



Deddington Circular Walk

A lovely, leafy figure of eight, taking in the Clifton Loop and Hempton Loop.

Distance 17.9 kilometers / 11.1 miles

Duration 7 hours and 10 minutes



Great views



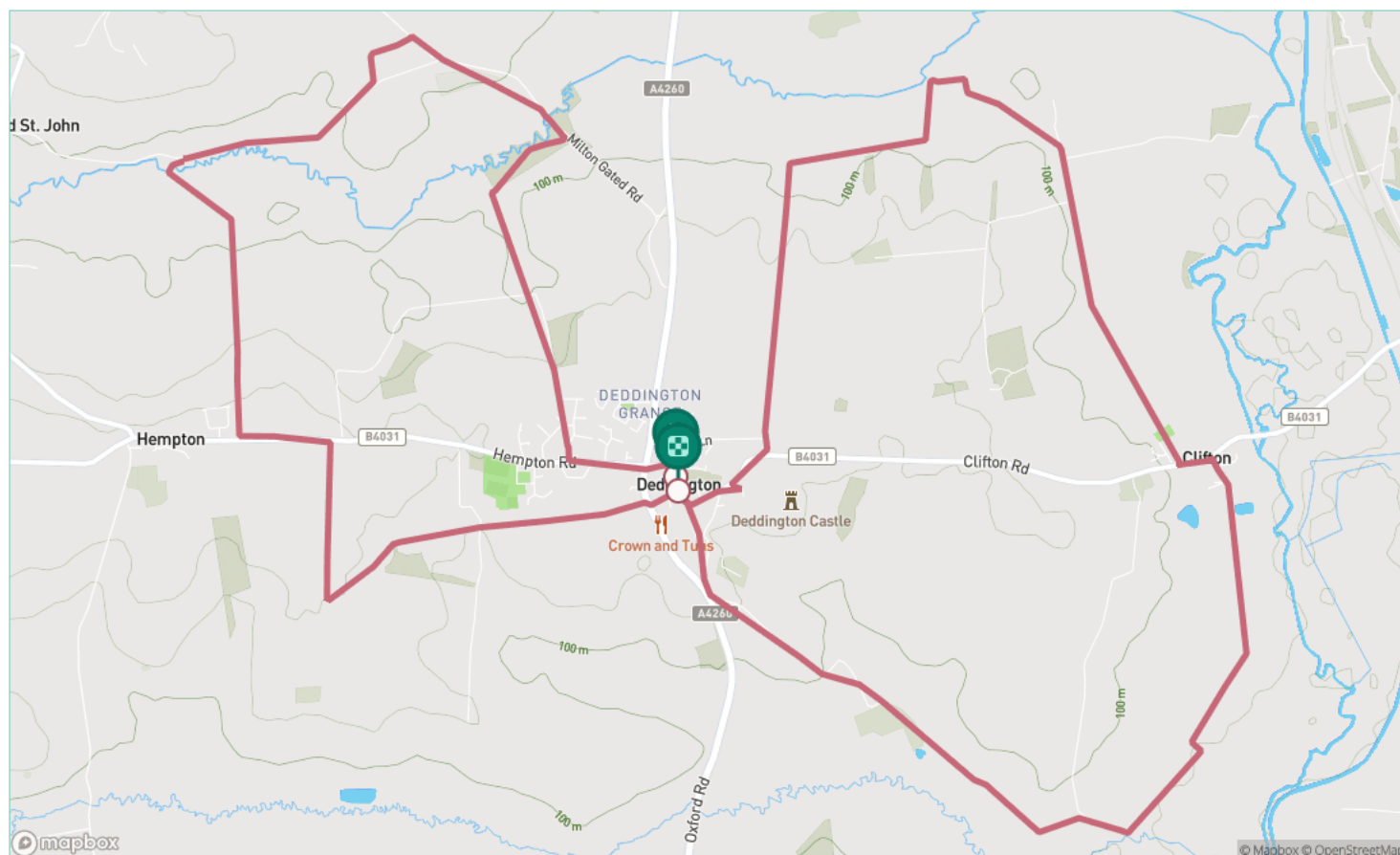
Parking

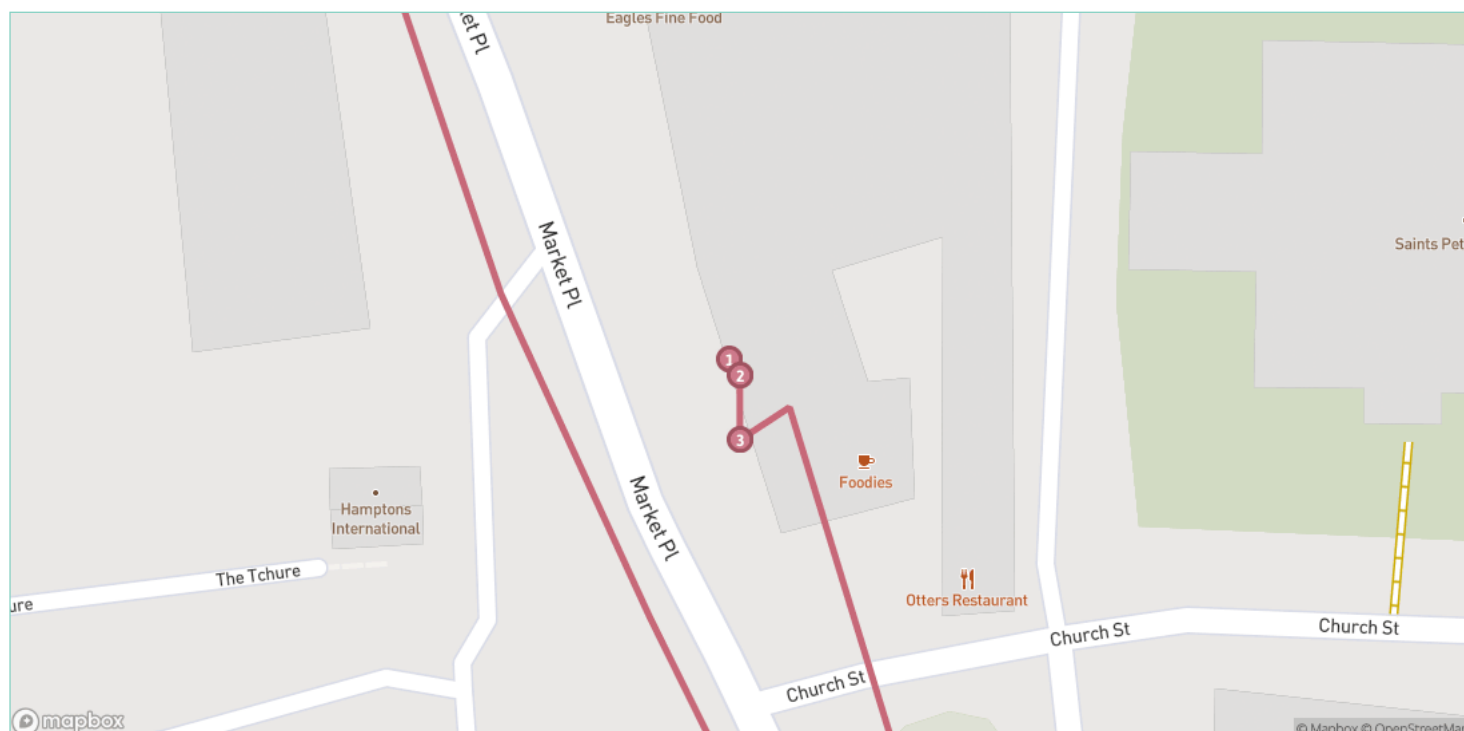


History



Dog friendly





Step 1: This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

Step 2: Welcome to the Deddington Circular Walk. It forms a figure of eight, with the Clifton Loop and Hempton Loop meeting at Market Place.

North Oxfordshire

Best Ways to Walk

We want you to have fun outdoors, whilst looking after yourself, those around you and the natural environment. So here's some guidance to help you prepare for and enjoy your walk.

Check the weather. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as walking can be wet and muddy.

Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles.

