

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 11.2 miles, Ascent: 310m

Overview

The new route of the Chiltern Way departs from the original route at Upper Bix Bottom and roughly follows the curve of the Thames south from near Henley, via Mapledurham to Goring, then north to Ewelme. It is classic walking in South Oxfordshire farm country and woodland, with frequent open views over the Thames Valley to the South.

TERRAIN: Easy walking. Undulating, but no major hills.

START: Stonor Village at junction of B480 and Park Lane.

FINISH: Bird In Hand Pub, Sonning Common B481 **FOOD AND DRINK:** Five Horseshoes Pub in Maidensgrove (500m from the route), Café at Greys Court, The Bird in Hand pub at Sonning Common, but not open for lunch on weekdays. Possible minor detour to the Maltsters Arms, Rotherfield Greys.

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: No public transport within the route.

PARKING: Limited parking on the B480 at Stonor (busy at weekends). The Five Horse Shoes pub at Maidensgrove has a large car park. Warburg Nature Reserve car park and follow the bridal way signed as SW28, 1.0 mile. There is ample parking at National Trust Greys Court, and lay-by parking on Kennylands Road, Sonning Common

Visit [Chiltern Way](#) for information and news. You can view a detailed map on [OS Maps](#) and follow this stage on the app. The next stage is [5 - Sonning Common to Whitchurch](#) – click to download.

For more detailed information on this stage and on the Chiltern Way we recommend the "Chiltern Way including the Berkshire Loop" book by Nick Moon available from the [Chiltern Society](#).

Route Description

1: Stonor

Coordinates: OSGB SU73668875 LatLon 51.5929,-.9380

Walk south on the B480 to reach Well Cottage on the right. Just past there enter a narrow footpath close-hedged on both sides. At the end of this path is a kissing gate giving access to a field with crops and a clearly defined path leading gently uphill to another gate into a large meadow. Continue uphill across the meadow, passing a mature copse on the left. Looking back from here provides a good view of Stonor House and deer park, which was the setting for BBC's Vanity Fair TV serial. Good views to the south towards and across the Thames Valley. At the end of the meadow is another kissing gate leading into Park Wood. The path continues steadily uphill through the wood to a kissing gate into a field with a clearly defined path that eventually starts a gentle slope down towards Lodge Farm. The footpath joins a roughly paved track heading south for 140m before a sharp right turn northwest on a paved track.

Chiltern Way 4: Stonor to Sonning Common

2: Maidensgrove

Coordinates: OSGB SU72168851 LatLon 51.5909,-.9596

When the track forks right, keep straight on across Russell's Water Common, passing Tucker Cottage on the left and keeping close the hedge on the left on a grassy path. After 300m you reach a road coming from the right and immediately turn left from the road onto a flinted track which has a Chiltern Way finger sign about 5m from the road. After 100m the path diverges from the track diagonally across a meadow sloping down to a kissing gate entering a wood clearly marked as a nature reserve. Another kissing gate opens to a meadow which slopes down to a kissing gate entering a wood and a very steep set of steps down. After the steps pass through another gate into a downward sloping meadow and to meet a larger track (Bix Bottom). Here the Chiltern Way Southern Link heads right direct to Ewelme.



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3: Upper Bix Bottom

Coordinates: OSGB SU70978841 LatLon 51.5902,-.9768

Leave the original Chiltern Way route by taking the second left path through a gate. Head south up a grassy slope to a gate entering a wood and continuing to ascend. Leave the wood through a gate and enter a wide grassy area, signed as a conservation area. Keep to left edge and onto a farm track which leads to a paved road and prominent iron gates ahead. Turn right before the gates and follow the road to reach a gate on the left leading to a clear path across a large meadow. The path passes between houses to reach a paved road at Crocker End.

4: Crocker End

Coordinates: OSGB SU70848688 LatLon 51.5764,-.9790

Turn left onto the road for 200m to reach a gate into a field. Follow the path keeping to the field hedge on the right and to a gate leading into Wellgrove Wood. On leaving the wood cross two fields and take a farm track sloping down by the ruins of the abandoned St James Church and a paved road. Turn right here to reach Valley Farm at Bix Bottom.

