

Walk 11: Woodley and Sonning

This circular walk, starting in Woodford Park, takes you north, over the railway line and down Sonning Lane to the pretty village of Sonning. You then walk up Charvil Lane to the university farm and along Broadmoor Lane and Milestone Avenue to where St Patrick's Stream meets the river Thames at St Patrick's Bridge. The walk then takes you along the side of the river Thames to Sonning Bridge and back through the village to King George's Field, returning to Woodford Park via the Old Bath Road.

The path along the Thames can be muddy in places and both Milestone Avenue and the riverside path are prone to flooding in very wet weather.

Length

6.7 miles (10.8 km). Allow 3 hours 15mins plus stops.

Starting Point

- Car** **Woodford Park Leisure Centre car park**, Leisure Drive (off Haddon Drive), Woodley, RG5 4LY. OS Grid Ref: SU 76237364. w3w: ///owners.grass.hotels
(Note: often busy on Saturdays until early afternoon – sports teams)
- Bus 14/19c** **Chequers stop**. Headley Road. Walk along Headley Road in the direction of bus travel, to the Oakwood Centre to enter Woodford Park by the right-hand side of the Oakwood Centre. Take the footpath that leads past the war memorial to the Coronation Hall. Turn left at the Coronation Hall and continue to the children's play area. The carpark and start of the walk are on your right.
- 13/19a** **Chequers stop**, Beechwood Avenue. walk along the right-hand pavement towards a pedestrian crossing, but do not cross it. Go straight ahead to reach a second crossing in front of the Chequers pub. Go over the crossing, turn right to the 14/19c bus stop.

Refreshments

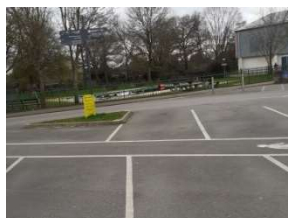
The Oakwood Centre Headley Road, Woodley. Across Woodford Park by the 14/19c bus stop.

In Sonning Village

- Coppa Club** At Sonning bridge
- The Mill** On the north side of Sonning Bridge (opposite side to the walk)
- Bull Inn** Just after the churchyard
- The Village Hamper** High Street just before point (12)

Route Instructions (See maps below for numbered points)

1



From the Leisure Centre carpark walk towards the children's play area and paddling pool. Turn right and follow the path past the paddling pool. Turn left, then right and walk between the lake and the all-weather pitch. At the end of the lake continue straight on ignoring paths to left and right, then bear slightly left and immediately left again past gates to a grounds maintenance area on the left and a school fence on the right, towards a metal gate. This is point (2) below.

2



Walk through the pedestrian exit at the left-hand side of the gate along the unmade road to the round-about junction with Reading Road and Western Avenue. This is point (3) below.

3



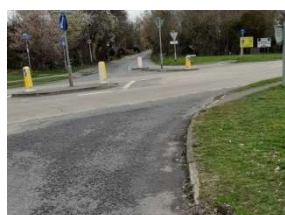
Turn right into Western Avenue, cross the road and walk along Western Avenue, past the school and church, to reach the junction with Warren Road on your left. This is point **(4)** below.

4



Turn left into Warren Road, keeping on the left-hand pavement, continue ahead to the Sonning sign. Cross the road and, taking care, walk over the narrow railway bridge. Keep to the right when walking round the left-hand bend. Continue past the Old Bath Road turnings and walk to the A4. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Cross the A4 using the traffic island and walk down the pavement on left-hand side of Sonning Lane, which is directly ahead, to the sharp right-hand bend at the bottom of the lane. (The lich gate leading into the churchyard is ahead of you. Do not go through it.) This is point **(6)** below.

6



Turn right into Pearson Road and, walking on the left-hand pavement, cross the top of the High Street on your left, continue past the Alms Houses and just after Pearson Hall on your left cross the road to walk past the junction with Pound Lane on the right, bearing left, to the roundabout. Turn right into Charvil Lane, walk up to the University Farm and cross Charvil Lane to the gate to Broadmoor Lane (a permissive path) opposite. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Walk along Broadmoor Lane, ignore the footpath to the Aquatic Research Centre on the left. Continue past the sheds on the right. Ignore paths to the right and left. After about 1 km, pass a building on the right and continue straight on on the path through the field (hedge on the right) to a gate into Milestone Avenue. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Turn left into Milestone Avenue and follow the road which eventually bends to the right. Just before the bridge across St Patrick's Stream there is a footpath on the left. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Turn left onto the footpath, walk past Milestone Point and then the wooden fence on your right to reach the river Thames. Continue on the footpath, which follows the river Thames (on your right). Eventually the footpath opens out, with houses on the left and Sonning Bridge ahead. This is point **(10)** below.