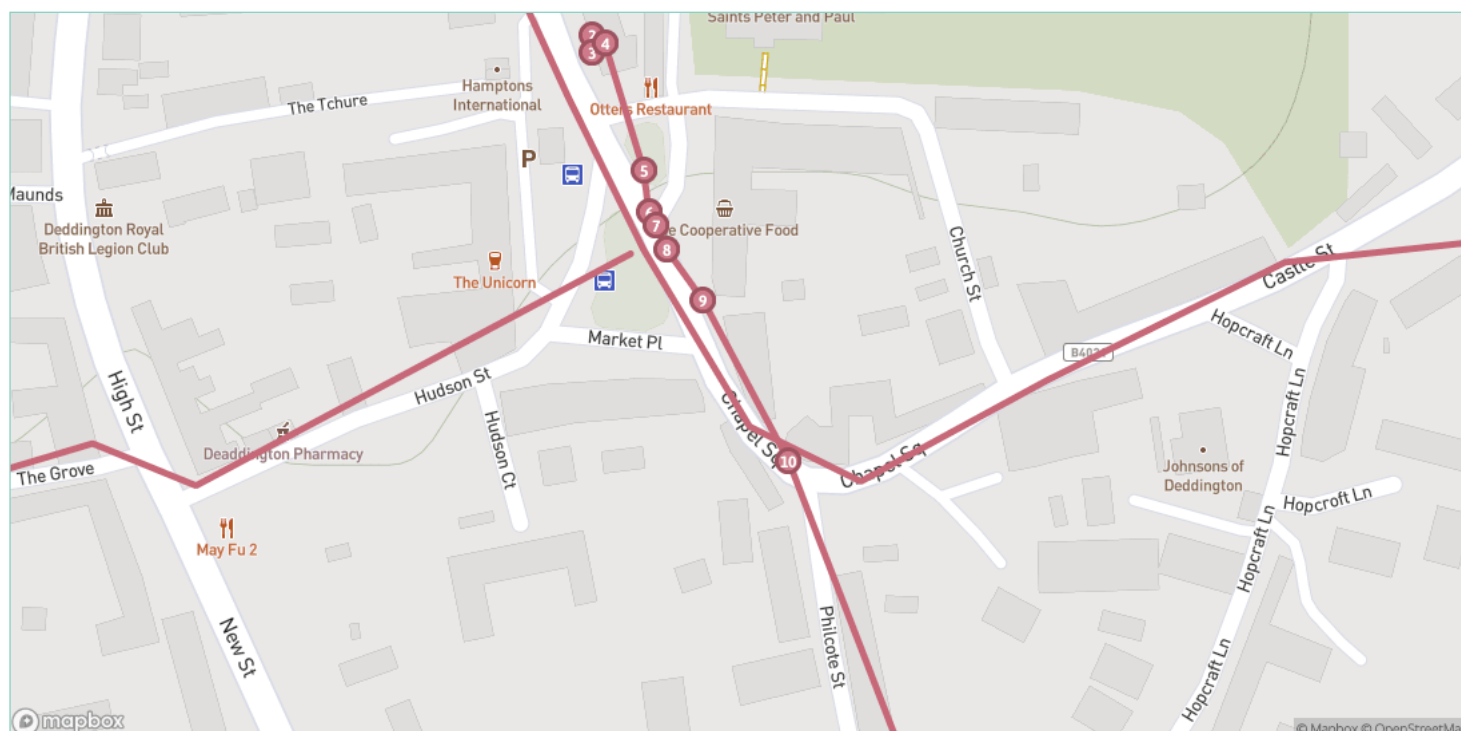
Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

Take water. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

Respect landowners. Remember that the countryside is a working place so leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone.

Leave gates as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.

Respect local people. Park your car responsibly.



Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.

Respect nature. Pick up any litter you see and never leave your own. Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring. Their poo can be bad for the environment so please keep them close by and clean up after them.

Look after your dogs. Dogs should be kept under your control and on a lead if animals are in the fields. Current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.

Stay safe. Take great care when crossing or walking along roads and narrow paths.

More guidance for users of the countryside - follow the Countryside Code using the link below.

Step 3: There are some livestock on this walk and one stile at Step 51.

Step 4: The first section of the walk is the Clifton Loop which begins in Market Place. This has a great choice of pubs, cafés and food stores.

Step 5: The Market Place is the original nucleus of Deddington and the lively scene of many a market and fair from medieval times onwards. There is a farmers' market on the fourth Saturday of each month to this day.

