



**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION
AND FAMILIES**

TRANSPORT APPEAL

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

MANISHA DASS (DOB 12.02.1998)

12 KNOLLES ROAD, OXFORD OX4 3HS

Issue

1. Manisha is in Year 10 at Cherwell School.
2. Manisha joined Cherwell School on 3 September 2009. The Cherwell School was listed as Ms Dass' first preference. At the time of application Manisha lived at 124 Wytham Street, Oxford, OX1 4TW. This address lies within the designated area for The Cherwell School.
3. The Admissions Team uses Routefinder software provided by Capita to measure distances for admissions and transport purposes. Using this software Manisha now lives 4.144 miles from The Cherwell School. The nearest schools to Manisha's address are St Gregory the Great School (0.92 miles), The Oxford Academy (0.937miles), Oxford Spires Academy (1.063 miles) and Cheney School (1.980 miles). The Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy currently have places available.
4. Maps showing the routes to The Cherwell School, The Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy are attached as Appendix 1.
5. When making the assessment on eligibility the Admissions Team took into account the definition of the "statutory walking distance" set out in the Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance issued by the DfE in 2007:
"47. "Statutory walking distance" Statutory walking distance" is two miles for children aged under eight, and three miles for children aged eight and over. The measurement of the "statutory walking distance" is not necessarily the shortest distance by road. It is measured by the shortest route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety. As such, the route measured may include footpaths, bridleways, and other pathways, as well as recognised roads."

Essentially the Admissions Team needed to take into account footpaths, streets and roads.

6. The home address is within the designated area for The Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy and not Cherwell School. Therefore there is no eligibility for free transport on grounds of being within the designated area of the school. Maps showing the designated areas for The Cherwell School, The Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy are attached as Appendix 2.
7. No evidence has been provided that Manisha is eligible for free school meals or that Ms Dass is in receipt of the maximum of Working Tax Credit. Therefore there is no eligibility for free transport on grounds of low income.
8. There are service buses operating in the area of Manisha's home. The journey would take approximately 50 minutes and involve using various routes. A timetable is attached as Appendix 3. An annual pass would cost £235.

Measurement of distance

9. The start point of a measurement is the "seed point" of the home address. The "seed point" is provided by Ordnance Survey from information compiled from Royal Mail and from district or city councils. Seed points are accurate to the nearest ten centimetres.
10. From the seed point the route firstly connects to the nearest point of the digitised network.
11. The digitised network is constructed from road data supplied by Ordnance Survey and is called the Integrated Transport Network (ITN). The Integrated Transport Network has been accurately digitised to measure along the centre of roads and takes corners at right angles. This is the same underlying information as used by internet-based mapping solutions (e.g. Google Maps). However, the Local Authority has a more accurate start point than internet-based mapping solutions and the ITN has been augmented by the Local Authority to take into account other available public routes, for example, alleyways, public footpaths, and bridleways.
12. The end point of the "shortest designated route" is the nearest open gate of the school officially available for use by students for entry and exit to the school site at the start and/end of the school day. The location of these gates was set by the Local Authority after consultation with each individual school to ensure accurate placement of the gate and its availability for use.
13. The shortest designated route is established using an algorithm within the bespoke software used by the Local Authority. This software is called RouteFinder and is produced by Higher Mapping Solutions. This programme integrates with the Local Authority's database (ONE) which is supplied by Capita Children's Services.
14. The "shortest designated route" is not necessarily a driving route because it may use in whole or in part a non-driveable route, for example, footpaths.

15. Other measuring systems may give a different measurement but it would be inconsistent for the Local Authority to use anything other than measurements from RouteFinder when making decisions on home to school transport.
16. RouteFinder measures in kilometres, measurements are then converted into miles and each measurement is calculated to three decimal places giving an accuracy of up to 1.609344 metres/0.001 of a mile.

Cost

17. The cost of providing free transport for Manisha would be £235 per annum if a bus pass is provided. Over 2 years this would involve expenditure of £270.

