



Banbury Linear Walk - North West

This is a one way route from Giant’s Cave in Broughton to the Mineral Railway Path, following part of the larger Banbury Fringe Walk.

Distance 4 kilometers / 2.5 miles

Duration 1 hour and 30 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



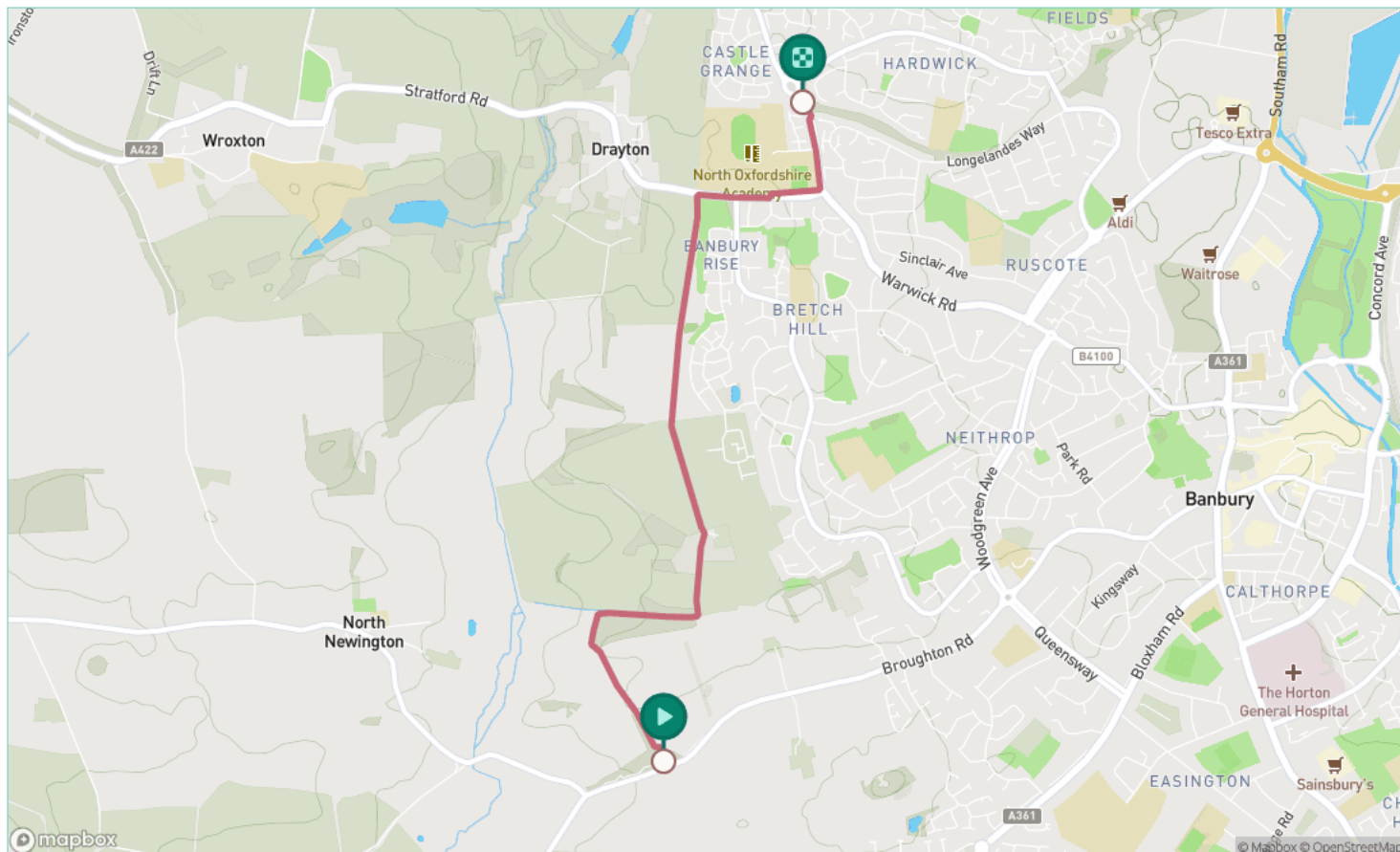
Public transport

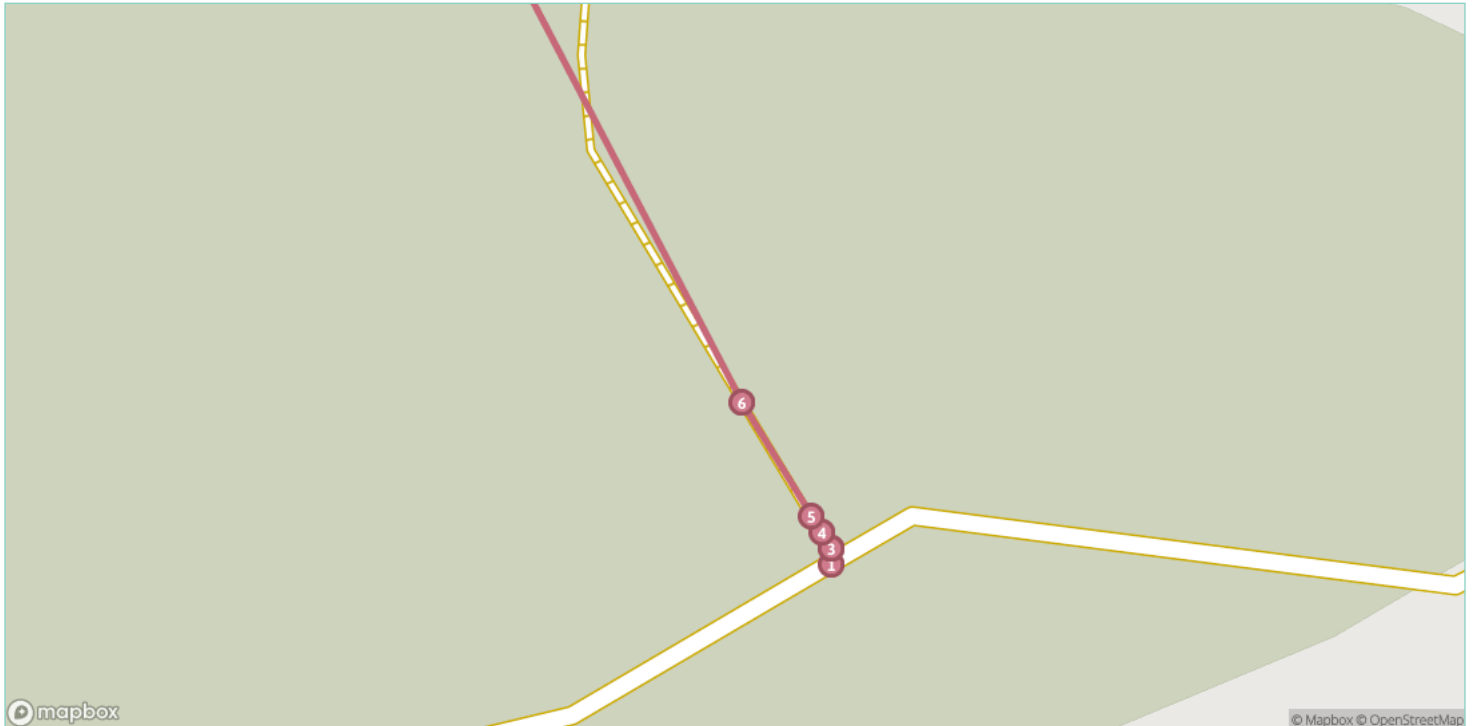


Parking



Botanics





Step 1: This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

Step 2: Welcome to the north west Banbury Linear Walk which begins in Giant's Cave Park, just off the Broughton Road. This route takes you through fields and woodland to North Banbury.

Step 3: There's a small area for parking near the site, also off the Broughton Road (OX15 5DY). As this is a linear walk, at the end you can return to the starting point by going back the way you came.

Step 4: Please note that buses along the Broughton Road are irregular and walking is not recommended along this fast winding road.

Step 5: Giant's Cave is part of an area of old pasture known as the Bretch - 'a stony spot full of hills and hollows'. Local legend has it that the "cave" was the secret entrance of a tunnel to Broughton Castle (nearly a mile away).

Step 6: You are advised to wear stout, waterproof footwear as walking in the countryside can be muddy and wet, even in the summer months. For advice on best ways to walk in the countryside check out the read more panel below.

North Oxfordshire

Best Ways to Walk

We want you to have fun outdoors, whilst looking after yourself, those around you and the natural environment. So here's some guidance to help you prepare for and enjoy your walk.