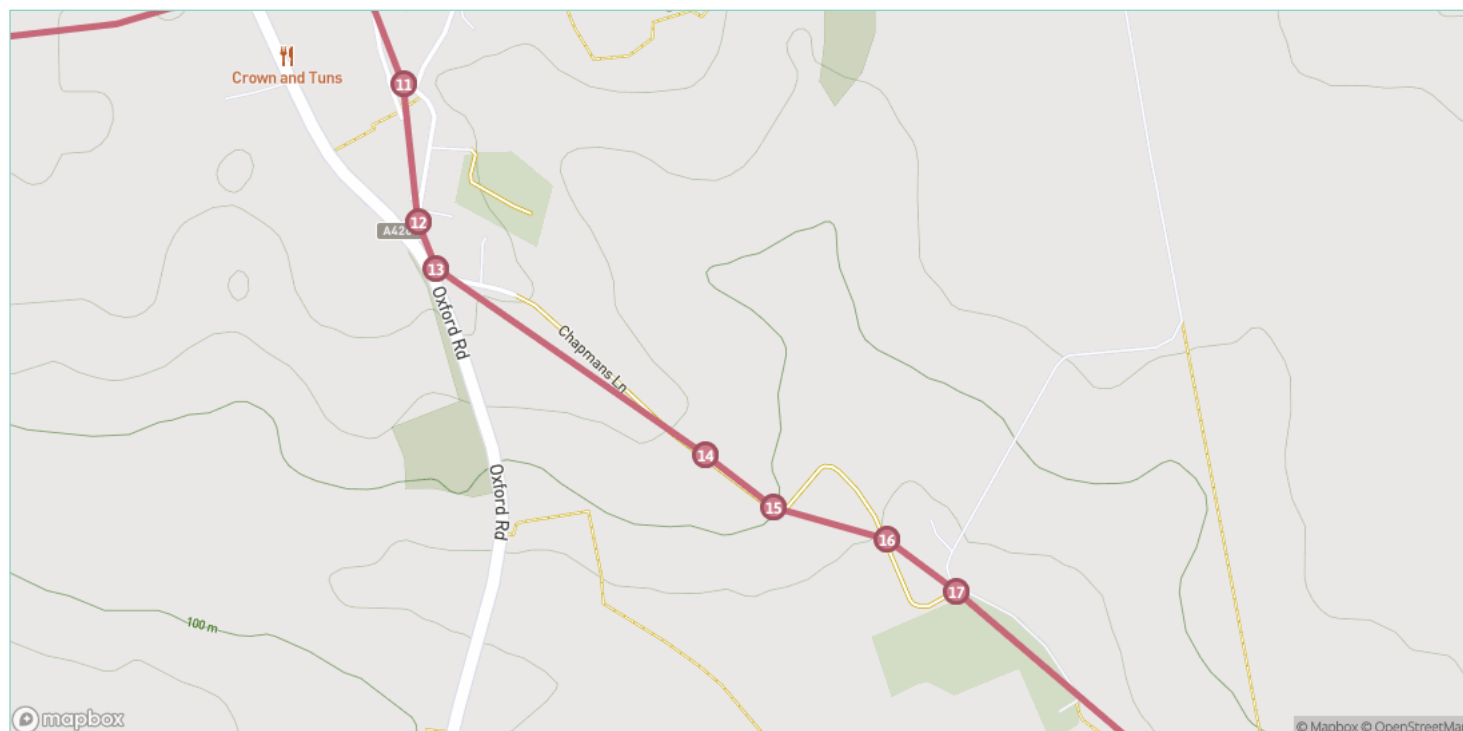
Step 6: Dominating the sky line is the 17th century tower of St Peter and St Paul, the Parish Church which dates back to the 13th century.

Step 7: In the Market Place is the Town Hall. Rebuilt in 1806, on its Coat of Arms is the Early English motto...

Step 8: ... 'preo on anan gebundene' translated 'three joined together in one' which refers to the three historic manors of the Parish.

Step 9: Pass the Co-op store on your left and exit the market place on the Clifton Road.

Step 10: Once through the pinch point, then as the road bends to the left, take the first right onto Philcote Street.



Step 11: Continue on as the road bends round to the right onto St Thomas Street.

Step 12: Turn left at the junction with the main road and walk down the pavement on your side of the road.

