

Acknowledgements

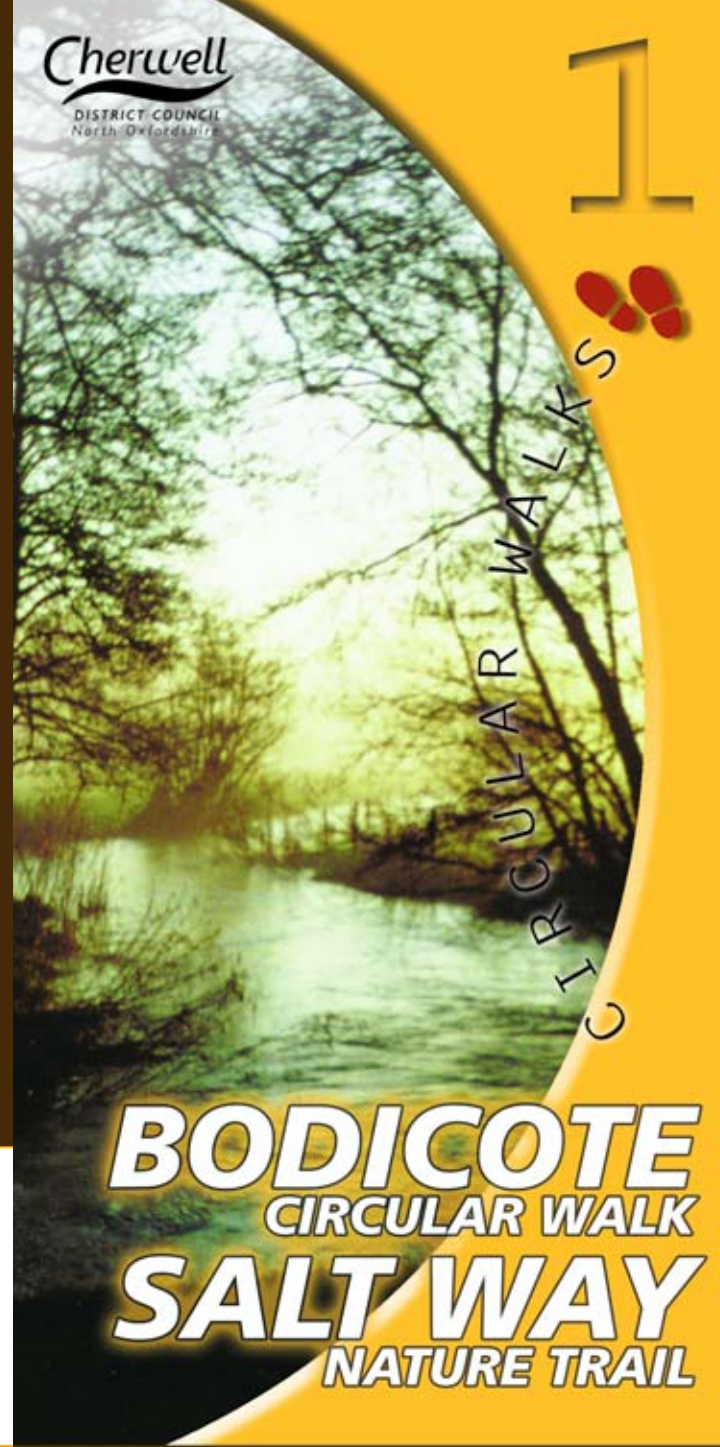
Thanks are due to the following for support and help in the preparation of this leaflet:
 The Landowners - whose co-operation helped to make the walks possible,
 Peter Brown - research and preparation of walk, Jean Tuck - Saltway Nature Trail (assisted by Joanne and Simon), George G Walker - introductory illustration, Alison Urwick - map and sketches, Jeremy Sacha - front cover photograph, Bodicote Parish Council subcommittee, helped by the many villagers who provided information.

Additional Information

All of Cherwell District Council's circular walks and rides are published on the Council website and can be downloaded free. Leaflets 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:-



Leisure Services Department
 Cherwell District Council
 Bodicote House, Bodicote
 Banbury, Oxon, OX15 4AA
 Telephone 01295 221706
 leisure.services@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
 www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk



BODICOTE CIRCULAR WALK SALT WAY NATURE TRAIL

Bodicote Circular Walk

Approx 3miles / 4.8km

An attractive walk through the countryside surrounding the village of Bodicote. The route is signed and described in an anti-clockwise direction but can be walked either way. Ground conditions can be wet and muddy, especially in winter.



