

SWC Walk 223. Henley Circular via Turville (the Midsomer Murders Walks)

There are two options for this circular walk:

1. The main circular walk of 24.0km (15m);
2. A longer circular walk of 27.5km (17.2m) following a route through Stonor Park. Full written directions for this option are at the end of this document

Both walks can be shortened by taking a bus at the start of the walk or near the end. See the walk option section below for full details.

In many respects the main walk is similar to the Book 2 Walk 6 Henley circular via Stonor and Pishill walk. It's a bit longer and a fair bit flatter but both go along one side of a valley in open countryside on the opening leg and return to Henley on the other side in the afternoon, often through attractive woodland. This walk and the longer option finish with a lovely, peaceful Thames path back to Henley.

However both walks cover completely different territory to the Book 2 favourite visiting new villages and countryside not incorporated in other SWC Henley and Chilterns walks in the area. This is a late Spring or summer walk although shorter options can be done in autumn or winter given dry weather.

You should allow at least 11 hours for travel, refreshments and walking for the walks.

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| Length | <p>Main Henley circular via Turville walk is 24.0km (15 miles) but with bus options to shorten the walk - see below.</p> <p>Long Henley Circular via Turville and Stonor Park 27.5km (17.2m) but with the same bus options as for the main walk to shorten.</p> <p>You add another 400m to both walks if you wish to visit the village of Fingest as well as Turville – see walk instructions</p> |
| Maps | <p>Explorer OS 1:25,000 map 171 Chiltern Hills West.</p> <p>Landranger OS 1:50,000 map 175, Reading and Windsor, Henley on Thames and Bracknell</p> |
| Toughness | <p>5/10 for the main walk ; a few gentle inclines with 301m of ascent and descent.</p> <p>8/10 for the longer circular walk via Stonor Park. The 9.3km (5.8m) section of this walk has 314m of ascent and 261m of descent</p> |

