



## Wychwood Walk No. 8: Leaffield

Approximately 5.5 miles / 7 km

Parking: Leaffield Village Green

(Please park with consideration to residents)

Part of a series of circular walks that link in with The Wychwood Way



TL - Turn left BL - Bear left  
TR - Turn right BR - Bear right

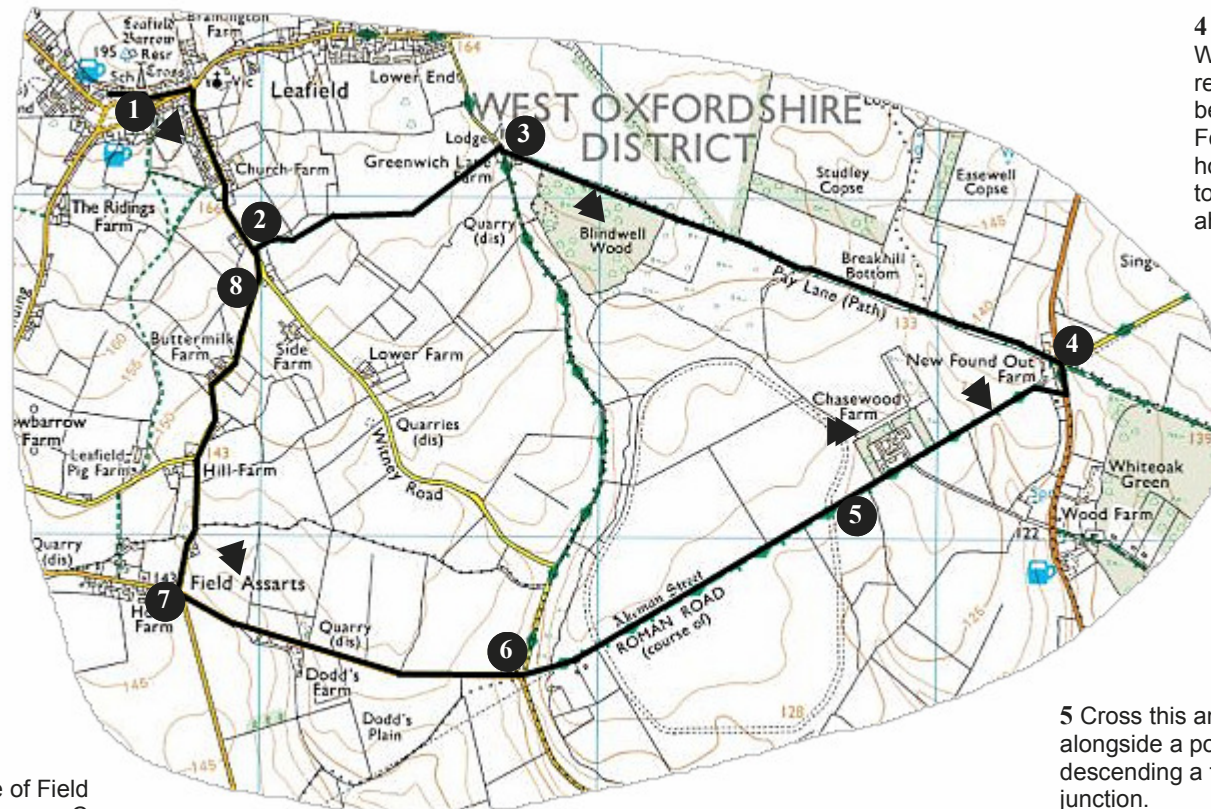
### Start Point

**1** Start at Leaffield Primary School. From here, follow the road towards Finstock along the top of the Village Green. By the Church TR down Witney Lane.

**2** Just before a road junction TL onto a footpath marked Greenwich Lane. Go through a gate and follow the edge of the field to a gap in the wall. Continue straight ahead along a headland path and alongside a cottage onto a lane.

**3** TR, then almost immediately left onto Pay Lane, which should be followed for approx 2km to the Witney road.

**4** TR and walk along the verge towards Witney for approx 100m. TR onto a restricted byway marked Akeman Street, bearing left through a wooden bridle gate. Follow the bridleway alongside some horse paddocks. Cross the drive leading to Chasewood Farm and continue straight ahead to the old airfield perimeter track.



**8** At the next junction BL into Witney Lane, which leads back to the Church and the Village Green.

**7** At the crossroads at the edge of Field Assarts TR onto Buttermilk Lane. Continue along the lane past Hill Farm and Buttermilk House.

**6** Follow the lane marked Field Assarts and Leaffield past Dodds Farm.

**5** Cross this and continue straight ahead alongside a post and wire fence, before descending a farm track to a road junction.



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### ► Points of Interest

#### Between points 1-2: Leaffield

Leaffield was once a remote community in an isolated clearing, surrounded by the woodlands of the Wychwood Forest. The church of St. Michael and All Angels dominates the skyline for miles around. It dates from 1860 and was designed by the influential Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

#### Between points 3-4: Blindwell Wood

Pay Lane is an ancient track that runs between drystone walls for much of its length. There is a diverse flora that has a strong woodland character. The route passes Blindwell Wood at the western end, an ancient woodland several hundred years old. Please note: there is no public right of way through the woodland. There were other areas of woodland to the south of the track at its eastern end. These were cleared in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when Chasewood Farm was created.

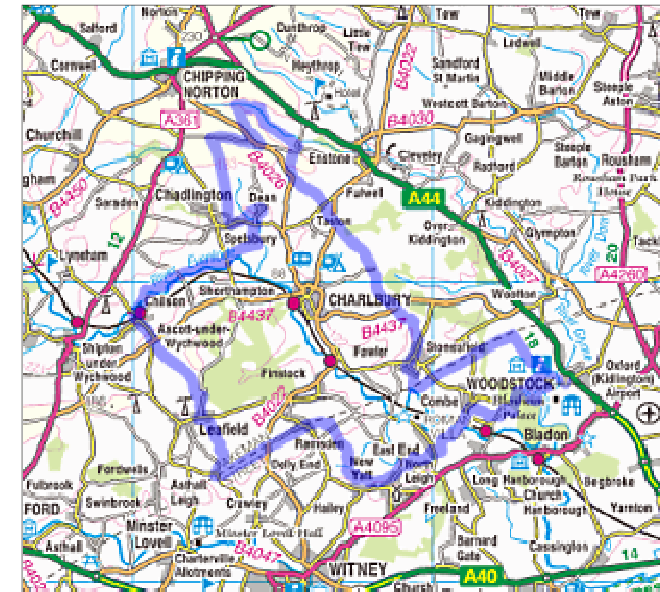
#### Points 4-6: Akeman Street (Roman road), WWII Airfield

This section follows the ancient Roman road, Akeman Street, that used to run from what is now present day Cirencester to St Albans.

Chasewood Farm was created by the Duke of Marlborough in 1874 following the clearance of several large, ancient woodland coppices. The farmland was used as a relief landing ground and flight training base in WWII; the concrete perimeter track can still be seen where it crosses the route.

#### Between points 6-8: Field Assarts

The field pattern in this area is small scale in contrast to the big fields in surrounding areas. This is a result of a different historic pattern of land enclosure that took place over an extended period of time, rather than rapidly following the clearance of the forest. The place name Field Assarts (an assart is an area of forest land cleared for agriculture) reflects the historic changes in land use in this area.



The Wychwood Way