Places to Eat & Drink



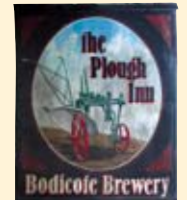
Horse and Jockey
 (01295) 263773

Pub serving local real ales and bar meals. Sun trap garden at the front. Open Sat and Sun all day, Mon evening, Tues - Fri lunchtime and evening. Check for exact times

The Plough

(01295) 262327

www.banbury-cross.co.uk/bodicotebrewery
 Pub serving local real ales, including beers made in its own micro-brewery. Restaurant serving traditional pub meals. Open every lunchtime and evening for food and bar. Check for exact times



Bakers Arms
 (01295) 263230

Pub serving local real ales. Garden at the back. Large screen Sky sports. Open Sat and Sun all day, Mon lunchtime, plus Mon - Thurs evenings, Fri 2 - 11pm

Bodicote Flyover Farm Shop

(01295) 270789

Local and seasonal produce, sweets, cakes and soft drinks. Open Mon - Sat 8.30am - 5.30pm, Sun 9am - 1pm

4 Turn left off the Salt Way and follow the path along the hedgerow and the tiny stream, through a swing gate by Wykham Farm Cottages. (Please make sure the gate is securely latched). Pass a Cedarwood Bungalow on your right, then at the track junction bear right (crossing the main track) and head for the bridge gate at the bottom of the narrow field.





5 Cross the road (Wykham Lane) with care and go through the gate beside the cattle grid. Follow the path parallel with the left hand hedge until you get to the corner. Go towards the telegraph pole at the far end of the lake, following the path around the side of the slope. Go through the 'Hunting' gate beside the cattle grid and follow the track through the next one.

6 Now head for the swing gate in the right hand corner of the hedge in front of you and go through it. This path is low lying and shares its route with a pleasant little stream, (it can be quite muddy after rain) eventually reaching Upper Grove Mill.

7 You are now in Bloxham Parish. Passing the Mill on your right, continue up the track (Castlemead - site of the castle on left) then turn left onto Bloxham Grove Road. Following the road you will see the Windmill on your right - well worth a pause here to enjoy the views towards Bodicote to your left and across country to your right.

For those who would like to venture further afield we recommend the OS Explorer sheet 191.

KEY

- Route 
- Other paths 
- Views 
- Points of Interest 



3 Continue, passing Broad Gap and then Wykham Lane. You are now in White Post Road. (Note the entrance to the stables of Bodicote House on your right and then "the Lodge". Next on your right is Bishop Loveday School, then the millennium sign, which depicts aspects of Bodicote's history and everyday life). Turn left into Salt Way and follow it until you reach its crossroads with a bridleway (where there are some drain covers set into the ground).



2 Moving on you pass Paddock Farm Road and some village shops, next door to which was the Blacksmiths.

1 Leaving the old Church School and the Church (note the East Window, a memorial to George Warriner of Bloxham Grove) walk along Church Street and up through the village High Street.

10 Opposite the shops turn left then take the first right into Lower Close. Walk to the end then turn left into East Street and continue until you reach Church Street where the walk began.



9 Go through a field gate then through the yard of Lower Grove Mill and across the Sor Brook (re-entering Bodicote Parish). The track leads you back up to the village via Austin road.

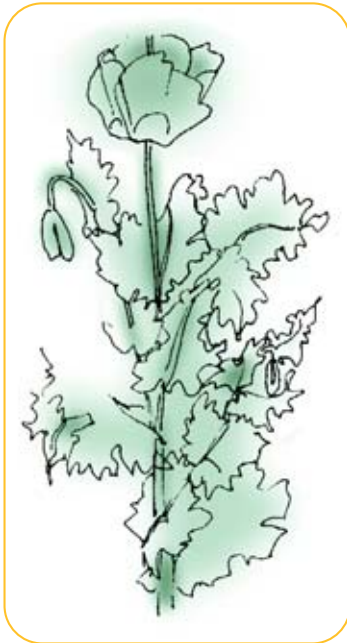
8 On reaching the house and farm buildings of Bloxham Grove carry straight on, skirting the outside of the garden wall (to your left). Bear left to go through a bridle gate beside a field gate and head down the field edge path.

Points of Interest

A Bodicote had its own fire fighting equipment and team. The 'Engine', a hand-drawn vehicle (now in the collection of Banbury Museum) was kept in a building just across the High Street, and the alarm bell hung on the cottage on the left hand corner of Malthouse Lane.

B Opposite Paddock Farm Road note an attractive double fronted house – 'The Bakehouse' formerly the home of Mr Miles, the village baker. A second baker worked from the premises now known as 'Gorsewood Cottage'. On Sunday his oven was turned over to cooking the 'roast'. Even as recently as 1956 the Sunday joint was cooked here for Mr Mure's stable lads at Bodicote House, who flocked to Mrs Tapper at the Lodge for this weekly treat.

C On the right side of Salt Way is a housing estate. Some 200 years ago this area was where Dr William Hayward (Apothecary) commenced cultivation of a special rhubarb, henbane, belladonna and poppies for medicinal mixtures, supplied over a wide area in the UK. The Usher family for generations maintained this business until it closed in the mid 1940s.



