



Wychwood Walk No. 2: Charlbury - Spelsbury

Approximately 5 miles / 8 km

Parking: **Spendlove Centre car park, Charlbury OX7 3PX , SP 357 194**

Please park with consideration to residents)

Part of a series of circular walks that link in with The Wychwood Way



TL - Turn left BL - Bear left
TR - Turn right BR - Bear right

5 Carry on straight across the field to gate. Pass through this gate, BL to the corner of the churchyard. Exit the field through a kissing gate BR and follow the track to a lane. TL to the main Charlbury to Chipping Norton road. Pass the War Memorial Hall and the turning to Chadlington before TR onto the Taston and Enstone roadway.

4 TR, through a kissing gate and across a field. Pass through another kissing gate and across a small bridge, into the garden of Coldron Mill. BL on the path across the front of the mill. Walk straight ahead onto a gravel drive and through a gate. Follow the field track until it bears left heading towards the church.

3 Through the gate, across a small stream and a field keeping the hedge to right to a kissing gate. BL at the woodland, to a kissing gate. Follow the edge of the next field until a sharp right turn in the fence. Continue across the field to a stile. After crossing the stile and a bridge BR across the corner of the next field to a gate. Go along the edge of the field and enter Dean Grove. Follow the path through the wood, for about 350m until a T- junction of paths.

2 Through the kissing gate and follow the Oxfordshire Way straight ahead to a bridge and gate. Continue ahead across two more fields to

7 By the remains of a stone cross TR. Follow the lane downhill. Just past Lower Farmhouse TR up Coate Lane. Proceed along the lane for about 350m to Coathouse Farm.

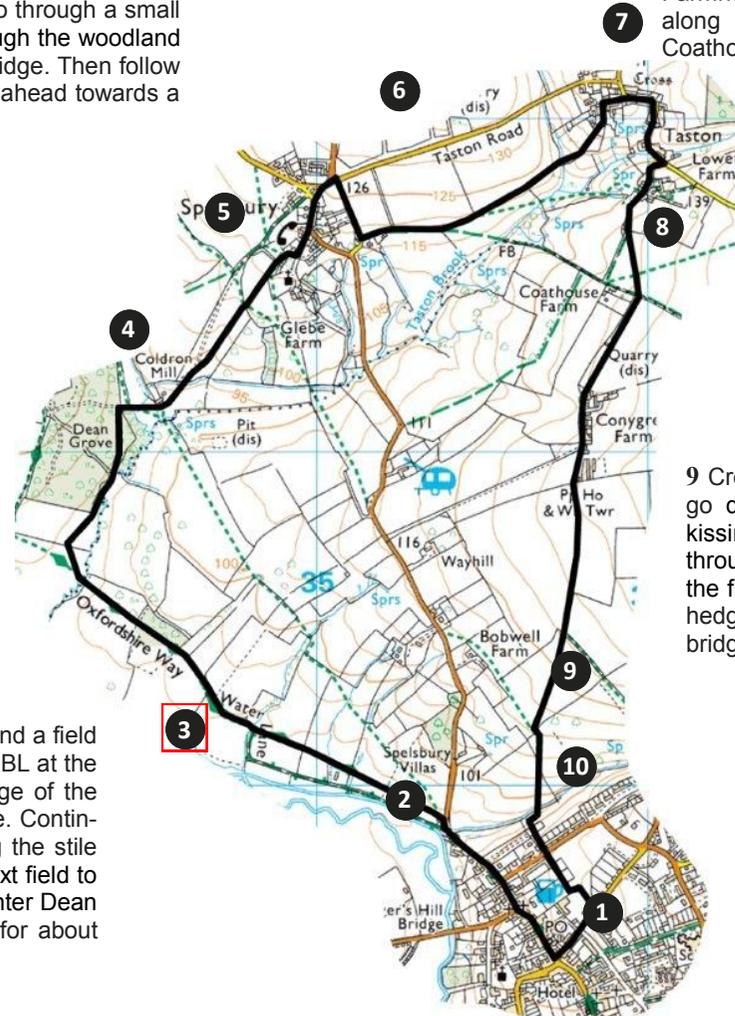
8 TL alongside the barn to the end of the wall. Here TR and follow the hedge. At the end of the field BL through a kissing gate and across a paddock to a gate. Follow the edge of the farm buildings and go through a gate onto the farm road. Go straight up this road to a farm. Go straight ahead, alongside the farm and through two gates into a field by a water tower. Continue across this field and then along a hedge to the corner of the field.

9 Cross the stile and immediately TR and go diagonally across the next field to a kissing gate in corner. After passing through this gate BR across the corner of the field to another gate halfway down the hedge. From here BL down the field to a bridge.

10 Cross the bridge BR to a gate into the cemetery. Go across the cemetery and then BR across the field to a gate leading into Nine Acres Lane. Cross the road and take the path beside the recreation ground to reach the Spendlove car park.

Start Point

1 Out of the Spendlove Car Park TR down Brown's Lane. TR into Market Street. Continue down Thames Street past the Cemetery to the bottom of Pound Hill.



Points of Interest

1. Pass through the historic village of Charlbury, a traditional Cotswold Town. The name Charlbury is thought to be from the personal name 'Ceorl' and 'burgh', meaning fortified place. This area was probably settled in the Anglo-Saxon period. The centre of the town forms a conservation area with attractive local stone buildings.

2 – 3 The Oxfordshire Way runs through Charlbury. The Oxfordshire Way winds through Oxfordshire from Bourton-on-the-Water in Gloucestershire to the banks of the River Thames in Henley.

3—4 Pass through Dean Grove, an ancient woodland, which provided plenty of opportunities for bird spotting.

5. Spelsbury is a quiet village, especially the cul-de-sac which leads down to All Saints Church. With Norman origins, this was rebuilt 1740-1774 and contains interesting monuments to the Lees, and their descendants, of Ditchley. The Wychwood Way runs through the north-east of the parish

7. Taston derives its name from Thorstan meaning 'Thorstone' a small standing stone claimed to be a thunderbolt of the god Thunor, which can be found in the centre of the village. Close by is the base and broken shaft of a medieval preaching cross, now a Grade II listed building.



View South from Dean Grove



View East across fields to Spelsbury



The Wychwood Way

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Dean Grove, ancient woodland
- a view across the brook