



Minster Lovell Figure of Eight

A Figure of Eight route through a delightful village with some undulating walking and fine river views

Essential Facts	
▪ Route distance:	13.0 km (8.1 miles)
▪ Approximate time:	3 hours 30 mins
▪ Optional shorter route:	Figure of Eight
▪ Approx. total ascent:	30 metres
▪ Start point Grid Ref:	SP 318 111
▪ GPS Ref:	SP 31843 11150
▪ Recommended O.S. Map:	Explorer 180
▪ Toughness Rating	Cotswolds1

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

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THE ROUTE

As this is a figure of eight, either half could stand alone.

The starting point is at the recreation ground car park in Old Minster, just to the north of the bridge over the River Windrush, **S**. From here walk across the playing field to find a gate in the far left corner. This leads into a lane and a gate into another field. When you see the church in front of you, go left, through a gate and over a bridge and cross another field and a stone stile into the churchyard of St Kenelm's Church. This is well worth a visit, as also are the ruins of Minster Lovell Hall next door, which you can do either on the way or the way back.

The walk continues by walking round the east end of the church and out through the main gate of the churchyard, turning left to walk up the lane. At the top, turn right towards Crawley as far as the end of the speed limit sign, **A**. Immediately past here you will find a gate on the right leading into a field. Cross to a gate in the far left hand side and then follow a track always in the same direction up hill to meet a road. Turn right here and you are in the village of Crawley and the Lamb Inn at **B**.

Turn right and right again onto the Burford road, keeping to the right hand side until you have crossed the bridge, then cross over to go through a gate into a field on your left. Follow this track for approx. 500 metres to find two gates at right angles to each other. **C** Go through the one on your right and go uphill to meet the road.

Cross over directly through a gate, over the field and then go steeply downhill through the woodland. The path leads on the right side of the next two fields and then moves to the left of the next ones as it comes increasingly near to the river. Through a little wood and over two bridges will bring you back to Minster Lovell Hall.

Go the way you went earlier through the churchyard and up to the road, but turn left here this time to go through the picturesque old village of Minster Lovell. Follow round to the left to find the Swan Public House and the recreation ground at **S**.

To continue the walk go over the bridge and turn left to find after only 50 metres a path leading up into the wood. Follow this up to a field and walk along its right hand edge to cross a cycle path to a main road. Cross this carefully and walk to the left to a track with a signpost to Curbridge, **D**.

Follow this track into a large field. Bear right to the field edge to find a small gate in the middle of the right hand hedge, **E**. Cross the field to the gate and look for subsequent gates in and out of small fields along the backs of the houses of the newer part of Minster Lovell. When you come out into the open, **F**, with a golf course facing you, turn right along the track and keep to the right hand field edge. Fork slightly right into a path to cross over the Brize Norton road into another track.

Follow this track in the same direction for about 1.5 km until you reach the drive to a caravan site, **G**. Go right down this drive to the road, cross it walking down the narrow lane to the village of Worsham.

Here cross the river Windrush again, and immediately turn right into a driveway by Mins cottage. This leads into fields and again you continue always in the same direction. The path twists and turns but is usually at the foot of each field with water on your right. After 2 km you will emerge into a road, **H**. Turn right here and again at the next junction to reach the village of Minter Lovell and the Swan again. Go forward for the car park, **S**.



Minster Lovell



The Old Hall

Refreshment

Old Swan	The Lamb Inn
Public House	Public House
Old Minster	Crawley
Tel: 0870 609 1152	Tel: 01993 703753
Food available	Pub food

The White Hart
Public House
Burford Road, Minster
Lovell
Tel: 01993 775255
Meals and Bar Snacks



