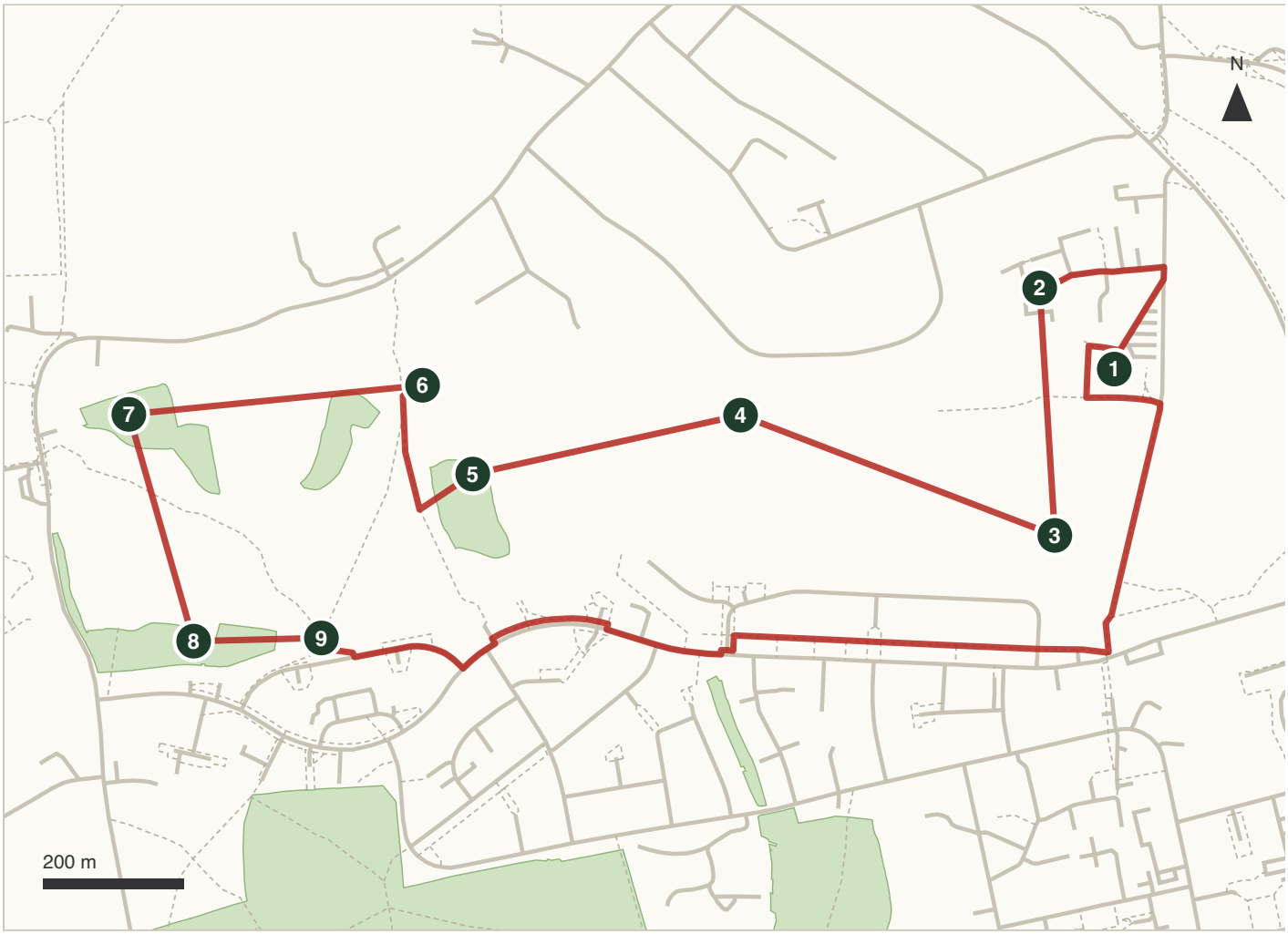
The lost golf course

4.6 km (2.9 miles) · about 2 h 30 min with stops · **Start:** Green Lane car park, by the Pavilion · **Underfoot:** Mown grass and rough paths, muddy in winter. Stay back from the edge of the chalk pit.

A loop round South Oxhey Playing Fields, the ground of Oxhey Golf Club from 1912, past its old woods, the chalk pit of the famous short hole and the council's information board about the old course.



1. **The Pavilion.** The old golf clubhouse beside Green Lane. A clubhouse stood here from 1912. After the golf stopped it became The Pavilion, a pub and restaurant, which closed in 2018.
2. **Site of Oxhey Lodge.** Oxhey Lodge farm stood a little north-west of the clubhouse, very probably on the site of the old warren lodge of 1601. John Swain remembers it standing until the late 1950s.
3. **The levelled east end.** The new estate took the east end of the course in 1946, and this lower ground was levelled for pitches in the 1950s. South Oxhey parkrun starts close by on Saturday mornings.
4. **Ox Pasture Spring.** A strip of old hornbeam coppice with an ancient wood bank on its south side. The council calls it the best old coppice on the fields.
5. **Big Wood.** Named on the maps of the 1890s and now on Natural England's revised list of ancient woodland.
6. **Nelson's Drop.** The deep old chalk pit on the north-west side of Big Wood, the hazard on the famous short hole of the original course. Look from the edge only.
7. **Hampermill Wood.** Another small ancient wood at the west end of the fields. Tee boxes of the later course could still be seen near here in 1964.
8. **Round Spring and Hampermill Spring.** Two old woods named on the 1896 map. Both survive, and in 2025 they were among the woods given village green protection.
9. **Ashburnham Drive entrance.** The council's information board with the plan of the 1920 course stands at this entrance, where the London LOOP leaves the fields. Head back east across the grass to the start.

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.