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| <p>Features</p> | <p>Henley on Thames This is a popular start and destination for a number of SWC walks and you can find details about the town in TOCW Volume 1 Walks 1, 9 and 51 and TOCW Volume 2 Walks 6,7 and 8.</p> <p>This walk visits a number of places familiar to those who have done the relevant walks in Books 1 and 2 but after Hambleden you visit 2 or 3 villages that are not on the route of other Henley or Thames Valley walks in the SWC itinerary. These are:</p> <p>Skirmett An attractive hamlet where you pass a former flint church which has been converted into a home.</p> <p>Fingest (optional) The village name of Fingest comes from the Anglo Saxon name <i>Thinghurst</i>, meaning 'wooded hill where assemblies are made'. The parish church of St Bartholomew's dates from the early Norman period. It has an unusual tower, with a double vaulted roof. The church is a Grade I listed building.</p> <p>Turville A picture post card village which has not only featured in the Midsomer Murders but also the series the Vicar of Dibley. There is an old windmill on a hill giving splendid views of the village and surrounding countryside. The beautiful St Mary and the Virgin church is well worth a visit and is a fine place to rest before the return leg of the walk</p> <p>Stonor Park This is a superb fallow deer park with a beautiful and extensive country house which has a 12th century private chapel. The remains of a pre-historic stone circle are in the grounds. See Stonor Park's Wikipedia entry for more information.</p> <p>The Midsomer Murders Many places throughout Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire have been used as locations for episodes of the popular crime drama the Midsomer Murders but this walk is particularly rich in them.</p> <p>The following locations on this walk have been used for specific TV episodes. In the order you visit them on the walk these are as follows:</p> <p>Henley on Thames – Dead in the Water, Orchis Fatalis, Down Among the Dead Men, Last Years Model, the Black Book, the Magicians Nephew, Dark Secrets, A Sacred Trust, The Flying Club Aston – Dead in the Water Hambleden Lock - The Animal Within Hambleden – Stranglers Wood, Blood Will Out, Wild Harvest, Who killed Cock Robin, Down among the Dead Men Turville – Dark Autumn, Murder on St Malley's Day, the Straw Woman, Schooled in Murder</p> |
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| | <p>Fingest – Country Matters, The Silent Land Remenham - A Talent for Life, Country Matters</p> <p>At this web site you can see a full list of all the locations and click on links to see photos of specific buildings and places used in the above episodes.</p> |
| <p>Walk options</p> | <p>Shortening the walk at the start or the end of the main walk by using Arriva bus services 800/850 - You can find the relevant schedules here. For options 2 and 3, buses run until quite late into the evening.</p> <p>1. Taking a bus from Henley to Hambleden opposite Mill End Catch the 800 or 850 bus in Bell Street. To get to the bus stop turn left at the town bridge (para 2 of walk instructions) into Hart Street and in 150m turn right into Bell Street. Bus stop D is a short way ahead of you. There are two buses an hour on a Saturday and one on Sunday.</p> <p>Hambleden, opp Mill End bus stop is just beyond Skirmett Road where you pick up the walk instructions in para 11 and the onward route to Hambleden.</p> <p>This shortens the walk by 5.0km (3.1m) making the walk 19.0km (11.9m)</p> <p>2. Taking a bus from Greenlands College to Henley To shorten the walk by 3.2km (2.0m) catch a bus from Greenlands College back to Henley. The walk distance is then reduced to 21.0km (13.0 miles).</p> <p>You catch an Arriva bus 800 or 850 from Hambleden, Greenlands bus stop to Henley. There are two buses an hour on Saturday. On Sunday only the 800 bus runs (one an hour). The bus stop has a detailed timetable. Unfortunately there is no seating or shelter.</p> <p>3. Taking a bus at the start and the end of the walk; options 2 and 3 If you do this then you have a walk of 15.8km (9.9m), a possible option when the days are shorter.</p> <p>If you do the longer 17.2m walk then for all the bus options for the main 15 mile walk you should add 2.2m to the distances in this section.</p> |
| <p>Transport</p> | <p>Take a train from London Paddington to Twyford and from there change to take a connecting train to Henley.</p> <p>On the return journey you again change at Twyford to pick up a connecting train to London Paddington.</p> <p>See above for bus options to shorten the walk.</p> |
| <p>Suggested trains</p> | <p>At weekends take the nearest train to 10.00am from London Paddington to Twyford where you pick up a connecting train to Henley. Your journey time to Henley should be just over an hour.</p> <p>The train to Henley usually departs about 10 mins after your arrival at Twyford from London Paddington.</p> |

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| <p>Lunch and Tea</p> | <p>There is no shortage of lunch-time pub options on this walk depending on whether you do the full walk or shorten it by various bus options.</p> <p>Possible lunch pubs Please note these places are very popular on summer weekends so it is always best to ring ahead. Check the pub/restaurant's web site to see menu options, drinks and prices. Bookings for large groups (8 or more) may well be required so again check the pub's web site. All the pub options come before any decision to do the longer circular walk via Stonor Park</p> <p>Hambleton The Stag and Huntsman pub (01491 571 227) or the Village shop and tea rooms by the Church. (01491 571 201) Distance 7.2km (4.5m). The pub is a tried and trusted option but comes very early in the walk.</p> <p>Skirmett The Frog (01491 638 996). Distance 11.2km (7.0m). Good range of starters and main courses and cheaper baguette options. There is garden seating with attractive views. This is the recommended lunch pub option.</p> <p>Fingest The Chequers Inn (01491 638 335) Distance 12.0km (7.5m). A little way off the main walk route. Detour adds about 400m to total walk distance.</p> <p>Turville The Bull and Butcher (01491 638 283) Distance 12.6km (7.9m), by-passing Fingest. Perfect for final refreshments and rest before the long leg back to Henley. Often very busy on summer weekends and during the week.</p> <p>After Turville, unless you make a short detour to the Chilterns Pit Stop (see below), you still have 11.5km (7 miles) to do so it is a good idea to bring some snacks. If you do the longer walk you will have 14.4 km (9 miles) to do before reaching your first pub in Henley.</p> <p>If you catch the bus at Greenlands College, the walking distance after Turville reduces to 7.4km (4.8m)</p> <p>Afternoon refreshments The Chilterns Pit Stop Café, Stonor Park, RG9 6RF. This is by the Visitor Centre. See here for more details.</p> <p>Tea You are spoilt for choice in Henley. The Chocolate Café on Tameside (01491 411 412) is very good but closes around 6.00pm on summer weekends. It is about 200m from Henley station. There are many attractive pubs to choose from.</p> |
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Walk Directions – main walk

