

THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN

Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides 

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walk 12

 Start

Goring

 Distance

6½ miles (10.4km)

 Height gain

625 feet (190m)

 Approximate time

3 hours

 Route terrain

Undulating field and woodland paths









 Parking

Railway station car park or public car park off the High St (both fee paying)

 OS maps


Landranger 174 (Newbury & Wantage) and 175 (Reading & Windsor), Explorer 171 (Chiltern Hills West)

 GPS waypoints

-  SU 602 805
-  SU 602 808
-  SU 613 814
-  SU 625 818
-  SU 628 812
-  SU 633 807
-  SU 632 798
-  SU 605 806


Goring

Based in the south-western fringe of the Chilterns this walk follows an undulating route in an arc to the north, east and south of Goring, passing through a succession of attractive wooded areas. Near the end there are superb views looking across the Thames Valley to the Berkshire Downs.

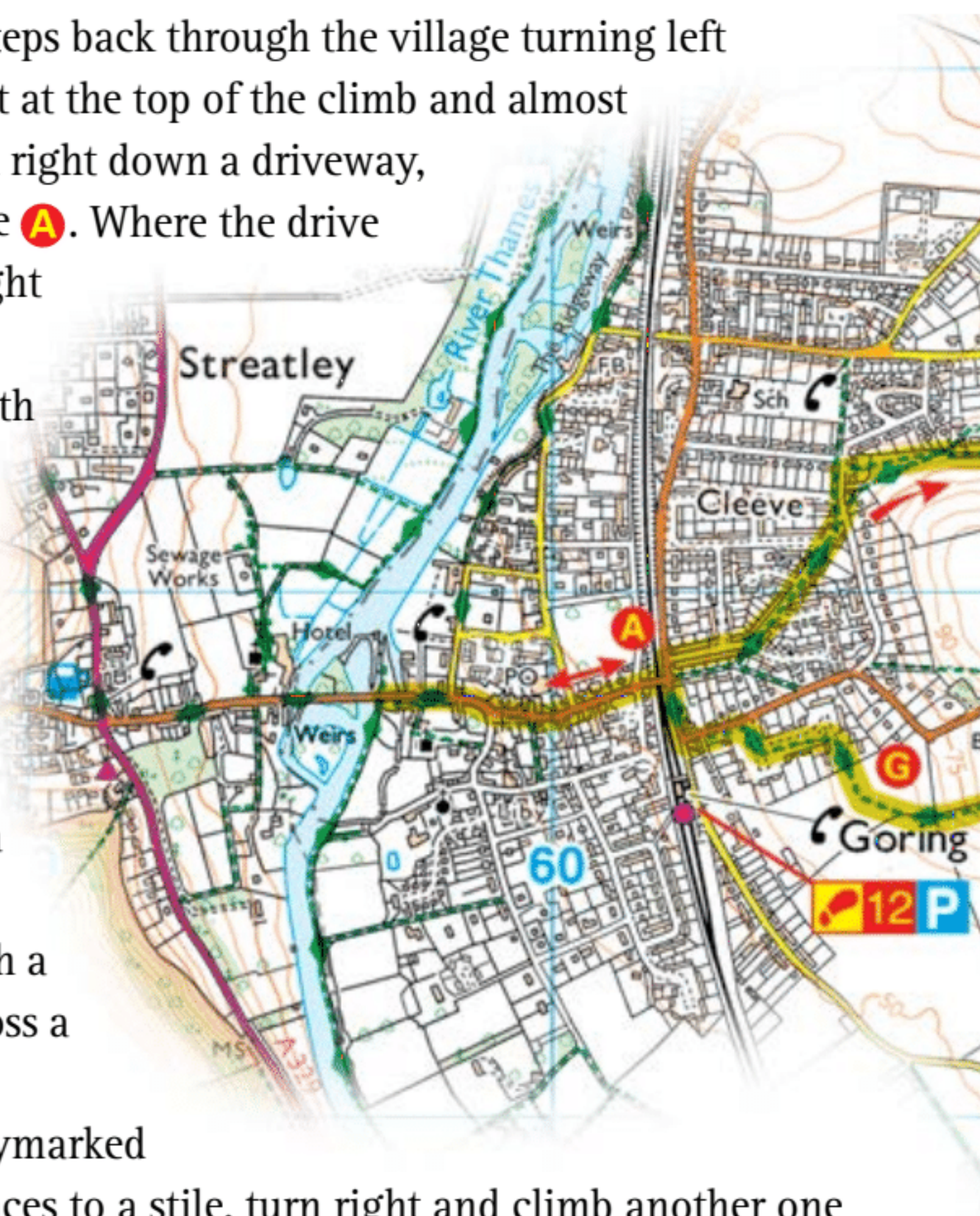
 Leave the station car park passing the station entrance (left) and walk along Gatehampton Road, passing Reading Road (right), and turn left to walk down the High Street to reach the Thames. Take time to absorb the lovely riverside scene from this busy little bridging point.