10



Continue past The Great House Hotel and Coppa Club on the left to a gate to the road. Walk through the gap to the left of the gate and carefully cross the road. Turn left and walk towards the entrance to the churchyard on the right of the Little Deanery. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Enter the church yard and follow the path on the left next to the wall to reach the main gates. Exit the churchyard and walk past the Bull on the right to reach the junction with the High Street. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn right and walk uphill. (The Village Hamper is on your left). At the end of the High Street turn right and follow Pearson Road to the left-hand bend. Turn left into Sonning Lane and continue uphill to the Berkshire County Sports Club on your left. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and go through the gap in the hedge. Do not go straight ahead but immediately turn left and go across the tarmac car park to the minor lane that joins Sonning Lane. This is point **(13)** below.

13



From the car park turn right and walk down the lane. Turn left just before the houses in front of you and take the footpath which leads between the hedge on your left and the tennis courts on the right to King George's Field. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Turn right and walk down the right-hand side of the field, past the cricket nets and fitness equipment and the children's playground to the exit by the school entrance to reach Pound Lane. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Turn right and walk up Pound Lane to the roundabout. Follow the pavement round to the right to walk on the footpath along the side of the A4 to the pedestrian crossing. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Cross the A4 and enter Holmemoor Drive. Turn right and walk along Holmemoor Drive and then the Old Bath Road, passing West Drive, to reach the junction with Warren Road on your left. This is point **(17)** below.

