

Last main walk check	(a), (b), (c), + main section via Charlton		
6 th October 2024	8 th April 2017		
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Circular Kings Sutton Walk

Length: 17.2km (10.7 miles)

Kings Sutton → Aynho: 4km → Souldern: 2¼km → Croughton: 3¾km → Charlton: 3¼km → Kings Sutton: 3¼km → station: ¾km

Toughness: 3/10

Length: 17.2km (10.7 miles)

Map: Explorer 191

Walk description

This circular walk passes through four small villages each with a good pub serving real ale. During the longer days you can take the opportunity to visit all. For the first 2-3km, depending on the speed and direction of the wind the nearby M40 can be noisy. On other days it's a far off sound.

Walk option

a) Start at Banbury. You may start (and finish, option (b)) the walk from Banbury station which has the advantage of better transport links. The route from Banbury to Kings Sutton is 8km.

b) Finish at Banbury. You may finish (and start option (a)) the walk from Banbury station which has the advantage of better transport links. The route from Kings Sutton to Banbury is 6km.

Start and finish at Banbury. Combine (a) and (b), adds 14km to the main walk.

c) Start and / or finish at Banbury. You may cut the main walk short by going via Charlton, by using option (c) where indicated in the in the text. This cuts the walk by 7.2km.

Transport

Trains from Marylebone to Kings Sutton direct. Others from Marylebone changing at Banbury. Others from Paddington changing at Oxford. Return trains are not that frequent, giving you an excuse to stop off at one of the two pubs in Kings Sutton prior to the 10 minute walk downhill back to Kings Sutton station. Suggest departure from Marylebone at around 9.45 am if you want to stop for lunch halfway through the walk at either The Fox or The Blackbird.

Pubs

[The Cartwright Hotel and Restaurant](#), 1-5 Croughton Road, Aynho OX17 3BE. Tel. 01869 811885. Real Ale Bar, serving local beer and guest ales. Food 12 - 2.30pm daily. 4 km from the start of the walk.

[The Fox Inn](#), Fox Lane, Souldern OX27 7JW. Tel. 01869 345284. Freehouse. Good selection of ales. Last visit: Hook Norton North Cotswold and Otter. Lunchtime hours: 12 – 3pm (All day Sat, 4pm Sun 12 – 4pm) Food to 2pm weekdays, 2.30pm weekends. 6¼ km from the start of the walk.

[The Blackbird Inn](#), 38 High St, Croughton NN13 5LT. Tel. 01869 810 237. Freehouse. Good selection of ales. Last visit: Young's Gold, Tribute and Directors. All day opening. Food 11am - 9pm daily. 10 km from the start of the walk.

[The Rose & Crown](#), Main Street, Charlton OX17 3DP. Tel. 01295 811317. Morland Brewery. Lunchtime hours: 12 – 3pm. (3.30pm weekends) Food 12 – 2pm. Mondays – closed. 13¼ km from the start of the walk.

[The White Horse](#), 2 The Square, Kings Sutton, OX17 3RF. Tel. 01295 810843. Brakspear Brewery. Food Tue - Sun 12 – 2pm, Tue – Sat 6.30pm - 9pm.

[The Butchers Arms](#), Whittall Street, Kings Sutton OX17 3RD. Tel. 01295 810898. Hook Norton Brewery. Tue - Sun 11 – 2.30, 5.30 – 11pm. Food Tue - Sat 12pm - 2.30 and 6pm - 9pm. Sun: 12-7pm

Walk directions

Exit the station and turn left. In 40m turn right through a kissing gate (KG). Go up across a small field. Go through a KG and fork left across a field, SE. In 250m on the far side of field – 40m to R of far field corner - go through 2 x KGs and turn left along a wide track. In 200m at a T-junction, turn left along a road. In 40m turn right through a gap to go down across a field, 120°.

[*] In 370m go through a wooded area to then go down the fenced in right hand side (RHS) of a field. In 60m cross a footbridge (FB) into the next field and turn left to follow the field edge for 20m, then round to the right and up along its left hand side (LHS) with a hedgerow. In 180m you pass a FB on your left and in 60m you cross into the next field and fork right up across it, 170°. In 140m cross a FB into the next field and cross the next two fields, and in 320m go through a wide gap into the next field to go along its RHS with a hedgerow. After 170m at its corner, go along an enclosed FP.

In 40m you come out to a concrete farm track.

[If you are taking option **c) Short cut to Charlton**, refer to the directions at the end of this main section.]

