

Walk 14

Piddington

One of the longer walks, winding through a secluded Chilterns valley with wonderful views. At the garden centre at Studley Green there is an opportunity to see red kites on their nest via CCTV at certain times of year.

Distance: 4½ miles (allow 2¾ hours)

Start: Dashwood Arms pub, park on the roadside nearby or at the pub with landlord's permission. The walk can also be started at Charwood Garden Centre.

Access Information: Mainly gentle slopes. One steeper uphill slope for 50m. Paths muddy in places after wet weather. In dry weather it may be suitable for all-terrain pushchairs.

Refreshments: The Dashwood Arms in Piddington. Pub at Studley Green and coffee shop in the Charwood Garden Centre.

Route:

With the Dashwood Arms on your left go up Chipps Hill for 20 metres and take the bridlway on the right. **1** Follow this past Fillingdon Farm **2** and turn right where the path splits just before you reach a small wood. **3** Follow the path along the right hand side of the hedge towards the left hand corner of another wood. **4**

On reaching the wood turn sharp left to follow the bridlway along the right hand side of a hedge towards a wood, ignoring crossing paths. Follow the arrows on the trees through the wood. About 50 metres before you reach a road, **5** you will see a crossing path (indicated S51 on an arrow on a tree); turn right and follow the path uphill through the edge of the wood. At the top, continue to follow the white arrows left as the path goes first alongside a fence and then a wood yard on your left. As you reach the edge of the wood and see buildings on your right follow the arrow pointing right on a tree to leave the wood through a gap in the fence into the Wycliffe Centre.

Follow the public footpath signs, past wooden huts on your right, to cross over the entrance road to the centre. **6** Continue straight ahead. Ignore the first left turn and follow the arrows straight on through the wood and over a crossing bridlway to meet the A40. Cross over the A40 and turn left along the pavement for about 400 metres until you reach a footpath down a drive to a house on your right called Nutfield. **7**

(To visit the garden centre, and possibly see red kites on CCTV, continue past here, for another 100 metres, and cross back over the A40). Walk down the driveway and continue along a footpath; where it splits, keep left to follow it downhill to a road.

Turn left along the road and in about 10 metres right along another road (Waterend Road), past houses for about 100 metres to where the road ends. Follow the bridlway ahead of you signposted 'Bottom Wood 1km'. **8** Continue through Bottom Wood. If conditions are muddy, take the permissive footpath to the right of the bridlway.

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Where the path becomes a track by a notice board for Bottom Wood, **9** turn left along it, ignoring a footpath to your right.

Follow the track as it leaves the wood and soon after goes past Ham Farm. Cross over the A40 carefully to arrive back in Piddington.

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