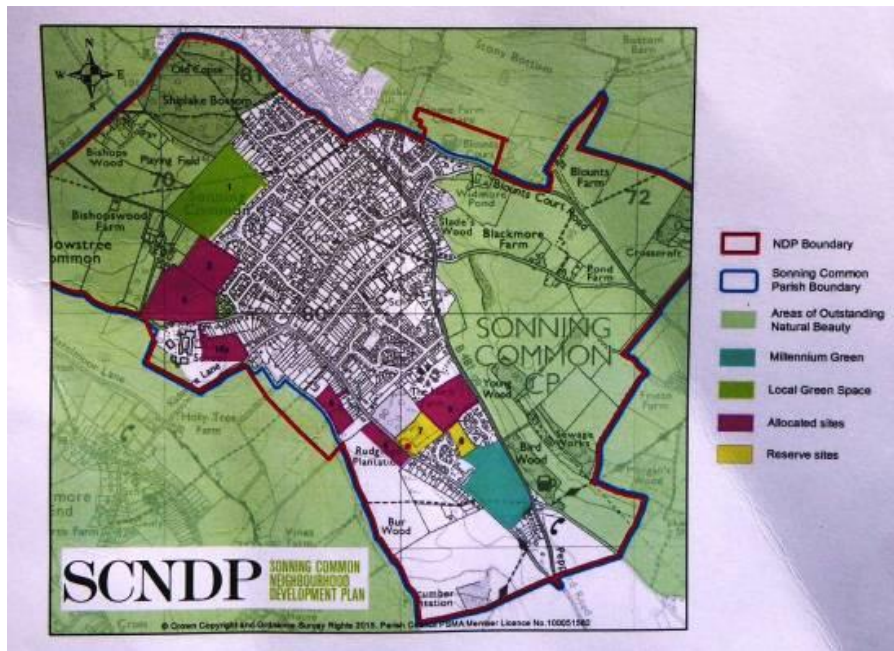


Countryside Walks around Sonning Common



A timetable of walks with a leader can be found at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk.

1. Old Copse

There are three recognised OS Map [see OS Explorer Map 171 - Chiltern Hills West] footpaths running through this beautiful beech wood from the entrance at the end of Woodlands Road. These relatively flat paths go approximately north, north-west, and west respectively through this woodland to join up with roads bordering the wood to the north and north-west. The westernmost footpath leads towards the Bishopswood Sports Ground. The first part now belongs to the Parish Council, which has started a programme of controlled cutting back of the holly to prevent it from overrunning the footpaths and woodland glades. The rest of Old Copse is managed by the Woodland Trust. Their website (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/4666/old-copse), and also that of the Chilterns Conservation Board (chilternsaonb.org/ccbmaps/415/137/old-copse-wood), have more information about what can be seen in the woodland.



2. Footpath to Kidmore End

This starts from Kennylands Road at a point nearly opposite where Westleigh Drive joins it. It runs south-west down beside Kidby's Yard and then enters the AONB, with lovely views across fields. It can be used to access Kidmore End, but shortly before reaching the road a track running south-east crosses it. If this is followed past Vines Farm, it joins the footpath coming from Bur Wood, giving a circular walk back to Kennylands Road. If the Millenium Green is used to get to Essex Way, then the rest of Kennylands Road has a pavement on at least one side, allowing a safe route back to the start of the walk.



3. Footpath to Bur Wood

This starts from Kennylands Road along a section of it which has no pavement on either side, so is best approached via the Millenium Green, which has a metal kissing gate exit almost opposite the start of the footpath. The first section is along a driveway to some properties, and then it veers to the right alongside some fenced-off horse paddocks, before reaching a wide field which is accessed through a kissing gate. Up to this point the path is wide and flat, with just the odd bump or root along the way. The footpath across the open field is also flat, but then drops as one leaves the field and passes between Bur Wood on the left, and Rudgings Plantation on the right. Both have a lovely display of bluebells in the springtime. The ones in Rudgings Plantation on the right are sooner, and more easily, accessed, with only a slight slope down to the track leading through the woodland, with good views of the bluebells on the gentle slopes above. The walk to and from the road up to this point is relatively flat, but still allows good views of paddocks, an open field, woodland, and bluebells in the spring. The footpath now drops down through the woodland and then rises again as it passes beside a wide open field in the AONB. It leads to Chalkhousegreen Road, but shortly before reaching that it crosses the track leading past Vines

Farm towards Kidmore End, thus linking up with Walk 2 above, giving a circular walk in the opposite direction.



4. The Chiltern Way

This long-distance footpath runs east-north-east from the minor road from the B481 running beside the Bird in Hand pub, and south-west from the bus stop at the start of Kennylands Road, situated near Gardeners Copse, passing through the end of the Millenium Green in between. Near Sonning Common it is the south-west section which has the more open views, although this area has not yet been designated as AONB!

