

Bourton-on-the-Water and Wyck Rissington

Three small rivers, a nature reserve and a maze in a church. This easy walk through meadows to the unspoilt village of Wyck Rissington can be muddy, so come prepared.

Distance: 7 km /4 miles with a climb and descent of 37m/120 ft

Time: 2 hours

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial in the High Street. SP167/207

Pubs, cafes and shops in the village.

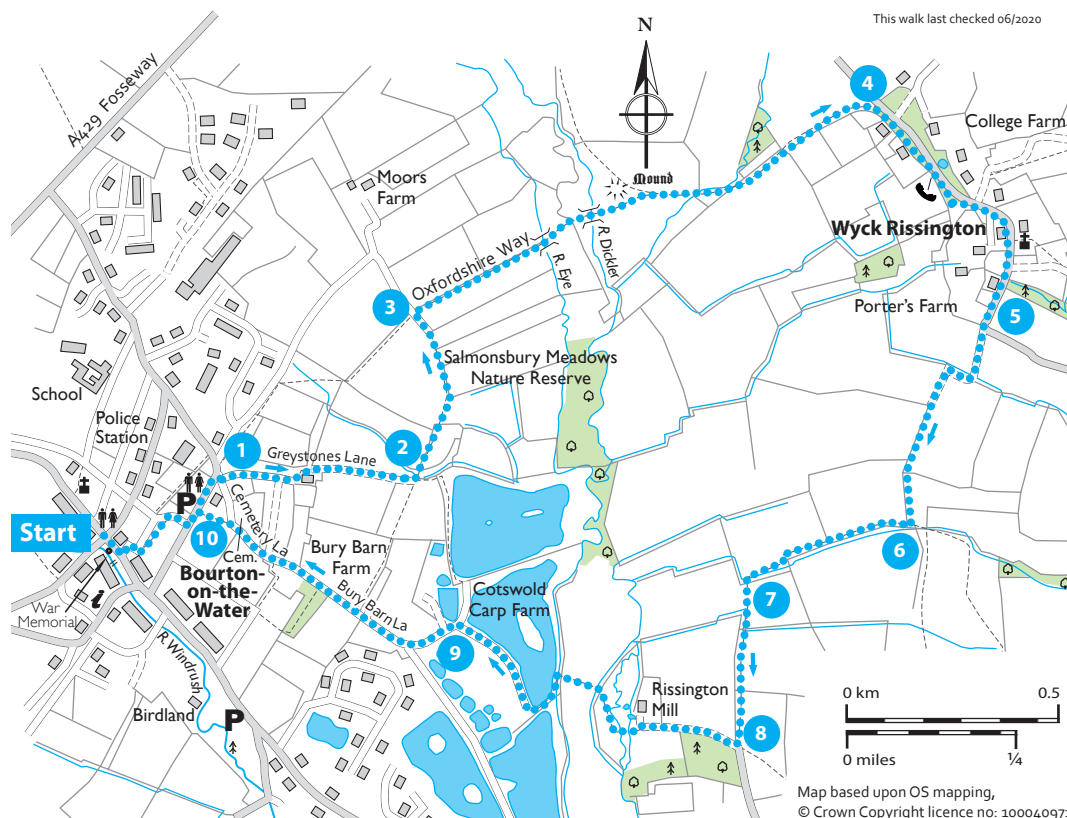
Route:

Walk alongside the River Windrush to the first bridge, turn left and cross the road to the small green opposite. Follow the Oxfordshire Way sign down an alley, bearing right to reach Station Road.

Cross the road, turn left and after the petrol station turn right **1** into Cemetery Lane and immediately into Greystones Lane. At the farm go through a gate, turn right across the yard and through two gates onto a track for 220m.

At the bottom **2** observe the roundhouse, typical of homes in the area during the Iron Age. After the roundhouse turn left through a gate, bear slightly left across the field to reach a gate. Bear half right to a gap in the hedge and another gate. Turn immediately left keeping the hedge on your left, passing through two fields to reach a gate leading into woodland.

Continue along the track through the trees past the Play Trail with interesting



wooden sculptures. There are also a number of badger setts here.

At a path crossroads **3** turn right through a gate onto the Oxfordshire Way and Gustav Holst Way, passing a notice board.

Walk ahead along a wide path through a meadow to a metal gate, continue to reach a wooden bridge across the River Eye. Continue straight ahead to a metal gate and then a small bridge, this time across the River Dickler. Keep straight ahead on the path and then a stone track along the edge of a field to

the road at Wyck Rissington **4**.

Turn right through the village past the pond and church (the maze is inside) and stay on the road until it turns sharp left **5**. Here go ahead on a wide winding track, through two gates to a T-junction. Turn right through a gate **6** along the field edge. At the end turn sharp left through the metal gate **7** and walk straight ahead, across three fields to the drive of Rissington Mill.

Turn right **8** along the drive until it turns square right where a gate is lurking between two tall cylindrical

bushes. Through the gate, walk ahead, through another gate passing the garden walls, and across two bridges. Turn right across the field following the stream to a kissing gate. Go straight ahead to a gap in the trees opposite. Turn left on a path around the lake. After circling the lake **9** emerge onto a stone track, turn left through a gate. Follow the lane which leads to the cemetery entrance **10**. Here take the path on the left to Station Road. Turn left for 20m, cross the road and retrace your steps along the walled path to the start.

Far from the madding crowd

Only an hour's stroll from busy Bourton, Wyck Rissington is an oasis of calm. Its wide village green gives the houses space to breathe and the Norman church punctuates the upper end of the village. Here the teenage Gustav Holst earned £4 a year as organist and choirmaster. But only for a year.

A monument to the former rector takes the form of a mosaic maze, replica of the great maze he had created in the vicarage gardens. The original disappeared when the vicarage was sold, but the mosaic is permanent.



Things to see along the way



The walk starts here by the River Windrush, where there are always ducks and sometimes plastic duck races too.

In the nature reserve pause at a listening post and hear the stone age boy as he paddles his coracle through the marshes



Badgers don't often go out in the daytime but you'll walk past a row of their homes which all have front doors and back doors.

The walk takes you over two of the shortest rivers in the Cotswolds. Look at your map and decide which is the Eye and which is the Dickler.



The mosaic maze is in Wyck Rissington church. Start at the foot and wind your way into the centre. It's easy.

On the drive at Rissington Mill do not turn right here. There's a gate hiding behind those bushes. Find it and take it.