Check the weather. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as walking can be wet and muddy.

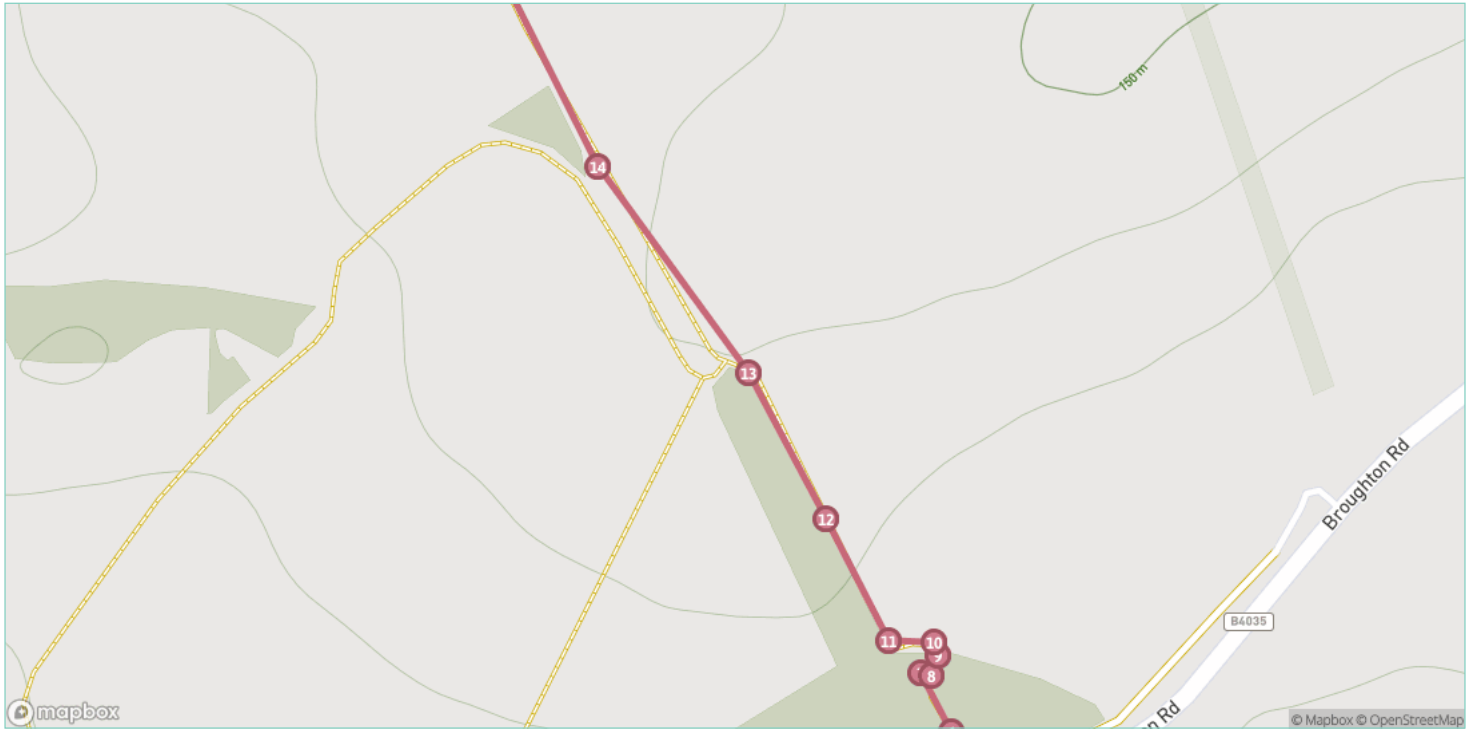
Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles.

Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

Take water. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

Respect landowners. Remember that the countryside is a working place so leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone.

Leave gates as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.



Respect local people. Park your car responsibly. Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.

Respect nature. Pick up any litter you see and never leave your own. Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring. Their poo can be bad for the environment so please keep them close by and clean up after them.

Look after your dogs. Dogs should be kept under your control and on a lead if animals are in the fields. Current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.

Stay safe. Take great care when crossing or walking along roads and narrow paths.

More guidance for users of the countryside - follow the Countryside Code using the link below.

Step 7: Start your walk from the hardstanding area. Feel free to check out these cool rock formations to your left before you begin!

Step 8: When you're ready, let's head off. Walk up the steps straight ahead.

Step 9: And let the hills open up before you.

