

## FARINGDON

Faringdon has been a market town since King John gave the town a royal charter in 1218 to hold a weekly market. The town became important because of its position on the London to Cirencester road, and on the old wool merchants' route from the Cotswolds to the South East.

During the Civil War Faringdon was one of the last places in England to hold out for the King although Oliver Cromwell briefly occupied the town in 1645. Not long after this the Town Hall in the Market Place was built. The upper chamber was used as a meeting room and a Magistrates' Court. On market days butter, eggs and other farm produce were sold on the steps. At the beginning of this century it was a fire station, and was then used as the Faringdon Branch Library.

### All Saints Church - Faringdon

At the top of Market Place is All Saints Church. A building that dates mainly from the 12th and 13th centuries, although it is on the site of both Saxon and Norman buildings. It is designed in the shape of a cross with a central tower. The church reflects much of the town's history, Faringdon's three most notable families, the Untons, Pyes and Bennets having their tombs and monuments here. Outside the marks of cannon fire can still be seen on the church itself, a reminder of the time when the Roundheads attacked the town in 1645 and 1646 and the church spire was destroyed. A view of Faringdon House can be seen through a hole in a wooden door in the north wall of the churchyard.

### Badbury Hill Camp

An Iron Age fort, it is strategically placed on the highest ground in the area. The Camp is in shape an irregular circle and overlooks the Vale of the White Horse to the south and a long stretch of low lying ground to the Thames Valley in the north west. Early in the 19th century the banks were levelled leaving little but vestiges of the fosse on the south side and a faint escarpment on the other sides

OXFORDSHIRE  
CIRCULAR WALKS

# FARINGDON



### TAKING IN:

*Badbury Hill*

*Great Coxwell*

*Little Coxwell*

*The Folly*



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
CULTURAL SERVICES

FARINGDON

## DIRECTIONS

### WALK 1 - North of Faringdon

Approx 6¼ miles (10km)

- 1 Start in Market Place, head uphill to Church Street, past the churchyard. Carry straight on to a farm track, when it starts to bend, continue straight on to an enclosed footpath (Church Path).
- 2 At the footpath junction turn left, then follow field edge path down hill. Continue on well marked footpath across two large arable fields - first diagonally, towards the right of the copse; then on to a footbridge and head towards Smokedown Cottages. Join the track to Thrupp road.
- 3 Turn left onto road and just over the bridge, turn left through a gate. Cross meadow to a gate to the right of Hatton Farm then follow the path beside the telegraph poles onto a track leading to the road.
- 4 Turn right for some 200 m and then left onto field edge bridleway. Straight on across track. Continue to follow well marked bridleway to the road.
- 5 Turn right along roadside for about 400 m and then left onto bridleway (farm track) which passes Step Farm.
- 6 At path junction turn left onto field edge footpath to bridge. Then follow path, by telegraph poles, across field to bridge. Back onto field edge path which then cuts across field corner to stile. Continue on an enclosed path. At the top turn left leading onto Canada Lane. Straight on past school.
- 7 At the main road turn right and then left at roundabout into Gloucester Street, back to Market Place.

### WALK 2 - Faringdon - Badbury Hill - Great Coxwell - Little Coxwell

Approx 7 miles (11.3km)

- A Starting in Market Place, take Gloucester Street to roundabout. Here turn right then cross over after a short distance to Canada Lane. As the road bends, straight on to rough surfaced lane.
- B Turn right onto enclosed footpath to stile. The footpath cuts the left field corner to an edge path and continues to a bridge. Then follow the telegraph poles to bridge. Cross over to a field edge path.
- C Turn left onto bridleway, then cross field to gate. Continue on field edge bridleway then straight uphill cross field passing Badbury Hill Farm on your right.
- D Turn right along road and then left onto path skirting edge of Coxwell Wood to stile. Continue straight on through National Trust wood to stile. Here turn left

uphill to Badbury Hill Camp. Follow path round the camp and through car park to road.