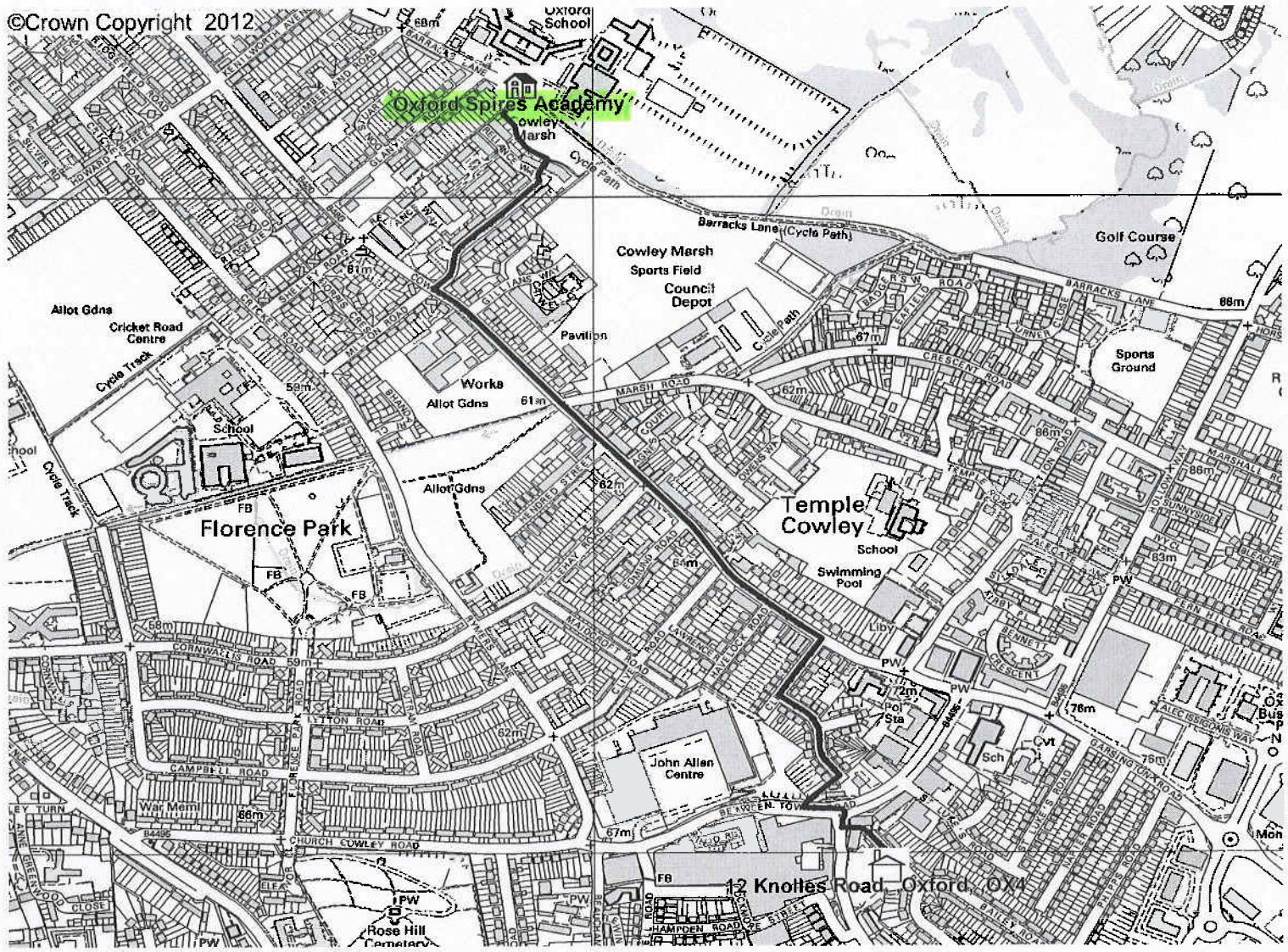
Powers of the Appeals Sub-Committee

18. The Home to School Transport Policy does not in any way restrict the County Council's discretion given that parents can appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee. The Appeals Sub-Committee is able to look at each case on its merits.

