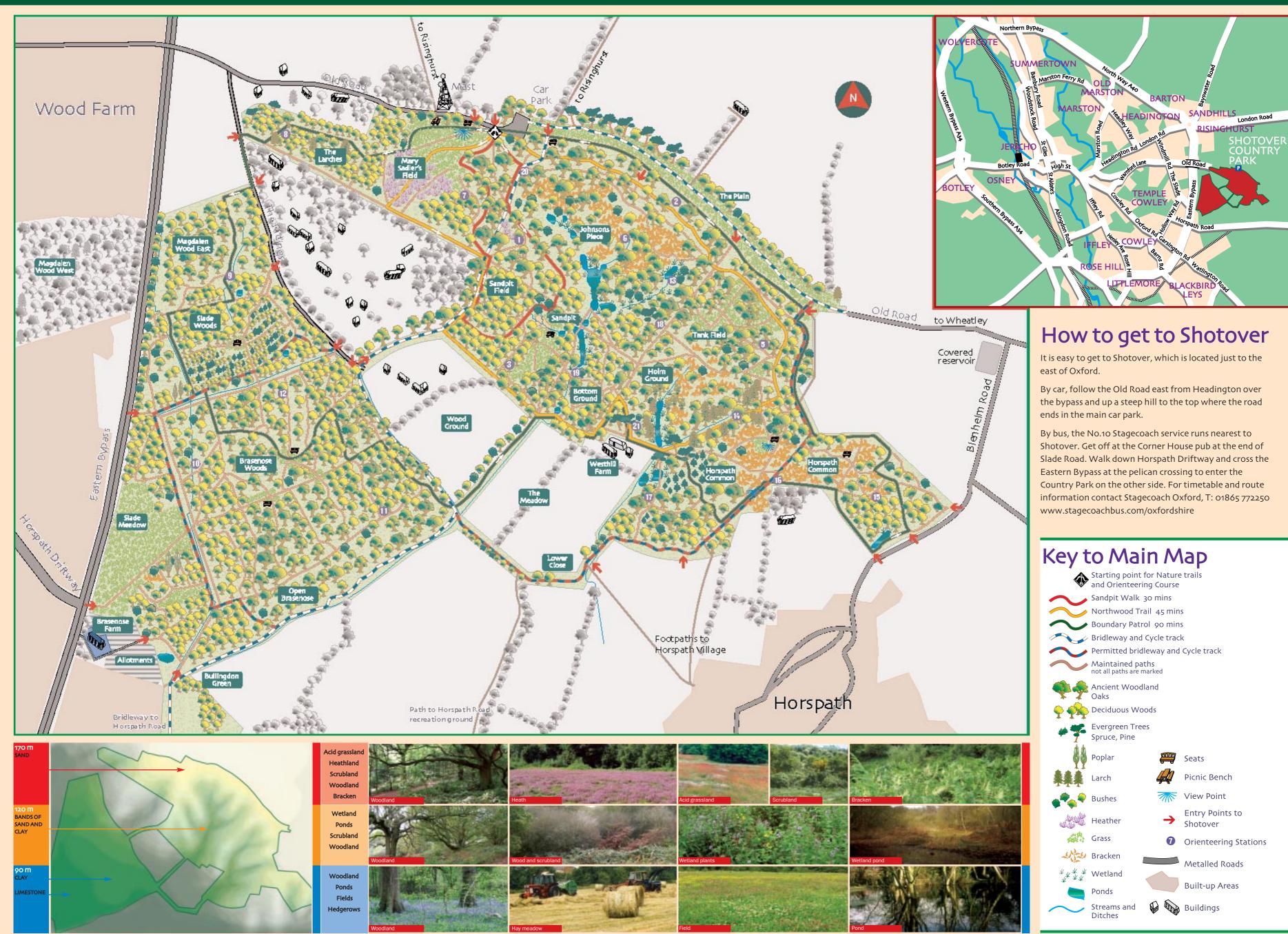


Exploring Shotover Country Park (**)







City of Oxford history right on the edge of the Discover a place of beauty and

Welcome to Shotover S

Leisure & Cultural Services

Leisure & Cultural Services



Looking after Oxford's Countryside

A small team of rangers based at Brasenose Farm manages 1000 acres of natural open space in and around Oxford including Shotover Country Park. We aim to provide a safe, accessible and attractive setting for enjoyment of the countryside and an environment rich in wildlife.

You can help us to look after Shotover by:

- Taking your litter home
- Not lighting fires
- By only riding your horse or bicycle on the
- Not using motorbikes anywhere in the park
- Respecting other park users by not playing amplified music
- Not using a metal detector
- Leaving wildflowers and fungi for others to enjoy
- By becoming a volunteer. Contact us for details.