D Upper Grove Mill is one of six mills recorded in the Domesday Book along this stretch of the Sor Brook. Often known locally as Cherry's Mill, the Cherry family worked the mill from 1857 to 1940s. Flour was delivered to local bakers by horse drawn covered wagons – one of which is housed in the Museum of Rural Life in Reading. Up to the 1950s, here you would find otter, corncrake, red squirrel and red-legged partridge as well as kingfisher, crayfish, yellowhammer and skylark which are still present.



E Bloxham Grove house dates from 1715 and was acquired in 1797 by George Warriner, a linen draper from Nottingham with a business in London's Bond Street. The family left the Grove in 1915. Henry Warriner, his grandson, invented the first screw driven steam launch, and built the fully operational model windmill in the grounds, as a memorial to all windmills. Roman relics discovered nearby include two bronze compasses and the remains of a blast furnace.

F Lower Grove Mill is another of the Domesday mills. The attractive garden was originally a wider section of the river - this was the turning point for the Henry Warriner steam launch. Cotefield House on the sky line was the home of the Keysers, local landowners and benefactors who provided King's Field for villager's recreation.



Salt Way Nature Trail

Instead of turning off Salt Way at instruction 4 of the Circular Walk, you can follow the lane all the way to the Broughton Road. Look carefully and there is plenty of wildlife to see along the way. There is some information on the History of Salt Way in the Banbury Fringe Walk Leaflet.

Bodicote to the Bloxham Road

1mile / 1.6km

As the hedgerow on the left becomes lower the views across the open countryside can be appreciated. Look for the white-painted windmill of Bloxham Grove, Adderbury steeple and the radio masts at Barford St John.

You may be able to spot **blue tits** and **great tits** throughout the year. In winter **linnet**, **long-tailed tits** or pairs of **bullfinches** can often be seen, whilst **gulls** and flocks of **fieldfare** are the birds to watch for in the open fields. In early spring listen for the **skylark** and later for the **cuckoo**, which can sometimes be seen sitting on the power lines. In summer lesser **whitethroat** and **yellow wagtail** may be seen along the hedges and fences which cross the fields.

In the rough grass below the hedge the **meadow brown**, **ringlet** and the **orange gatekeeper** butterflies may be seen. As the lane leaves the houses and becomes more wooded there are others to look for. In spring the large **white**, **small white** and **greenveined white** are joined by the aptly named **orange-tip** (whose caterpillars like the **garlic mustard** growing along the hedgerow). In a good year the **holly blue** is abundant. Easiest of all to see are the **speckled wood butterflies** which bask in patches of sun waiting for a passing mate. In summer look for the butterflies which lay their eggs on the many nettles: **peacock**, **small tortoiseshell**, **comma** and **red admiral**. Any **blackberry blossom** in a sunny spot is likely to attract many of these.

The hedges here are old and the variety of trees is large. Look out for **blackthorn**, **buckthorn**, **field maple**, **elm**, **hawthorn** (red and white), **elder**, **wild rose**, **oak**, **lime**, **hazel** and **aspen** among others.

When you reach the busy Bloxham Road, cross with care, using the pedestrian island.

Bloxham Road to Giant's Cave

Approx 1mile / 1.6km

This part of the walk starts alongside Waller Drive. The tall stems of both **red** and **white campion** should be easy to find in summer, and the large **ox-eye daisy** too. Enjoy the views, where the edges are low enough, to Crouch Hill on one site and across the fields to Bloxham on the other.

You can now watch and listen for **robin**, **yellowhammer**, **blackbird** and **song thrush** in the hedges. You may glimpse the quick flight and mouse like scuttle of a **wren**, but are more likely to hear than to see the summer visitors - the **chiffchaff** (with a song like its name), and its more melodious cousin the **willow warbler**. Listen for the single, metallic crow of the **pheasant** or the clattering sound of **wood pigeons** flying out of the trees at your approach.

The **butterflies** you are likely to see are the same as on the first section. The variety of trees is also similar to that on the first section, with perhaps more **ash** and one or two **beech**. Further along, the sandy banks show traces of **rabbits** and **foxes** which can often be seen if it is quiet.



On the later stages of the walk the wild flowers are more varied; you may notice **burdock** with the thistle like flowers and rhubarb like leaves, **herb bennet** which looks like a tall, thin buttercup with a fluffy middle, and the tall, red spikes of **hedge woundwort**. **Hogweed** is impossible to miss, because of its great size, large ragged leaves and clusters of white flowers.

Salt Way eventually ends at the Broughton Road, opposite the hilly field by Giant's Cave. If you turn around and walk back to Bodicote you may be surprised at how much you missed the first time!