

Bourton-on-the Water - Circular Walk 2

Four crossings of the Windrush



The walk takes you past farms and farmland and then alongside lakes with views to nearby hillsides.

No stiles on the walk but there are single steps onto bridges. Sections of the path can be muddy. The first part of the walk is suitable for buggies. But it will be necessary to retrace your steps after point 2.

Distance: 4 km / 2.5 miles with an up and down of 16 m / 52 ft.

Time: 1.5 hour

Start: Rissington Road car park (Charge payable with a portion of the funds going to Bourton village) GL54 2BN SP171202

Toilets: Rissington Road car park.

Please take your litter home with you or use one of the many bins around the village.

Please leave gates as you find them.

Route:

From Rissington Road car park entrance cross the Rissington Road and turn right for 100 metres before recrossing the road bearing half left to follow Marshmouth Lane **1**.

The lane is used by vehicles so take care particularly around the bends.

The route crosses the River Windrush and then passes Birdland on the right before continuing to the left round a bend (*Take care on this bend*). You will cross the Windrush three more times during the walk.

The route continues along the lane until you reach a field gate (just over ½ mile / 0.8km from the bridge): go

through the small gate on the right **2**.

The route beyond this point is not suitable for buggies/ wheelchair/ tramper users.

Continue along the stony track ahead until a path junction just before a house (Lower Marsh Farm) **3** where you turn left.

Follow the stony track ahead through a gateway or use the gate if this is closed.

When the track bears right go ahead by a small bridge and along the path with a fence on the right. Turn left crossing a small bridge **4** across a stream then bear right and cross the River Windrush again over a large bridge.

Water voles, otters and kingfishers are known to be in this area, so keep your eyes open in the next section of the walk.

Bear left after the bridge through a gate and then turn left at the path junction to walk along by two lakes on the right.

When you reach a gate with a private no entry sign ahead, turn left along an uneven path and over the Windrush bridge. Then turn right through two gates before entering a wood.

Continue through the wood and another gate **5**. Ignore the sleeper bridge to the right and go ahead through a gate and along a path between fences.

On the left the village of Clapton-on-the-Hill can be seen.

Another gate leads to the



final crossing of the Windrush over a bridge and through a gate before entering a paddock and crossing this to a gate in the hedge line ahead.

Follow the path with a fence on the right to a pedestrian gate then down a narrow section. Please take care with

stay from pole on the path. Continue to reach a tarmac road which you cross to reach the busy Rissington Road **6**.

Cross the Rissington Road and turn left to follow the pavement back to the car park and start of the walk.

See the next page for more details about the walk.

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What is in a name?

The name Bourton is derived from two Saxon words **BURH** a camp and **TON** a settlement or village. It has been an important centre for the north Cotswolds for at least 5,000 years. Subsequent civilisations occupied the same site as Iron Age currency bars from C.300 BC were found last century. With the Roman occupation in 45 AD a legion of 5,000 soldiers was quartered here and later, in the 8th Century a Saxon settlement occupied the same site.



1950's gravel extractions

The lakes were formed from gravel extraction and during the spring and summer, look out for the Little Grebe and the splendidly adorned Great Crested Grebe, as well as moorhens, coots, and mallard and tufted ducks. Wagtails will strut about the water's edge, swans and geese swim across the water and kingfishers, if you are lucky, streak from bush to reed. Come the autumn, the number of birds will increase significantly. There will be vast numbers of ducks including pintail, shoveler, widgeon and pochard as well as occasional visitors like cormorants.



There is an interesting land mark along the walk with this sign. However note that is no right of way or path in the direction of the sign.

Have you walked 'Farm, ramparts and roundhouse'?

Enjoyed this walk, then try the Bourton Circular Walk 1 which explores the Greystones Farm Nature Reserve.

Greystones and its habitats

Visit Greystones Farm situated approx 500m from the village centre. Greystones Farm is home to a diverse range of wildlife. The ancient meadows are home to an incredible diversity of wildflowers and provide a habitat for many insects, butterflies, birds and mammals.



Dog walking and wildlife

Please adhere to the following responsible dog walking advice:

Prevent your dog from approaching or chasing wildlife or livestock. Use a lead if necessary.

Be aware the sensitive time for ground-nesting birds is between March 1st and July 31st.

Always pick up and bin your dog's poo.

Walk supported by Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council, funded by Cotswold District Council.