Step 10: Follow the field edge immediately left, carefully navigating any muddy bits.

Step 11: Turn right around the field corner and walk up the hill, with the trees to your left. Take your time, as the hill is deceptively tall.

Step 12: Don't forget to admire the views behind you as you climb!

Step 13: Through an opening in the hedge to your left, you might be able to see the village of North Newington in the distance.

Step 14: Continue straight, with the trees to your left.



Step 15: Follow the footpath straight into a patch of trees.

Step 16: This stretch is fairly steep downhill. Use caution as you continue.

Step 17: On reaching the open field, turn right and walk downhill with the trees to your right.

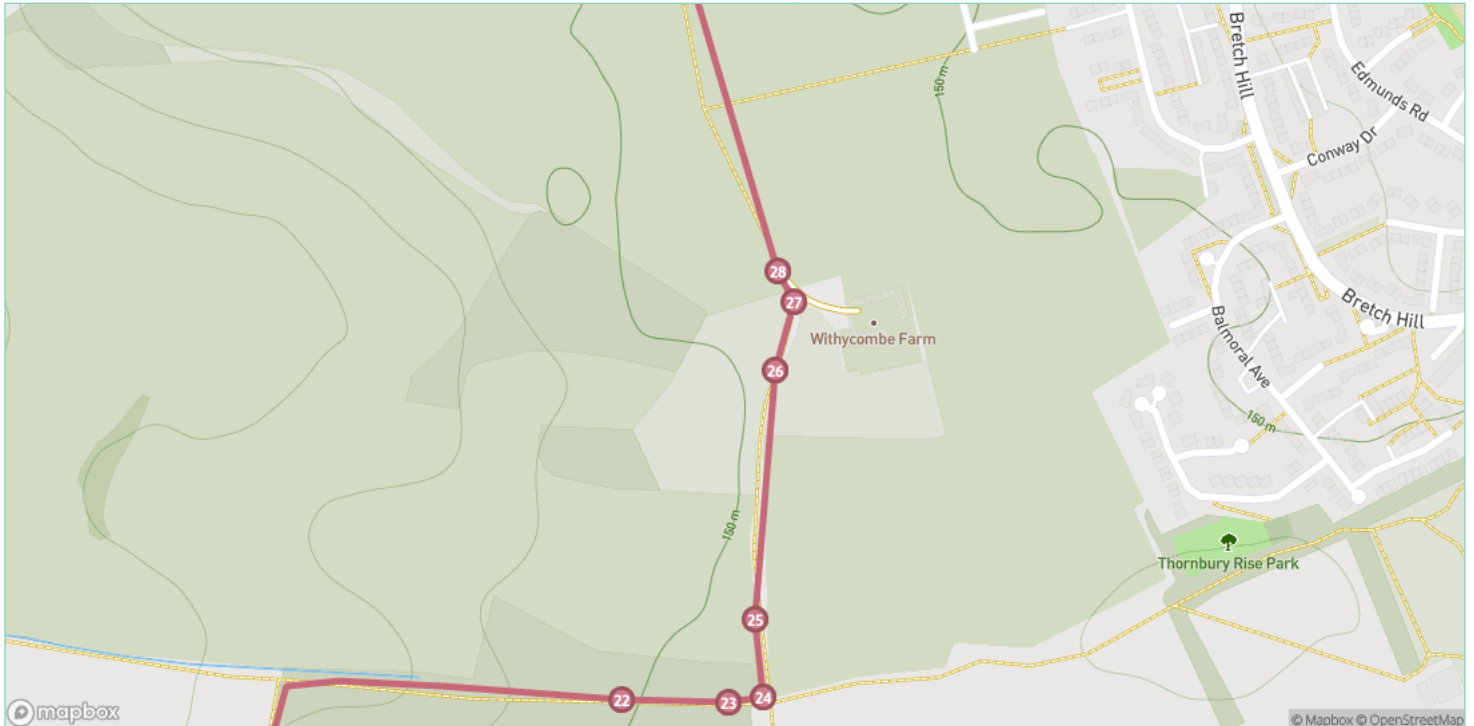
Step 18: The country views are stunning!

Step 19: At the bottom, turn right onto what is now a public footpath to enter the woodland.

Step 20: Go steadily uphill through woodland for approx. 400 metres.

Step 21: This path can be very wet and muddy, so use care and take your time.