Otherwise:

Go down the track and in 80m go over a stile (right of a normally open metal fieldgate (FG)), to continue along the concrete farm track across a stream and up towards some houses. In 80m by the houses on your left, veer right to go through a gate and cross a field, 170°. In 120m cross a stile (right of a double metal FG) and turn left for 10m to then follow the LHS of the field up and round to the right.

In 350m at the top, follow the field round to the right and in 30m turn left through a wide gap to go up across the next field, 150°, (further up this field the village of Aynho - that you will be passing through – comes into view). In 500m go through a wide gap (immediately to the right of a fenced in clump of trees), and go up the LHS of the next field. In 170m cross a stile to go up a small field for 50m, to then cross a stone stile onto the road, to reach **Aynho**.

Turn right for 15m, and then turn left up Butts Close.

In 70m

➔ **The Cartwright Hotel and Restaurant** continue along Butts Close. After 100m where the tarmac road ends and you cross onto a brick paving road, turn right for the back entrance of the Hotel / restaurant / bar. From the

main entrance of Hotel & restaurant, turn left along the main road. In 300m (by a road – Portway - on your left), turn right across the main road to go down a (2m high) stone walled in FP.

- ➔ If skipping this refreshment stop, turn left along a tarmac FP. In 280m turn right along a lane. In 150m cross main road to go down a (2m high) stone walled in FP.

In 320m cross a stile into a field to go down its RHS. In 400m at a field corner go through a wooden KG, (right of a double metal FG), 170°, (towards a white circular marker post). In 200m at the corner of a fenced in wood, go through a KG to continue down a concrete farm track, in the same direction. After 130m pass by a pond on your right, and go over a stream to continue up the (now earth) farm track.

In 70m go over a stile into the corner of a field and up its RHS.

- ➔ **Short cut skipping Souldern and cutting 2km from the walk.** Turn half left, 110°, for 100m towards a KG to then pick up the directions at [*] below.

In 230m (at the far end of the field), cross a stile at the left side of a wood to go along a FP with a stream on your left. In 40m join a wide concrete track to continue in the same direction. In 200m pass by a church on your left to then join a lane into **Souldern**.

In 120m turn right at a T-junction with the High Street. In 170m you reach the **Fox pub** on your left.

From the pub retrace your steps back to the High Street, to continue in your previous westerly direction along the High Street, and in 250m turn right and cross a stone stile to follow a FP. In 90m cross a stile into a field to go along its RHS.

After 250m (having passed a fenced in clump of trees off to your left), by a metal FG on your right, turn half left, 30°, across the field for 200m to cross over into the next field (through a metal FG) and then veer slightly left across it, 20°.

In 180m you reach a KG. [*] Go through the KG and cross a stream to go up a farm track. In 200m go through a KG followed by a stile and cross a road to follow a tarmac driveway (bridleway). In 350m at a V junction, fork left and in a further 70m fork left to pass by some large farm buildings on your left and on into a field to then turn left along its LHS, along a car-wide shingle track.

In 500m follow a wide track through a wood. In 400m emerge from the wood into a field to veer left, 30° towards a metal FG in its far corner. In 350m at the field corner go through a metal FG and turn right down along a FP. In 120m go through a gate and down across a small field.

In 100m at its corner go through a gate, and turn left up a lane. In 130m cross a ford to reach **Croughton**. In 70m turn right across a stone stile. In 180m go through a metal KG and cross a stile to go along the LHS of a field. In 220m turn left across a stile built into the field fence to cross a field.

In 100m cross a stile on the left side of a house and continue for 40m to the road. Cross over the road.

➔ **Blackbird Pub** turn left for 50m: real ales, food all day.

➔ If not stopping continue ahead.

Continue on a tarmac FP, 340°. In 180m cross over a stile into a field to go down its LHS. In 300m cross a farm bridge over a stream. In 120m go over another farm bridge over a stream into the next field and turn half right across it, 340°.

In 280m at the far corner of the field go through a KG to turn right along a lane. In 500m go past a bridleway on your right (to the left of a double metal FG) where the lane veers to the left. In a further 80m at a T-junction, turn right (road signpost to Charlton). In 400m go past some farm buildings on your left. In a further 500m pass by a bridleway on the left and cross a river, to come up into **Charlton**.

After 200m

➔ **Rose & Crown Pub** on your LHS. (Moreland brewery.)

➔ If not stopping turn left over a stile immediately before the pub.

