

Miles Without Stiles Laverton



A short walk discovering the local history behind two Cotswold villages - Laverton and Buckland.

Distance: 2.4 kilometres/
1½ miles (1 hour) with ups and
downs of 52m or 170ft

Start: School House -
Laverton. Parking in
Laverton or on one of the
approach roads from the
B4632

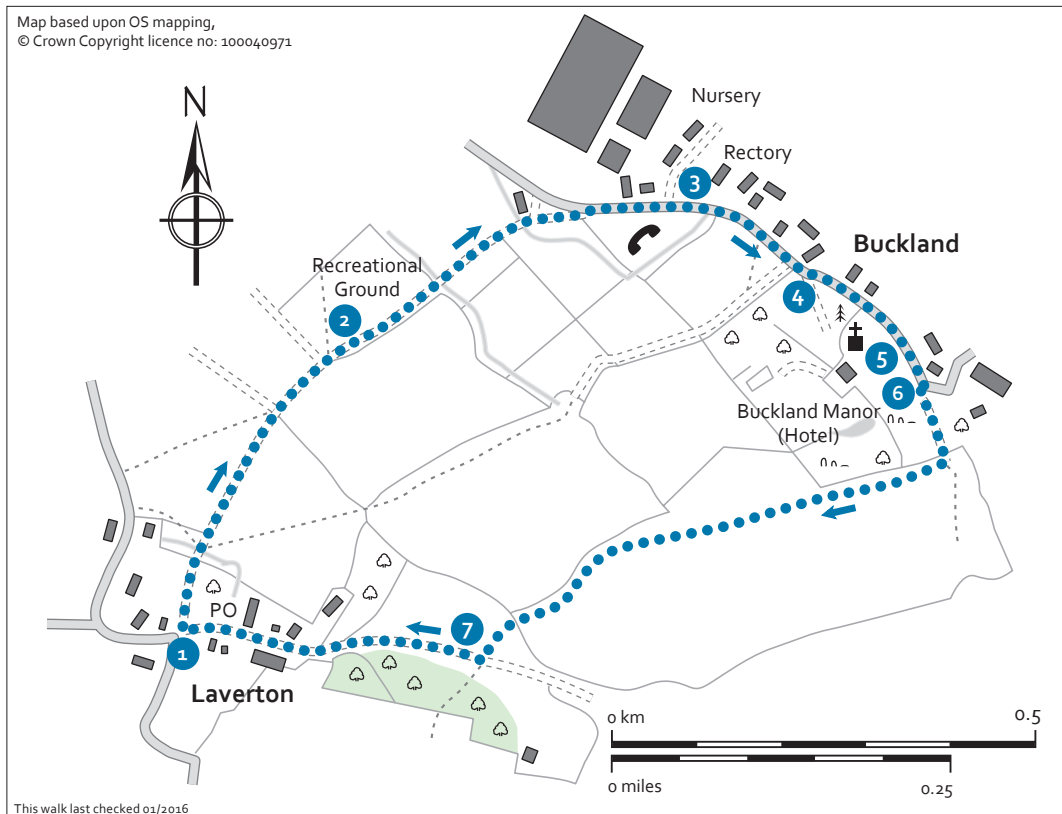
Route:

Follow the tarmac path
opposite School House **1** in a
northerly direction. As the path
starts to veer to the north-east,
the first field on the left is a good
example of ridge and furrow, a
relic of the Open Field System.

The path enters an open field,
once used as a recreation field,
2 before entering the final
stretch to Buckland. As you
reach Buckland, the first cottage
on the left is where the village
blacksmith used to live and work
until 1963.

Follow the road up through
Buckland. After passing a
side turning on the left, the
imposing building on the left
is the old Rectory, **3** now
a private dwelling. Built by
the Rector, William Grafton,
towards the end of the
fifteenth century, it is one of the
oldest rectories in England.

The road now bears south-east,



as you pass the entrance to
Buckland Manor **4** on
the right to reach the church,
dedicated to St Michael. **5**
The church has many
interesting features, including
a seventeenth century gallery,
painted medieval roof timbers
and the fifteenth century east
window - restored by William
Morris in 1883.

Leaving the church, continue
up through the village until the
road bears sharp left. **6** Leave
the road here and follow the
public footpath sign straight

ahead up the track for about
100 metres until just before you
enter a field, where you turn
sharp right up to the first of
three gates. Go through, keeping
the boundary of Buckland
Manor, a hotel on your right.

About 50 metres after passing
through the third gate, as the
fence turns right, maintain your
westerly direction following
the row of trees (remnant of an
old hedgerow). Bearing slightly
left and eventually uphill, reach
the gate set in the hedge/fence
crossing at right angles.

Go through this gate and bear
slightly left to cross the narrow
field to a waymarked post
where your footpath crosses a
track. **7** Turn right to follow
this track down to Laverton.

Pass through the gate at the
bottom of the track and follow
the road back to the School
House.