Step 22: It can be a bit tricky to follow the route because there are so many brown paths. We went left at a fork here.



Step 23: Keep following the way through the forest.

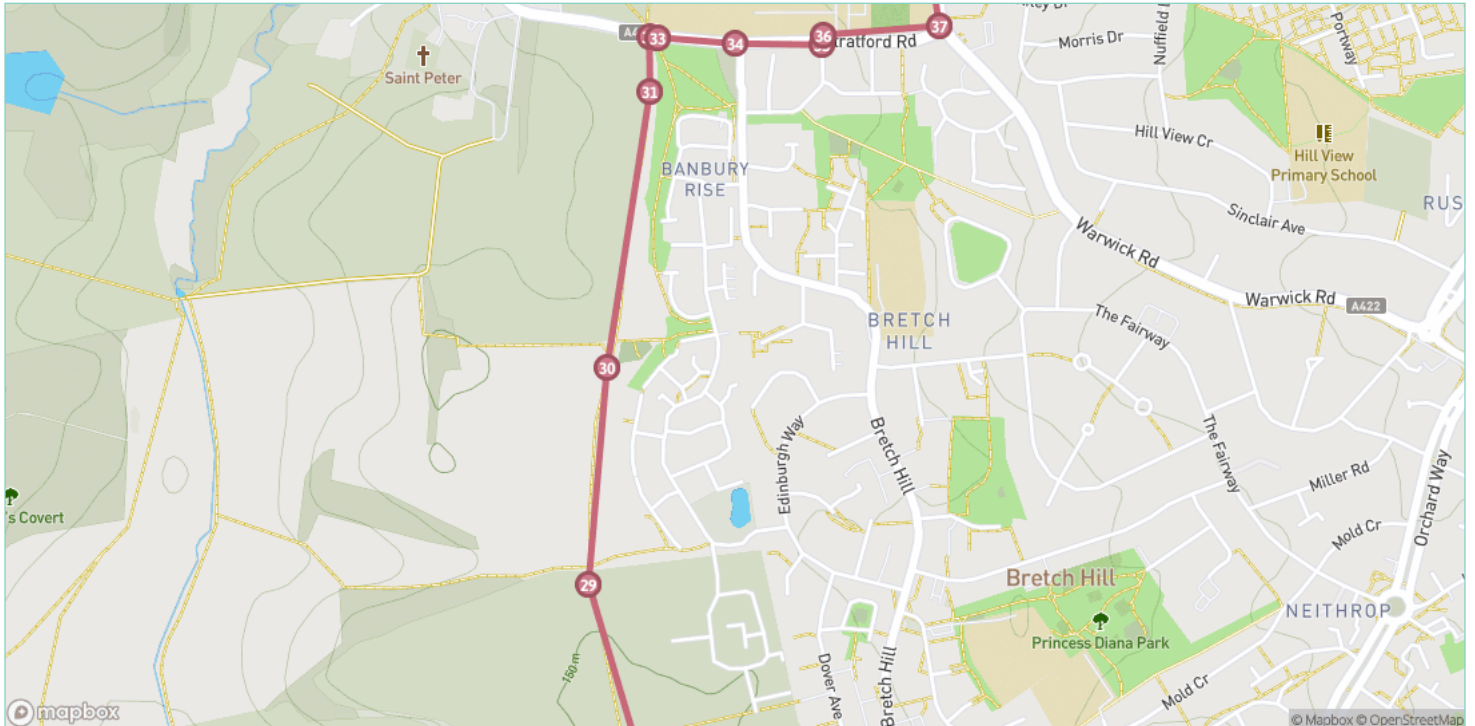
Step 24: When you reach a clearing with a patch of trees in front of you, turn left.

Step 25: Next, you'll be following quiet farm tracks and roads towards Drayton.

Step 26: Remember when you were down in that valley?

Step 27: Walk straight through the gate.

Step 28: Remember not to feed livestock you come across in the countryside and keep your dogs well clear.



Step 29: Continue straight on the farm track through the fields.

Step 30: On your right, you'll see another large new housing development.

Step 31: Looking behind you, there's another view of the development from the other side of it as you near Stratford Road.

