

WALKS

BY ENSTONE ECO



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3½ miles (5½ Km)

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3¾ miles (6Km)

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5 miles (8Km) each way

Please Always Adhere to the Countryside Code:

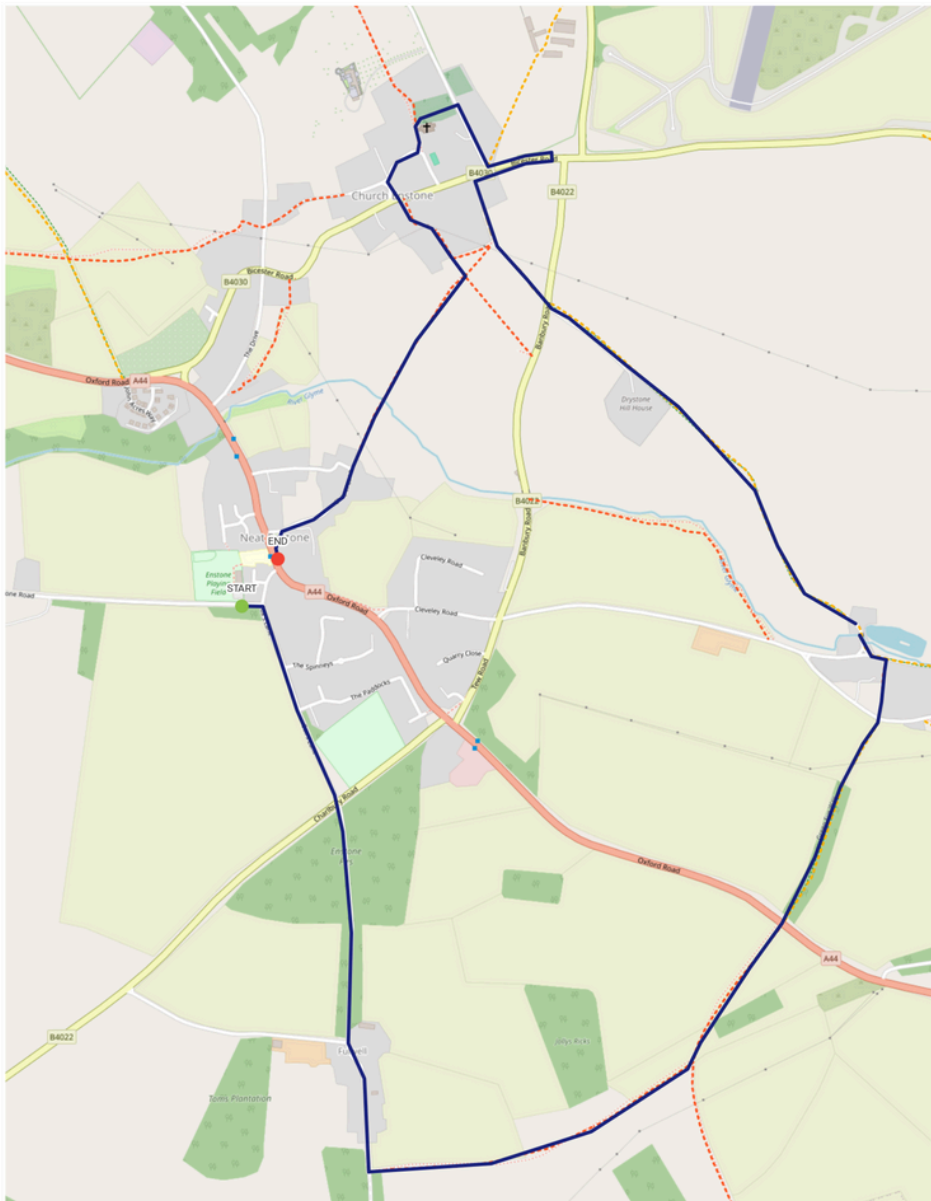
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

WALK

*Enstone Nature
Walk*

01

Enstone Eco Walk 1



- Woodland Anemone - an ancient woodland indicator can be found in large patches Mid-March beneath the trees on the length of the lane that has tall trees on both sides (mainly on the left) before the hill down into Fulwell.
- Fungi species Bracket and Oyster growing on a decaying tree, follow the path along the field a short distance after the kissing gate at the bottom of Fulwell.
- Trees rich with lichen and, in summer, long grasses that attract butterflies.
- A beautiful Spindle tree near the kissing gate, during winter adorned with pinkish fruits.
- Hoar Stone prehistoric burial chamber.
- Enstone Meadow – Local Wildlife site.
- Wild flower meadow planted by Enstone Eco.
- Biodiversity of St Kenelm's Church yard.

