

⑦ Cross the stile onto the bridleway and immediately turn sharp right onto the sunken track.

We are now walking on an ancient track. The age is demonstrated by the extensive variety of trees such as blackthorn, ash, hazel, silver birch, oak, beech, sloe, elder, cherry and field maple.



We pass an interesting shaped beech tree on the right. This multi trunked tree possibly had some damage when it was younger.

⑧ Continue until the footpaths diverge at the paths signed 42 and 32. Path 32 goes to the right, our route carries straight ahead on path 42. This will take us back to the bottom of the slope that we climbed at the beginning of the walk. (waypoint 3)



At this junction, take the left path up the slope where we originally came down towards the road. We will then turn right and retrace our steps back to the start of the walk.



Due the ongoing improvements being carried out by the Chiltern Society, Oxfordshire County Council and Chinnor Parish Council, you may find some of the stiles have been replaced by gates.

Chinnor is a large village and civil parish in South Oxfordshire about 4 miles southeast of Thame. The village is a spring line settlement on the Icknield Way below the Chiltern escarpment. The civil parish of Chinnor includes Henton, Emmington, Wainhill and Chinnor Hill. The 2011 Census recorded the parish's population as 5,924.



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**For information** on events, places to eat, accommodation and attractions, visit Chinnor Parish Office (Mon – Thu 9am-1pm) at Chinnor Community Pavilion, Station Road, OX39 4PU. Tel: 01844 353267 or go to [www.chinnorparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.chinnorparishcouncil.co.uk).

This leaflet has been produced by Greening Chinnor with the generous support of Chinnor Parish Council and South Oxfordshire District Council.



# Chinnor

## OXFORDSHIRE

### PARISH WALK 3



## Sprigs Alley

This walk is a mixture of mature woodland and some open grassland / farmland with superb views. Distance: about 5-6 miles with some moderate climbs, duration: approx. 1.5 hour. Dogs need to be on leads near stock and game birds

**Start of walk:** Take the road from Chinnor uphill toward Bledlow Ridge. Where the road turns sharp left continue ahead towards Sprigs Alley for approx. 1/2 mile. Where the road turns sharply left, you will find an off-road parking area on your right, park here. To begin the walk, turn left from the parking place and walk back in the direction of Chinnor for approx. 400 yards. Then, look out on your left for a large gate which leads to Drifts House. Opposite the house is a gate with a footpath sign saying 'Sprigs Alley 1/2'.



**1** At the gate take the footpath towards the wooded area. Follow the path through the oak and beech trees.

Exit the wood through the kissing gate and follow the well cut path through several kissing gates until you get to the bridle way.

**2** On the right is the main road. Take the bridleway on the left, ensuring that you take the marked bridleway and not the track to Pond Farm or Bridleway Barn.

Follow the bridleway down, keeping the wood to your right and fields on your left. Walk down the path into a valley and enjoy the views.

Be aware that this path is very uneven underfoot with exposed tree roots and loose flints.



**3** At the bottom of the valley you will meet the junction for paths 42 and 31a. Continue on path 31a straight ahead up the hill. We will be returning by path 42. In May, this area is full of the pungent aroma of wild garlic with lovely white flowers.

After a moderate climb, the path levels off with the woods to the left with lots of holly trees and enclosed fields on the right.



**4** Follow the path until you come to the Bledlow Ridge road and then turn right. Extra caution should be taken on this road as there is no footpath present. Ignore a footpath sign set back from the road on your right and continue for approximately 100 yards until the road turns sharply left. Here you will see a footpath dead ahead.

**5** Cross the stile and walk parallel with the line of ash and oak trees on your left towards the wood directly in front of you whilst enjoying the view of the valley. Looking to your right you can see the telecoms tower at Stokenchurch.



**6** At the end of the field, cross the stile and enter the wood. Enjoy the spring carpet of bluebells in this beech and holly wood where you will also see cherry and ash trees. Take a moment to look around and take in the lovely architecture of the trees.



Cross the stile and follow the path keeping the trees to the left, take a look at the amazing vista opening up.



**7** Continue descending toward the stile at the bottom of the field. The footpath continues across the next field. Be aware that ground nesting birds are in this area and dogs should be kept on a tight lead.

To Chinnor & M40



To Bledlow Ridge

