

Free Entry to Blenheim Park

Here is all you need to know to access Blenheim for free, using the 'secret green gate' in Woodstock. It's perfectly legal – you will be using a Public Footpath to enter instead of one of the official entrances. It's just a 5 – 10 minute walk and will bring you in right next to the lake.

One point to note is that there are steps on part of the route so it isn't suitable for wheel-chairs or those who have difficulty walking. See the FAQs on how to access the gate without using the steps. It's just as quick but is a little less scenic.

Don't be tempted to try and park near the 'secret green gate' – the space in front of the gate is used by a local house, and there is no other parking nearby.

Step 1 – Start at The Crown

The route starts outside the main entrance of The Crown public house on the High Street in Woodstock



Step 2 – Walk into the centre of Woodstock

With your back to The Crown, looking in the direction of the Co-op supermarket, turn right and head into the centre of Woodstock, away from the main road that you arrived on. When you pass the end of The Crown, cross over the road so that you remain on the pavement.



Step 3 – Continue through Woodstock

On your left you will pass a number of shops, including a gift shop, a florist, a barber and an art gallery. Across the road is the popular Brotherton's brasserie. The large building with the pedestrian square at the front is the Town Hall.



Step 4 – Museum, Church and Toilets

Just beyond the Town Hall, on the opposite side of the road, you will see the Post Office. Just a short way down the road to the right, between the Post Office and the Star Inn, are the public toilets. If you don't need to visit, continue your journey through Woodstock. On the right is the Oxfordshire Museum, well worth a visit if you have the time. Of note is the unusual set of stocks outside – why are there 5 holes? To the left is St Mary Magdalene church



Step 5 – Turn right into Chaucer's Lane

As you continue further into Woodstock, past the museum and the Barclay's Bank, you will see a road named Chaucer's Lane to your right. Carefully cross over the road and go down Chaucer's Lane.



Step 6 – Down the Steps

A little way down Chaucer's Lane the road bends around to the right, and you will see a sign reading Harrison's Lane. To the left of the sign is a set of stairs, which you will use to continue your journey to the 'secret green gate.' What animal do you see to your left at the bottom of the steps?



Step 7 – Left Along the Main Road

At the bottom of the steps turn left and follow the pavement along the main road. Be very careful here as it's a busy road – keep hold of any children or dogs.



Step 8 – The Secret Green Gate

As you follow the road around to the right you will pass by a row of terraced houses. Just beyond these houses, after a short section of dry stone wall, you will see a non-descript green gate with the number 95 on it. Don't be fooled by the lack of sign – although this is the gate to a private driveway, it is also a public footpath, which everyone is allowed to use



Step 9 – Through the Secret Green Gate

Open up the secret green gate and walk towards the garage door – take care to close the gate behind you. At the end of the drive, on the left, are the gates to Blenheim Park. Be sure to read the sign carefully and obey the rules about no bicycles and keeping dogs on a lead.



Step 10 – Into Blenheim Park

You're now in Blenheim Park, and it hasn't cost you a penny! Immediately in front of you is the old sheep dip, a good place to see the ducks and swans. You will see a sign on your left warning you that you need a valid ticket. Don't worry – instead turn right and follow the public footpath past the lake.

