

Claydon Woods

Ancient woodlands, open farm land and historic lanes make up some of the features passed on this 6 mile walk through some of the most scenic areas of north Buckinghamshire

Circular Walk

Directions

- From the car park in Botolph Claydon, take the farm track heading south.
- At the junction of two bridleways, head right to continue the walk or turn left and left again for the first shorter loop and head back towards Botolph Claydon.
- For the longer walk, head on through Runt's Wood and across fields to another junction of bridleways. Once again, you are faced with the choice of going right for the full walk, or left through the far field gate for a second short cut.
- After the entrance to Finemerehill House, continue along the brick-lined track into Greatsea Wood and after a kilometre, turn left to pass Knowlhill Road on your right.
- Follow the bridleway south-east from Sheephouse Wood, heading back towards Finemerehill House again, and passing this on your right, head straight on to the path that would have formed the second short cut.
- From Coppice Lowhill Farm, head left along the bridleway, taking the first footpath on your right, heading for Botolph Claydon.



Features of Interest

1 The unusual looking trees along the track are Stag-headed Oaks. This condition is brought on by natural self-thinning of the tree crowns producing a rich habitat for creatures such as bats and numerous species of invertebrate. **Dogs should be kept on a lead at this point** as partridges nest in the wide verges alongside the track and are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

2 Runt's Wood, in common with all the Claydon woods, is a fragment of the ancient Bernwood Forest. The ground here is dense with bluebells which carpet the woodland floor in late spring.

3 A short detour past Finemerehill House affords good views to the south and west. This grade II listed building, constructed in 1875, represents an unusually late example of the local technique of timber frame building.

4 Until the early 1990s, this part of North Bucks was dominated by the ten chimneys of the Calvert brick works and the track into Greatsea Wood is probably built with the local bricks. Many deer live in the Claydon Woods, particularly the small and rather destructive muncjac but also roe and fallow deer. This section is a good place for the quiet walker to spot them of the three parishes.

5 The path follows Three Points Lane, so called because it forms the boundaries of three parishes; Middle Claydon, Charndon and Grendon Underwood. Much of the lane follows a route between earth banks and ditches dating back many centuries.

Sheephouse Wood is a fine example of ancient oak woodland and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The woodland margins here and elsewhere are important butterfly haunts, supporting many common species as well as the comparatively scarce White Admiral and the

very rare Black Hairstreak which lays its eggs on blackthorn bushes in late June and early July.

The woods also form the habitat of many bird species including tawny owls and woodcock.

6 The site of Coppice Lowhill Farm is passed on the right. The farm was abandoned as an independent unit in the 1950s and is now farmed as part of Bernwood Farm.

7 The remains of mediaeval ridge and furrow ploughing can clearly be seen in the fields around Bernwood Farm. Peasants farmed strips scattered over several fields with each strip now being represented on the ground by a furrow and a spoil heap forming the ridge.

8 Weir Cottage is a good example of the many listed buildings in Botolph Claydon. It was built around 1700 with a traditional timber frame under a half-hipped thatched roof.

On the road to East Claydon is the curious Mushroom Seat, a thatched wooden seat built around a living oak tree.

Many thanks to Mark Vallance of Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust for his assistance in compiling this leaflet.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Further Information:

