

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 7.8 miles, Ascent: 235m

Overview

This is classic walking in South Oxfordshire, farm country and woodland, with frequent, open views over the Thames valley to the South and later across the Oxfordshire Plain.

TERRAIN: Field tracks, bridleways, woodland paths and some paved tracks. Mostly easy walking, with one steep stepped slope.

START: Stonor Village at junction of B480 and Park Lane

FINISH: Ewelme Cow Common/Recreation Ground

FOOD AND DRINK: Very few places actually on this route. Five Horseshoes Pub in Maidensgrove (500m from the route). Ewelme: Shepherds Hut pub.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Very limited

PARKING: Limited parking on the B480 at Stonor (busy at weekends). The Five Horse Shoes pub at Maidensgrove has a large car park. Parking in the lanes off the B481 at Park Corner.

Visit [Chiltern Way](#) for information and news. You can view a detailed map of this stage on [OS Maps](#) and follow it on the app. The next stage is [5 - Ewelme to Stokenchurch](#) – click to download.

For more detailed information on this stage and on the Chiltern Way we recommend the "Chiltern Way and Chiltern Way Extensions" book by Nick Moon due to be published later this year. If you would like us to inform you when the book is available please email: office@chilternsociety.org.uk.

Route Description

1: Stonor

Coordinates: OSGB SU73668875 LatLon 51.5929,-.9380

Walk south on the B480 to reach Well Cottage on the right. Just past there enter a narrow footpath close-hedged on both sides. At the end of this path is a kissing gate giving access to a field with crops and a clearly defined path leading gently uphill to another gate into a large meadow. Continue uphill across the meadow, passing a mature copse on the left. Looking back from here provides a good view of Stonor House and deer park, which was the setting for BBC's Vanity Fair TV serial. Good views to the south towards and across the Thames Valley. At the end of the meadow is another kissing gate leading into Park Wood. The path continues steadily uphill through the wood to a kissing gate into a field with a clearly defined path that eventually starts a gentle slope down towards Lodge Farm. The footpath joins a roughly paved track heading south for 140m before a sharp right turn northwest on a paved track.

2: Maidensgrove

Coordinates: OSGB SU72168851 LatLon 51.5909,-.9596

When the track forks right, keep straight on across Russell's Water Common, passing Tucker Cottage on the left and keeping close the hedge on the left on a grassy path. After 300m you reach a road coming from the right and immediately turn left from the road onto a flinted track which has a Chiltern Way finger sign about 5m from the road. After 100m the path diverges from the track diagonally across a meadow sloping down to a kissing gate entering a wood clearly marked as a nature reserve. Another kissing gate opens to a meadow which slopes down to a kissing gate entering a wood and a very steep set of steps down. After the steps pass through another gate into a downward sloping meadow and to meet a larger track (Bix Bottom), where the Chiltern Way Extension joins from the left.

3: Big Ashes

Coordinates: OSGB SU70978842 LatLon 51.5902,-.9769

Turn right along a bridleway along the valley hedged on both sides. This track can be very muddy at times. After 450m turn left through a gate and follow a footpath through the wood, keeping to the fence on the right, sloping upwards to a kissing gate into a field. Follow the right edge of the field until the path bears left towards a solitary tree next to a white marker post, and continuing on upwards to the left of a small copse and a second white marker post and then through two gates close together into another field. Follow the path across two fields through open farm gates to a kissing gate. From here join a flinted track and straight on to a paved lane that leads to the B481 at Park Corner.

4: Park Corner

Coordinates: OSGB SU69168882 LatLon 51.5941,-1.0030

Cross the B481 with care to a stile at a gap in the hedge that leads into a field. Turn left and follow the hedge to a track and turn right. Follow this track entering Hazel Wood, and eventually crossing the Ridgeway which is clearly marked. Continue straight ahead ignoring paths to left and right. After some small copses of trees the path opens out with views to the west and south over the Thames Valley and then the Oxfordshire Plain. From here the path is hedged on the right and open to the left, sloping steadily uphill, looking down to the A4130 below. Look out for an opening in the hedge to the right.

5: Waypoint 5

Coordinates: OSGB SU65848906 LatLon 51.5966,-1.0508

Pass through the hedge, heading North on a farm track into a cropped field, continuing steadily uphill. Keep to the left edge of this field as the path then slopes down to the corner of the field and enters a closely-hedged section. After about 150 yards the left side hedge opens out to a clearly defined path leading uphill across a cropped field. Take this path until it reaches a crossing path along the field edge. Turn right on this path to the end of the field, keeping to the hedge on your left and eventually a patch of rough uncultivated land on the right. The path then bears to the left, ignoring a track and a footpath entering from the right and soon enters a farmyard with extensive buildings to the left. Just before reaching the end of the farmyard take a footpath off to the right, which is clearly signed to the Chiltern Way, and also marks that this is the junction with the Chiltern Way Southern Extension from the left.

6: Waypoint 6

Coordinates: OSGB SU65458993 LatLon 51.6045,-1.0563

Follow the Chiltern Way path along a section thickly hedged on both sides and parallel to a track known as Potters Lane visible beyond the hedge on the left. The hedges eventually become lower with extensive views to the left across the Oxfordshire Plain with Didcott Power Station and ahead to the north. The path slopes gently downhill along the edge of a cropped field, coming to a paved track for about 50 yards. The track enters a road, Clark's Lane. Turn right along this road for 50 yards and then take the path to the left clearly marked as Chiltern Way across a grassy meadow. Continue past a metal gate to the right on to a kissing gate that leads into a road, Days Lane. Turn right, downhill on this road for 50 yards until a clearly marked path to the right enters a large meadow, Cows Common. This path slopes downhill with a view ahead of attractive houses and gardens in Ewelme Village, and leads to a gate entering a sports field and then a road with a car parking area to the right.

7: Finish - Ewelme

Coordinates: OSGB SU64759120 LatLon 51.6159,-1.0662

We hope you have had a good walk. We are committed to making the Chiltern Way as enjoyable as possible, so if you feel we could improve the directions or came across any path problems, please contact us directly by e-mail: office@chilternsociety.org.uk.