Conclusion

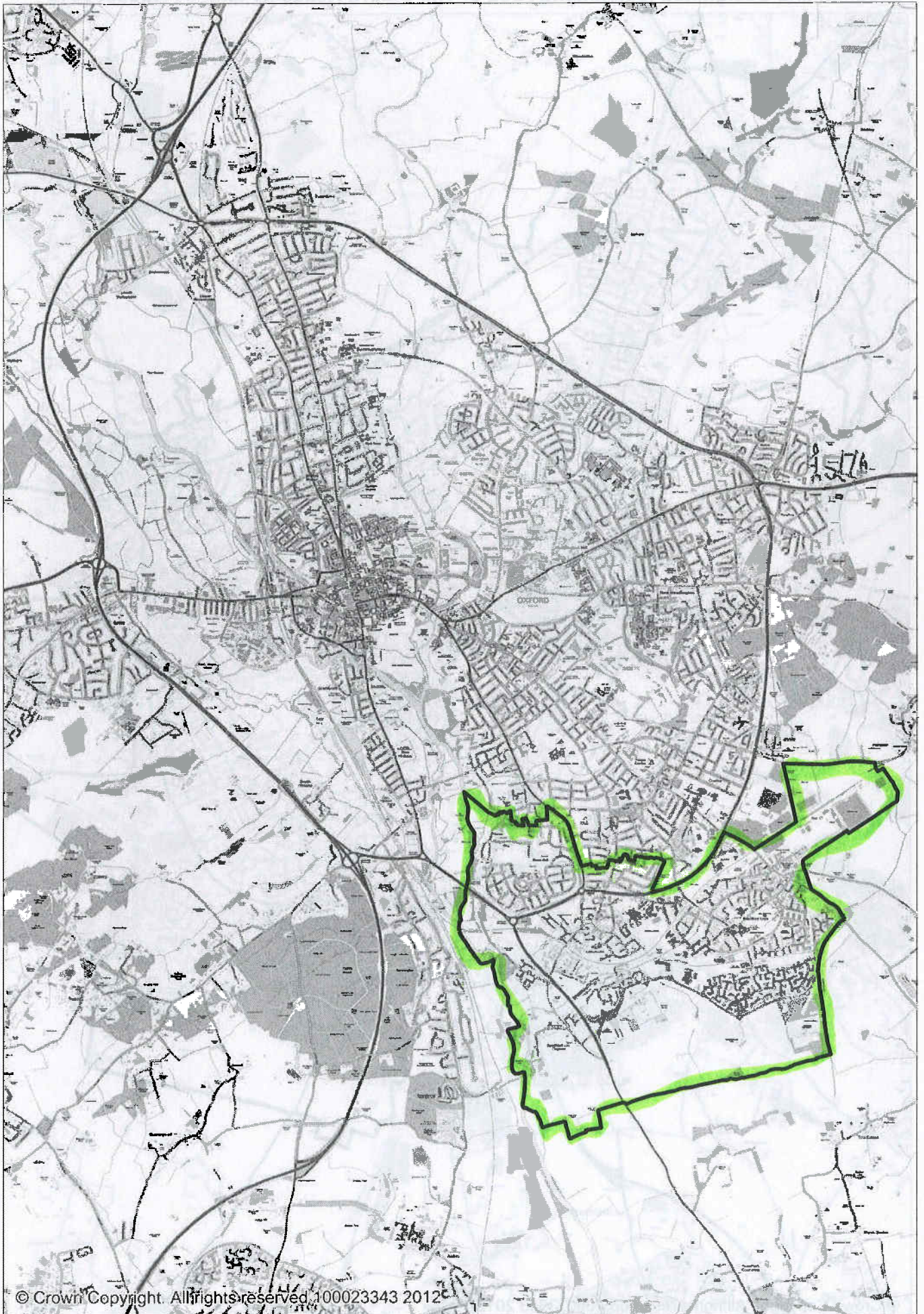
19. The Admissions Team acted appropriately in not providing free home to school transport for Manish because there is no eligibility for free transport under the Home to School Transport Policy.