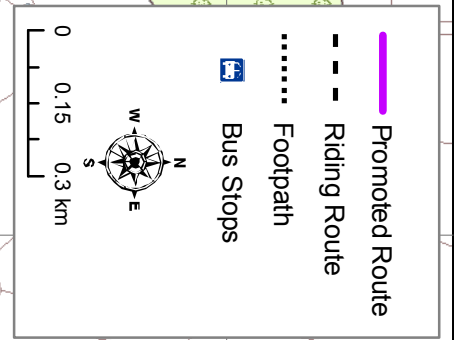
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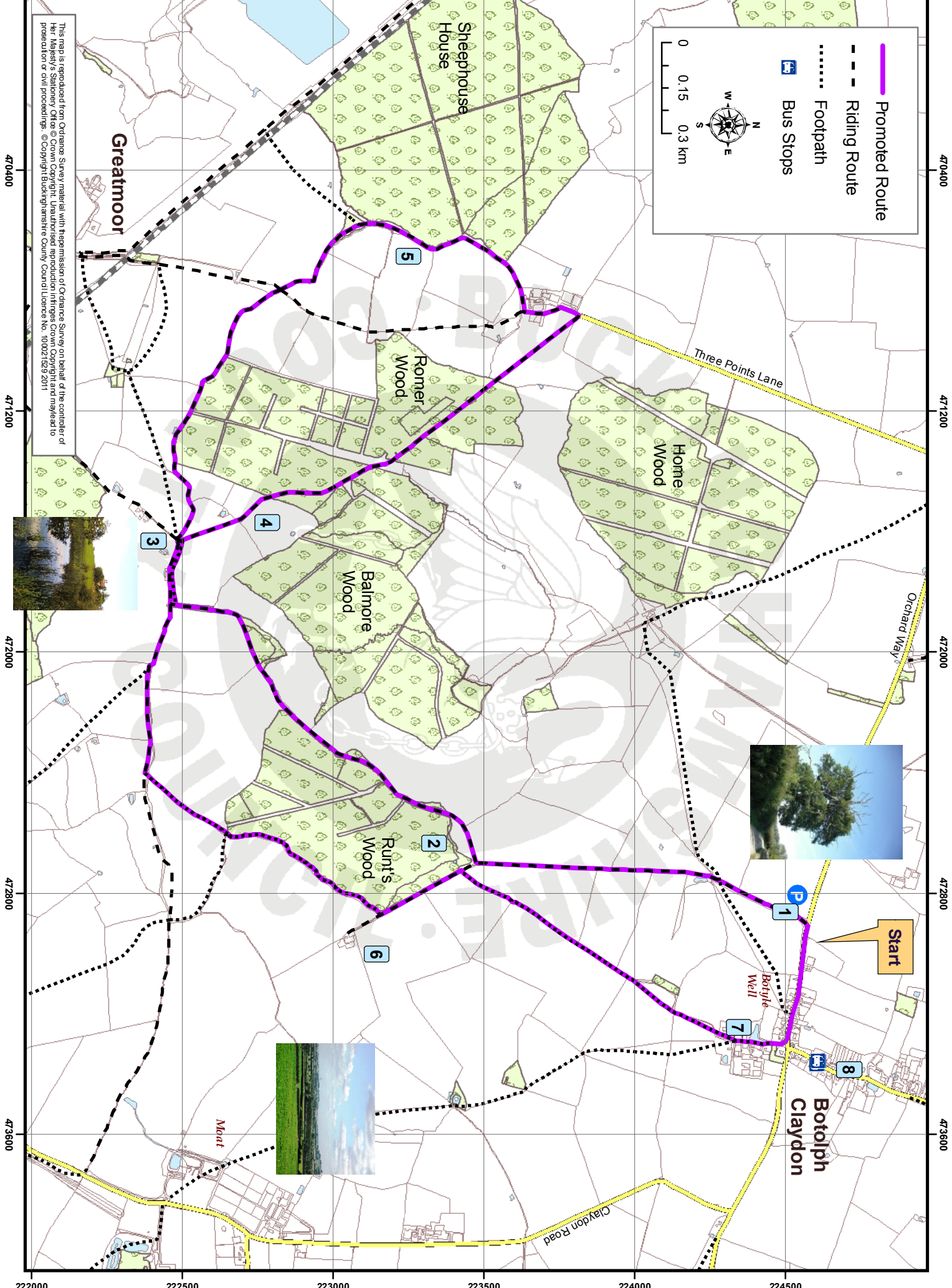



Claydon Woods Circular Route

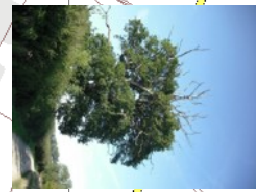
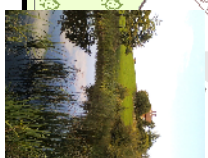


Legend:
- Promoted Route (solid purple line)
- Riding Route (dashed black line)
- Footpath (dotted black line)
- Bus Stops (blue square with 'P' and bus icon)

Scale: 0, 0.15, 0.3 km



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Start

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Moat

Botolph Claydon

Claydon Road

Three Points Lane

Orchard Way

Sheephouse House

Romer Wood

Home Wood

Balmore Wood

Run's Wood

Greatmoor

470400

471200

472000

472800

473600

470400

471200

472000

472800

473600

22200 22250 22300 22350 22400 22450