5: Bix Bottom

Coordinates: OSGB SU72768670 LatLon 51.5746,-.9515

Take the signed path to the right between the house and farm buildings and follow a farm track for 300m. Take the steps up to a gate on the left. This opens to a short steepish grassy slope up to a gate into a wood and continues uphill, initially inside the left edge of the wood. Follow the path marked with arrows on trees through the wood ignoring crossing tracks. On leaving the wood you enter a large open area known as Bix Common and follow a clear path ahead, avoiding crossing tracks. The path passes between houses to a gate at the busy A4130 dual carriageway.

Chiltern Way 4: Stonor to Sonning Common

6: Bix

Coordinates: OSGB SU72568527 LatLon 51.5617,-.9545

Cross the A4130 and walk a short way (70m) to the left. Take the narrow fenced footpath right off the road. This runs beside a new-build house to a stile. You then enter the fields of a dairy farm and cross a series of stiles until you reach a wide cattle track. This slopes gently down passing a gate on the right before going through a gate on the left into Famous Copse. Entering the Copse take the path to the left here, keeping the edge of the woods on the left. Follow this path round a right turn, still keeping the edge of the woods on the left and ignoring a gate on the left. Keep to the main path, ignoring crossing tracks to reach a gate entering a field.

7: Waypoint 5

Coordinates: OSGB SU72838406 LatLon 51.5508,-.9509

There is a fork in the path a little way across the field. Take the slightly less distinct right fork and bear right to a pair of gates bordering a narrow farm road. After crossing the road the path leads across a field passing through another gate into a wooded path sloping down and curving to the left. At a gate turn right onto a path with woods to the right then through a gate on the left past a stagnant pond to the left and to another gate after which the Greys Court car park and Greys Court itself is reached after crossing a grassy meadow.

8: Greys Court

Coordinates: OSGB SU72668345 LatLon 51.5453,-.9536

From the Greys Court car park, take the paved drive with the manor house on your right and continue down the slope. Leave the drive near the end, forking right to reach and cross Rocky Lane to a gate into a grassy meadow. The path then slopes up to a gate entering a short steep wooded section that soon opens out onto Greys Green cricket ground.

9: Greys Green

Coordinates: OSGB SU72028303 LatLon 51.5416,-.9629

Pass the pavilion on your right and follow the green almost to the road when a wide gravel track takes off the right. Follow this track for about 100m to where a footpath on the left leads into woods. Continue through the woods then cross a road to a footpath opposite and continue through another short section of woods to a road. Cross this road and go through a gate onto a wide bridleway sloping gently down between hedges. Follow this for 1km.



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10: Dog Lane

Coordinates: OSGB SU72298193
LatLon 51.5317,-.9591

At a gate cross the wide track called Dog Lane and continue on a short upward slope ignoring crossing and branching tracks. Pass White Cottage on the right. The bridleway then narrows to the width of a footpath until reaching Flowercroft Farm and then King's Farm, when it acquires a paved surface. Turn right and then left, passing some houses on the right and continue downhill to meet a road at an attractive house known as Old Place.

11: Old Place

Coordinates: OSGB SU73208038 LatLon
51.5177,-.9464

Turn left on this road for 100m to an opening on the right. Here you meet the southern end of the Berkshire Loop. Continue to the right up a short steep bank to a gate and then up a fairly steep slope in a grassy meadow. The path is clearly marked by wooden posts and the Crowsley Park wireless station is visible to the right. The path forks to the right, indicated by waymark posts and continues through three gates to enter a fenced path with Crowsley Park house on the left. A gate at the end of the fenced path opens to a paved drive. Turn left on this road, pass the gates to Crowsley Park House and downhill to reach the Victorian Gatehouse and a gate opening onto Blounts Court Road.

12: Blounts Court Road

Coordinates: OSGB SU72647969 LatLon 51.5116,-.9546

Turn left and then right at the signpost to Crowsley. Pass the drive to Crowsley Grange on the left, following the paved lane round the to the right. At Frieze Cottage turn left onto a gravel drive that leads to Well House and then bear right through a gate to a grassy meadow, usually with horses. After another gate continue down the slope to where the path narrows and winds through a short wooded section to reach a road by The Bird in Hand pub. Turn right here past the pub to reach the main road.

13: Bird In Hand Pub, Sonning Common B481

Coordinates: OSGB SU71577918 LatLon 51.5071,-.9702

We hope you have had a good walk. We are committed to making the Chiltern Way as enjoyable as possible, so if you feel we could improve the directions or came across any path problems, please contact us directly by e-mail: office@chilternsociety.org.uk.

