

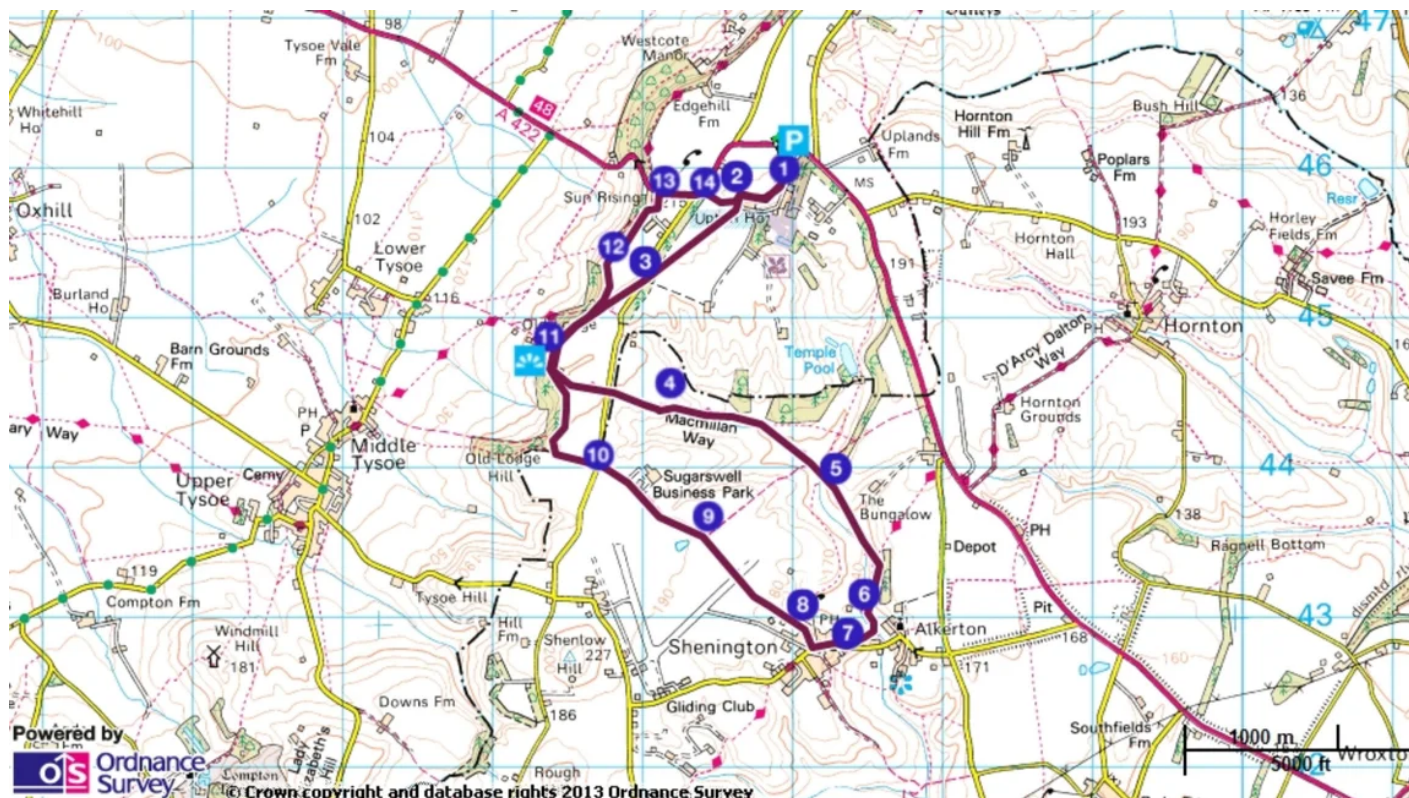
WARWICKSHIRE

The Shenington Round from Upton House

Enjoy huge vistas, big skies and the frisson of a historic battle on this 7-mile circular walk through beautiful Warwickshire countryside.

! Opening times and local land

All walks start at the car park, which is only open during Upton House and Gardens' usual hours – please check our website for details. The surrounding land is not in the care of the National Trust. Please follow the Countryside Code.



Information

Address: Upton House and Gardens, near Banbury, OX15 6HT

OS map: Explorer 206

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Mostly established footpaths and fields. It includes a stile and crosses farmland. For more information visit the section marked Terrain.