School Admissions Team
County Hall
New Road
Oxford



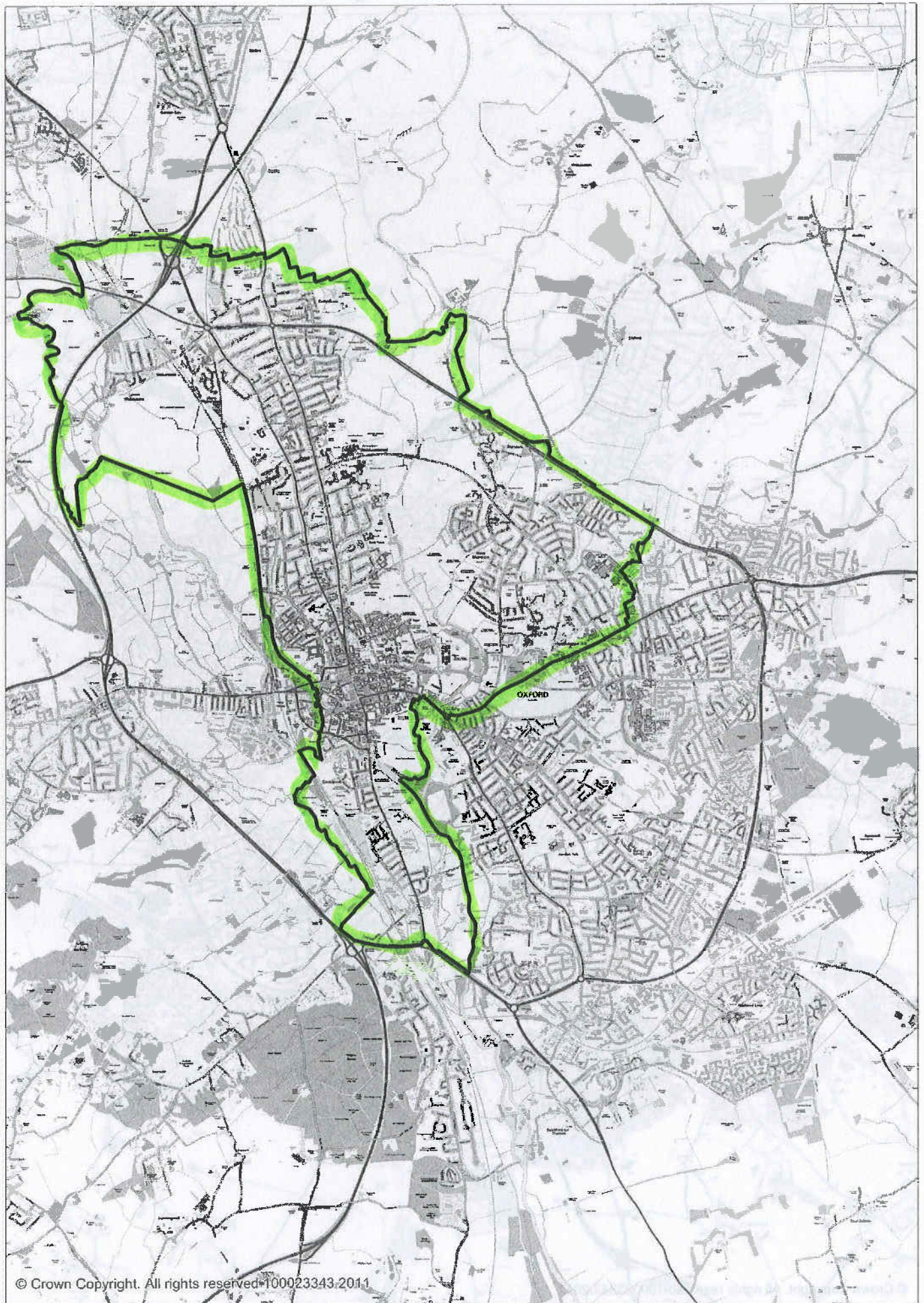


Location and Designated (catchment) Area of The Oxford Academy from 1 September 2013



