

## Walks With Stiles

# Bourton Circular – Walk 4

## Follow trickling rivers on their travels

A series of 4 circular walks along the Wardens Way and Windrush Way



These walks have been designed with some extra linking routes, enabling the option of exploring the Wardens and Windrush Ways as a series of 4 circular day walks. The series of maps can be used as a linear guide to the Windrush Way going east (start at circular walk 1) or the Wardens Way going west (start at circular walk 4).

**Distance:** 16.4km/  
10.2miles with an up and  
down of 250m/822 ft.

**Time:** 4 - 5 hours

**Start:** War memorial in  
Bourton on the Water.  
SP167/207

**Refreshments:** Cafe,  
Lower Slaughter or Black  
Horse, Naunton. There  
are numerous places in  
Bourton on the Water.

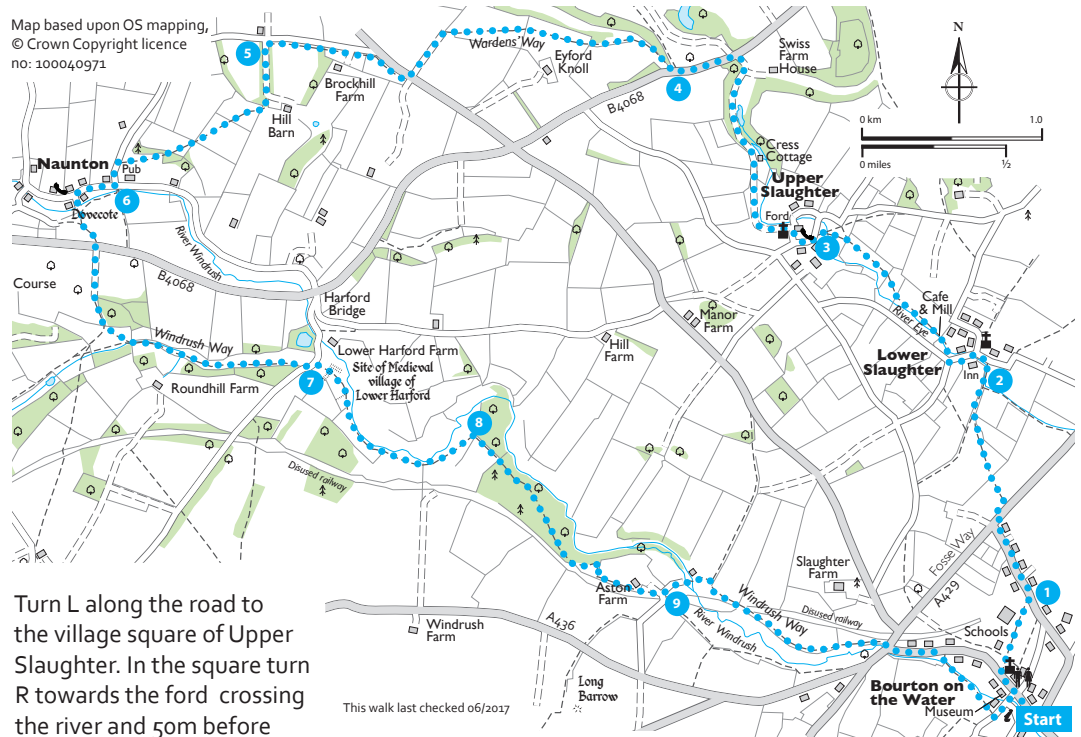
### Route:

At the war memorial with your back to the river head L along the road towards St Lawrence's Church. Turn R through the metal church gates along a tarmac path for 400m until you reach a major road **1**. Turn L and follow the road for 400m to the traffic lights.

Cross the A429 Fosse Way and turn R along the pavement. After 100 m turn L along a footpath through a pedestrian gateway and continue along the path to another gate in the R hand corner of the next field. Carry straight on for 200m to the road in Lower Slaughter **2**.

Turn L and follow the path beside the river. Cross the road at the junction and keeping the river on your L continue round the bend to the mill. Turn L immediately after the mill and follow the path for ½ mile (0.8km) through 6 gates over a footbridge and up to the road **3**.

Map based upon OS mapping,  
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This walk last checked 06/2017

Turn L along the road to the village square of Upper Slaughter. In the square turn R towards the ford crossing the river and 50m before the ford turn L along a track by the School House and Church. Follow the track for ¾ mile (1.2km) through 2 gates and 1 field gate, and the woods until you reach the B4068.

Turn L along the road for 400m. Care should be taken of traffic along this road. Turn R along the L hand of two bridleways joining the road at this point, **4** passing cottages on your L. Climb the hill for ¾ mile (1.2km) through 3 field gates arriving at some farm buildings. Go through 2 field gates by the buildings and immediately turn L to follow a track for 300m to another field gate by the road.

Cross the road and go through the gate in the hedge opposite.