Goring

Goring stands on the eastern bank of the Thames where the river cuts through the Goring Gap between the Chilterns and Berkshire Downs. The bridge linking Goring and Streatley on the western bank dates only from the 19th century; before that it was necessary to cross the river by ferry.

Retrace your steps back through the village turning left out of High Street at the top of the climb and almost immediately turn right down a driveway, signposted Cleeve . Where the drive bends slightly right turn left along a fenced tarmac path to a road. Keep ahead through a modern housing area and where the road ends, continue along a tarmac path for a few paces, then turn right through a fence gap and cross a track.

Follow the waymarked path between fences to a stile, turn right and climb another one after a few paces (Chiltern Way). Follow the grassy path along the lower slopes of a field, with houses visible to the left, and



walk 11

Start

Boulter's Lock,
Maidenhead

Distance

5¾ miles (9km)

Height gain

Negligible

Approximate time

2½ hours

Route terrain

Lanes, Thames Path
and field paths







Parking

Pay and display car
park near Boulter's
Lock, about ¾ mile
(1.2km) north of
Maidenhead Bridge
on A4094

OS maps



Landranger 175
(Reading & Windsor),
Explorer 172 (Chiltern
Hills East)

GPS waypoints

-  SU 902 825
-  SU 898 822
-  SU 892 824
-  SU 894 852
-  SU 897 851
-  SU 907 848

Widbrook Common and Cliveden Reach

The walk to Cookham is mostly across flat, open meadow and marshland, with fine views across the surrounding countryside. After Cookham the route heads for the Thames and continues along Cliveden Reach, a beautiful stretch of the river below the glorious hanging woods of Cliveden, to return to Boulter's Lock.

 Begin by walking away from the main road and take the path that leads from the far left-hand corner of the car park to a road. Turn left to a T-junction, turn right and, just after passing a road called The Pagoda, bear right  along a path between



Looking over the River Thames from Cliveden

walk 7

Start
Cuckhamsley Hill

Distance
4½ miles (7km)

Height gain
195 feet (60m)

Approximate time
2 hours

Route terrain
Downland tracks

Parking
Lane end car park at Cuckhamsley Hill, 2½ miles (4km) south of East Hendred

OS maps
Landranger 174 (Newbury & Wantage), Explorer 170 (Abingdon, Wantage & Vale of White Horse)

GPS waypoints
 SU 457 850
 A SU 451 833
 B SU 447 832
 C SU 433 846

Cuckhamsley Hill and the Ridgeway

Crossed by the Ridgeway, Cuckhamsley Hill rises to a height of 666 feet (203m) above the downs near the border between Oxfordshire and Berkshire. This short walk explores an area of remote, virtually uninhabited countryside characterised by wide and sweeping vistas; the openness of the downs here to the west of the Thames Valley is in striking contrast to the more wooded Chilterns to the east.