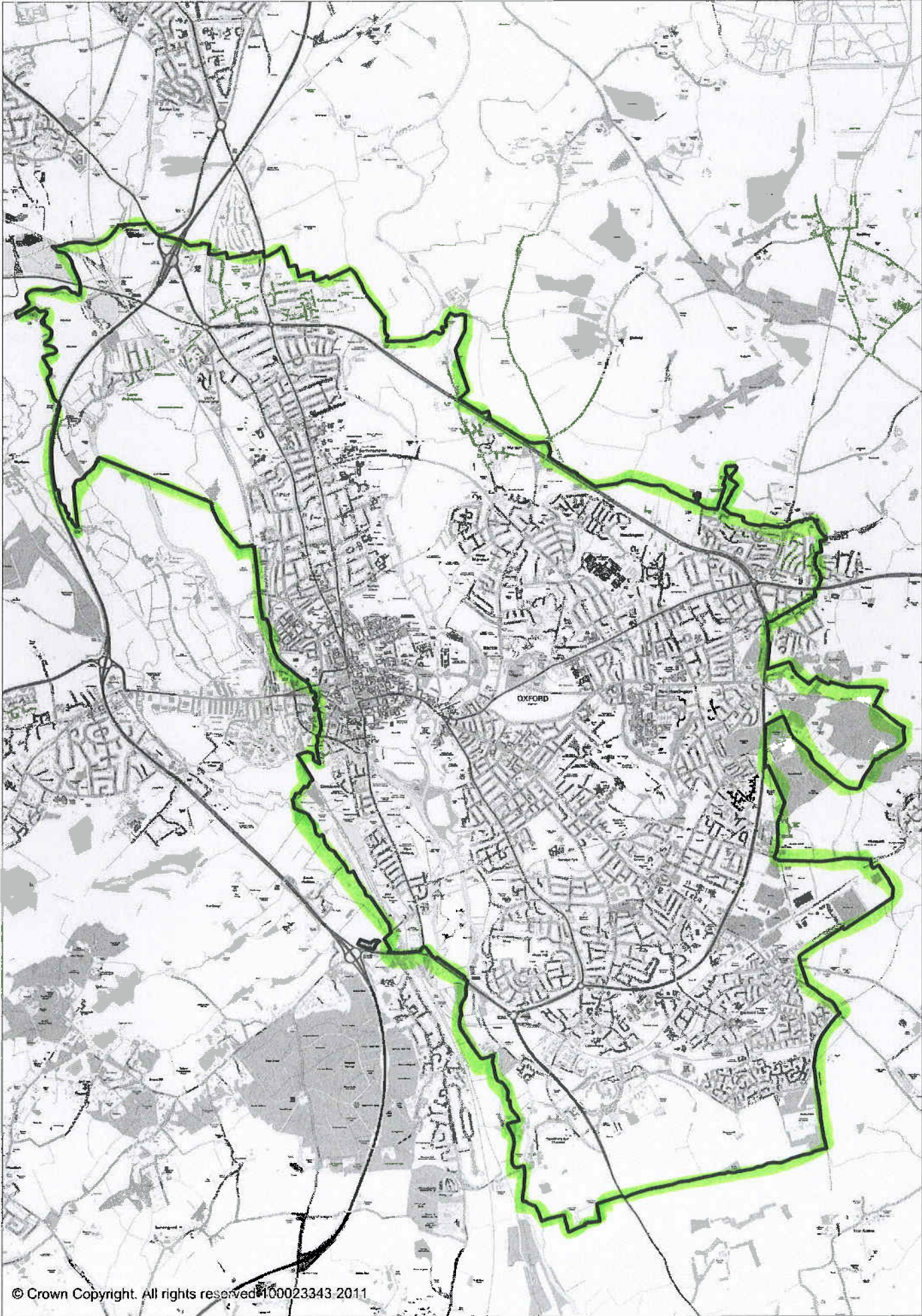
Location and Designated (catchment) Area of The Oxford Academy until 31 August 2013







Location and Designated Area of Oxford Spires Academy



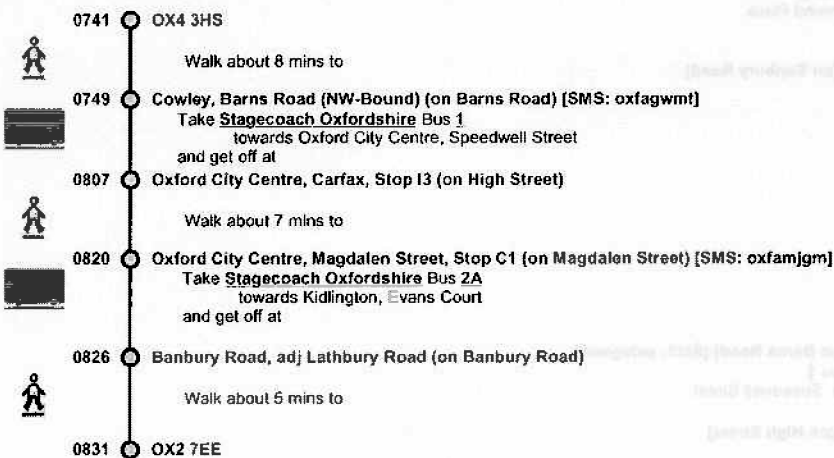
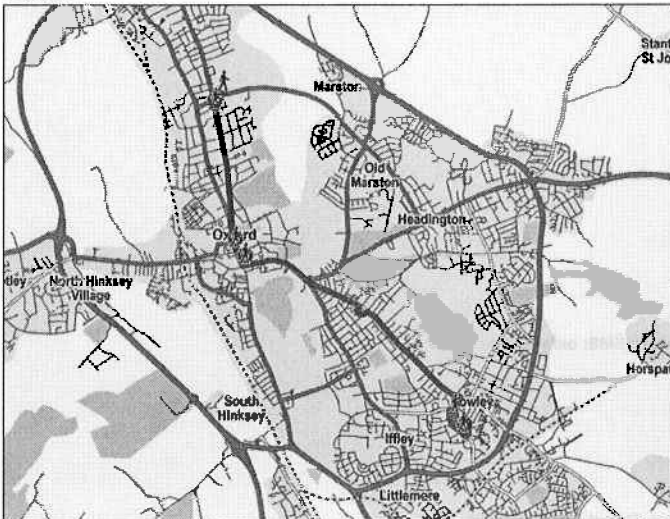


