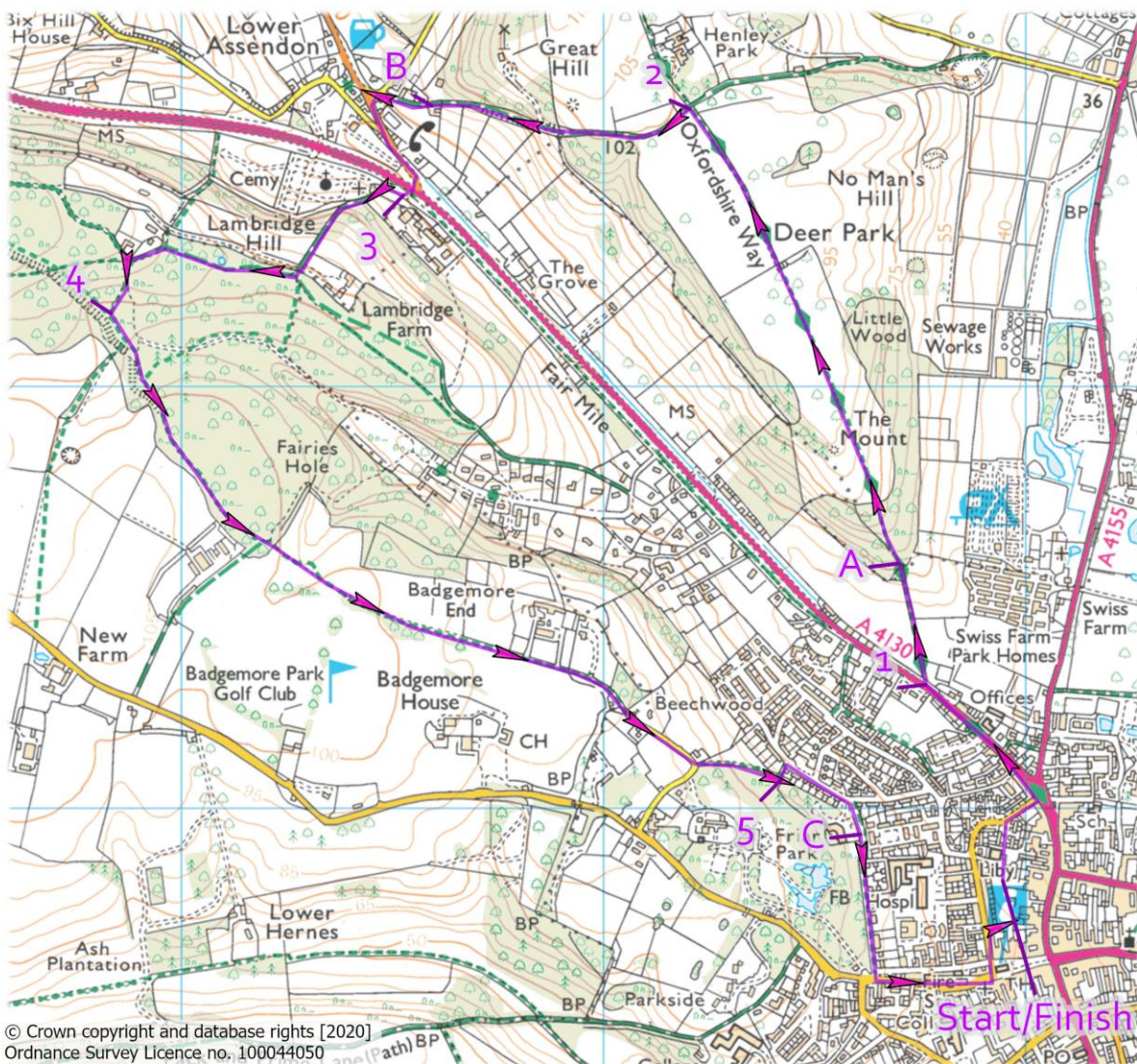


Henley Hills and Woodland Walk By Mair Hunt, Henley & Goring Ramblers

Summary

A lovely stile-free walk that explores the hills and woodlands that overlook the beautiful market town of Henley-on-Thames. The first section of the walk is across high parkland with excellent views, the return is through woodland.

- Length:** 5 miles
- Terrain:** Much of the walk is on tracks or woodland paths. Two moderate but short hills, four gates and no stiles
- Start & finish:** Kings Road Car Park, Kings Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2DQ
- Food & drink:** There are plenty of cafés and pubs in Henley. On route there is the Golden Ball at Lower Assendon.
- Maps:** OS Explorer 171, Chiltern Society 2
- Parking:** Kings Road Car Park as above. There is alternative parking at Dry Leas, Marlow Rd, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2JA
- Local transport:** There are bus services to Henley from High Wycombe, Marlow, Oxford and Reading. Henley station is served by the Great Western Railway's Twyford branch line.



Route

Walk out of the car park with the public library to your left, walk along Ravenscroft Road and turn right to reach the mini roundabout. Turn left along the A4130 out of Henley towards Oxford, cross the road and continue along to a footpath on the right just after the last house (Hawks View).

Waypoint 1 - Take the footpath up the hill. This footpath is narrow and fenced but people approaching from the other direction can be clearly seen so it is possible to wait rather than meet them. The path takes you through a small wood onto open parkland, with good views over to Berkshire.

Waypoint 2 - At the end of the parkland go through a gate and turn left along a path which soon opens into a track. Walk downhill, again with good views, to a lane at the edge of Lower Assendon village. The Golden Ball is to the right along the lane. Turn left to the Henley to Watlington Road and left again to the main Henley to Oxford road, Taking care, cross over and turn right and follow the access road up to the gates of the cemetery.

Waypoint 3 – At the gates turn left up a narrow path into Lambridge Woods . Soon after entering the wood, go right, then left and then left again to cross to the western edge of the wood.

Waypoint 4 - Follow the path down this edge of the wood until you exit onto a golf course. Cross the golf course keeping to the designated path. You will come out onto an access road lined with large houses. Continue along it to a footpath on the left just after 'Croft Cottage'

Waypoint 5 – Turn left down the path to a road (Crisp Road). Go right, then right again by the school, along Hop Gardens. Turn left down West Street to the town centre, then left again along King's Road back to the car park.

Points of Interest

A The open parkland used to belong to Fawley Court, a historic Georgian house on the Thames below. For a short distance the route now follows the Oxfordshire Way, a 68 mile route from Bourton-on-the-Water to Henley-on-Thames.

B Lower Assendon School – On walking down the hill into Lower Assendon look out on the right for a house converted from a former school. It has a charming weather vane depicting the one time school mistress.

C Friar Park - As you emerge from the Hop Gardens, glance right to see the ornate gates and lodge of Friar Park, former convent, school and later home of Beatle George Harrison.