Henley to Hambleden (7.2km, 4.5m)

1. Coming out of Henley Station turn right along the station approach road. In 60 metres turn right at a T junction and in 140 metres at the riverfront follow the road round to the left with the River Thames immediately to your right. In 210 metres you reach the town bridge across the Thames.
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3. Turn right to cross the bridge. 40m beyond the bridge you **ignore** a 4-armed footpath sign and continue ahead along the pavement. In 90m turn left down Remenham lane and continue ahead, turning sharp left with the lane in 60 metres. In 80m turn right through a wooden kissing gate and follow the footpath sign for the Chiltern Way – the Berkshire loop going along a clear track.
4. Where the track turns sharp left you continue ahead in the same direction across a grassy area and head towards a stile in a hedge 30m away. Cross the stile and bear left (15°) following the direction of the footpath sign on no clear path but heading about 30m to the right of a large tree ahead of you. There is an attractive house and gardens away to your right. You head towards a footpath sign post ahead of you.
5. When you reach the multi-armed footpath sign you continue ahead along a rough path going uphill. In 20m you cross a stile and continue ahead through a wooded area with fields just away to your right. In 150m you reach a 5-armed footpath sign to your left and just beyond this go through a metal kissing gate! **Ignore** the path to your left along the field edge but bear slightly right (30 degrees) heading towards a clump of trees and going gently uphill. Soon you will see a stile and a footpath post and you head towards these. Cross the stile and continue ahead along an attractive woodland path (Remenham Wood) with a wire fence just away to your right.
6. In 260m you emerge from the wood by a 6-armed footpath sign and you bear right along a clear path across a field going slightly uphill with excellent views away to your left. In 500 metres you pass through a gap in a hedge to come to a 3-armed footpath sign and a tarmac lane. Turn left along the lane. In 200m you reach a 3-armed footpath sign on your left and a metal kissing gate to the right of a double metal field gate opposite this on your right. Go through the gate and continue ahead along the car-wide track heading just to the left of a clump of trees ahead of you.
7. 300m beyond the clump of trees the path enters a wooded area and narrows. In 20m ignore a track to your right and continue ahead at a cross paths in a further 40m. You are soon following a line of telegraph poles just away to your right. You continue ahead through a wooden kissing gate with a house and gardens away to your left. After 90m you go over or round a stile and continue ahead downhill along a grassy track heading towards a wooden gate 90 metres ahead of you. At the wooden gate there is a three armed footpath sign to your left and you descend to a tarmac lane.
8. Turn left along the tarmac lane soon passing a white painted attractive house to your left. In 90m ignore a lane to your right (the signposted 'Thames Path') and continue ahead, reaching the Flower Pot pub in a further 60 metres. Pass to the right of the

Flowerpot to continue down Ferry Lane. **You are now on the route of the Marlow circular walk, (Book 2 Walk 8) all the way to Hambleden.**

