

Circular walks in Three Rivers

The South Oxhey Circular Walk

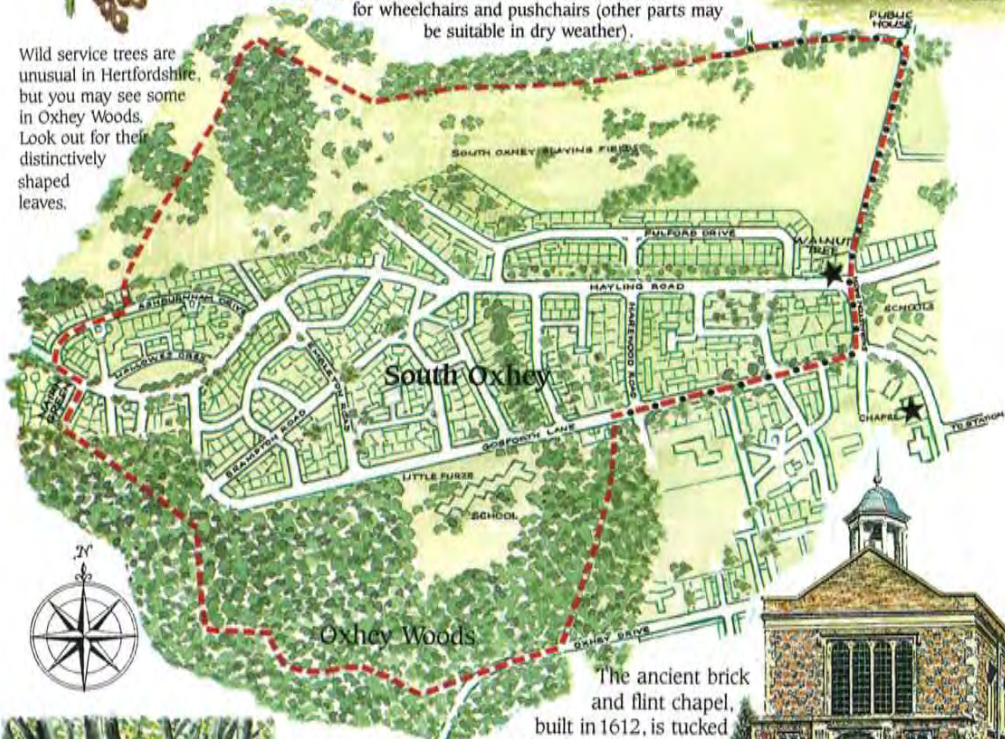
This walk takes approximately 1½ hours (4 kilometres/2½ miles)

You can still see many old trees on the South Oxhey estate such as this walnut tree on Hayling Road, which were there long before the houses. The trees date from the time when the area was part of the Oxhey Place estate, once owned by the abbots and monks of St. Albans, and later by the Blackwell family (of pickle fame).

- route of circular walk.
- section of walk which is most easily accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs (other parts may be suitable in dry weather).



Wild service trees are unusual in Hertfordshire, but you may see some in Oxhey Woods. Look out for their distinctively shaped leaves.



The ancient brick and flint chapel, built in 1612, is tucked behind All Saints Church. It is normally closed to the public, but a look at the outside is well worth a few minutes' detour.



The beautiful hornbeam tree is found throughout Hertfordshire, and is a common sight on the streets of South Oxhey as well as in the woodlands. Hornbeam wood is very hard and was traditionally used for chopping boards, cogs in mill wheels and clogs. After the trees had been cut down, new shoots would grow up, which would be cut down and used 10 to 15 years later. This type of woodland management, known as coppicing, prolonged the life of the trees, and was also very beneficial to birds and animals as they could shelter and feed in trees of different ages. Bluebells and other wildflowers flourished as there was plenty of sunlight reaching the woodland floor. Nowadays, in areas where the hornbeam has not been coppiced for a long time, you will notice that little else grows due to the lack of light.



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Bluebells

In spring time, the woods are carpeted with bluebells.

The South Oxhey Circular Walk

Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy, so step out into the countryside on your doorstep with this short walk through woodlands and open spaces. The route winds through the ancient and beautiful Oxhey Woods, and out onto the hills of the old golf course, where there are views for miles around.



Green Woodpecker

Starting point and getting there

The route can be joined at a number of points, and most people living in South Oxhey should be able to walk to it. If you are coming from further afield, the area is well served by buses, and Carpenders Park station is less than 10 minutes away. For further information, ring the Hertfordshire Traveline on 0345 244344. If you need to come by car, please use one of the car parks in the town centre, rather than residential streets.



Grass snake

Oxhey Woods are home to a great variety of birds and animals, including grass snakes (these are harmless).



Finding your way

In Oxhey Woods there are many paths which are not marked on the map, so look out for the special green and white discs which show you the route of the circular walk. These are attached to wooden posts and lamp posts all along the route. You will also see some yellow arrows which denote public footpaths.

Other local walks

For information on other walks in the area telephone Three Rivers District Council Leisure Department on 01923 776611. Alternatively, try planning your own walks using an Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map. Map number 1139 shows many local public paths that can be used to discover the countryside on your doorstep.



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The CMS works with local communities in Hertfordshire and north London to enhance and promote enjoyment of the countryside. For more information contact the Countryside Management Service, Blanche Farm, Blanche Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3LF, telephone 01707 650041.

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