Schools, churches and shops

4.5 km (2.8 miles) · about 2 h 30 min with stops · **Start:** Oxhey Library, Bridlington Road · **Underfoot:** Pavements all the way.

The places that turned a building site into a community: the first school, the churches of the 1950s, the parades of shops, the library and the old pubs.



1. **Oxhey Library.** A van brought books round at first. The first library opened in 1951 in an old farmhouse on Little Oxhey Lane, and this one in 1962.
2. **Warren Dell School.** The estate's first school took its first pupils in May 1949. That summer only about 500 of the estate's 820 primary-age children had full-time places.
3. **All Saints.** The first tenants worshipped in the old chapel next door from 1948. The first All Saints closed in 1993 when asbestos was found, and a new building replaced it in 2000.
4. **St Joseph's.** The Catholic church on Oxhey Drive was built in 1960, eight years after the parish was formed.
5. **Health centre and police station.** The estate's police station opened on Oxhey Drive in January 1953, and the doctors moved to a surgery here after leaving Oxhey Place.
6. **Clitheroe Gardens.** The Clitheroe Club for older people began in Clitheroe Gardens in 1950, and the Methodist church opened on Prestwick Road in 1953. Both were rebuilt a few yards away, and the new church opened in January 2014.
7. **The Dick Whittington.** The estate's first pub, opened in 1957, and the only one of its five pubs still trading.
8. **Little Oxhey Lane shops.** The first three shops on the estate opened in Little Oxhey Lane in April 1949, and a post office followed in July 1950.
9. **Site of the old precinct.** The main shopping centre was new in 1954, and St Andrew's Road became the county's first traffic-free precinct in 1966. It was rebuilt as South Oxhey Central from 2018.

The route follows paths and pavements where they exist and crosses open grass where they don't. Check the ground as you go and keep to public land. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL). Ancient woodland © Natural England copyright 2026. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS AC0000851168 (Open Government Licence v3.0). Stop notes are drawn from the sources listed at southoxhey.org.