- E Turn left and after 200m turn right onto footpath towards Gt Coxwell. After 300m bear left over stile into copse, exiting onto field edge path to the Great Barn.
- F Turn right at road into Gt Coxwell until, just past "Hillside" the path turns left and is clearly marked across the field to the A420 road.
- G Take care when crossing the A420 to the old road opposite to Lt Coxwell village. The route veers off to the right onto a footpath (signed to Fernham). Follow the waymarked path through the garden, over stile, along field edge to next stile, past tennis court. Continue to follow left hand field edge to road.
- H Turn left and take footpath opposite by Gorse Farm. Follow track through gate uphill to stile, onto bridleway.
- I Turn left take track downhill. Before reaching A420, turn right onto bridleway and follow to Wicklehamslodge Farm.
- J Turn left onto farm access track. As the track bends carry straight on over stile and down to A420. Cross with care to footpath opposite, continue straight on to road entering Faringdon. Cross to footpath almost opposite and continue diagonally left across field on well used path. Through gap and straight on, down onto lane, continue to Wantage road. Cross over to car park, straight on to Market Place.

### WALK 3 - East of Faringdon

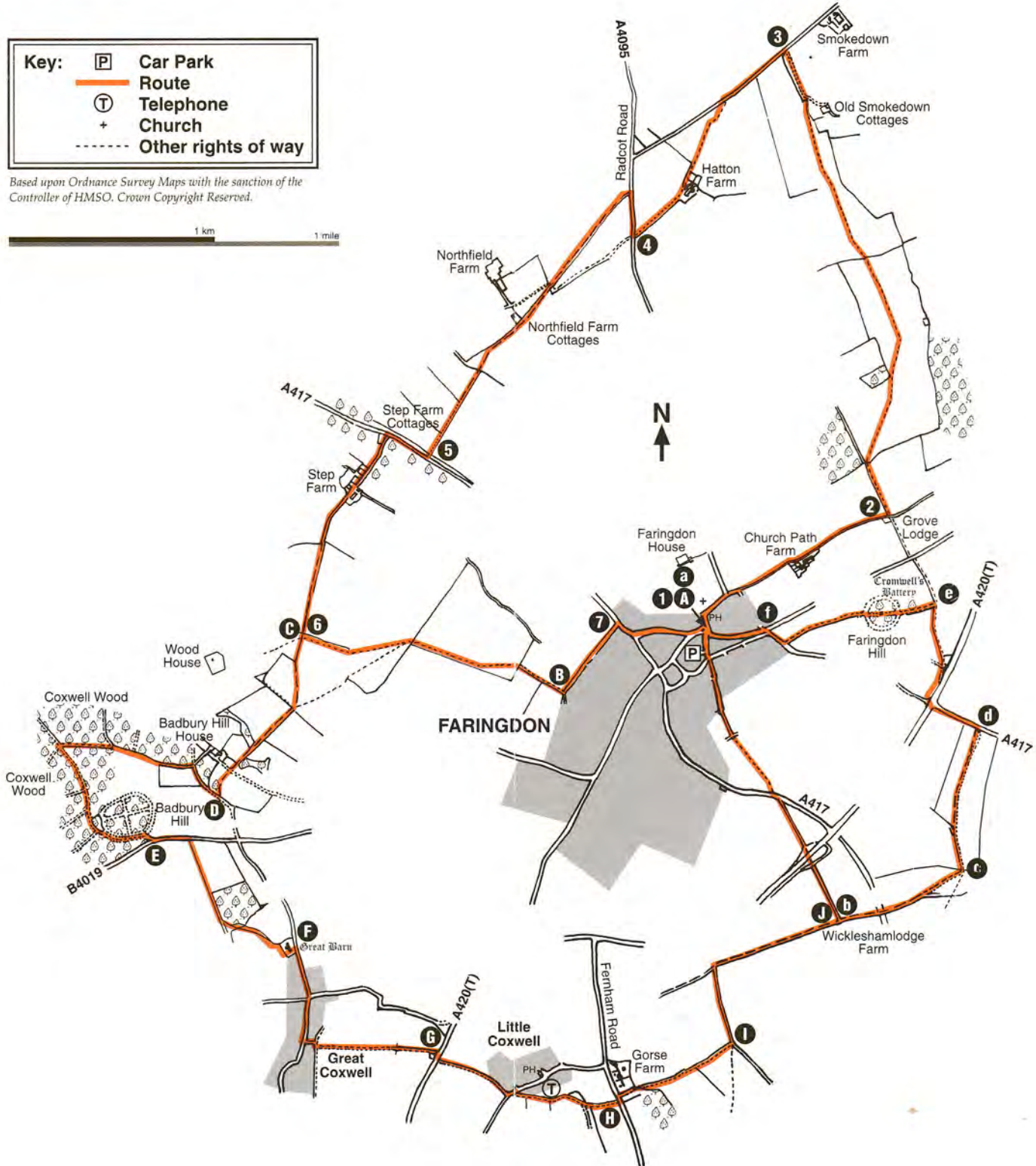
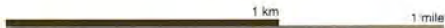
Approx 3 miles (5km)

