

Miles With Stiles

Finstock



A short circular walk that starts and finishes in Finstock village centre. Finstock, used to lie in a clearing in Wychwood Forest that stretched from Woodstock to Burford.

Distance: 3.2km / 2 miles with an up and down of 46m / 151ft. Mainly gentle undulating terrain with some stony uneven ground in places.

Time: 1 hour

Start: Park along School Road, Finstock SP361164 OX7 3BN

Refreshments: The Plough Inn

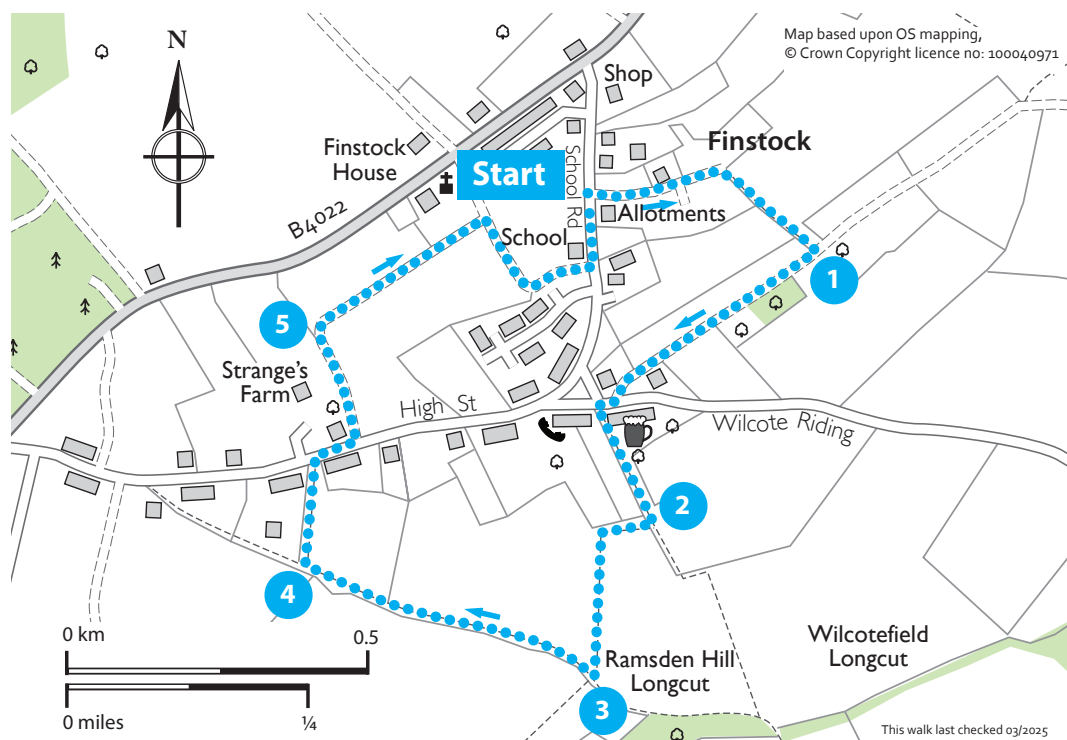
Route:

On School Lane in Finstock, look for a road called Ward's Lane (opposite the post box). Proceed down Ward's Lane that becomes a track past allotments on the right. After 200m the lane ends at a metal gate. Take the footpath signed to the right.

The footpath takes you along the side of a field with a mature hedgerow on your right. Follow this path into the corner of the field at which point you should keep straight on, leaving the field onto a narrow and short descending steeper section.

When you reach the bottom of the hillside **1**, turn right along the track which will take back up towards the village.

The track becomes Dark Lane and ends at the road called The Bottom opposite The Plough Inn. Take the signed path to the right of The Plough which rises by the side of the rear car park.



This takes you through a wooded area, through one gate until you reach a second gate into a field.

Once through this gate **2** follow the waymark sign that points to the right along a footpath by the side of the field with bushes and trees on your right. After about 200m, the footpath bears to the left across the field.

After 300m, on reaching the far side of the field **3**, take the footpath signposted to the right. You will now be walking along the side of the field with bushes and trees on your left. This footpath after 500m leads to a wooden gate. Go through this gate and proceed straight on towards

a second wooden gate in the corner. However, instead of going through this gate **4**, bear right and proceed along the path that takes you past the garden boundaries of village houses on the left with an open field on the right.

At the end of the field, go through the wooden gate by a metal field gate. Continue on the path (now a track) as it bears downhill to the left. The track leads you to the upper part of Finstock High Street. Turn right and head down the street for about 100m. You will then see a footpath sign on the opposite side of the road.

Take that footpath which leads you up a gentle gradient along the side of a

field. As you follow this path, after about 400m, look out for a waymark post signed to the right **5**. As you take this path across the field, enjoy the open views of farmland, rolling hills and distant woodlands.

On reaching the end of the field, pass through two gates alongside the cemetery. Until you reach a broad track. Note the recently repaired wall to the churchyard on the left. Turn right and head down the track towards the village. The hedge on the left shows evidence of layering in the past. The track bears to the left taking you past a playground and the school on the left. You are now back on School Lane and your starting point.