9. In 100 metres, opposite Ferry House, turn left off the road with the Thames Path down a car-wide gravel track past cottages, which soon becomes a footpath. In 80 metres you come to a tarmac track, and turn right along it. Follow this track for 600 metres until you reach the river, and then curve left with it for a further 170 metres, with the river on your right-hand side, to a kissing gate, the entrance to Hambleden Lock.
10. Go through this and turn right, crossing the lock by the lock gate, and keeping straight on beyond. This path soon curves round to the right and crosses Hambleden Weir and the whole river on a metal walkway. On the far side, walk up a tarmac path between fences to a driveway. Mill House is on your left. Veer left along a tarmac driveway and pass between Old Millgate Cottage (left) and Why Cottage (right) to the A4155.
11. Cross the road with care, and turn right. In 30 metres, turn left up a road signposted to Fingest, Skirmett and Hambleden. Carry on up the road signposted to Hambleden. In 300 metres, there is a turning to the right to Rotten Row. Cross this and on the far side, go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate, and carry straight on up the left-hand edge of a field.
12. In 540 metres, pass through a metal kissing gate, *cross a car-wide track*, and go through another metal kissing gate into the next field. Hambleden village is visible at the far end of this field. In 450 metres, at the top of this field, curve left through a metal kissing gate onto the road, and then right across a stone arched bridge. In 60 metres, you pass the Hambleden Post Office and Café on the left, a possible lunch or tea stop.
13. **To have an early lunch** at the Stag and Huntsman pub in Hambleden carry on past an old pump, with the church of St Mary the Virgin on your left. At the end of the churchyard, ignore the road to the left signposted to 'Pheasant's Hill', to carry straight on up the road reaching The Stag and Huntsman on your right in 50 metres.

Hambleden to Turville (5.9km 3.7m)

14. **If not stopping at the Stag and Huntsman**, to continue the walk you go through the entrance to the church grounds and take a path that passes to the left of the church. Leave the church grounds through a gate and continue ahead down a tarmac lane.
15. In 80m at a three armed footpath sign go through the metal kissing gate and bear right (20 degrees) in the direction of the footpath sign heading just to the left of a row of houses. 50m before the houses bear left on the indistinct path which may be a little boggy in places, There is a wire fence and hedges 40m away to your right. **You are on the Chiltern Way and you continue on this path essentially in the same direction all the way into Turville.** In more detail:
16. Ignore a kissing gate to your right. You should be walking towards a kissing gate 85m ahead of you. Go through this gate and continue ahead on an indistinct grassy path with the hedges on your right and a lane just beyond these. You are heading towards a metal kissing gate 200m away in the far-right corner of this grassy field.
17. Go through the metal kissing gate and another wooden kissing gate in 15m and continue ahead with a wooden fence just to your left. You are heading for another

wooden gate 100m ahead of you. Go through the wooden kissing gate and continue ahead along an enclosed grassy path. In 60m go through a fence gap (a missing gate) and continue along the enclosed path. In 150m cross a tarmac lane and in 40m go through a wooden kissing gate and continue ahead.