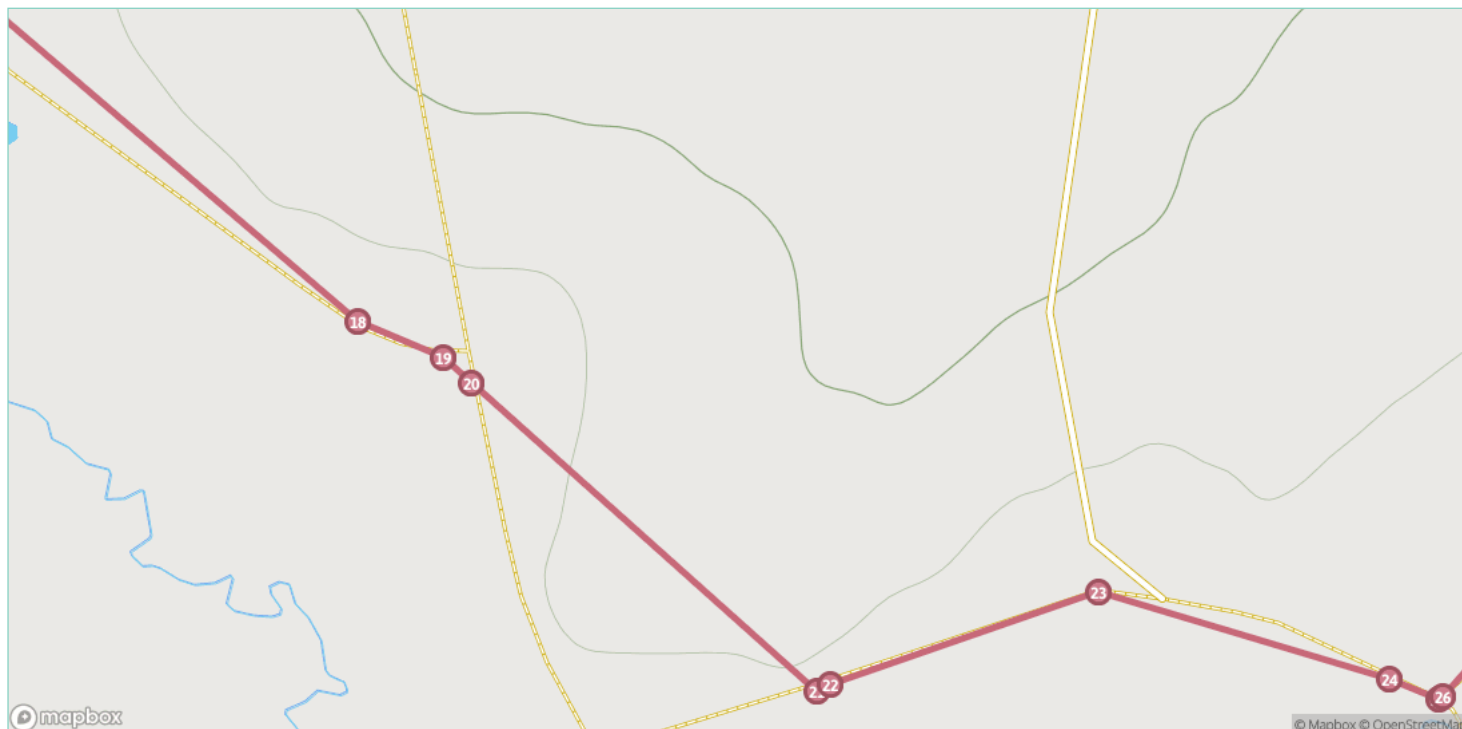
Step 13: Turn left almost immediately on to Chapmans Lane.

Step 14: Wandering along the lane, soon it will open up to reveal the first of a number of fine views on this walk.

Step 15: The landscape is largely the result of the Enclosures Act of 1808. Highland cattle, one of Leadenporch Farm's specialities, are often seen in the surrounding pastures.

Step 16: After one kilometre the lane will wind you down to some farm buildings, which you turn left in front of.

Step 17: And then right at the T-junction, continuing on between the farm yard and paddocks.



Step 18: Venture on through to the next field and along the hedge line for approx 700 metres until you reach a small pond on your left.

Step 19: At the T-junction after the pond, turn right and continue to the end of the hedged lane.

Step 20: Turn left at this T-junction for an alternative, shorter route which takes you to the often busy main road where you turn left back to Deddington.

