

Walk starts at Sulgrave Manor car park (Manor is only open on Thursday, Friday & Sunday from 11am, so no starting loo break)

Information is correct at date of walk, August 2018.

Directions

Destination is

Sulgrave Manor
Manor Road
Sulgrave
OX17 2SD

Approx 30mins, 15 miles

For traditionalists

Turn right out of Stratford Rd layby

Drive into town, straight over 'roundabout' at Old Goal

Turn right at roundabout in front of town hall towards Brackley (A422)

Follow road towards Brackley

Drive through Bufflers Holt

Turn right, signposted Stowe, Dadford, Silverstone (& Boycott Manor Farm)

Take next left turn – Welsh Lane (signpost is damaged, there is a blue cycleway sign to Biddlesden) Drive through Biddlesden

Enter Syresham

At junction turn left (signposted Brackley)

Leave Syresham

At T junction turn right (signposted Banbury) (B4525)

At a crossroads, turn right signposted Helmdon & Wappenham

Enter Helmdon

Turn left signposted Sulgrave

Enter Sulgrave

At a 'T' junction with a patch of grass turn right, signposted Sulgrave Manor

Sulgrave Manor car park is on the right

Walk

Approx 5 miles

Starts (& finishes) in car park of Sulgrave Manor

Approx ¼ of walk is on road; some farm tracks; approx. 1/3 is fields

(note, path numbers are only on map below, they are not on sign posts.)

Turn right out of car park

Either walk down bridleway AY4 or path AY5 (depends what is in field that AY5 crosses)

Both paths meet at the railway embankment.

Tunnel under embankment may be closed, in which case walk up path to the left, cross embankment & down the other side.

The railway embankment tunnel was 'temporarily' closed in 2015 and so a fence may have to be climbed over to access the embankment (gate to leave the embankment is open). The fence has wooden horizontal bars.

Continue along path AY4 – path is on right hand side of fence. It may be easier to walk in field and then climb back onto path where it becomes path SD17.

Bear left onto path SD16.

Follow this path across a garden and turn left onto path SD15.

Follow path until it reaches road.

Turn left onto road and follow until reach signposted footpath on left.

Follow path AY3 to railway embankment and go under.

On other side of railway embankment go through gate to left hand side of hedge. Keep this hedge to right & follow up the field to road.

Turn left down road & follow to junction with Manor Road. Continue ahead and turn left into Sulgrave Manor.

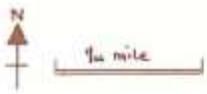
Stileometer

There are 6 stiles but 3 can be bypassed

Inclineometrics

At one point we have to climb onto a railway embankment. This is possibly a vertical change of 50ft, up a zig & a zag path (& down the other side).

There are two other places where there is a gentle incline, path SD16 & AY3 until it reaches the road.



Swift



Banbury Lane marks the route of a medieval road. (It was believed by some to be the line of a more ancient trackway). In medieval times it linked the market towns of Banbury and Northampton.

Swallow



There are clear traces of "ridge and furrow" in this field, the results of ploughing strips of land in medieval days. In medieval times, such strip cultivation covered most of the lowlands, up to enclosure in the 18th Century.

All rights of way in this Parish have definitive numbers preceded by the letters AY. Please use these numbers when reporting problems or obstructions. All have been waymarked; look out for the discs. ⊕