Out of school hours you can start by parking in the Playing Field car park on Lidstone Road, which is behind the village school. During school hours please park elsewhere.

If you are doing this route in reverse, please note the traffic danger points in red ahead of setting off.

- Start at the car park at the rear of the village school.
- On leaving the car park turn left then first right onto Cox's Lane. **75m**
- Walk south, up the hill, to the Parish Hall, which is signposted on arrival, and see the bumble bee border with its explanatory sign. **300m**
- Return to Cox's Lane and continue up the hill to the junction with the Charlbury Road. **150m**
- Cross the road and visit the Hoar Stone prehistoric burial chamber with its ancient holly trees.
- Continue south along the road to Fulwell. You will see the young Cherry Avenue planted by the children of Enstone Primary School and Ditchley Park in March 2022 and commemorative plaque on the right. **150m**
- Continue South and then down the hill through Fulwell. Listen for the call of the Red Kite at the bottom of Fulwell. **650m**
- At the bottom, before the road rises, there is a signpost for the path to Cleveley, turn left here.

- Walk through the field and livestock towards Cleveley. You will come to a fence line at which point you will bear left and continue along the bottom of the valley. **250m**
- Soon you will pass through a gate. **150m**
- As you walk along the path, you will notice the field boundary planted with sunflowers and other species for the birds. Soon you will see a footpath arrow, bear left up the hill, and keep the trees on your right. **120m**
- Continue up across the field to the busy A44 (**Beware fast traffic**). Pass through a small gap in the hedge to cross the A44 into Green Eye Way Plantation. **300m**
- On exiting the Plantation, continue straight ahead down the track. **300m**
- At the bottom of the track turn left onto Cleveley Road, then sharp right at the post box. **60m**
- Follow the road down the hill and this brings you down to a lovely privately owned lake. **120m**
- In front of the lake a bridleway will be signposted “Church Enstone $\frac{3}{4}$ ”.
- Turn left onto the footpath and follow Shakespear’s Way with UpperFarm on your right.
- The bridleway crosses a stream. **300m**

- The bridleway once again rises to a partially obscured Drystone Hill House where there are lots of damselflies and butterflies such as Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers in the summer. **300m**
- Continue to the road, but **beware of fast traffic** when crossing the B4022 into “Cling Clang Lane.” Do not try crossing this road in the opposite direction. **250m**
- When you reach the end of the lane, turn right at the junction. **320m**
- Walk up the slope, through the chicane to the crossroads of the Bicester Road (B4030) and Banbury Road (B4022) to see the wildflower meadow on the left planted by Enstone Eco in 2024. **250m**
- Walk back through the chicane as far as the first road on the right. Turn right here, signposted Little Tew. **220m**
- Follow the road past the Old Vicarage and turn immediately left into the rear entrance of St Kenelm’s old churchyard. **150m**
- This is a wonderful place where you can sit on the bench, see the wildflowers, lichen on the gravestones and listen to the birds.
- Over 100 different flowering plants were recorded in this churchyard. How many can you spot today? There is a very informative display in the church entrance to help you.

- Continue through the churchyard, with the church on your right, to the Lych Gate. **100m**
- At the road turn right down the hill and pass the Crown Inn on your right. **80m**
- Bear left towards the main, B4030. **40m**
- Having crossed the B4030 follow the Footpath signpost “Neat Enstone ½”. The footpath winds left and right between the houses and through a gate and into a field where it meets another footpath. **250m**
- At this point turn right and walk down the hill to the *Lowland Fen Habitat of Principal Importance*. At the bottom you will cross a small footbridge over a drainage ditch. **160m**
- Look at all the wetland plants around you. There is a raised walkway known locally as The Planks to keep your feet dry in the winter when the area floods. To your left is the Enstone Meadow Local Wildlife Site, which is on private land.