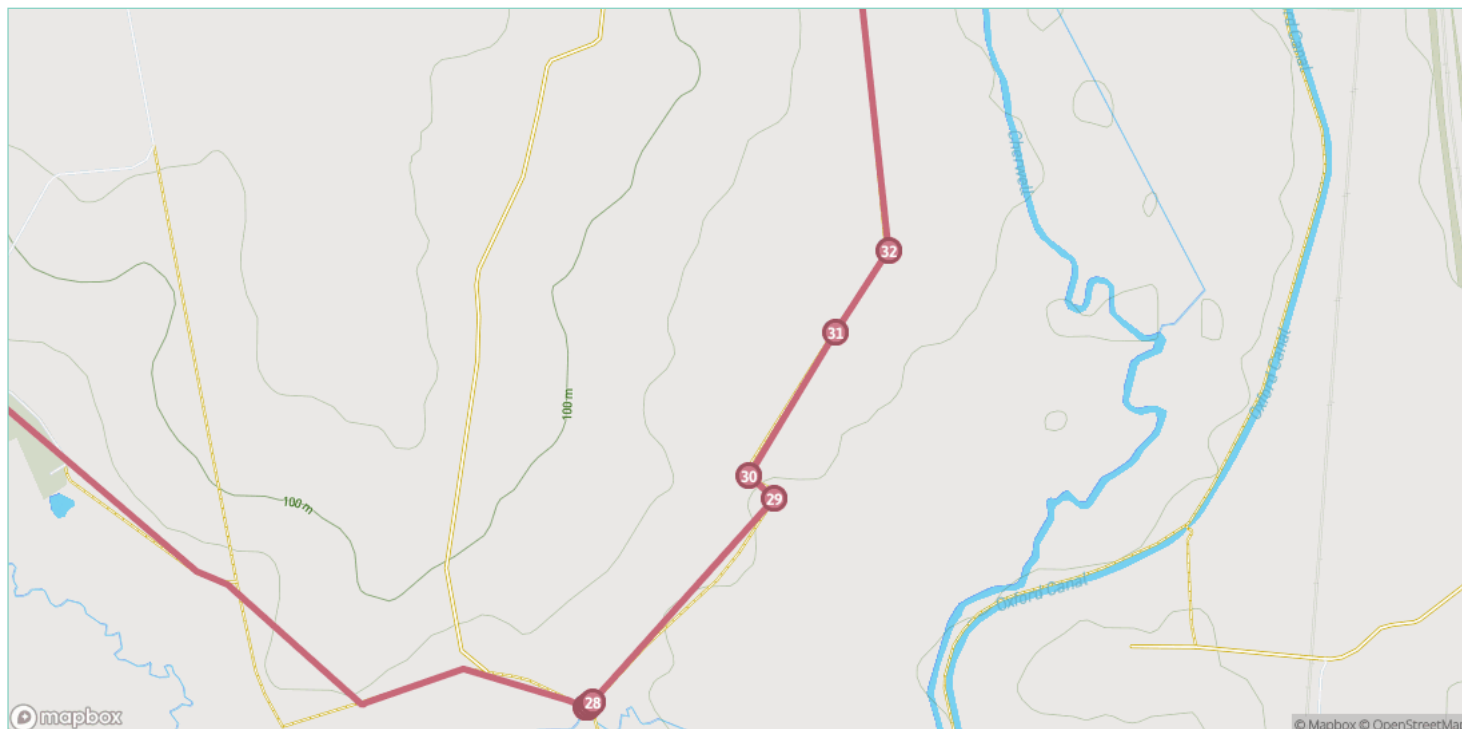
Step 21: Turn left following the hedge and proceed through this gate.

Step 22: Continue ahead through the next field.

Step 23: After crossing the first field there will be a wooden gate which you head through. Then continue on up to the far hedge line.

Step 24: Turning right, the hedge line will lead you down through a metal gate to a brook.

Step 25: In winter the fields surrounding South Brook are quite often flooded and attract substantial flocks of wildfowl (mallard, wigeon, pochard, teal) and waders (lapwing, golden and grey plover).



Step 26: A short distance from your route is Bowman's Bridge, an old pack horse bridge over South Brook. South Brook flows into the River Cherwell.

Step 27: At the brook turn left through this next gate.