At the car park entrance turn right along a track, in the ‘Public Right Of Way’ direction shown on a footpath sign, across the downs. Immediately there are striking and expansive views, with the Thames Valley away in the distance on the left. The track gently descends and bears gradually right to reach a road **A**.

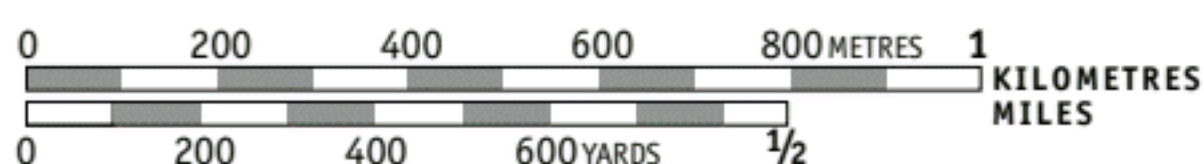
Turn right along the road for ¼ mile (400m), and just in front of a solitary house turn right **B** on to a track – there is a public



Open downland near Cuckhamsley Hill



SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



back to 1889, on the right and then an historic 500-year-old pub, the **Fox and Hounds**, on the left. Continue through Christmas Common, pass a turning to North End on the right and take the next left turn (Watlington). Pass the speed de-restriction sign and follow the road back to the car park at Watlington Hill. ●

Christmas Common

Christmas Common

apparently takes its name from an extraordinary incident here during the Civil War. In the Christmas of 1643 the Parliamentarians held nearby Watlington while the Royalists defended the ridge on which this hamlet is situated. Because it was Christmas a temporary truce was called and both armies met on this spot during the festivities.