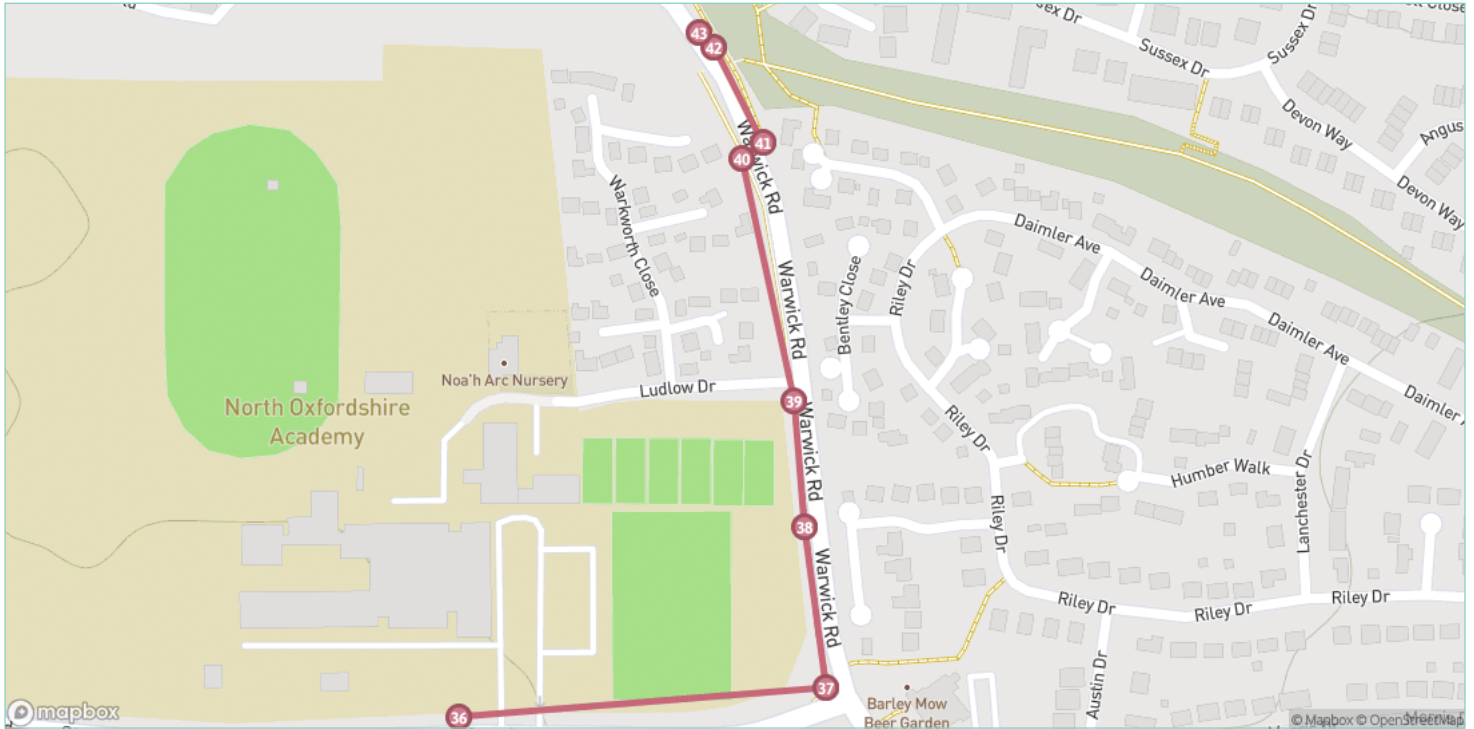
Step 32: At the road, follow the sign and turn right.

Step 33: Stick to the pavement for this next bit.

Step 34: Carefully cross Bretch Hill.

Step 35: Cross the road here and turn right to continue following the pavement.

Step 36: Continue following the road on this side. There's no pavement across the entrance to North Oxfordshire Academy, but it starts again shortly.



Step 37: At the big road intersection, turn left - but see if you can find this sign and follow the route which takes you along the hedgeline.

Step 38: Rejoin the pavement as you follow Warwick Road.

Step 39: Carefully cross Ludlow Drive.

Step 40: Use the pedestrian crossing light here.

Step 41: Turn left on the other side.

Step 42: On your right, you should be able look over and see the path down below. That's where you're headed - in section 4. But that's it for section 3. At the end of the walk you can return to Giants Cave by going back the way you came.

Step 43: Why not try out the other three linear sections of the Banbury Fringe Circular Challenge some time? We hope you enjoyed this one. They're each so unique, so there's always more to discover.