18. In 80m go through a fence gap (a missing gate) and continue ahead along the field edge with hedges just to your right. In 150m go through a fence gap (a missing gate) and continue between fences and newly planted hedgerows. There are some farm buildings ahead just away to your right. In 200m ignore a farm track to your right and go through a metal kissing gate and continue on the clear path.
19. You pass farm buildings on your right and pass through a metal kissing gate in 90m to bear right on the tarmac lane and then bear left with the lane and continue ahead. In 90m as the lane bears sharp right, you continue ahead on a car-wide earth track passing a 3-armed footpath sign saying public bridleway and Chiltern Way. In 70m there are open fields to your right and the bushy field edge to your left. In 310m the path enters a wooded area with rows of bushes to your left and right.
20. In 150m cross a tarmac lane to go through a wooden gate with a footpath sign on its right hand post. Continue across the middle of the field between newly planted trees, heading towards a gap in the hedges ahead of you. In 150m pass a Chiltern Way marker post and go through a metal kissing gate and continue ahead aiming just to the left of a large tree 150m ahead of you.
21. In 180m go through a metal kissing gate, and continue ahead, the field edge just away to your right. 50m from the field edge in front of you bear left and head towards a wooden kissing gate about 40m left of the right hand corner of the field. Go past the redundant gate, cross an earth track, pass another redundant gate and continue along the path, the field edge to your left. In 260m go through a wooden gate donated by Margaret Ryan 2011, and continue along the field edge to your left.
22. You are now in a narrow field. In 70m you enter a larger field through a wooden gate and continue along the grassy path. In 100m you come to a wooden gate with the names Bernard and Jo on it and a 3-armed footpath sign. Go through the gate and turn left on the lane. In 30m turn right down a tarmac road. You are now in the village of Skirmett. There are attractive cottages on your right. [Take care on this road as it is likely to be quite busy at summer weekends.] In 300m you reach the recommended Frog pub and restaurant on your left.
23. Continue ahead past the pub (or turn left along the road after you have left it)! In 150m turn left along a gravel lane and then almost immediately bear right towards a gate with a white arrow painted on it.
24. **(If you wish to visit the village of Fingest – another Midsomer Murders location – instead of turning left along the gravel lane you can continue along the road to bear right at a T junction and go into the village with its attractive church and pub/restaurant, the Chequers Inn. To get to Turville head back towards the T junction but just before this take the Chiltern Way signed path which skirts the very steep Turville Hill to eventually reach Turville village green and the Chiltern way sign noted in para 34. Overall this adds about 400m to the walk route.)**
25. To continue on the main route, go through the gate and continue ahead on the permissive footpath. There are tennis courts away to your left. In 70m go through a 5

barred wooden field gate with a white arrow on its right hand side post to bear left on the path using some flagstones to cross a potentially boggy area. Continue ahead on this path. In 70m you pass a small grove of trees just to your right heading towards a stile 40m ahead of you.

26. Cross the stile and continue along the field edge to your left through an attractive rolling meadow. In 280m you pass through a line of bushes and trees marking the field boundary and continue ahead on a clear grass track. In 250m go through a wooden kissing gate, descend to a tarmac lane at a T Junction. Ignore the lane to your left and continue ahead along a potentially busy road immediately passing a 'Please Drive Carefully'-sign for Turville.
27. In 340m you reach the Bull and Butcher pub in Turville with its attractive gardens, an excellent stop for further refreshments before the long leg back to Henley. Just beyond the pub there is an attractive village green (which acts as a roundabout) with the beautiful St Mary and the Virgin church beyond it. There is a Chiltern way footpath post showing left and right on the right-hand side of the road. Your onward direction is to go left. There is a wooden bench in front of a gateway to the church. Turn left just before this wooden bench down a narrow lane – with a road sign for children on your right and continue down this lane, passing Sleepy Cottage on the right.
28. **(However, if you are feeling particularly energetic you can take the Chiltern Way sign to your right on the other side of the green and after a steep climb towards a windmill you can rest or picnic and enjoy the stupendous views of the village and surrounding countryside. Retrace your steps to the village green for the onward route.)**

Turville to Greenlands College bus stop. (7.7km 4.8m)

29. The lane starts to gently climb with more recently built houses to your left and right. In 70m the lane becomes a dead end and you bear right to pass a footpath sign for the Chiltern Way and public bridleway to continue along an earth path between trees. In 170m you emerge from the tree-lined path to go through a gate. Ignore a stile to your right and a gate to your left and continue along the field boundary to your right. In 40m ignore a gate to your right and continue ahead.
30. **In 100m at a marker post on the right, you have the choice of doing the longer 17.2m circular walk via Stonor Park. For the longer walk, see full directions at the end of this document.**
31. **For the main walk:** at the marker post you leave the Chiltern Way to bear left and go gently downhill on a clear path. You are heading towards a gate. In 250m go through "Mildred's" gate and turn right on a tarmac lane. In 130m the lane swings sharply to the right but you bear left to go past a metal car barrier and follow a car-wide track into a wooded area. (This track is covered in hard core to help drainage; and this rather unpleasant surface lasts for about 500m.)
32. In 180m the track forks and you take the right hand fork passing a tree in 10m with a large white arrow on it showing the way ahead. You soon pass another tree to your left with a white arrow on it and continue on the car wide track ignoring all ways off.