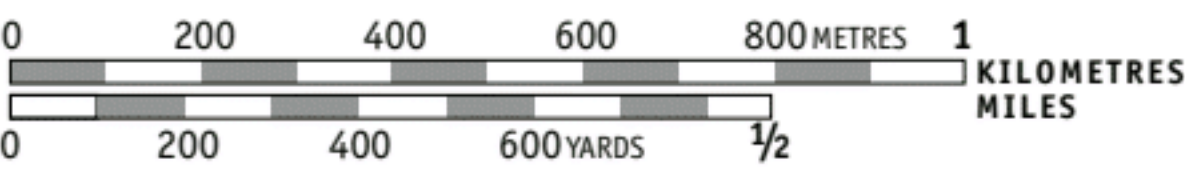
Watlington Hill



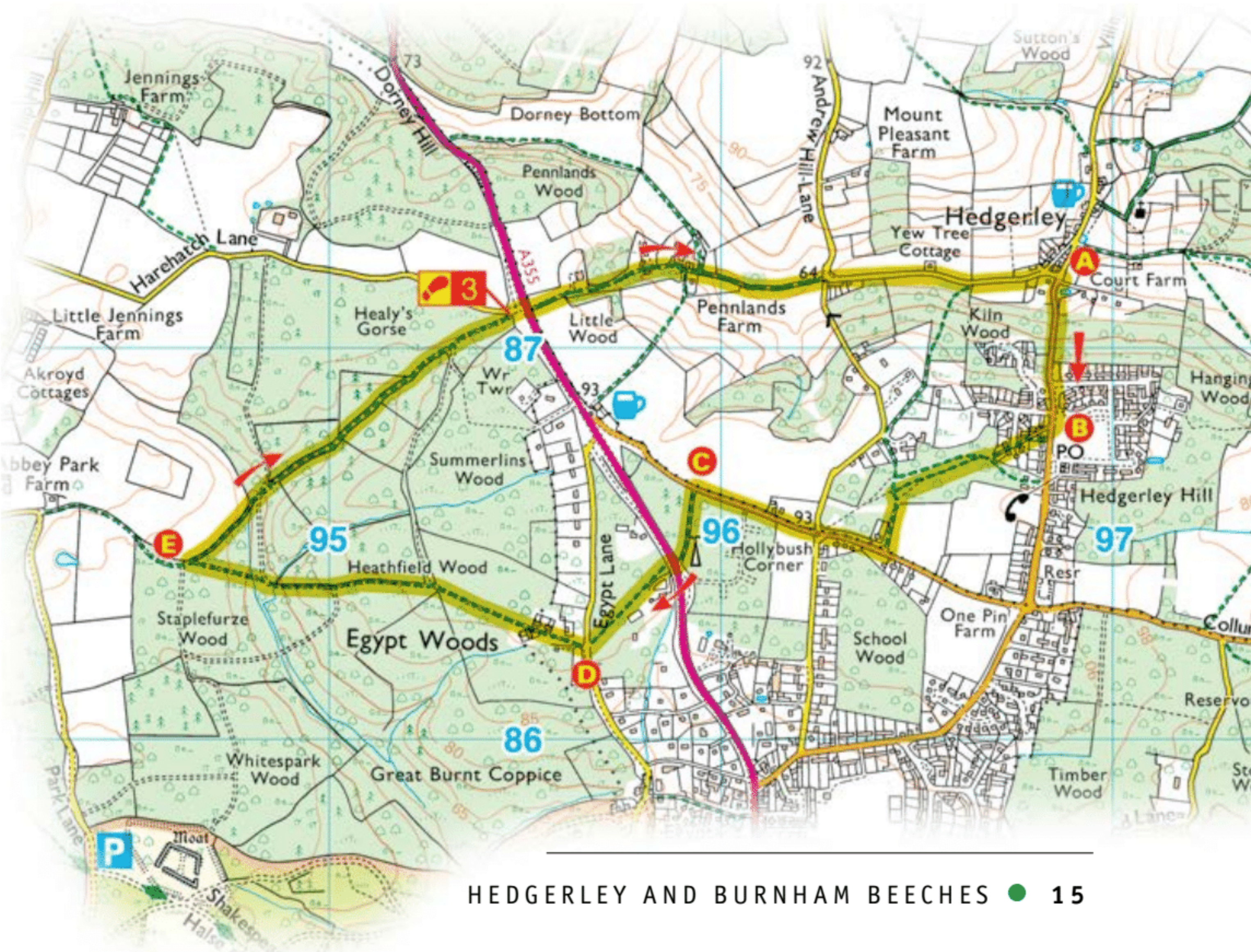
In Egypt Woods, Burnham Beeches

Beeches and walk along a concrete drive. Pass in front of houses and continue along the path ahead through Egypt Woods, the northern part of Burnham Beeches and named after a former gypsy encampment. The path heads downhill to a fork at the bottom. Here take the left-hand path – the waymarked post is almost obscured by bracken – to continue gently uphill to a T-junction of paths on the edge of woodland **E**. At this point follow the Circular Walk sign

sharply to the right along a path that keeps along the left-hand edge of woodland, by a wire fence on the left, then continues once more through the trees. Follow this well-waymarked path for 1½ mile (800m), eventually climbing a stile and keeping ahead to go over another one on to the lane at the starting point.



SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM





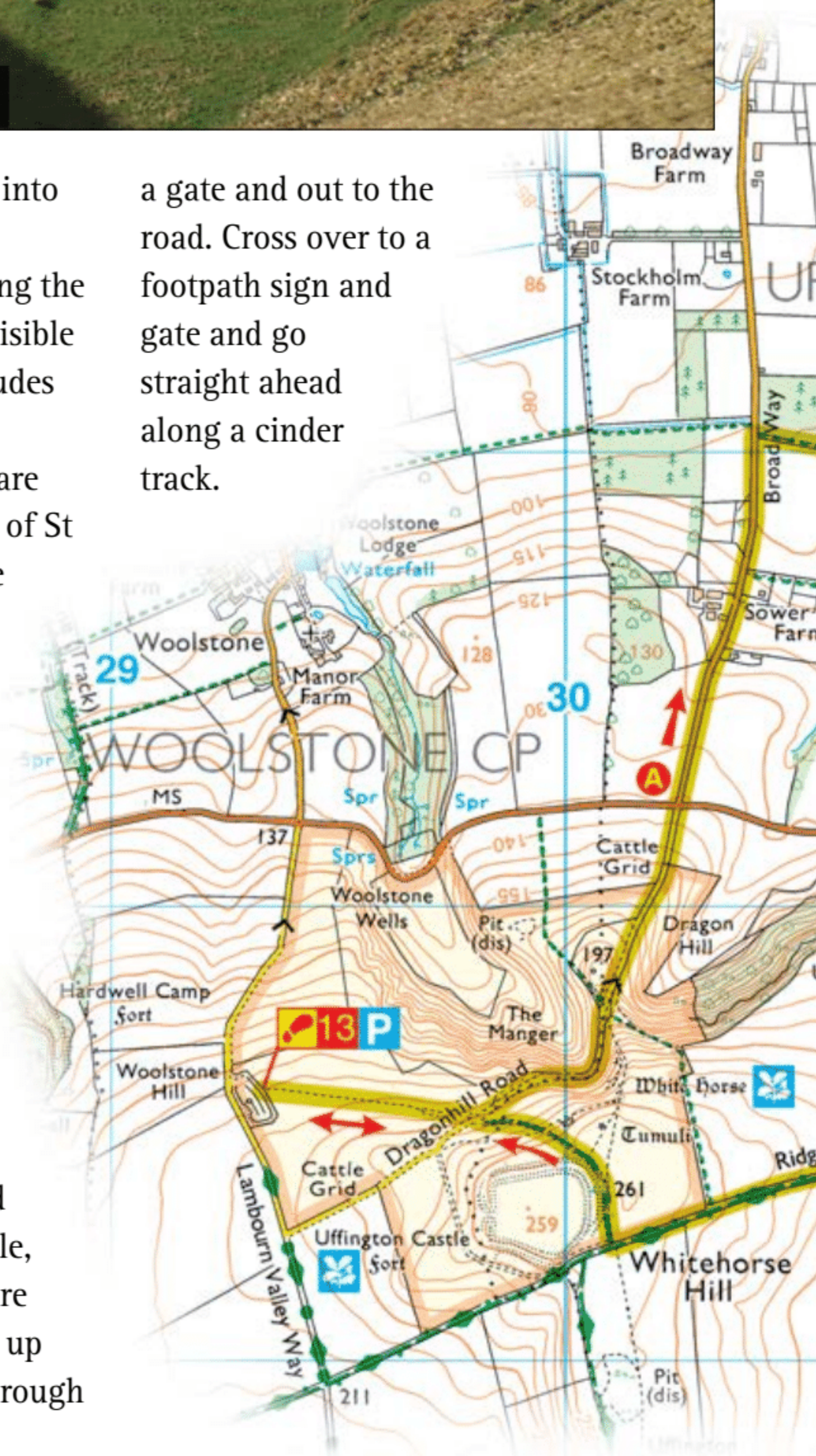
The view from Whitehorse Hill

houses of Kingston Lisle looming into view. At the road turn right.

Walk through the village, passing the **Blowing Stone** pub. The church, visible on the left near the junction, includes many Norman and 13th century features and its thick chalk walls are adorned with paintings of the life of St John the Baptist. Keep right at the junction, following the road towards Fawler, Uffington and Faringdon. Pass Kingston Lisle Farm on the left, follow the road as it descends quite steeply and when it curves right, turn left at a footpath sign and stile **D**.