[]** Cross another stile to go down a field. In 150m at its bottom left corner go through a gate and cross a railed FB, to continue up across this next field, 260°, aiming for a wide gap in the far hedgerow. In 280m go through the gap & continue in the same direction across the next field with a hedgerow up on RHS – maybe easier to follow RH edge of field if muddy.

In 250m go through a gap in the upper right corner of the field and cross over to the R of a hedgerow splitting the two fields ahead, to continue along a distinct FP, with the field hedgerow off to your LHS, 260°. In 220m where you pass by a pond off to your LHS (bordered by a clump of trees), the FP veers L, 230°.

In 100m go through a gap into the next field as the FP slowly starts to merge with its LHS hedgerow border. In 210m (30m before the corner of the field), fork right, 290° to slice the corner of the field. In 80m fork right to continue up the RHS of the adjacent field, NW. In 70m at the corner of the field veer left, to go gradually up across this next field, 300°, towards a gap in the far hedgerow, (~80m to the right of the LH field corner.)

In 240m cross into the next field and veer slightly left, 280°, (with the church spire of Kings Sutton ahead in the distance), down towards the bottom left corner of the field.

After 420m go through a gap into the next field to continue in the same direction across the field towards a gap in its far side. In 260m go through the gap and cross a FB and turn right down the RHS of the next field. For the next 500m you walk the reverse direction of the morning route until you come out onto Mill Lane.

When you come out onto Mill Lane, turn right towards Kings Sutton. In 90m you reach the **White Horse pub** on your right. (For the Butcher's Arms, continue ahead for 20m to go over a crossroads and down Whittall Street. The Butcher's Arms is on your right after 60m.)

Coming out of the White Horse

[If you are walking back to Banbury, refer to the **(b) Kings Sutton to Banbury** directions at the end of this main section.]

Otherwise for Kings Sutton station:

Go straight ahead passing by the church on your left to follow the one way road down towards Kings Sutton station, passing by the village convenience store and Post Office on your RHS en route.

a) Banbury station to Kings Sutton.

From the main ticket hall, turn right to exit the station passing by the taxi rank (with a walk/cycle sign indicating Oxford Canal, North). After 120m the road crosses a tributary to the canal and in a further 90m the station approach road comes up to a T-junction with the main road (Bridge Street). Turn right and in 70m cross the road bridge over the railway. 20m past the road bridge, cross over Merton Street, to continue in the same direction along a road (inaccessible to cars from the road bridge), The Causeway - the road sign for which is on the first house - No. 8 on your right.

In 650m at the end of the Causeway go past a car blocking barrier to join Overthorpe Road to continue in the same direction, now 80°, crossing over two

roundabouts before going over the M40 after 450m. 120m further on turn right along an access road to Bowling Green Steak House. After 40m, turn left (marked by a footpath signpost) to go over a stile into a field. Turn half right to cut the corner of this field, to then cross a stile (right of a metal FG) after 25m, to join a car-wide farm track going through a metal FG after 20m to continue on the farm track, 210° (with the noisy M40 off to your right).

After 140m go over a stile (right of a metal FG and close to a mobile base station), to continue on a footpath (running parallel to the noisy M40 on your right) for 60m passing by a large barn on your LHS to then go over a stile (left of a metal FG). Continue along this footpath parallel to the M40.

[!]In 550m turn left through a pair of redundant metal FG posts, to pick up the footpath as it diverges away from the M40 towards a metal FG 120m distant. After 120m go through the metal FG (with a FP waymark on its RH post), to continue along a CW embankment (with fenced off shrubbery off to your R and the M40 beyond), 140°. In 220m go through a redundant metal FG with a FP waymark on LH post) to continue in same direction now 130°.

In 350m go over a stile (R of a metal FG) to cross the Jurassic Way and go through a double metal FG to veer left up the RHS of a field, E. In 450m at the RH corner of the field cross a plank FB, flanked by two stiles. In 20m turn right to cross a CW bridge (over a long dismantled railway) flanked by two wooden FGs, to then continue in your prior direction along the LHS of a field, E. In 320m at the LH corner of the field, go through a metal FG, to then turn right and in 10m at corner of next field turn left to go along the LHS of this next field, 100°, aiming for a metal FG (40m from LH corner of the field). After 160m go through a metal FG and veer L towards a metal FG, 80°.

In 120m go over a stile (L of a metal FG) and turn right across a field, aiming for a stile in the far field boundary, 150°. After 260m cross the stile and plank FB into the next field and veer left, 130°, aiming for the far corner of this field. In 200m at the field corner, go over a stile and turn right (immediately crossing a road bridge over a stream). In 100m turn right over a stile into a field to turn half left, to slice the corner of the field, aiming for a FB next to a tree, S. In 140m cross the one rail FB into a large field and continue in the same direction, S, up across this field.

