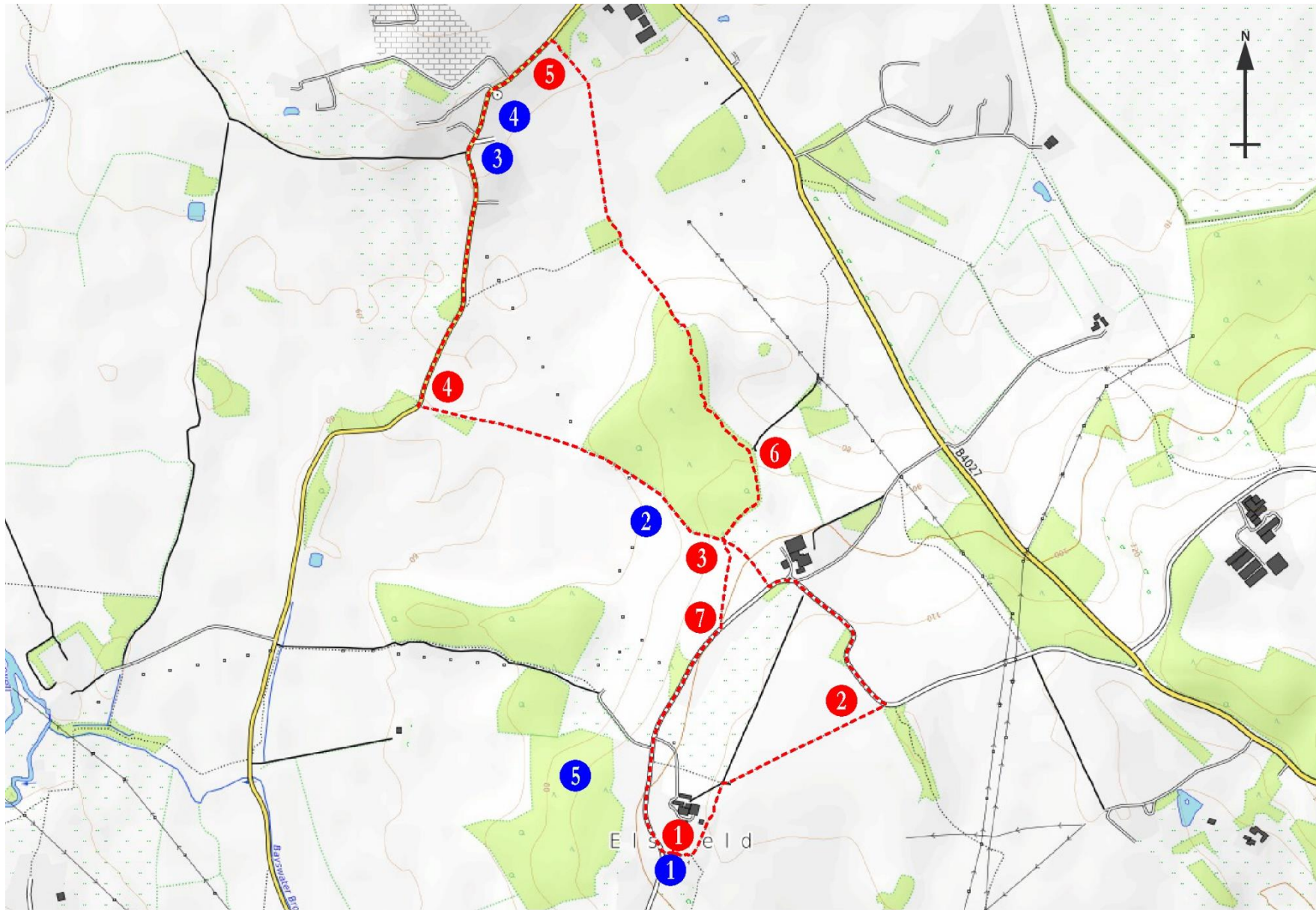


Walk 2 – Elsfield Wood Eaton Circular



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Notes

This 3.8 mile route, with total ascent of 274 feet, is actually a 'figure of 8'. It can be started in Elsfield or Woodeaton (we opt for Elsfield); and each loop can be walked in either direction, separately or combined. Both loops involve stretches of road, each of which can be reduced by taking short cuts (shown in italics). There is a little gentle climbing in the longer, northern loop, but the walking is generally easy underfoot.

IMPORTANT: Much of this route is on open arable farmland, so we suggest dogs are held on leads. There is a woodland section which may be overgrown with grass and bracken, so we recommend wearing trousers and long sleeve shirts to avoid tick bites. Take care on the road sections.

Route notes

- 1 The walk starts from the church in Elsfield. Take the footpath to the left side of the churchyard up to a gate, after which turn left. The path passes an old dovecote to another gate, then continues through conifers to a farm track. A footpath to the left returns to the road. For route 2, fork right and walk along the field side to meet the road at a bend.
- 2 Turn left along the road back to Elsfield. This loop may be completed by returning along the road to the church (total 1.3 miles). Entering the village by a bend to the left, take a bridleway on the right to the corner of Woodeaton Wood.
- 3 Cross the Oxford Green Belt Way and follow the bridleway down the side of the wood, from where there are clear views across to Woodeaton. Pass through an attractive tunnel of trees, then walk along the side of a field to the road.
- 4 Taking care, turn right towards Woodeaton. After 300 yards, there is a footpath to the right which offers a shorter walk. Continue into the village past the church and a stone cross on the green, then follow the road past the entrance on the left to Woodeaton Manor (now a school) to the village boundary.
- 5 Turn right onto a footpath signed 'Elsfield 1 mile', which soon crosses a field to Parson's Copse, where the short cut joins from the right. Walk along the copse side to another field, and ascend straight ahead to enter Woodeaton Wood. The path winds up the hill between trees, another path joining from the left.
- 6 Continue ahead until the path opens out onto a track (the Oxford Green Belt Way) which returns you to point 3. Here fork left across a field into Elsfield village. Taken separately and without the short cut, this northern loop is 2.5 miles.
- 7 Turn right at the road and walk back, past Elsfield Manor, to the church where this route ends.

Points of Interest

- 1 Church of St Thomas, Elsfield, 13th century
- 2 Views over to Woodeaton

- 3 Holy Rood Church, Woodeaton, 13th century
- 4 Stone cross base and shaft, 13th century
- 5 Elsfield Manor, a blue plaque recording that this was the home (1919 to 1935) of John Buchan, diplomat and author of 'The Thirty-Nine Steps' and other works.