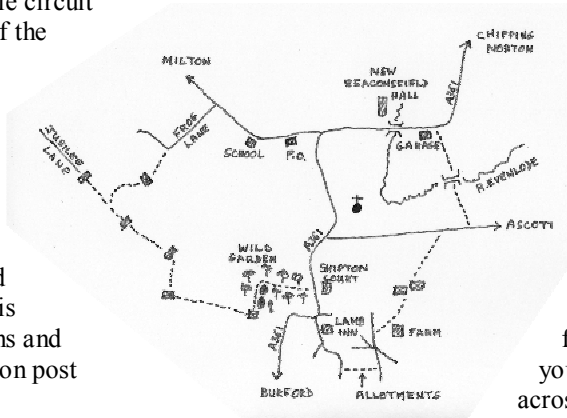


## Bob's Gentle Shipton Circuit

This is a four mile circuit taking in some of the best parts of Shipton including the Wild Garden and the river bank. It can start and finish anywhere around the circuit but this description begins and ends at the Shipton post office.



From the post office, head for Milton past the school and up the slope until turning left into Frog Lane. When this lane takes a sharp right bend, go straight on along a track and cross the stile at the end. You are heading for a gateway at about eleven o'clock from the stile but the straight route between the two is often very boggy, so it's best to follow a narrow path in the grass that loops around to the right before joining the main path down the hill from Milton. Through the gateway, continue straight across the field to another stile. The correct path over the stile follows the hedge on your right, up to the top of the hill where it passes through a swing gate and goes down the slope between two high hedges to your left. Follow this path for about four hundred metres when you'll see a new gate on your left into the Wild Garden. This is a beautiful oasis of calm at any time of the year. Follow the main path past the two lakes (take bread to feed the ducks) and along the lime avenue to the gate onto the A361 opposite Shipton Court, an imposing Jacobean mansion, now divided into apartments. Turn right up the main road, cross with great care,

and go straight ahead, past the Lamb Inn. Fifty metres later, fork off to the left, down a narrow and twisty lane. When this lane begins to climb, look out for a footpath sign on your left; follow it across the allotments.

Turn left down the hill

towards Five Ways. Look out soon for a footpath sign next to an old metal gate. Open the gate (if you can!) and head slightly to your right, towards the end of a set of barns and onto a concrete path. Turn left, following the path and, when it peters out, follow the hedge on your right, down across a very hummocky field edge. At the bottom, pass through one gate and almost immediately through another. The path across the next field is unclear but look at about ten o'clock to your left and you should see a gate about two hundred metres away into a hedge onto the Ascott road. When you reach the road, turn right towards Ascott but after one hundred metres, turn left through a swing gate and follow the hedge on your left, aiming for a wooden bridge across the Evenlode. Over the bridge, head for the petrol station through two gates and you are back on the A361 beside the garage. Turn left and re-cross the river, past the New Beaconsfield Hall, turn right outside the Red Horse back towards Milton and in a hundred metres you are back at the Post Office and stores where you started; an ideal spot for refreshments?

**Bob Forster**