After 450m close to the top of the rise, veer left, to continue along the RHS of this large field, 140°. In 350m at the RH corner of the field, go over a stile to continue along the RHS of the next field. In 270m at the RH field corner, go over a stile into a wood, to go along its RHS, to emerge through a metal FG after 80m into the corner of a field to continue along its RHS.

In 200m cross a one rail FB to continue along the RHS of the next field, going over a cross-paths after 70m. In a further 150m just before the RH field corner, turn right through a gap in the hedgerow, to turn half left, 210°, to slice the corner of this next field. In 100m go through a gap in the fence to enter a wood and follow the FP up through the wood.

In 160m go through a FG to emerge from the wood to veer left across a field, 200°, towards a gap in the hedgerow (and the spire of St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Kings Sutton in the distance). In 100m go through the hedgerow gap and turn left along the LHS of this next field, 170°. After 300m (next to a FG on your LHS, and 50m before a large tree in the hedgerow), fork right, 210°, across the field towards the church spire. In 280m go through a wooden KG to follow an enclosed tarmac FP to come out to a cul-de-sac after 30m.

[!] Turn left along a fenced-in tarmac FP. In 180m go through a bike blocking barrier and turn left up Blenheim Rise and after 20m at a T-junction turn right. In 90m at a T-junction cross over the road to go through a metal gate to follow an enclosed FP. In 80m the enclosed FP comes out to a lane, now with a green on your left. In 120m at a T-junction, turn right and in 200m turn left to reach the White Horse PH. Coming out of The White Horse PH, TL, and in 80m, cross over a road (Holland Rise) to reach the corner of a field. cross a stile to go down across this field, 120°.

You now follow the main directions from []*

b) Kings Sutton to Banbury

Coming out of The White Horse PH, turn right to then cross a road and go down Whittall Street, passing by **The Butchers Arms** on your RHS after 50m. In 120m follow the main road round to the left and in 100m follow it round to the right, (Banbury Lane), signposted Twyford, Banbury. In 150m fork left through a wooden KG to go along an initially brick lined lane, 300°.

In 180m go through a wooden gate and then over a stile to slice the corner of a field. In 70m go over a stile and a stream into a field and veer right, 300°, across the field. In 130m cross a one railed FB into the next field to continue across it, 290°. After 110m at the field corner cross over into the next field and continue along its LHS, (alongside the railway).

In 100m turn left to cross the railway (flanked by two stiles) into a field and veer right across it, on a well defined FP towards Twyford Bridge in the distance, 320°. In 650m go over a stile to come up to a road and turn left over Twyford Bridge. After 320m, immediately before a bridge over the Oxford Canal, fork right down

to the canal and turn right along the canal FP. In 1.4km the canal goes under the M40. After 2.2km having come into Banbury to go under a road bridge.

For the station. Immediately past the road bridge, turn right up some steps to reach the road and turn left to follow the road for 400m to reach the station.

Otherwise for Banbury. Continue along the canal. After 500m just before going under a road bridge (Bridge Street), come up to join Bridge Street and turn left for Banbury.

c) Short cut to Charlton

Just beyond a 4m high evergreen hedgerow on your LHS, turn left along a CW earth track (byway), (initially with the hedgerow on your L), 70°. After 200m the byway curves R and downhill. In 60m cross a FB to the RHS of a ford to continue up the CW byway passing by some large farm buildings on the RHS. In 180m at a cross paths, TL, E along a FP along a CW track, along the RHS of a large field bordered by a hedgerow, 70°. Follow this CW track for 800m until the field edge curves to L and down. In 50m TR, through a gap into the next field to continue aiming for the LH corner of the field. In 250m at the field corner TL over a FB over stream to then TR and resume your prior direction. with the stream down to the RHS. After 500m having crossed two fields, go over a 2 rail wooden FB to continue along the RHS of this next field. In 70m where the field edge curves to the R, continue in the same direction across the field aiming for a FB. (In high crop / muddy conditions, it may be easier to follow the RH edge of the field until you reach the FB on your RHS.)

After 100m cross the FB into a field and veer R up across the field and in 90m go through a metal gate (between 2 houses) to veer L up a lane. In 180m at a T-junction TL to reach the **Rose and Crown** after 30m.

Coming out of the Rose and Crown, TR and immediately past the pub, TR over a stile. You now resume the directions from [**] in the main text.