From OX4 3HS to OX2 7EE

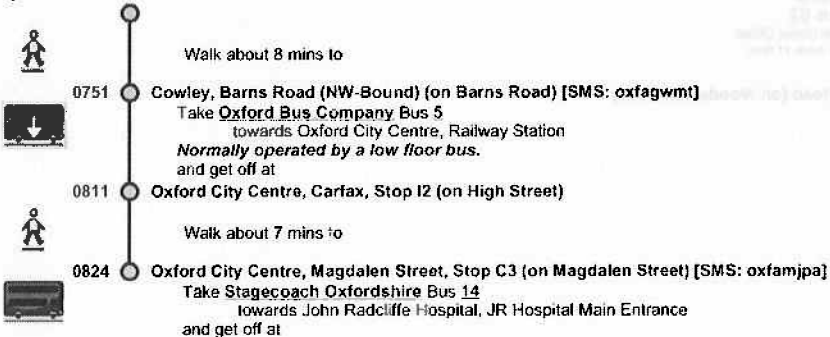
You asked to travel on Tuesday 30th October departing at 0755
 Default options were used (all modes, fastest journeys).

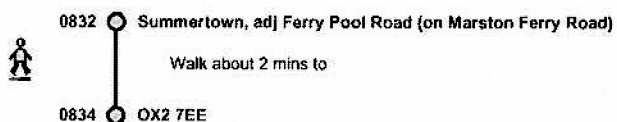
	Depart	Arrive	Changes	Max journey time	Trip Summary
1.	0741	0831	1	00:50	
2.	0743	0834	1	00:51	
3.	0747	0836	1	00:49	
4.	0751	0841	1	00:50	
5.	0753	0845	1	00:52	
6.	0801	0851	1	00:50	
7.	0805	0856	1	00:51	
8.	0809	0901	1	00:52	