33. After about a 1km the track narrows a little but you continue ahead. Eventually you pass to your left a "look out seat" and ladder attached to a tree trunk. 80m beyond the seat and ladder the track narrows and you continue ahead. After 600m the track becomes more rocky and you are going gently uphill with a wire fence to your right.
34. The path merges with a track coming from your right and you continue ahead on a now car-wide track through a wood going gently uphill. You eventually reach a cross-paths with a 5 barred steel gate ahead of you - open and half down on the ground at time of writing. Here you [!] turn left uphill through trees (140°) on a clear path bearing right after 20m and continuing ahead. There is a fence 10m away to your right.
35. After 200m at the edge of the wood ignore a path to your left and bear right to cross a stile and then bear left on the grassy path and head towards a footpath sign 130m ahead of you. At the footpath sign cross over a stile and continue ahead in the same direction down a tarmac lane. In 500m, 140m after passing a large barn on your left, you pass a public bridleway sign on your left and in a further 20m take a concrete track to your left. In 100m bear left with the track with tall hedges to your left and right.
36. In 50m just before a metal 5 barred gate ahead of you bear right onto an earth track passing a post on your left. You are walking along an enclosed path with lines of bushes and trees to your left and right. In 110m go over a cross-paths to continue ahead. In 380m ignore a narrow path to your left going into woodlands and continue downhill on the track with fields to your right!
37. **In 40m there is a parallel track to your right and you may wish to take this as the main track, now in a gully, can be very muddy in places. You can descend the bank to the main track once the muddy stretch ends.** Continue down the potentially muddy main track as it swings round to the left and you continue ahead through woodland ignoring all ways off.
38. In 300m fork left with the main track, ignoring a car-wide track on your right after 10m. The track soon swings to the right and goes gently downhill. Eventually you emerge on a made-up lane with a 4-armed footpath sign on your right. You turn right on the lane soon passing a tree on your right with a white painted arrow on it showing the way ahead. You continue on this track through the "Great Wood", initially on a made-up gravel track, then tarmac. Ignore an immediate right fork.
39. After 800m you emerge from the woodland with an open grassy area on your right. You continue ahead with some lovely views opening up and soon passing a dilapidated farm building on your left. 30m beyond the building ignore a path to your left and continue ahead on the made-up track.
40. In 150m you reach a cross paths and a 4 armed footpath sign. The left and right signs are private so you continue ahead on the path as it gently curves to the right. After 600m you reach a 3 armed footpath sign (to the left is private) and you continue ahead along the tarmac lane. There are houses 160m ahead of you. In 130m pass a cattle grid and a 3 armed footpath sign and continue ahead passing the two houses to your right. **(If you are doing the longer 17.2m walk via Stonor Park you pick up the main walk directions here.)**
41. In 80m go through a gate to the left of a pair of field gates. In 220m pass buildings on your right belonging to Dairy Lane dog grooming. Where the road swings to the left you continue ahead along a wide grassy track, reaching a wooden barrier and

footpath sign in 50m and a very busy A road. Cross the road with great care and turn right along the narrow pavement which soon widens a little. In 170m you reach a bus stop with a timetable where if you do not wish to walk further you can catch a bus back to Henley. This reduces the walk by about 3.2km (2 miles). There are two buses an hour on Saturdays, one per hour on Sundays.

