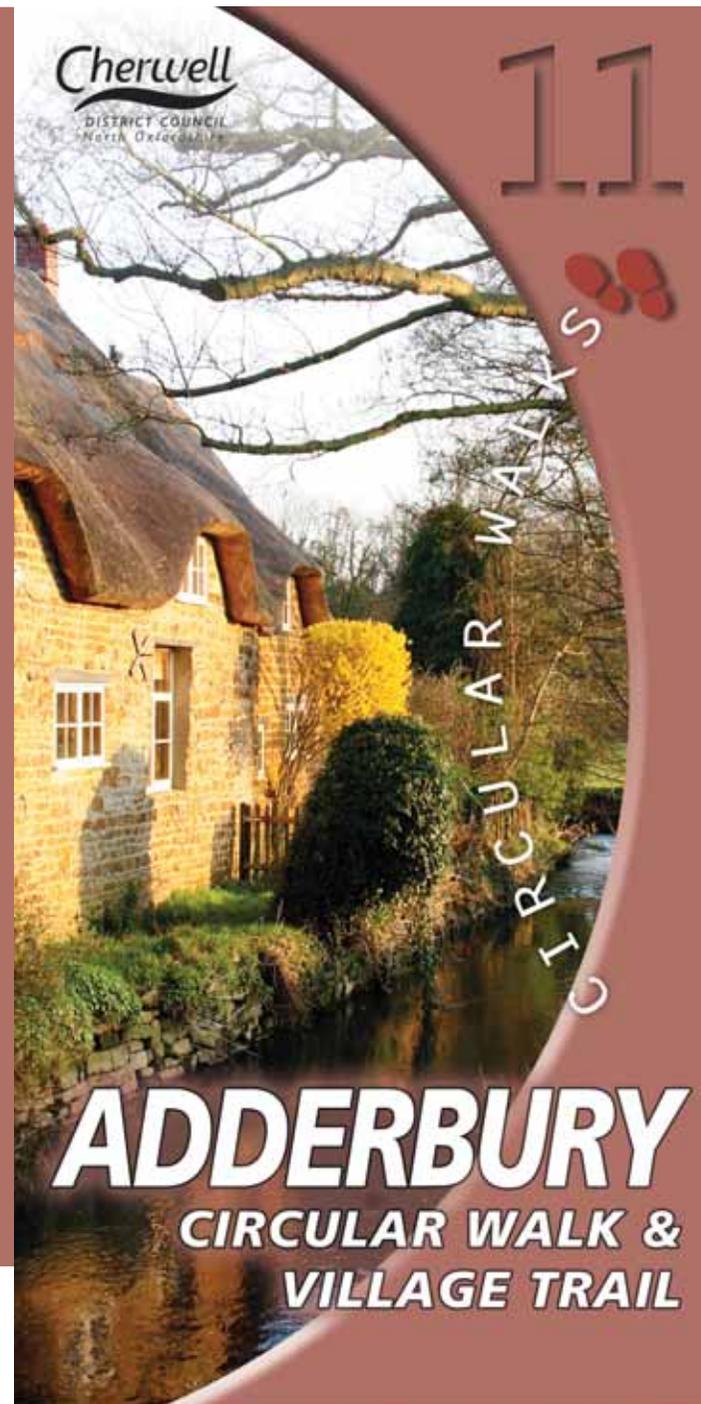
All of Cherwell District Council's circular walks and rides are published on the Council website and can be downloaded free. Booklets can be purchased from Banbury Tourist Information Centre (01295 259855). For further information about circular walks and rides, guided walks and grants available for countryside access projects, please contact:-



Environment & Community Directorate  
Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House,  
Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4AA  
Telephone 01295 221706  
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Web: [www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

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**Circular Walk** 3.6 miles/6 km Time 2 hours  
**Village Trail** 1.8 miles/3 km Time 1.5 hours

# Adderbury Circular Walk

**Approx. 3.6 miles / 6 km**

Adderbury lies 3 miles south of Banbury on the main Oxford Road (A4260). Bus services between Oxford and Banbury regularly stop at Adderbury.



The walk takes in fine views of the churches of three parishes and crosses pleasant undulating farm land, passing cottages and millstreams.

Grazing animals are to be found in several fields. Please keep dogs under close control and observe the Country Code at all times.

The walk is described and waymarked in an anti-clockwise direction, but once you have followed it that way, why not come back and try it the other way around?



**The Village Trail** (approx. 1.8 miles, 3km) is a tour around some of the most fascinating buildings and features of this historic village. The Village Trail can be enjoyed on its own or in conjunction with the Circular Walk. Most of the buildings described are people's homes, so please respect their privacy and view from a polite distance.