Option 1

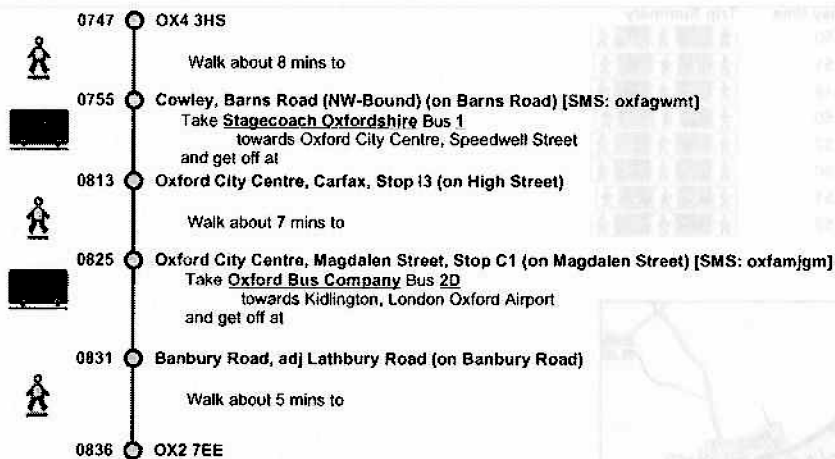


Option 2





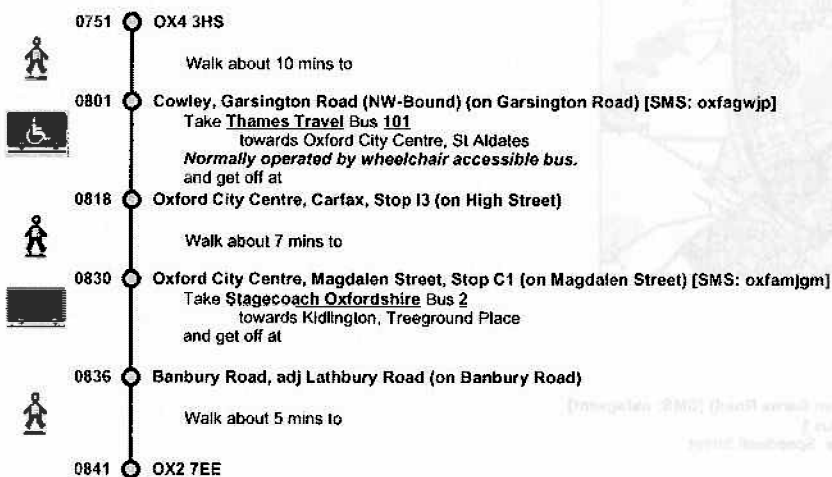
Option 3



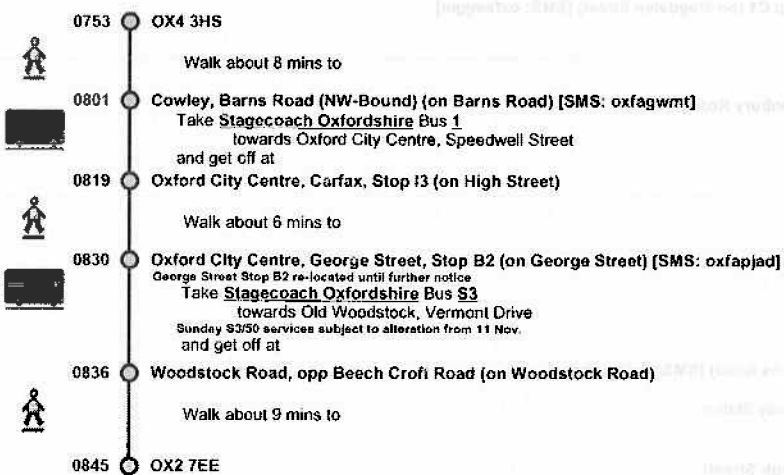
Stop	Time	Mode	Operator
0747 OX4 3HS	08:00	Walk	
0755 Cowley, Barns Road (NW-Bound) (on Barns Road) [SMS: oxfagwmt]	08:05	Bus	Stagecoach Oxfordshire
0813 Oxford City Centre, Carfax, Stop 13 (on High Street)	08:15	Walk	
0825 Oxford City Centre, Magdalen Street, Stop C1 (on Magdalen Street) [SMS: oxfamjgm]	08:25	Bus	Oxford Bus Company
0831 Banbury Road, adj Lathbury Road (on Banbury Road)	08:30	Walk	
0836 OX2 7EE	08:35	Walk	