Greenlands College bus stop to Henley 3.2km (2 miles)

42. To continue the walk go past the bus stop and continue along the tarmac pavement soon in open countryside. In 230m you reach a footpath sign and wooden kissing gate on your left. Go through the gate and follow the direction of the footpath sign (200 degrees) across a field. In 110m you cross a tarmac drive to continue ahead on narrow grassy path heading just to the right of a large tree.
43. 50m beyond the tree cross a stream on a narrow bridge with hand supports either side. You continue ahead across a field on a grassy path which heads towards the river Thames on your left. You cross another narrow wooden bridge and continue on duckboards over a boggy area to cross another narrow bridge to soon meet the River Thames just away to your left.
44. You now continue on this path with the Thames just away to your left all the way into Henley crossing more streams on narrow bridges and going through attractive meadows, reed beds and woodland. There are also intermittent footpath signs showing the way ahead.
45. Eventually after about 2km you reach a footpath marker post directing you to veer to the right, away from the Thames. You pick up a path to your right to go ahead through a line of bushes. You go through a metal kissing gate and continue along a clear path on the left ahead side of a field.
46. In 170m you reach a busy main road where you turn left. In 200m keep ahead at a roundabout and also keep ahead at a 2nd roundabout soon passing Bell Lane on your left. In 170m turn left down New Street. In 150m the road swings sharply to the right and you continue along this, with the Thames immediately to your left, reaching Henley Bridge in 100m. Continue past the bridge and down Thameside (a road). This is the route you started on in the morning.
47. In 50m you reach the Chocolate Café on your right, a recommended tea stop. From the café you continue ahead along the road soon swinging sharply right and then in a further 130m turn left to reach Henley Station in 60m.

Directions for the long circular walk via Stonor Park

Turville to Reservoir Hill 9.3km (5.8m). This adds 2.2m to the main walk distance

- 1) **From para 30 of the main walk.** Ignore the path sloping down to your left and continue the long and steady ascent, initially up the field along its right hand boundary. In 450m in the top right corner go through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate to cross a tarmac lane and walk through another wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate into the next field and continue in the same direction up along its right-hand boundary bridled by a **Bosmore Park Estate** signpost. You walk uphill between barbed wire fences and in 110m pass a destroyed wooden gate with a stile to the right-hand side and veer right along a concrete track uphill through a wood, ignoring metal field gates on either side.
- 2) In 130m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate to leave the wood and continue in the same direction now along a gravel car wide track between wooden fences and open fields on either side. In about 150m the gradient lessens to a gentle incline and you continue in the same direction towards a large farm ahead (**Southend Farm** on the OS map). In 230m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and continue with a signpost in the same direction along a farm track. Stay on this tarmac track ignoring a footpath off to your left then two more to the right and left, as well as a right forking tarmac track (your track continues as concrete) until you get to Southend hamlet's green in 450m. Continue in the same direction along the lane to the right of the green.
- 3) In 140m turn left by a three-way signpost at a T-junction with **Drovers Lane** (on the OS map). In 150m (the **Shakespeare's Way** joins from the left out of a wood) turn right along a car wide gravel lane by a three-way footpath and Chiltern Way signpost. You have a wood on the left and a house on the right. In 40m you go through a metal field gate by **Stonor Estate** and 'Public Footpath Only'-signs on the right to continue down through some woods (Kildridge Wood on the left, Balham's Wood on the right). In 140m continue in the same direction at a multi-track junction with the first of many white markers on a tree on the left, now descending more steeply on a mud-prone track.
- 4) In 300m fork left with CW lettering and a white arrow on a birch tree on the right, ignoring a lesser fork slightly to the right. You pass another white arrow in 10m on a tree on the left, just to be sure of the route, indicating to (!) fork right on the level, ignoring a steep uphill left fork. In 125m go through a high metal kissing gate into **Stonor Park** to continue in the same direction with a Shakespeare's Way marker and a white arrow, past a 'Private Deer Park'-sign on a tree on the right. In 50m the views open up on the right into a scenic valley. The path then starts to descend and in 100m you cross a track by a 'Dogs must be on Leads'-sign on a post on the left.
- 5) [In another 200m by a large sign on the left, an out-and-back permissive path downhill to the right gets you to the **Chilterns Pit Stop Café** next to the old Dairy in a building at the bottom of the valley 80m away.] In 110m you have a wooden fence on the left and soon after you get clear and full views of **Stonor House**, its ancient stone circle and its walled garden down in the valley. Continue in the same direction at the fence corner in 50m along a clear path on a grassy slope with some fine views up the valley on the right past Pishill (SWC Walk Henley Circular via Stonor).