## Car Parking

There is no designated car park in Adderbury, so please park considerably around the village. There is usually space at the start of the walk, along the south side of the Village Green.

## Accessibility and Terrain

The Circular Walk is on a mixture of surfaced tracks and unsurfaced field paths, some of which may be wet and muddy. There are two stiles, several kissing gates and two narrow footbridges.

The Village Trail is mainly on pavements and quiet village roads. There is a section along unsurfaced track and across a playing field. There are no stiles or kissing gates. The route includes eight steps, a narrow (0.6 metre) footbridge, two ramps and a staggered barrier.

Please visit the website or contact us (details on back) for updated or more detailed accessibility information.

## Updated Information

Cherwell District Council believes all information in this booklet to be correct at the time of printing. We (in association with Oxfordshire County Council and landowners) seek opportunities to improve the accessibility of our promoted routes. Please check the website for changes and updates before setting out. A feedback form is available on the website. We are keen to know your experiences of this walk.

## Food and Drink

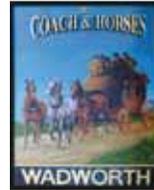


**The Bell** 01295 810338

Cosy village centre pub with log fire. Local real ales. Regularly changing chalkboard menu. B & B available.

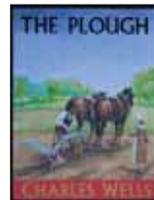
Open every lunchtime and evening, call for details and bookings.

[www.the-bell.com](http://www.the-bell.com)



**The Coach and Horses** 01295 810422

Traditional village pub on The Green. Real ales, games room. Traditional British menu and Sunday roasts. Open every evening and Tues-Sun lunchtimes, call for details and bookings.



**The Plough** 01295 810327

Cosy thatched restaurant pub with fine dining menu.

Open every lunchtime and evening, call for details and bookings.



**The Red Lion Hotel** 01295 810269

17th century coaching inn with hotel accommodation. Bar meals menu plus à la carte restaurant.

Open every lunchtime and evening, call for details and bookings.

[www.redlion-adderbury.com](http://www.redlion-adderbury.com)

**Taste Buds Fine Foods** 01295 810241

Friendly village shop and deli. Open every day but closed Monday and Sunday afternoons. Sandwiches, snacks and drinks available.

[www.taste-buds.org.uk](http://www.taste-buds.org.uk)

**Coffee and Chat** Tuesday 10am – 12pm

Weekly coffee mornings at Church House, Mill Lane and Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane. Proceeds to Katharine House Hospice. All welcome.

## Introduction to Adderbury

The village is divided by the Sor Brook into East and West Adderbury. The first documented evidence of the village is in a will of 990, where it is written as Eadburgesbyrig. This suggests that the village may have been named after Eadburga of Aylesbury, a Mercian saint and princess (died c.650).

In the 13th Century the village and surrounding lands were divided between the Lords of four Manors. In 1381 The Bishop of Winchester split his holding in two. He gave his Rectory Manor (including St.Mary's Church) to New College Oxford, which he had recently founded. His successors retained the other part, Adderbury Manor, for a further four centuries, until 1801.



The Church of St Mary the Virgin is the outstanding and most obvious architectural feature of the village. It has been praised by such eminent authorities as Sir John Betjeman and Nicholas Pevsner, and been painted by John Piper. There are records of a church in the village from before the Norman Conquest, with the earliest parts of the present building dating from about 1280. The impressive spire is one of three in the area that are the subject of a local saying:

*"Bloxham for length  
Adderbury for strength  
King's Sutton for beauty."*



Since Tudor times Adderbury has attracted the gentry to build themselves substantial homes and this trend was particularly strong in the 18th Century. The labour necessary to support these households led to the expansion of the village.

From medieval times agriculture was the main source of employment, but in the 19th Century local industries such as plush weaving and quarrying came to be important too. The Oxford canal brought bulk transport in 1790 and from 1874 to 1950 the village had its own railway station on a GWR branch line.



The older houses in the village are constructed of the local red marlstone (ironstone). For further information on Adderbury's geological history there is a separate "Secrets in the Landscape" trail leaflet ([www.oxfordshiregt.org](http://www.oxfordshiregt.org)). Many old cottages in East Adderbury were demolished in the 1760s to make way for the new road and the Duke of Buccleuch's grand landscaping scheme for Adderbury House (see the separate "Adderbury Lakes Nature Reserve" leaflet). There is a strong tradition of Morris dancing in Adderbury, with two



sides in the village. Thanks to the work of Janet Blunt (see points of interest) there are traditional Adderbury dances performed by sides all over the world. The village holds an annual "Day of Dance" festival every April.

