



**Bourton and the Windrush Valley**

A more strenuous walk from the centre of Bourton to Clapton on the Hill, returning via the Windrush Valley. This is the second leg of the Figure of Eight, which can be walked consecutively

**Essential Facts**

- Route distance: 10.5 km (8.8 miles)
- Approximate time: 3 hours
- Approx. total ascent: 140 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SP 167 207
- GPS Ref: SP 16758 20702
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer OL45
- Toughness Rating: Cotswolds 2

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?**

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## THE ROUTE

As with the Bourton to the Slaughters walk, this route starts from the war memorial by the river, on Bourton High Street, **S**. From the war memorial take the adjacent bridge over the River Windrush, and continue up the street, having passed the Motor Museum on your right.

At the top of the street, where it divides, bear left into Bow Lane. At the end turn right then left, into Clapton Row. Immediately turn right into a cul-de-sac which leads to the footpath signed as the Monarch's Way, **E**. In essence you now carefully follow waymarks for the Monarch's Way through successive fields right up to Clapton on the Hill.

From **E**, a stile leads into a field, cross this and the next one. Now bear half left to a gate by a prominent tree. Now go left, the hedge also being to your left, Make straight across the next field to a gate, now keep the hedge to your left and pass through the right hand of two gates and over a footbridge. Carry on ahead, ignoring a path going off to the left.

After the next stile bear just slightly right of straight ahead across the field. Over the next stile, keep to the left of the field to the next stile. Now head for a stile by an electricity supply pole. Bear half left to the field corner where there is a discreet stile.

Keep the hedge on the right as you gain height. Go right, over a step stile between two gates, then keep the hedge on your left to a gate in the field corner. A track comes in from the left, but continue ahead.

The track leads into the village of Clapton on the Hill. Go left to find the tiny church of St James at **F**. For your return leg take the road in front of the church, passing it on your left. The road becomes a track. Branch right and follow the field side. Cross a footbridge on the left and fork diagonally right over the field to a stile. The path leads across meadows, occasionally on tracks.

Enter woodland and cross the river at **G**, bearing left. You will now be walking alongside two of the lakes that harbour wildlife, although it isn't possible to get too close to the edge. After the second (larger) lake, cross a bridge on the right and walk along the track. At the bend take the footpath that then runs parallel to the track.

Cross the road and take the path almost opposite. This passes between two more lakes, becoming a good track. Take a path on the left at the cemetery to the main road. Turn left and then right, into Bourton High Street, with the river on your left, to return to the war memorial, **S**.



**Bouton War Memorial**



**St James' Church  
Clapton on the Hill**

## Refreshment

<p>Old Manse Hotel Hotel Victoria Street, Bourton-on-the Water Tel: 01451 820082 Bar and restaurant, seats outside near the river</p>	<p>The Village Restaurant and Tearooms Restaurant and Tearooms High Street, Bourton-on-the-Water Tel: 01451 821880 Restaurant and Tearooms</p>
<p>Kingsbridge Inn Public House Riverside, Bourton-on-the-Water Tel: 01451 820371 Pub with adventure playground</p>	<p>The Windrush Garden Cafe Café - Tea Rooms By the war memorial, Bourton on the Water Tel: 01451 820294 Popular café with outdoor seating</p>



**The Kingsbridge Inn**

## LOCAL INFO

**Bourton on the Water** is one of the tourist honeypots of the Cotswolds. The village is distinguished by the many footbridges (some dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century) over the clear River Windrush. Bourton actually has Roman origins, but nowadays visitors come for the pretty scenes, the shopping and attractions such as Birdland and the model village.

The church of St Lawrence has 14<sup>th</sup> century elements, but the unusual tower is of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The walk also passes by a number of the lakes created from drowned gravel pits. Swans and waterfowl can be seen on these, although there is no public access to most of them.

**Clapton on the Hill** boasts on of the smallest churches in the Cotswolds. St James' dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

## BOURTON AND THE WINDRUSH VALLEY G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
BOU S	S	ST 16758 20702	125
BOU E	E	ST 16664 20369	132
BOU F	F	ST 16286 17949	211
BOU G	G	SP 17805 18792	105



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

## Safety First

**Safety should always** be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

**Lead a group** of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

**Weigh up the capabilities** of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

**Ensure** all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

**Emergencies** are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

**Refreshment**, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

**On tougher walks** it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

**All our walks use legitimate routes:** Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

**Road** walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

**Occasionally** you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

**It is courteous** to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

**Mutual respect** for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

**Dogs** should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

## Walking Our Routes

**Our walks** are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

**On mountain, moorland and open heathland** walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

**Take care** to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

**Consider conditions before setting off.** Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

**When navigating the route** look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

**All our routes are carefully checked** before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

**The approximate time** given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

**Total ascent** is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

**GPS users** can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

**Remember that GPS** is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

### TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Cotswolds** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route on Dartmoor,