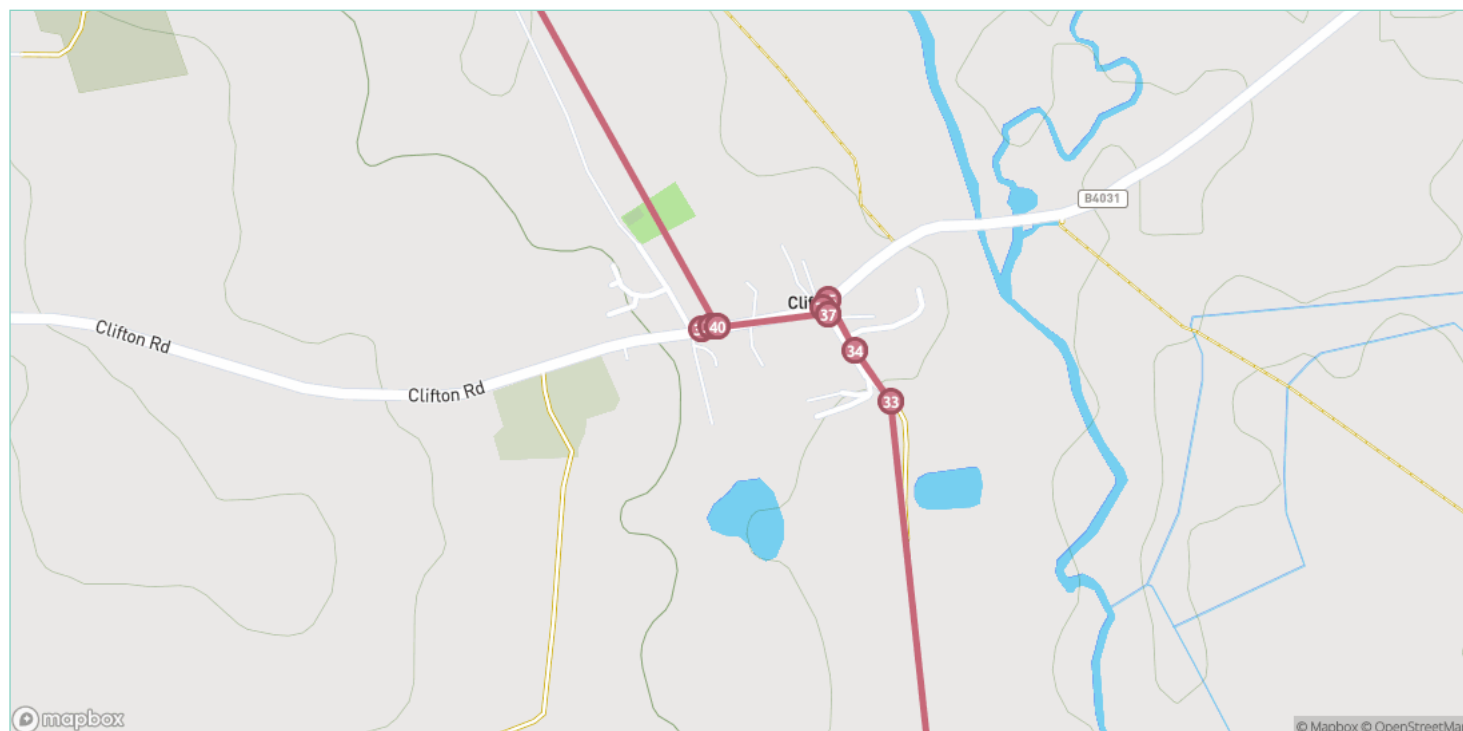
Step 28: Continue with the hedge on your right along two fields.

Step 29: At the end of the second field you will reach a hedge line where you turn left.

Step 30: Then, after 100 metres, turn right through a gate along the field edge.

Step 31: Continue ahead until you reach this gate and a hedged lane which you follow for approx 1 km to reach Clifton.

Step 32: Bear left with the path and continue on.



Step 33: Arriving into the hamlet of Clifton.

Step 34: The pretty hamlet consists mainly of two-storied ironstone rubble cottages, a number from the 18th and 19th century. The Chapel of St James, built in 1853, has been converted into business premises.

Step 35: Continue straight ahead until you reach the Duke of Cumberland's Head.