Dog friendly: Dogs are not permitted within the grounds at Upton House (assistance dogs excepted).

Full trail: Miles: 7 (km: 11.2)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 3 hours - 4 hours

Terrain

Mostly easy going on established footpaths and fields. Parts are slippery in wet weather, especially along the escarpment edge, and it may get boggy near Shenington village. It includes a stile and crosses farmland in places so dogs must be kept under close control.

Total steps: 14

Start point: National Trust car park at Upton House and Gardens. OX15 6HT

1. From the main car park, pick up the arrowed footpath by walking towards the pedestrian exit point. Just before the gate, turn right and walk along the wide verge inside the car park, with the fence on your left-hand side. Aim for the fence line and go through the kissing gate set in the fence. Pass through two metal gates on to a wooden stile. Keep the farm buildings to your immediate left-hand side and cross to another kissing gate.
2. Take the straight path over two fields to Sugarswell Lane.
3. Cross the lane, take the field gate and proceed diagonally to the left to the far corner next to the field gate. Turn left and follow the track along the woodland edge until you reach a narrow road. Turn left and walk up the road to the boundary, crossing back over Sugarswell Lane, down the track immediately ahead and through the gate.
4. Continue on down the pastureland following the arrows through Upton Estate. At the field gate turn right and follow the boundary hedgerow along the bottom of the arable field and past the old stone barns.
5. Picking up the track to the north of the barns and below the woodland turn right to the iron gate. Carry straight on following the obvious field tracks through the gate and slightly heading off to the right past the field jump and upwards to the iron gate on the right at the bottom of the steep hill. Follow the field track along the woodland boundary to the next field gate. Proceed through the gate and head slightly right; keep the metal chimney stack to your left, before heading down to the bottom right-hand corner of the field and through the gate. This area can be very boggy. Go over the narrow bridge and back up the field and through the kissing gate at the top.

6. Turn right, heading for Shenington, and walk up the road for 300m. You can turn off right when you see the Bell Inn.
7. After refreshments, carry on down through the cottages to the field gate.
8. Continue along the stone track, looking to your right at a field bearing the regular ridges and furrows that can sometimes be found on ancient fields. They were created by a system of ploughing associated with the open field system. You may glimpse Upton House in the distance. Continue on to the first of the old airfield runways. You can sometimes see gliders taking off or looking for thermals to lift them higher into the sky. Cross over with caution and proceed along the boundary fence passing over the next runway to the iron gateway at the end of the track.
9. Follow the track diagonally down the arable land and around the headland to the right of the next field to the gateway. Turn left passing by the stone yard and Sugarswell Business Park on the right to Sugarswell Lane some 400m ahead. Stop for refreshments at Sugarswell Business Park. The Money Bean café is open Tuesday–Saturday. Please check their website for opening hours.
10. Cross over the road and follow the track to the woodland.
11. Turn right at the woodland to follow the undulating track along the top of the woodland boundary to the narrow road and cross over. Follow the woodland track all the way to the end and through the iron gate. Note that although this section is not a public right of way, it is open to walkers by permission of the Upton Estate.
12. You are at the escarpment of Edgehill, 700 feet (215 metres) above sea level and the most north-easterly outcrop of the Cotswolds. A little further on a rewarding view of south Warwickshire unfolds and, if you are lucky, the Malvern Hills some 40 miles away. Look out for gliders from the local club or birds soaring on the updraughts caused by the escarpment. You are also looking down on the site of the Battle of Edgehill. Proceed along the escarpment to the next iron gate and through the woodland passing the paddocks on the right.
13. At the farm, turn right on to the metalled lane. Viscount Bearsted chose this property for his hunting retreat in the area until he purchased Upton House, which in due course was vested to the National Trust. Notice the old kitchen garden over the road with the interesting but now derelict glasshouses. Follow the metalled lane, turn left at the T junction and at the main road turn right.
14. Caution: there is no footway so take care to keep on the wide grass verge (you do not need to cross the road). Follow the verge and cross Sugarswell Lane on the corner until you reach the next green and white topped gate on the left with the arrow. Walk along the boundary wall and through the gate. Proceed down across the fields and at the farm you will recognise the perimeter fence of the compound. From there, continue on to the left, back to the car park at Upton House.

End point: National Trust car park at Upton House and Gardens