Ash



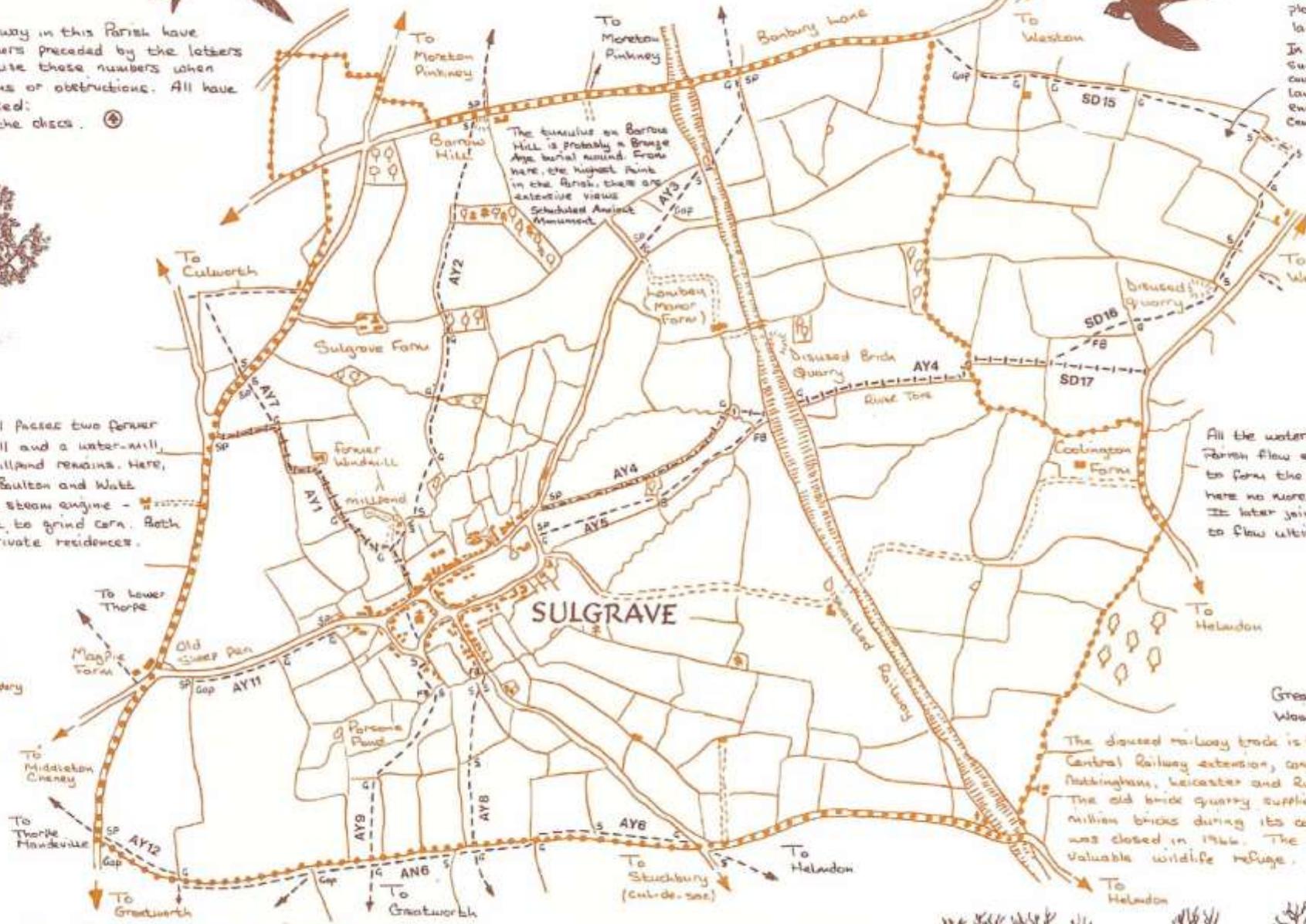
Pollard Willows

The bridleway AY1 passes two former mills - a windmill and a water-mill, of which the millpond remains. Here, in 1888, Messrs. Boulton and Watt installed a 3hp. steam engine - one of the first to grind corn. Both mills are now private residences.

All the watercourses in this Parish flow eastwards, uniting to form the River Tove (or Taw), here no more than a small stream. It later joins the Great Ouse, to flow ultimately into the Wash.

KEY

- Footpath
- - - - - Bridleway
- **** Arise Boundary
- S Stake
- G Gate
- F.B. Footbridge
- S.P. Signpost



Great Scaled Woodpecker

The disused railway track is that of the Great Central Railway extension, completed in 1899 to link Nottingham, Leicester and Rugby to Marylebone. The old brick quarry supplied some twelve million bricks during its construction. The line was closed in 1964. The land is now a valuable wildlife refuge.

The footpaths between the Greatworth and Stuchbury roads follow a hedge which is much older than most in the Parish (which date from the 18th Century). It is double in some parts, and contains at least fourteen species of tree and shrub, and may be five hundred years old or more.



HEDGE WOUNDWORT