

Walking the river Glyme

www.awrc.info

Map courtesy of www.npemap.org.uk



1



3



4



6



10



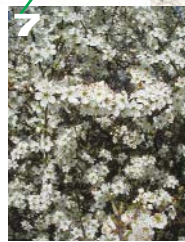
11



2



5



7



8



9



12



13



Head out of Chipping Norton on the Burford road and turn left with the school on your left – this track (1) is part of the mediaeval Saltway which ran from the salt wells of Droitwich Spa down towards London. This takes you to Glyme Farm (2), where the River Glyme has its source – head out across the daisy meadow (3) and you will cross the youthful river (4) for the first time. Still following the Saltway, the path goes past a ruined house (where the blasted tree at 5 was pictured). At 6 the Saltway (also the modern Wychwood Way waymarked path at this point) forks off to the right, but follow the track to the left along the river's quiet valley towards Old Chalford. Passing through the farm there, continue along the southern slope of the valley – you can see the river has been dammed. On both sides there are earthworks from the lost villages of Over and Nether Chalford. Past the may blossom (7) – this was taken on Easter

Monday – and on to Lidford, with white cattle at the farm (8) and pretty cottages (9) along the steep road down to the river again. Cross the river and take the footpath on the right, heading up and along the woodland's edge before striking out across the A44 and over to Church Enstone. From here there are various routes – this map shows one across Drystone Hill – back to the river at Cleveley, where you'll see a waterfall and old mill buildings. The river runs through gardens here (10). Next, head for Radfordbridge and then right alongside the river to Radford – tiny hamlets which seem very remote. From Radford, take the lane down to Kiddington, where you'll see the mid-19th century Italianate Kiddington Hall (www.kiddington.com). Cross over the Barton Road and up the slope, taking the right-hand fork where footpaths divide. This then takes you along the hillside and partly through Glympton Park – like Kiddington, landscaped partly by Capability Brown – which is owned by Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia. The path cuts across the parkland (look out for deer) then through a copse to the

main track. Cross this and steps to the left head up the other side and along a grand haha, emerging in Glympton village. Turn right to join the B4027 (turn left there) and rejoin the river (11), where you'll see the village stocks (12). There's no path near the river here, so follow the B-road for a mile past oilseed rape fields (13) to the Killingworth Castle pub

at Wootton (www.killingworthcastle.co.uk) – an old coaching inn. Turn right and walk through Wootton, then right at the well and down to the river. Take the steep path on the other side, to the left, which goes up to meadows – cross these, through the millennium copse and on to Hordley Farm. Off the B4027, a path cuts across the field's edge and joins the National Cycle Route into Woodstock. Glyme Close will take you to the river's edge again, and into Woodstock. The river forms the lake at Blenheim Palace.