Follow the path ahead across the field towards trees and distant hills. Continue via a stile into the next field, then the next across a stile by a galvanised gate. Go across to a low ladder stile, then keep ahead in the next pasture with hedgerow on your left. Head up the slope to the field corner, go through

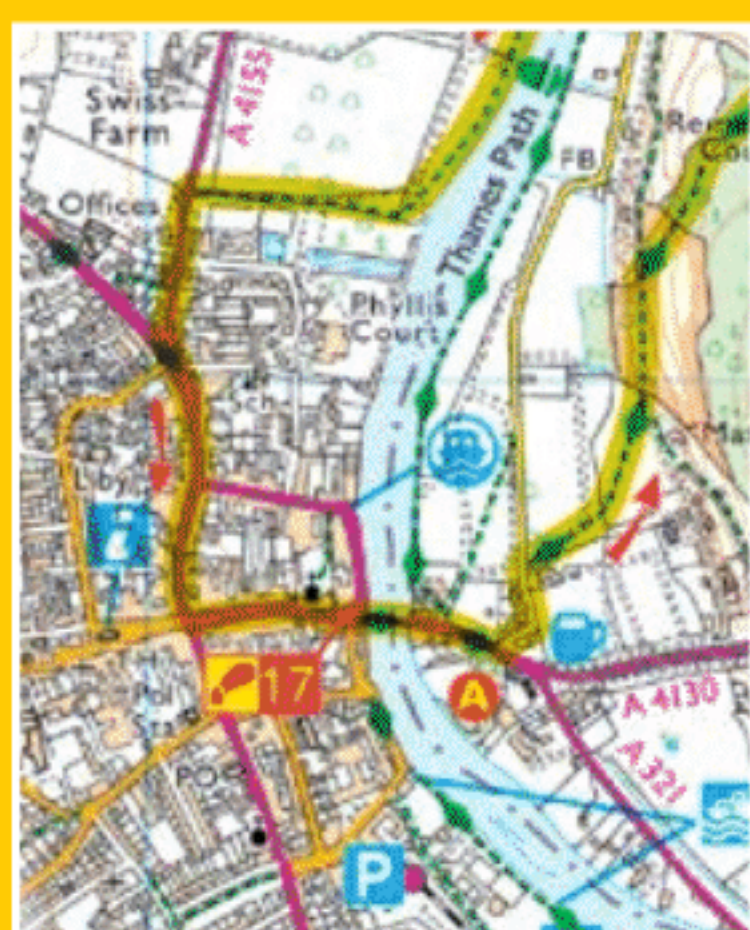
a gate and out to the road. Cross over to a footpath sign and gate and go straight ahead along a cinder track.



Outstanding Circular Walks in the THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN

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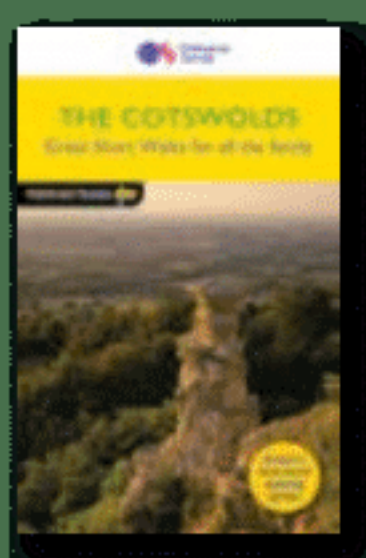
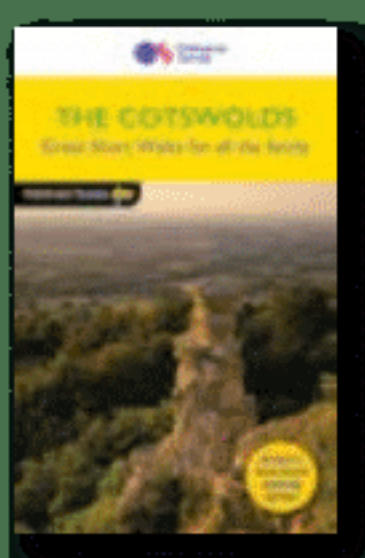
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OS maps and walking guides for the surrounding area



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