The Enstone Meadow has been a Local Wildlife Site since 2016: This riverside meadow has an extensive area of tall wetland vegetation dominated by reed canary-grass and greater pond-sedge. Amongst the reed and sedge there are wetland wildflowers such as watermint, skullcap, meadowsweet and marsh-marigold. Large areas of this kind of habitat are rare in Oxfordshire and a national priority for conservation.

- Cross the bridge over the River Glyme - think about the Riverfly Larvae that are hiding beneath and walk up the path to Chapel Lane. **120m**
- At Chapel Lane continue straight ahead until you reach the village shop where you can buy a well-deserved cup of coffee. **300m**
- On leaving the shop cross the road and use the map to return to the carpark. **300m**



WALK

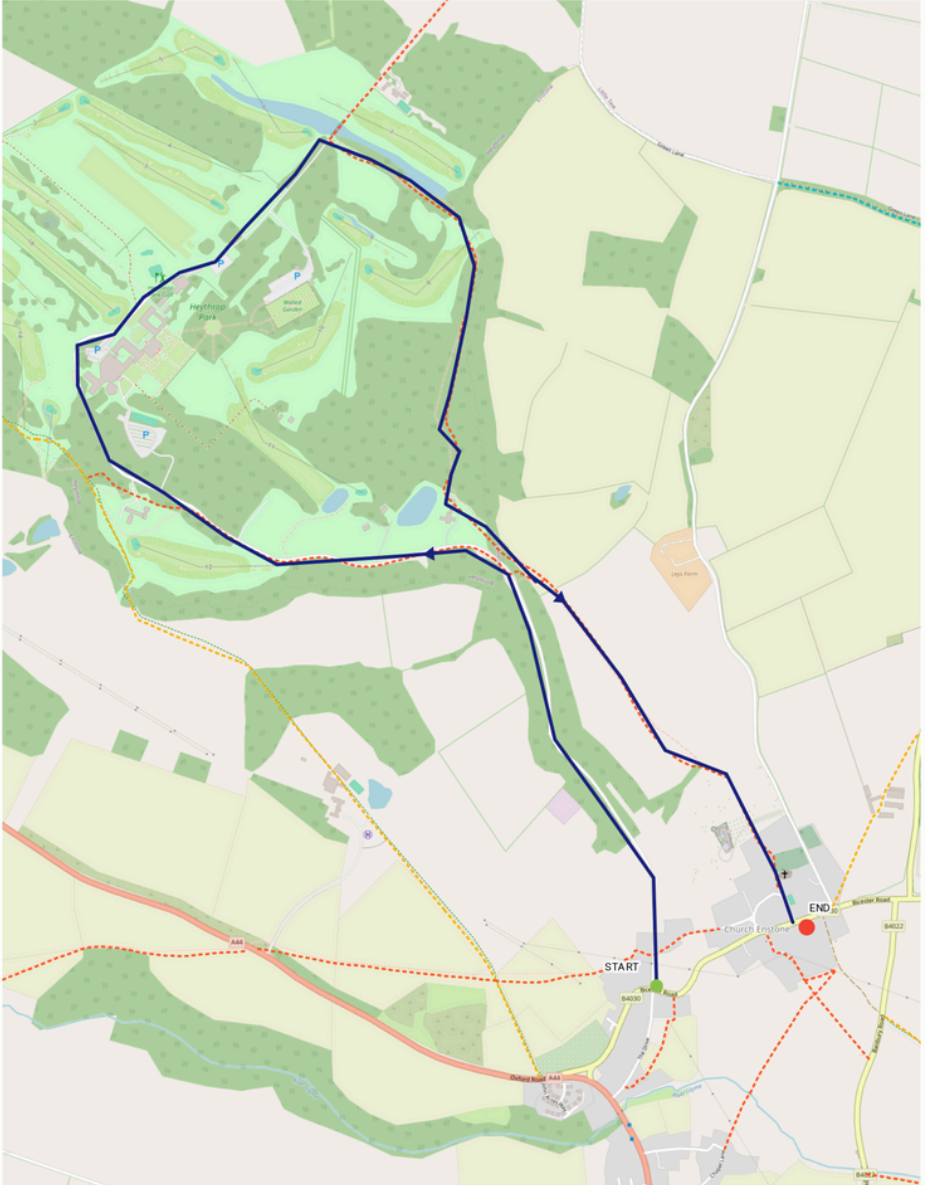
02

*Historic
Heythrop Walk*



Please note - Heythrop Park kindly grant permissive access to the Drive and walking by the main house. Please be mindful and respectful of the area, guests and any directions from them as you walk.

