

Walk to from Stroud to Oakbrook Haven

1

With Vue cinema on your right, walk towards the roundabout and cross the road to your left using the pedestrian crossing or the footbridge.



2

Taking great care, cross over Beeches Green road and take the footpath, following the railings.



3

At the top of the footpath, take the left fork and carry on to the end of Lovedays Mead.



4

Carry on to the public footpath (signposted towards Old Painswick Road). Then climb over the stile and follow the footpath through the field, up the hill.



5

Follow the public footpath through the clump of trees, keeping the metal railing on your right.



6

Turn right and keep going with the field on your left. When you reach it, go through the kissing gate. You are now in Oakbrook Farm!



7

Follow the track until the very tall tree stump. Turn right again onto the Nature Field, and follow the footpath down to the brook. Walk all the way along the brook to the end of this field and then cross over the track. Congratulations - You made it to the Haven Field!



Oakbrook Farm

- a Stroud Micro Dairy
- b Starter Farm
- c Bee Observatory
- d ZeroDig Earth
- e Oakbrook Orchard



If you look hard, you might be able to see some tiny **freshwater shrimp** which live in the brook. They can be seen throughout the year, but they tend to stay hidden. Try turning over some of the smaller stones. How many shrimp can you count?

Jackdaws are a type of crow and there are many living around the farm - they can be seen flying together in formation. If you see them, you can probably also hear them! What do they sound like?

Oak trees are the most famous of native English trees. Some of the trees on the farm are over 30m tall and over 200 years old. Oak trees are so big that they are home to hundreds of different species including birds, insects and fungi. The seed of the Oak tree is called the acorn. You can take one home and plant it in a pot of soil. Maybe a new tree will grow!

Nocturnal creatures mainly come out at night to look for food, and sleep during the day. You won't see any **badgers, bats or foxes**, but you might be able to spot their nests. Be careful not to disturb a sleeping creature!

It's not just the food that farmers grow that we can eat. Many of the other plants around us are edible too. If you visit in August or September, you might find some wild **blackberries** ready to eat. What do they taste like?

If you look along the brook, you can also spot **Hazel trees** growing. Hazel nuts are green at first and often eaten by squirrels before they ripen to brown (when you can eat them, if there's any left!) You can look out for empty nut cases under the trees in the late summer and autumn.

- walk from Stroud to Oakbrook Farm
- public footpath
- Oakbrook Farm
- Oakbrook Haven

STROUD town centre

START OF THE WALK