To find out more about contemporary Adderbury you can visit [www.adderbury.org](http://www.adderbury.org)

## Points of Interest

### **A** Croft Lane

Until the Inclosure Award of 1768 this used to be the main road to Banbury



### **B** Sor Brook Valley

This small river forms the boundary between Adderbury and the neighbouring parish of Bloxham. Its valley bottom is a particularly good example of the lowland river landscape of wetland pastures, hedgerows and pollarded riverside willows. It supports diverse botanical swards, several species of rare plants and a rich variety of invertebrate fauna, including the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

### **C** The Weir

On the bridge, take a moment to enjoy the sound of the water and a very attractive view of the Sor Brook. The automatic gauging station is part of a network which warns the Environment Agency of flood risk. It is linked by telemetry to their office in Wallingford



### **D** Lower Grove Mill

The mill is recorded in the Domesday Book, together with five other mills in this section of the river. In the 15th century it was called Clare Mill. At one time the pleasant gardens at the mill formed part of a wider stretch of the Sor Brook. This was the spot where Henry Warriner's experimental steam launch "Firefly" would turn around (see E).

### **E** Bloxham Grove House

This charming yeoman farmhouse was built in 1715. In the early 19th century Bloxham Grove belonged to George Warriner, an influential farmer who profited from the inclosures by successfully experimenting with new crops and agricultural methods. George's grandson, Henry, invented the oscillating steam launch engine in 1841. Henry also built the windmill. Though small, it was fully operational.

### **F** Manor Road

Manor Road, known to generations of villagers as Mud End, was home to Adderbury cheese. The Victorian stone house (Court End), passed on your right halfway down the road, was a cheese-making premises. The flavour was not very good and it ceased to be made many years ago, although it was revived for a short while during the Second World War.



### **G** Le Halle Place

On the left, shortly before joining the main village road, stands the imposing Le Halle Place (see Village Trail point 12). During the First World War this was the home of Janet Blunt, who compiled the manuscripts of the Adderbury Morris dance traditions. The Adderbury Morris sides always dance here on their annual Day of Dance, both in recognition of her work and as a tribute to her maid, Winnie Wyatt. Winnie saved the manuscripts from a clearing-out bonfire shortly after Miss Blunt's death in 1950. Both are now buried in the churchyard, where they are honoured annually by the Morris Men, who lay flowers on their graves.

# Circular Walk Directions

**9** Walk gently uphill along the field edge track (fence on your left) towards Bloxham Grove [E] on the hilltop. Go through a gate and continue to the corner of the garden wall (from here there is a view of the windmill and, in the distance, Bloxham Church).

**10** Turn left at the track junction and go down the tree lined avenue (to your left there are views of Adderbury Church).

**11** At the end of the avenue follow the path diagonally left, up a slope then across the centre of a field and over a stile.

**12** Cross the next field, (bearing just slightly further left) then pass through a woodland strip. Follow the path down to a field gate with a stile tucked to its left.

**13** Go over the stile, walk across the water meadow and through a kissing gate. Cross Sor Brook via the footbridge and a second gate.

**14** Turn right and walk uphill, then through a gate between two stone walls. Walk along the alleyway and through a second gate onto Manor Road.

**15** Turn left along Manor Road [F] and continue until you reach Le Halle Place [G] just before the junction. You can join the Village Trail instructions here (at point 12), or continue along Cross Hill Road to your start point at The Green.

**8** On passing a reservoir (on your right), turn left onto a wide track and go over the bridge [C] [D]. Follow the track between the buildings, uphill, and through a field gate

**7** At the end of the grass track go through a gate, then turn left. Head across the field towards the small building (gauging station) just right of Lower Grove Mill.

**6** At the bottom, go through a gap in the hedge (across a plank bridge) then turn left. Follow the ditch as it turns the corner, then turn left to cross over it and immediately right to go along a grass track

**5** Go through the gate and along the field edge, with the hedge on your right (views of Bodicote ahead and Sor Brook Valley [B] to the left). After a wide gap in the hedge, continue straight ahead, downhill across the field.

**4** On reaching a farm track, turn left through a kissing gate. Turn diagonally right and walk uphill, (following the line of telegraph poles) to a gate in the top corner (here you can turn and look back for a picturesque view of the village and church spire).

**3** Stay on the path as it bears right, then goes through a gateway and merges onto a field edge path.

**2** As the lane opens out into a field, bear left around the corner and continue through a scrub area at the base of a shallow bank.

**1** Park beside The Green and walk into the village. Just before the hairdressing salon and notice board, turn right along Croft Lane [A]. Where the tarmac ends continue downhill, passing The Old Post House



**KEY**

- Route ●●●●
- Road
- Wooded Area ●●●●
- Track
- Other paths

# Adderbury Village Trail

**13** Turn right and walk along to the gates of **Crosshill House** with its impressive Georgian frontage concealing earlier foundations. **Continue along Cross Hill Road. Just before the bus shelter turn right down Dog Close** (formerly the site of kennels for the Duke of Buccleuch's hunting dogs).