Enstone Eco Walk 2



Route Summary: A route into Heythrop through the woods, passing water lilies in the river and leading to the lake— home to otters, large fish, and a variety of birds.

- Start the walk at the crossroads of The Drive and Bicester Road (the main gateway to Heythrop park).
- Walk up the Heythrop drive - this is a relatively big part of the walk and self-explanatory as the road leads to the main old house and hotel. There is lots to see here, particularly birds, insects, butterflies, pools of water and foragable fruit.
- Once you reach the top of the hill on the main roadway in, continue on the road to walk past the front of the house. The building is beautiful with gorgeous surroundings. **This is not a public footpath** and there are hotel guests and staff around, so please be respectful of the surroundings.

Please note: the hotel is exclusively for adults only. Dogs are very welcome on the terrace areas (though not inside the hotel), and walkers are welcome to stop by for a coffee or a drink in one of the great bars along the way!

- Continue on the road, veering to the right a little, past the Golf Shop and Health Club on your right. You should be walking down a single road going downhill.

- Just before the bridge, you will see a public footpath to the right. Take time to look out over and into the lake from the middle of the bridge. You might spot an otter.
- Look out for the Cormorant type birds and the coots. Looking down you might be rewarded with the large fish that are in the lake.
- Turn right onto the footpath with the pool/stream on your left and follow the path down. In the summer there are lots of water lilies and several waterfalls. The path then heads upwards towards many trees where you might spot some king Alfred's cake fungus or some bluebells depending on the time of year.
- You arrive at a building on you right called Windrush Hall. Continue walking and look out for the public footpath on your left. This takes you across the fields. Keep going until you reach St Kenelm's Church.
- From here, you can take a short detour around the church grounds, or continue walking through Church Enstone (perhaps a stop off at the pub, the Crown Inn), and turn immediately right down a very small track along the Shakespear's Way. This goes past a farm with blue painted window frames. Behind the farm on private land is the site of ancient fishponds. Since 2004, this wet meadow has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site.
- As you continue along the path you climb up and cross the driveway to Heythrop Park Hotel where you started the walk.