- a From Market Place take Southampton Street (Bell Hotel on corner), straight over road to cul-de-sac, then across to Southampton Street (south). Through gap into field. Follow path bearing left to stile in field corner. Cross road to footpath opposite. Cross A420 with extreme care, up bank to stile. Continue straight on down farm access track to Wicklehamslodge Farm.
- b Turn left remaining on track. Just over little bridge bear left diagonally across field.
- c Turn left onto track which exits onto the Standford Road by the kennels.
- d Turn left to the A420. Cross road with care, diagonally (right). Follow field edge path to stile then continue on field edge to stile in hedgeline.
- e Turn left up hill to Folly, continue straight on following path to road.
- f Turn right and at road junction turn left onto road which takes you back to Market Place.

**Key:**

- P Car Park
- Route
- T Telephone
- +
- - - - - Other rights of way

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## Great Barn - Great Coxwell

This is a 13th century Cistercian monastic barn, stone built with a stone tiled roof with an exceptionally interesting timber construction which can be seen from inside. The barn is 61 metres long, 17.5 metres wide and 19 metres high. Nearly all the timber beams, struts and posts are original. It was acquired in 1956 by the National Trust under the will of the Mr Ernest E Cook.

## Little Coxwell

The church of St Mary has a Norman nave and chancel with an interesting 13th century double bellcote. Arthur Mee asks us to note the 500 year old man still smiling by one of the three windows on the south side.



## Folly Hill

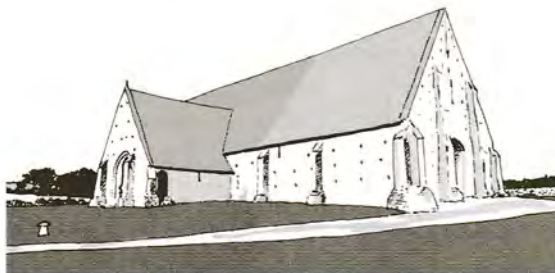
Perhaps the site of a short-lived castle during the reign of King Stephen and Cromwell's Battery during the Civil War. The summit was planted with Scotch firs and laid out with paths and seats by Poet Laureate, Henry Pye (described by Walter Scott as "respectable in all except his poetry") about 1780. In 1935 Lord Berners, the composer, artist and writer, who lived in Faringdon House, commissioned the building of the observation tower. It has been described as the last folly to be built in England. In digging the foundations some skeletons were unearthed and it has been suggested that they were victims of the storming of the castle in 1145.

## Easy to follow routes

All three walks start from Market Place in Faringdon. Each walk is marked with metal signposts where the path leaves the road and with waymarks on gates and stiles at every change of direction.

## Car Parking (see map inside)

Car parks can be found off Gloucester Street and Southampton Street. Limited parking can also be found in Market Place and Church Street.



## Public Transport

You will find information and Oxfordshire County Council public transport timetables in most libraries and Tourist Information Centres. Alternatively write enclosing an A5 stamped addressed envelope to: *Oxfordshire County Council, Environmental Services, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, OXFORD OX1 1NE.*

If you experience problems on this route, or wish to know more about a range of circular walks throughout Oxfordshire, please contact:  
*Oxfordshire County Council  
Countryside Service  
Cultural Services  
Holton OXFORD  
OX33 1QQ  
Tel: 01865 810226*

*Revised leaflet based on original which acknowledged Faringdon School*

*Supported by*