17

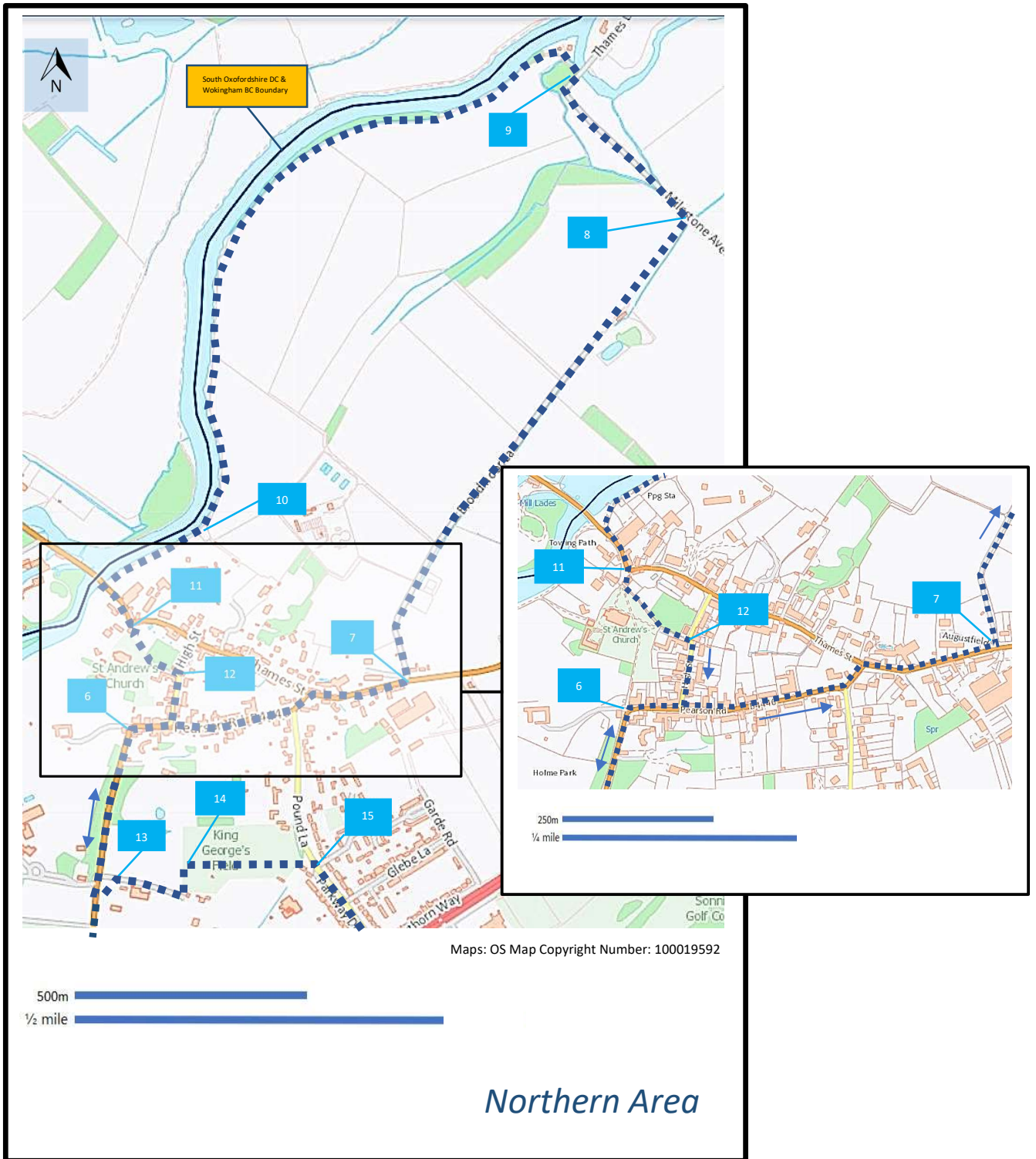


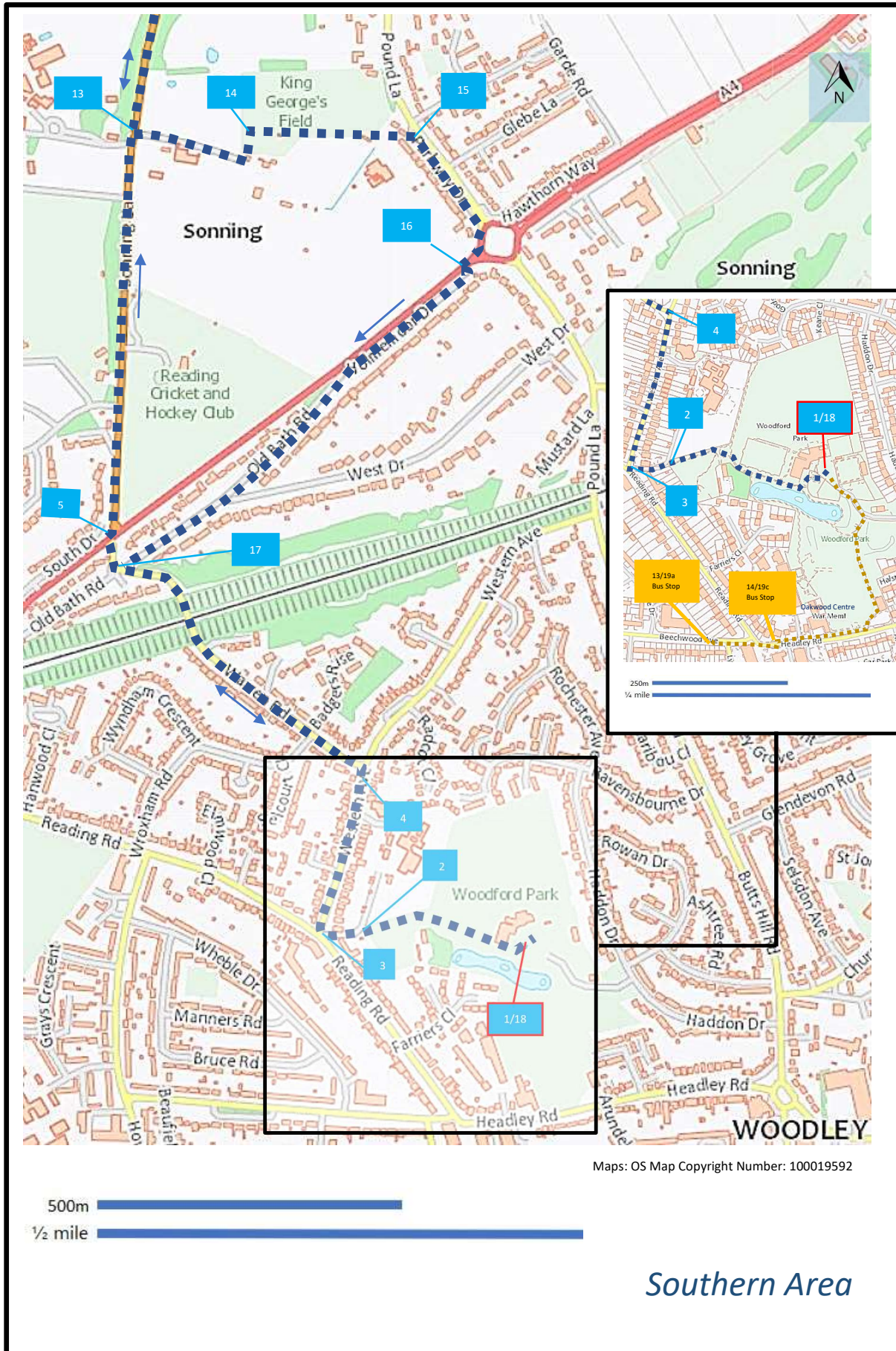
Turn left into Warren Road, cross the railway bridge and continue to the junction with Western Avenue. Cross Western Avenue and turn right. Continue to the entrance to Woodford Park on your left. Take the unmade road, walk through the gate and continue between the lake and the all-weather pitch. Turn left in front of the paddling pool and then right to reach the carpark. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Journey's end.





Maps: OS Map Copyright Number: 100019592

Southern Area