If you have any comments about the park, or wish to report anything please contact us.

Oxford City Council Countryside Service

Brasenose Farm, The Eastern Bypass, Oxford, OX4 2FF

T: 01865 715 830 E: countryside@oxford.gov.uk









throughout the year free of charge and is ideal for a summer picnic, leisurely strolls, a walk with the dog, jogging, riding, or orienteering. Are you making the most of the countryside on your doorstep? Discover how much Shotover Country

for peaceful enjoyment of the countryside.

Shotover is open to everyone to enjoy

Things to Do and **Facilities**

Park has to offer!

There are three way-marked trails to guide you through the Park. They all start in Mary Sadler's Field, near the car park. Assuming a relaxed pace the red trail will take half an hour, the yellow 45 minutes and the green about 2 hours.

Bridle route

For horse riders and cyclists there are 5km of paths to follow. The route starts from Shotover Plain near the car park. Please follow the blue arrows.

Orienteering

There is a 20-station orienteering course around the Park. Look out for the distinctive red and white marker posts. Orienteering maps can be obtained from Touchwood Sports, 426 Abingdon Road, Redbridge, Oxford.

Sandpit

For children the most popular haunt is a natural sandpit in which they may spend hours building castles or damming the tiny stream. Follow the red trail to get to it.

Disabled paths and access

There is a network of paths around the lower parts of the Country Park accessible to wheelchair users. Access is from Brasenose Farm on Oxford's Eastern Bypass. You may need a key to gain entry. Please phone o1865 715830 for details.

Other paths

There is an extensive network of paths on Shotover Those that are on the map are checked and maintained by the rangers. There are also many other paths and desire lines, some only seasonal, that you can discover for yourself.

Events

Shotover Country Park is a popular venue for a range of different events including guided walks, crosscountry races, orienteering competitions, sponsored walks, and treasure hunts etc.

If you would like details of the events being run by Oxford City Council at Shotover or elsewhere please phone o1865 715830 or visit www.oxford.gov.uk.

If you would like to book Shotover as a venue for your public event, no matter how small, please phone 0800 052 1455.

Wildlife

Whether you are a serious naturalist or simply love being in the countryside there is so much to see at Shotover. Ancient woods, flowery meadows, marshes, heaths, ponds and bracken-covered slopes support a wealth of wildlife.

In spring and summer Shotover's woods are carpeted with wild flowers. Celandines and Wood Anemones are first, then Bluebells. As spring turns to summer Common Spotted Orchids, and later Bettony and Saw Wort bloom along woodland rides where White Admiral butterflies soar.

In these woods you can also hear the natural symphony of birdsong provided by summer visitors: Black Cap, Garden and Willow Warbler which join our resident choristers; Blackbird, Wren and Song Thrush.

In Summer the meadows at the bottom of Shotover are rich with the Knapweed, Oxyeye Daisy and other wild flowers. Visit them before they are cut in July.

In the valleys at the foot of the hill are springs which feed marshes and pools fringed with aromatic Water

Further up the slopes in the dry grasslands the delicate white flowers of Heath Bedstraw mingle with the red of Sheep's Sorrel. These grasslands are also popular with Green Woodpeckers, which plunder the many

Much of the hill is cloaked in dense stands of Bracken. It gives a special character to Shotover and offers cover to large mammals like Foxes, Muntjac and

with pink by the flowers of Ling Heather. Bare ground within the heaths and grasslands is where many species of solitary bees and wasps dig their

Because Shotover is a nationally important wildlife site, most of the Country Park is designated a Site of

A Potted History of Shotover

The landscape of Shotover has changed throughout its history. From Saxon times until the Civil War (1640s) Shotover was part of a Royal Forest providing a hunting ground for noblemen, fuel and grazing for local people and timber for many of Oxford's historic

In 1660 Shotover ceased to be a Royal Forest and became open farmland, which was grazed or

Until the end of the 18th Century, the main road to London passed across Shotover Plain. Travellers often fell victim to highwaymen here.

From the late 1930s Oxford City Council started to manage Shotover as a park and two wardens were employed to look after it.

During the first half of the 20th Century, farming ceased at Shotover and woodland started to establish.

During World War II, Slade Camp was part of Cowley Barracks and provided a temporary home for soldiers who took part in the D-Day landings. At the same time Shotover Hill was used for military training and tanks built at Cowley were tested there.

From the late 1970s work started to clear woodland to restore heath, grassland and marsh habitats.

Park Opening Times

Open all day every day, free of charge. Organised group activities need permission and a fee may be