**12** Continue to the end of the green, then cross **Manor Road** to **Le Halle Place**, a substantial manor house dating mainly from the late 1600s, but with parts up to 300 years older. Its appearance was much altered by the insertion of large windows in the late 19th century.

**11** Return to **Horn Hill Road**, turn left and continue up towards **Colin Butler Green**. Bear left with the path, and on your left is **Little Manor**, possibly the site of the original St Amands Manor House. It was the home of Bray Doyley, Lord of Adderbury West and an influential early Quaker, imprisoned for his beliefs.

**14** At the end of **Dog Close** go up three steps, across the footbridge and up the churchyard path (5 more steps) to **St. Mary's Church**. (See Introduction to Adderbury.) Note the musicians' frieze above the porch and along the side wall. The carillon plays a tune on the bells every third hour from 6am until 9pm. During the Civil War the royalist vicar, Dr Oldys, was killed by Parliamentarian troops. An information booklet is available inside.

**15** Turn left at the **Lych Gate** and along **Mill Lane**. **The Grange** is on the left. The present house dates mainly from 1684, but retains some much earlier features. Originally the medieval rectory, it is reputed to have a passage leading to the church. Opposite **The Grange** is **Church House**, which was the village girls' school between 1832 and 1962 and now houses the village library.

**16** Continue to the junction. On the left is the **Tithe Barn**, parts of which date from the 13th century. Look across to see **Shepherds Keep**, which was formerly the village infants school. Bear right and walk uphill, passing **The Bell** and village shop, back to your starting point by **The Green**.



**1** Starting beside the **Village Institute**, with your back to the **Oxford Road**, walk towards the village centre. On your left is **Rawlins House**, this was the Grammar School endowed in 1589 by the will of Rev. Christopher Rawlins. From 1218 a market was held on the **Village Green** which was also the site for stocks, whipping post and until 1623, a cross.

**2** Continue walking towards the village and on the left you pass the gateposts of **South House** and **The Orchard**. These are all that remain of the former **Cobb Manor**, a large and impressive house originally built by **William Cobb** in 1582. After the death of **Sir George Cobb** in 1762 it was leased to tenants and gradually fell into decline. By 1815 it was in ruins.

**3** Continue past a minor junction and green. On the left is **The Rookery**, a 3 gabled Jacobean house. The date stone of 1656 on the porch refers to later extension and remodelling, but the core of the house is probably 15th century. The house contains a priest hole. It also has wall paintings dating from the Civil War period.

**4** Continue downhill and bear left into **Church Lane**. At the end bear right along the narrow footpath. The house on the left is **Ivy House**, home of **Fanny Buck** (1869-1945), who was the last of the traditionally clothed Adderbury Quakers (see **Friends Meeting House**, No10).

**5** At the end turn left into **Mill Lane**. On the corner is **The Old Vicarage**, built on the site of the medieval **Vicarage House**. The main part of the existing house is 16th and 17th century, much altered again in the early 18th century.

**10** Continue along **Tanners Lane** as it bears round to the right. At the end cross and turn right down **Horn Hill Road**. 80 metres along this road on the left are the gates of **Adderbury Cemetery**. Go through the gates and **The Friends Meeting House** is along the path on the right. This was built in 1675 by **Bray Doyley** (see **Little Manor**). In the late 17th century Adderbury was a stronghold of religious dissent, with 27 family names recorded as Quakers. Note that the Quaker gravestones on the left of the path only have one date. **Fanny Buck's** grave is on the right.

**9** Walk diagonally across the field and through the gate. Bear left along **Round Close Road** and take the next left up **Tanners Lane**. At the top pause to look left along **The Leys** to a **single unit house**. This is a rare remaining example of the smallest type of village cottage, with one room up and one down.

**6** Pass **St. Mary's Church** on the right. Next to it is **The Manor House** (note the ornate chimneys), which dates mainly from the 16th century when it was the home of the **Bustard** family. Between 1780 and 1851 it was **Dr Woolston's** boarding school for boys.

**7** Continue down **Mill Lane** to **Adderbury Mill** (**The Old Mill**), moved to its present position by the **Duke of Argyll** in the mid 1700s, as the original one spoilt the view of his grounds at **Adderbury House**. It was a working mill until the 1930s.

**8** Follow the footpath across the mill stream and turn right. Briefly walk alongside the stream. Take the first left, down a short slope. Walk over the footbridge and bear right through the wooded area into **Lucy Plackett Playing Field**.