Immediately turn R and follow the field edge for ½ mile (0.8km) through several gates to reach a track. **5** Turn sharp L and follow the track downhill continuing straight ahead on a bridleway into the woods when the track bears L to the farm. Go downhill then briefly uphill to reach farmland. Continue across two fields, through gaps in the hedge. In the third field follow the track diagonally right into the woods. Coming out of the woods go through a gate and into a field to reach the road through a field gate and a pedestrian gate. Turn L into Naunton and in 100m at a T junction turn R **6**.

(If you require refreshments turn left at the T-junction and The Black Horse pub is

situated ahead of you).

Follow the road through the village for 300m taking the first L down past the Dovecote. Go over the river bridge and through the field gate. Leaving the Wardens Way follow the path ahead uphill keeping the field boundary on your L until you reach a field gate onto the road. Cross the road, with the golf course on the right. Go through the field gate and follow the track to another field gate. Continue downhill bearing slightly L to a bridge over the stream.

Joining the Windrush Way go through the gate on your L. Continue down the valley bottom with the stream on your L through 2 fields over a stile and through a field gate.

In the third field, 100m past the field gate bear R up the slope to a stile. Go over the stile **7** onto the road and turning L walk 100m downhill.

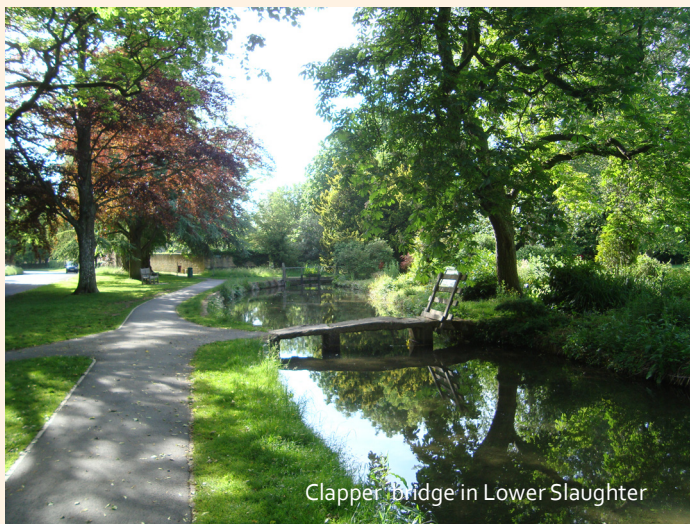
Turn R over a stile next to a field gate. Continue ahead across a large field, over a stile to join a stream. Walk alongside the stream through 2 fields, over 2 stiles close together then through a field gate. In the third field, after 50m leave the stream and follow the path ahead diagonally up and across the slope and into the wood.

At the top of the hill turn sharp R **8** through a field gate and follow the L hand field edge to another field gate passing through and back into the woods. Follow the path through the woods for ½ mile (0.8km) before turning right by a marker post. Follow the path to meet a field boundary and turn left to follow the field boundary. Follow the signs through two gates to meet a track, turn right down the track to the road **9**.

Turn left and follow the road downhill, over the bridge and uphill past Little Aston Mill. Continue along the path as it bears right into the woods. Follow the edge of the woods through a gate and into a field. Follow the right hand field edge through 2 gates and down to the road.

Cross the A429, Fosse Way. Take care crossing this busy road. Carry on down Lansdowne keeping the river on your right. After 200m turn right down an alleyway. Follow the path to the river, crossing over the bridge then along the bank, the river now on your left. Pass through a gate then follow the path alongside the fence through a gate to an alleyway between the houses.

At the road turn left and in 150m arrive at the war memorial.



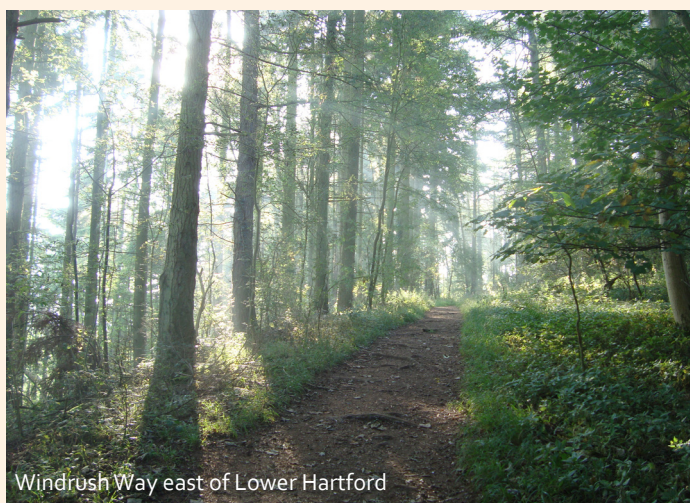
Clapper bridge in Lower Slaughter

*Clapper bridge over the River Eye whose waters continue downstream to join the Dikler*



Upper Slaughter

*A ford crosses the River Eye in Upper Slaughter along with a footbridge for those on foot.*



Windrush Way east of Lower Hartford

*The Windrush Way rises above the river through woods before crossing the River Windrush the penultimate time on your way to Bourton on the Water.*