The Old Swan

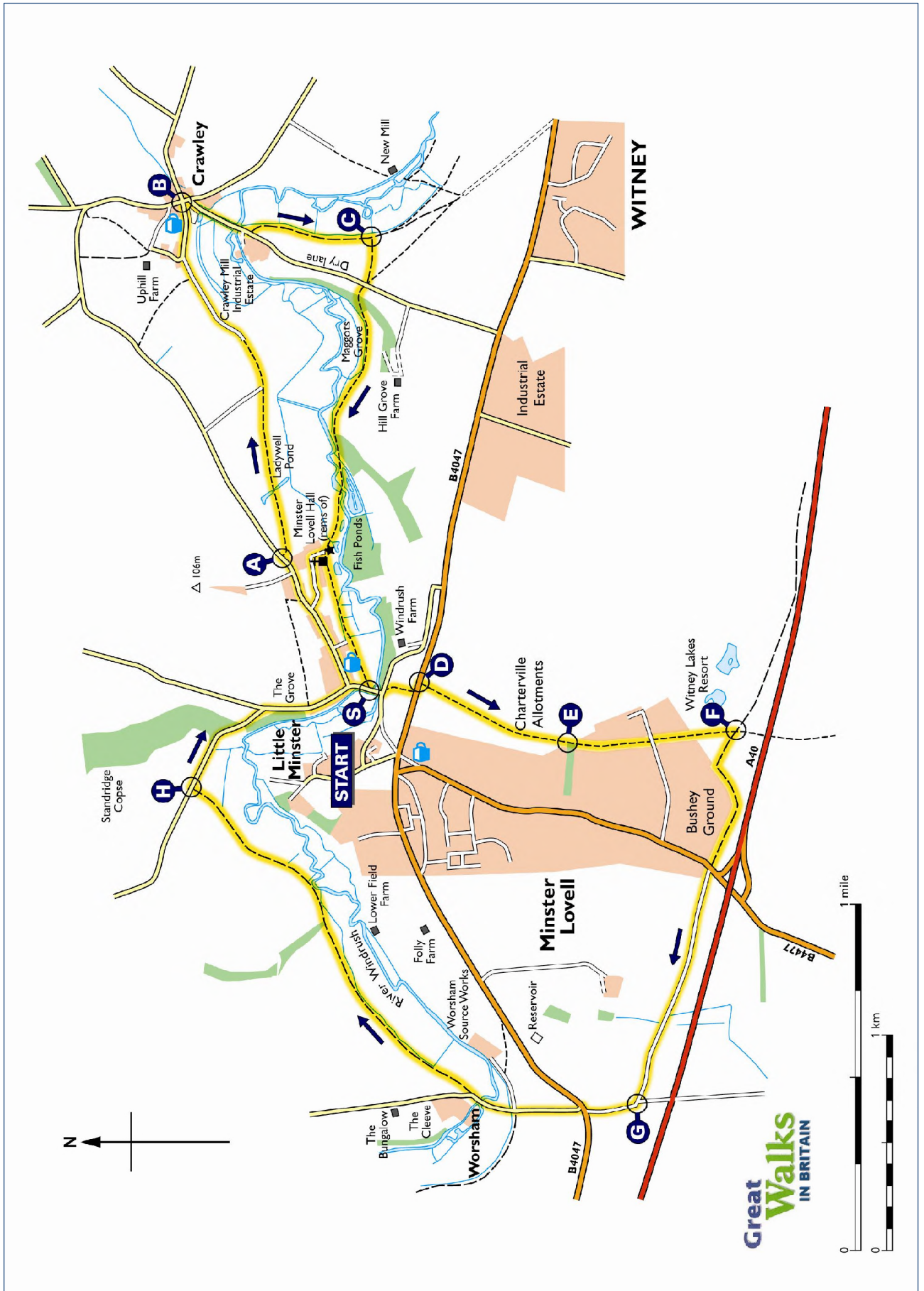
LOCAL INFO

Minster Lovell is a village in three parts. The old village, with church and the old hall is the most picturesque, as is Little Minster. Both of these are to the north of the B 4047. The new village is to the south. Minster Lovell Hall was built in 1440 and was the home of Richard III's henchman, Lord Lovell. It was occupied until 1747 and then abandoned as the owner, Thomas Coke moved to Holkham Hall in Norfolk. His son, later Lord Leicester was well known as an agricultural pioneer. The building is unusual as not much of the stone was plundered and so a lot remains. It now belongs to English Heritage.

Daisyroots Ceramics is based in an old textile mill at Crawley. Built next to the River Windrush, this was one of the numerous mills in the area for preparing woollen fabric. The centre is now a paint-your-own ceramic studio, with facilities for adults and children.

MINSTER LOVELL G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
MLO S	S	SP 31843 11150	87
MLO A	A	SP 32463 11601	91
MLO B	B	SP 34096 12057	84
MLO C	C	SP 33924 11140	92
MLO D	D	SP 31855 10921	113
MLO E	E	SP 31562 10234	112
MLO F	F	SP 31591 09634	108
MLO G	G	SP 29900 09909	119
MLO H	H	SP 31356 11985	96



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,