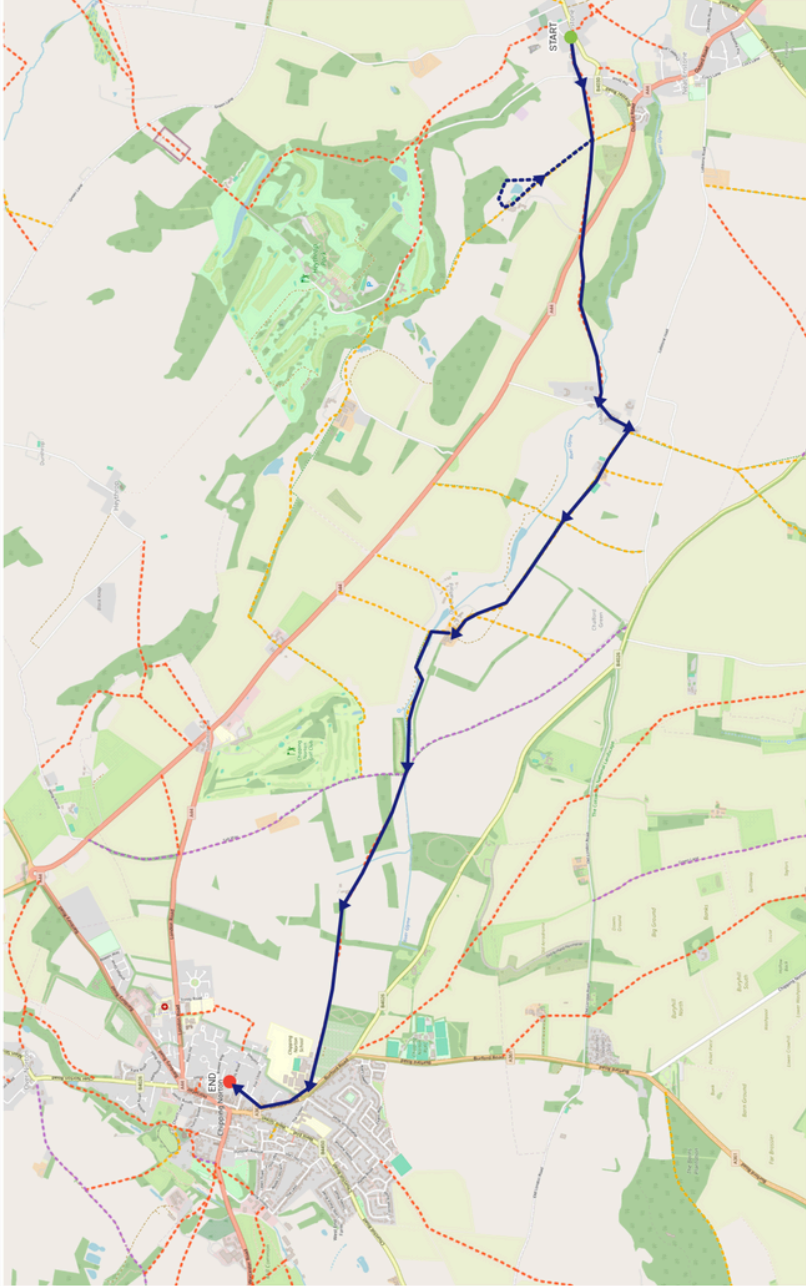
WALK

03

*Chipping
Norton Walk
(Longer Walk)*



Enstone Eco Walk 3

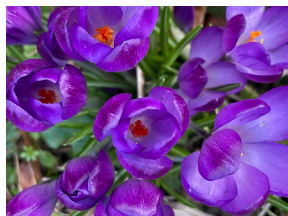


Route Summary: A route along the river Glyme going close to its source at Glyme Farm and passing through designated wildlife sites and Windy Hill, where trees are a good spot for fungi, including Beech Polypore and Turkey Tails.

Start at the Crown Inn, Enstone

- Start by stepping out of the Crown Inn (after a nice lunch!), and turn immediately right down a very small track along the Shakespear's Way. This goes past a farm with blue painted window frames. Behind the farm on private land is the site of ancient fishponds. Since 2004, this wet meadow has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site.
- As you continue along the path you climb up and cross the driveway to Heythrop Park Hotel. Then behind some houses (be careful of any mud after the rain), diagonally across a field and to a crossroad of footpaths.
- At this point you can take an optional detour and turn right slightly uphill and walk a little way towards Manor Farm, doing a complete loop. Along this hedge line you can find wasps nests in the ground, woodlands, lots of flowers in the late summer and berries in the autumn.

- Returning to the Shakespear's Way, continue above an old quarry and then to a new gate which is the road access to the farm. At this point carefully cross the busy A44 road. The finger posts show where the path goes through the drystone wall and across the next field.
- As you reach the bottom of the field you enter the Lidstone Bottom Local Wildlife Site. This is an enchanting steep-sided Cotswold valley, cut by the infant River Glyme through the iron-rich limestone. It is mostly wooded and along the river, there is a range of swamp and tall herb vegetation including a few clumps of the rare wood club-rush. Thirty ancient woodland plants characteristic of woods over 400 years old, have been found here.
- When you reach Lidstone, turn left and walk up the steep road until you reach the sharp corner. At this point turn right onto the track which takes you past Stone Farm and later past the site of the Medieval village of Nether Chalford with its earthworks (shown on the OS map) on your right.



- Walk through modern day Old Chalford and enter the western part of the Glyme Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
 - **Established in 1988**, the site encompasses the headwaters of the River Glyme and the immediate slopes along a narrow, secluded valley which has largely escaped agricultural improvement. Habitats include limestone grassland, flushes of marshy grassland, neutral to acidic grassland, riverside fen, ponds, scrub and wet woodland. The site contains a large colony of the rare meadow clary *Salvia pratensis*, a species listed in the *British Red Data Book of Vascular Plants*.
- The path continues past Glyme Farm and the allotments to the school into Chipping Norton. At that point you can either walk down Burford Road into town for a cup of coffee and return to Enstone using the S3 bus or walk back to Enstone by retracing your steps!





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