- 6) The path contours along the slope and in 350m veers right a little as it starts a gentle descent seemingly heading for some lodges and a metal carriage gate at the exit of Stonor Park, (initially hidden behind trees in summer) but in 150m curves to the left. In 150m go through a high metal kissing gate in the boundary fence to leave the estate and turn left with a CW signpost, initially along a grassy road verge (the B480). In 200m ignore a road to your right but in another 100m turn left along an easily overlooked signposted bridleway, initially between houses. The track climbs quite steeply into **Almshill Wood** along the Deer Park's boundary, with a high wire fence on the left.
- 7) In 550m at the top of the hill, bear left with the fence at a T-junction with a farm track. In 200m go through a gap to the left of a double metal field gate by a signpost on the left and turn right along a tarmac lane at a bend, gently downhill. In 90m turn left over a stile by a footpath signpost into a field and cross it along a usually clear path (145°) towards a stile in the opposite boundary hedge. In 150m go over the stile by a **Bosmore Estate** signpost and through an overgrown area for 10m and bear left (110°) through an adjacent field (with fine views to your right) towards a high fence around a small wood.
- 8) In 150m you walk through a high wooden kissing gate in that fence to enter the wood (Annabelles Wood). In 200m exit the wood through another high wooden kissing gate to the left of a high wooden field gate onto a tarmac lane and turn right along it for 230m. You pass the **Bosmore Park Estate House** on the right and follow several yellow markers past or through a few gates and past a pond on the right and finally pass Bosmore Farmhouse on the left to in 50m turn left along a tarmac track at a two-way signpost on the right through a wooden gate to the right of a double wooden field gate.
- 9) In 50m cross another tarmac track at a four-way junction and veer right with the track to the right of some farm buildings. In 30m the track turns gravel by the last open shed on the left and in 20m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal barrier across a track to continue gently downhill along a car wide gravel track. In 170m, at a three-way farm track junction, leave the track to go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate with a signpost and veer right a little to follow a line of pylons down a grassy field (120°). In 400m leave the field at its bottom over a stile to the right of a double metal field gate and cross a farm track to go into a wood by a signpost.
- 10) You follow a meandering path uphill through the wood and in 110m continue between wooden fences to emerge from the trees by a house on the left and continue uphill. In 90m the path almost levels out with a hedge on the left and some trees on the right and in 40m you turn right along a tarmac lane, still gently uphill. In 110m ignore a signposted footpath turning left along a farm drive and in 125m, where the lane turns right by **Roundhouse Farm**, you turn left with a bridleway signpost along a car wide track. In 60m turn right with the track, soon with far views into the Thames Valley.
- 11) In 130m continue in the same direction along a narrow footpath by a last house on the left and continue in a broadly easterly direction. You enter a wood in about 500m and ignore all ways off (there aren't many) and bear left with the more prominent path in 375m at an indistinct fork. Eventually the path veers left a little. After 1.4 km in the wood, you emerge onto a grassy slope (**Reservoir Hill** on the OS map) to continue in the same direction towards a track at the bottom of the drop 250m away. In 150m you pass a bridleway marker post on the left and in 100m reach the tarmac track (a bridleway as well) at a T-junction. **Turn right at the T-junction and pick up the directions at the end of para 40 above for your onward route back to Henley.**