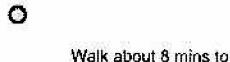
Option 4

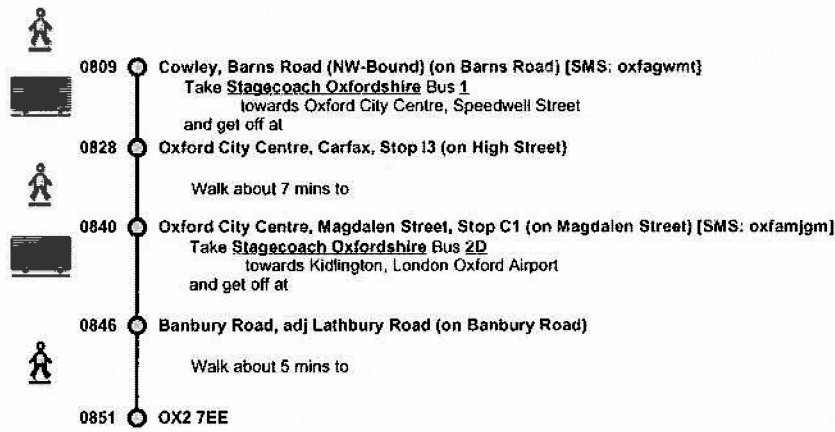


Option 5

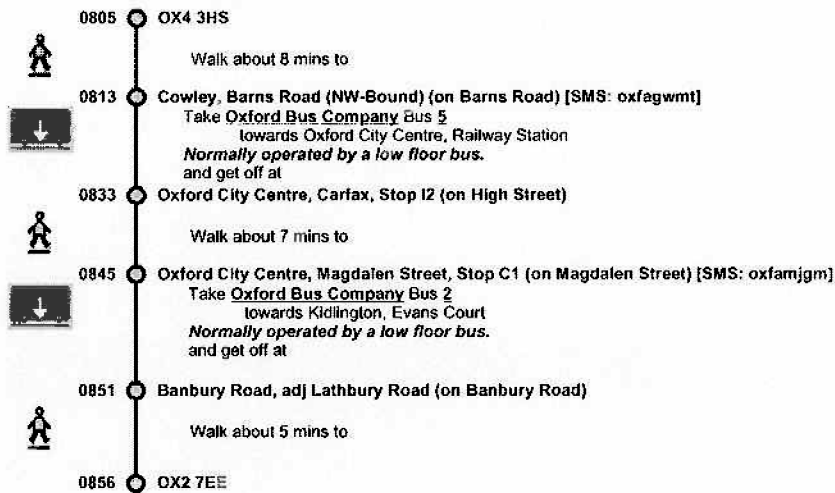


Option 6

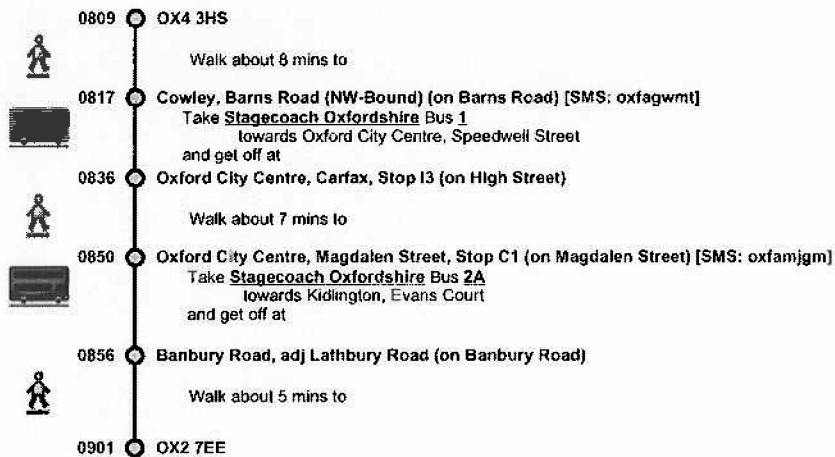




Option 7



Option 8



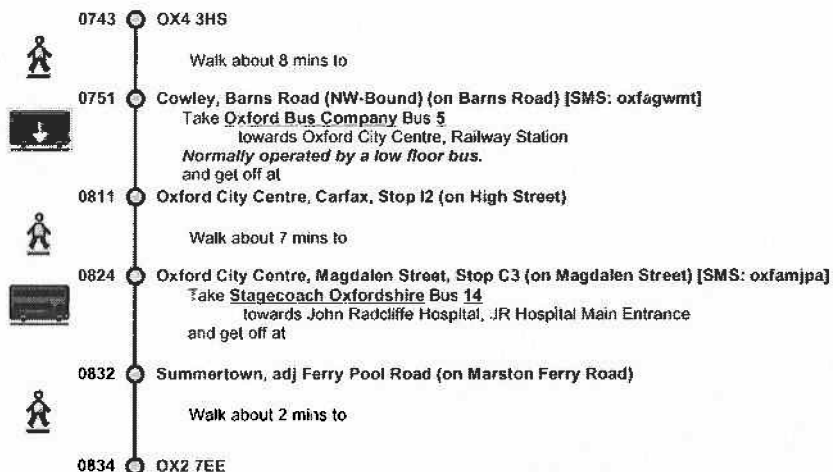
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From OX4 3HS to OX2 7EE

You asked to travel on Tuesday 30th October departing at 0755
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Option 2



[Cookies, privacy and other terms and conditions](#)

