

Bourton-on-the Water - Circular Walk 1

Farm, ramparts and roundhouse



A flat walk through Greystones Farm Nature Reserve with ancient meadows and a huge diversity of wildflowers in summer. A walk taking you through 6,000 years of history. Suitable for pushchairs and off road mobility scooters in good ground conditions.

Distance: 3 km / 1.8 miles with an up and down of 14 m / 46 ft

Time: 1 hour

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial in the High Street SP167207

Toilets: Station Road car park and High Street

Terrain: Mix of pavement, grass and unsurfaced paths. Can get very muddy after rain or during the winter.

Parking: To reach the start of the walk from the car parks.

Starting from Rissington Road car park (Charge payable) with a portion of funds going towards Bourton village. GL54 2BN SP171202. From the car park turn left towards the village centre by the river. At the first bridge turn right and cross Rissington Road; turn left and follow Station Road then turn right at **2** in description below.

Starting from Station Road Car Park (Charge Payable) GL54 2EN, cross the car park to reach Station Road and join the route between 1 and 2.

Please take your litter home with you or use one of the many bins around the village.

Please leave gates as you find them.

Route:

From the war memorial walk alongside the River Windrush to the first bridge,

turn left and cross the road to the small green opposite. Follow the Oxfordshire Way sign down an alley, bearing right to reach Station Road.

1

Cross the road, turn left and after the petrol station turn right **2** into Cemetery Lane and immediately into Greystones Lane. At the farm go through a gate. **3**

At this point, you can visit the Discovery Barn with displays about the history and wildlife.

Return to the route but don't go ahead towards the Roundhouse.

To continue the walk go straight ahead leaving the farm buildings on your right, through a gate then along the grass strip to a gate on the left at the end. **4**

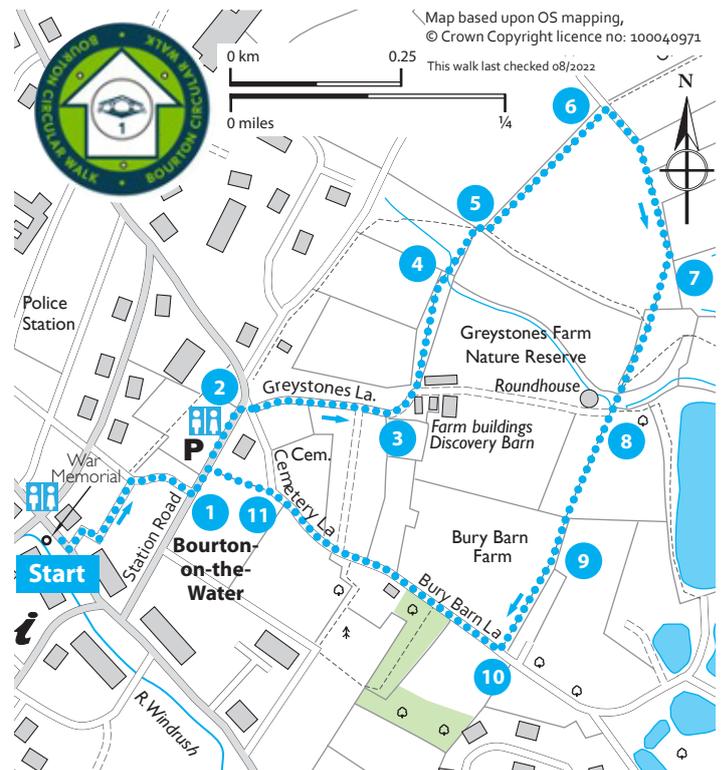
Bear half right and keep the hedge on the right until you reach a gate by a tall stone. **5**

Go through the gate and turn left walking with the hedge on the left to a gate. **6** Turn right after the gate and along the track between the trees.

Follow the path through two gates until a field gate where you turn right through a gate **7** then bear left across a meadow and through another gate.

You are now passing the ramparts on your right. Continue ahead and through another gate which brings you to the Iron Age Roundhouse. **8**

You can divert from the



route a short distance to the information Panel outside the Roundhouse and go inside if open. The Discovery Barn is a short distance along the path past the Roundhouse. Return to the route after your visit.

Continue ahead, through a gate then across a meadow towards a stone information point **9** with a gate ahead.

Go through the gate and ahead until you reach Cemetery Lane. **10**

Go through the gate and turn right and follow the lane to the cemetery entrance.

11 Turn left on the path to Station Road and retrace your steps along the walled path to the start.

Follow the waymarkers specially placed to guide you around.

Greystones Farm Nature Reserve info

Entry - free
 Size - 66 hectares
 No public parking, no seats along the trails or stiles.
 Disabled parking is available at Greystones Farm by arrangement, please phone 01452 383333
 Dogs allowed under effective control.
 Roundhouse suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
 Opening hours for Roundhouse and Discovery Barn - visit Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.co.uk

See the next page for more details about the walk.

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What is in a name?

The name Bourton is derived from two Saxon words **BURH** a camp and **TON** a settlement or village. It has been an important centre for the north Cotswolds for at least 5,000 years. On the north side of the village where the Oxfordshire Way leaves the modern housing estate is the site of an original Stone Age encampment. Subsequent civilisations occupied the same site as Iron Age currency bars from C.300 BC were found last century. With the Roman occupation in 45 AD a legion of 5,000 soldiers was quartered here and later, in the 8th Century a Saxon settlement occupied the same site.

Greystones and its habitats

Situated approx 500m from the village centre, Greystones Farm is home to a diverse range of wildlife. These ancient meadows are home to an incredible diversity of wildflowers and provide a habitat for many insects, butterflies, birds and mammals.

In the spring and summer you will see great burnet, southern marsh orchids, early marsh orchids, ragged robin, devil's-bit scabious, meadowsweet, knapweed and yellow rattle.



Part of the meadows forming Greystones Farm Nature Reserve

Birds you may well spot

The old farm buildings are used by migratory birds such as swallows and house martins, along with owls and bats. Around the farm, swallows and house martins nest in the barn eaves and pied wagtails stalk the roofs looking for insects. In winter, look for trees filled with fieldfares and redwings and wintering wildfowl and waders.

Dog walking and wildlife

We welcome responsible dog owners. Greystones is a working dairy farm with free roaming cattle, and home to wild life that is easily disturbed. Please keep to waymarked footpaths with your dog on a lead. Always pick up and bin your dog's poo.

Walk through time

Greystones Farm Reserve is a unique place where you can explore 6000 years of wildlife, farming and history.

The tall stone that stands where footpath passes through the ramparts is possibly the Salmonsbury Stone moved from its original location nearby. From Saxon times to the 19th century the stone marked the meeting place of the Court of the Salmonsbury Hundred.



Iron Age Roundhouse

The reserve is managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Here, you can visit the Discovery Barn at the farm buildings which has displays about the history and wildlife on the site. Check opening hours.

Walk supported by Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, funded by Cotswold District Council.

