

# JUBILEE WALK MILES WITHOUT STILES

## Bourton-on-the-Water and Wyck Rissington

A series of Cotswolds walks to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012



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:

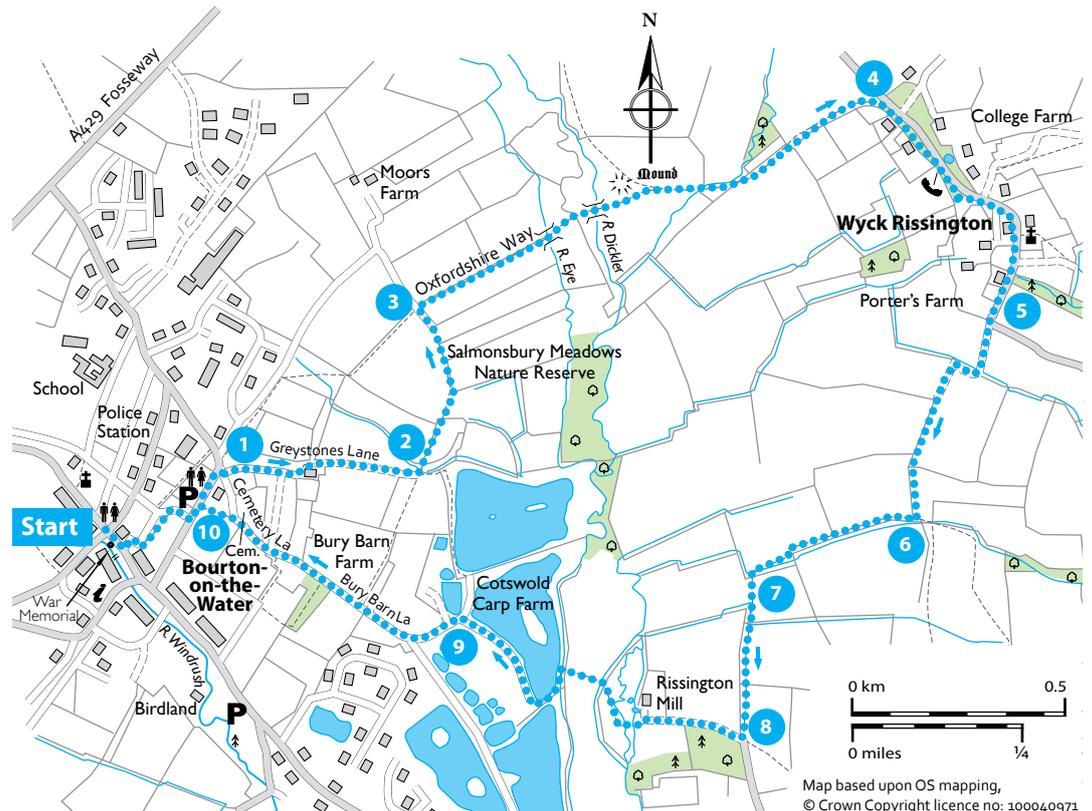
Walk alongside the River Windrush to the first bridge, turn left and cross the road to the small green opposite. Follow the Oxfordshire Way sign down an alley, bearing right to reach Station Road.

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 kissing gate, turn right across the yard and through two gates onto a track for 220m.

At the bottom **2** turn left through a gate, head across the field, and after another gate find a nature reserve board. Carry on across three fields, then through a gate in the left corner onto a track between trees. There are several badger setts here.

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

Walk ahead to two bridges



over the River Eye and the River Dickler (two of the shortest in the Cotswolds) and press on to a small bridge, where you bear left across the fields 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 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. When the hedge turns right you turn left through the metal gate **7** and cross three fields to



the drive of Rissington Mill (now a private house).

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 passing the garden walls, and across two bridges. Turn right across the field to a kissing gate. then another field, and

turn left on a path around the lake. On leaving the lake **9** turn left through a double gate and follow the lane which winds to the cemetery entrance **10**.

Here take the path on the left past the bus garage to Station Road. Turn left for 20m, cross the road and retrace your steps along the walled path to the start.

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## 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.

