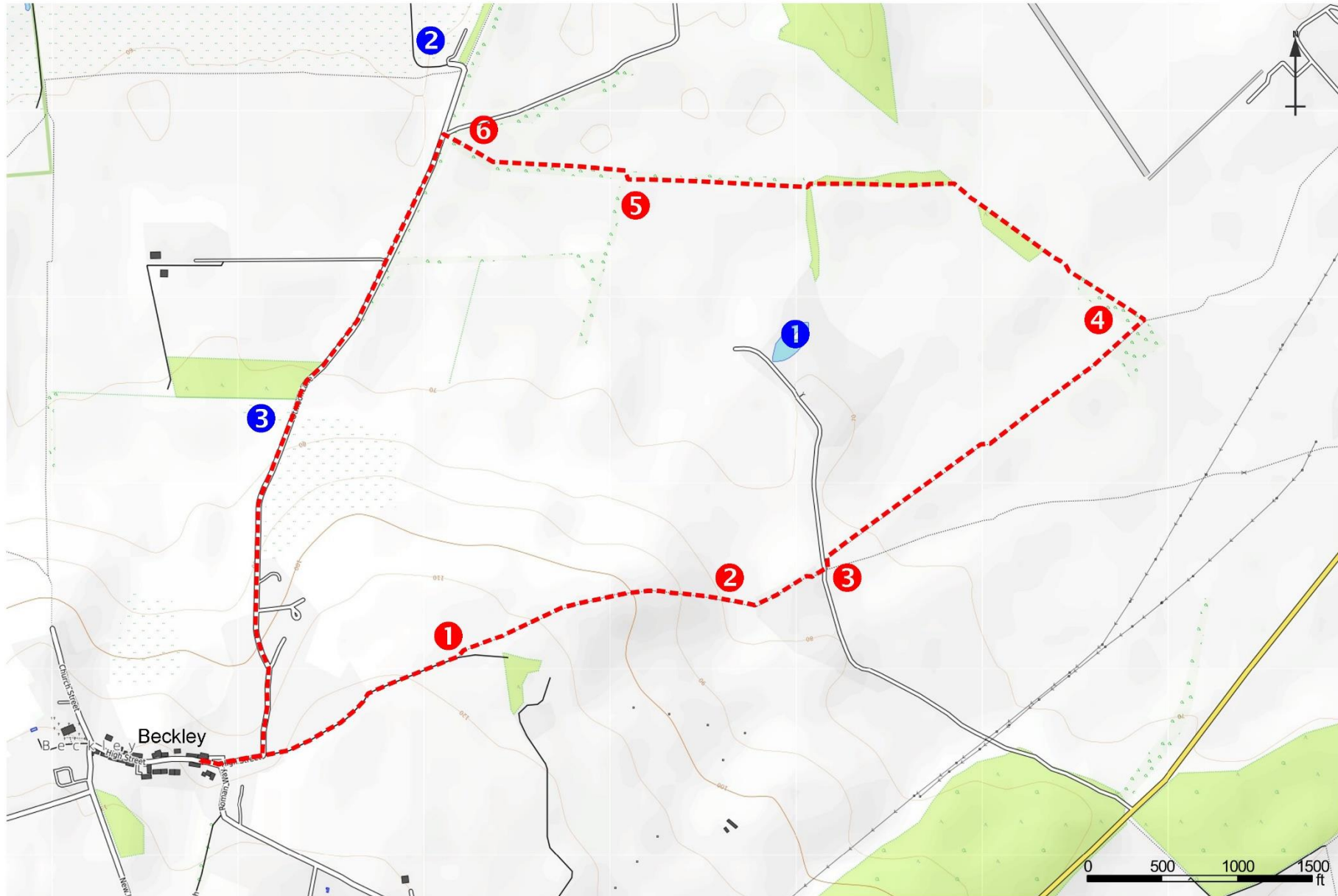


Walk 4 – Beckley Park Circular



Notes

This is a walk of 3.3 miles with total ascent/descent over the walk of 230 feet and is generally easy underfoot.

The walk starts from The Abingdon Arms, Beckley following the Oxfordshire Way down onto Otmoor then heading North in a loop round Otmoor fields before returning to Beckley and The Abingdon Arms via Otmoor Lane.

Otmoor is a large area of water meadow. It can get very wet underfoot! Make sure that you have appropriate footwear.

Route notes

To start the walk, turn left out of the pub and continue straight on, passing Otmoor Lane on left hand side, onto a bridle way/permissive path.

- 1 The official path cuts across the top corner of the field and leads to a gate in the hedge opposite.
- 2 Take the right most of the two stiles that leads into woodland; not the left one that leads to an open field.
- 3 Cross the driveway and go left over the small bridge and right over the stile. (Don't follow the marked Oxfordshire Way – straight ahead.)
- 4 Turn left just before the stile and follow the line of the fence. This part can get very overgrown. If it is, skirt round the left perimeter of the copse.
- 5 Go right up to the hedgerow and, to your right, you will see a gap over a small bridge into the field beyond.
- 6 Beyond the cattle trough, go over the stile in the wood and emerge onto Otmoor Lane. Turn left for Beckley. Divert right to the RSPB reserve.

Points of Interest

1 Beckley Park is a stately home located near the village of Beckley. It was built in 1540 by Lord Williams of Thame, who also built a great house at Rycote, a few miles away. It was originally built as a lodge for use when the lord and a party hunted the great park. Today it is the home of Amanda Feilding and the main headquarters of her Beckley Foundation[1] which is doing research on the benefits of certain types of drugs, including cannabis and LSD.[2][3] Feilding is married to James Charteris, 13th Earl of Wemyss, who is himself the owner of Stanway House in Gloucestershire and Gosford House in Scotland.

The Tudor brick edifice of the house is encircled by three moats which attest to the place's importance in former days. Beckley Park remained with the descendants of Lord Williams, the Earls of Abingdon, until 1920 when it was bought by Mr. Basil Feilding, father of Amanda Feilding, Lady Neidpath. It is situated between Beckley and Otmoor just outside Oxford.

The house is closed to the public, although it is regularly used for photo shoots and as a film location. [Wikipedia](#).

② Otmoor is a haven for wildlife in the heart of Oxfordshire. The visitor trail leads you alongside an expansive floodplain grazing marsh, home to wading birds and wildfowl year round. Hedgerows, bustling with warblers and songbirds, and the rustling reedbed add to the immersive experience of being on the "moor". [RSPB Otmoor](#)

③ Beckley Community Orchard