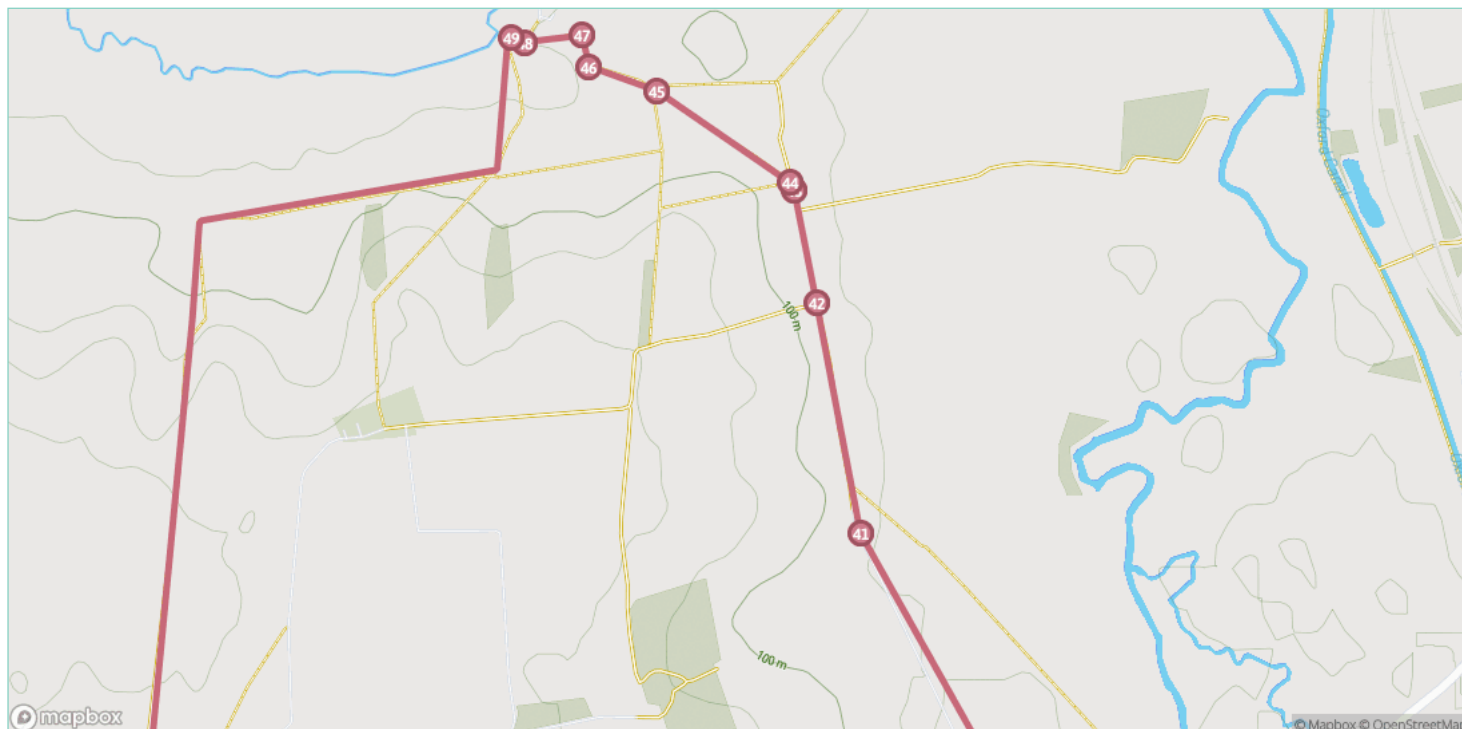
Step 36: The pub dates from the 17th century. In the mid-19th century, one of its owners ran a beaver hat factory in a neighbouring building.

Step 37: At the junction in front of the pub, turn left.

Step 38: After 150 metres, take the first right - opposite Manor Farm - up Tithe Lane.

Step 39: Manor Farm has a date stone of 1685.

Step 40: Pass County View on the left and then Welford's Piece (play area and community orchard) on the right.



Step 41: Then pass Hazel Hedge Cottage after approx 800 metres. Continue on for approx another 650 metres.

Step 42: Pass a permissive path on your left.

Step 43: Keep your eyes peeled for the waymark sign which directs you left diagonally across the field.

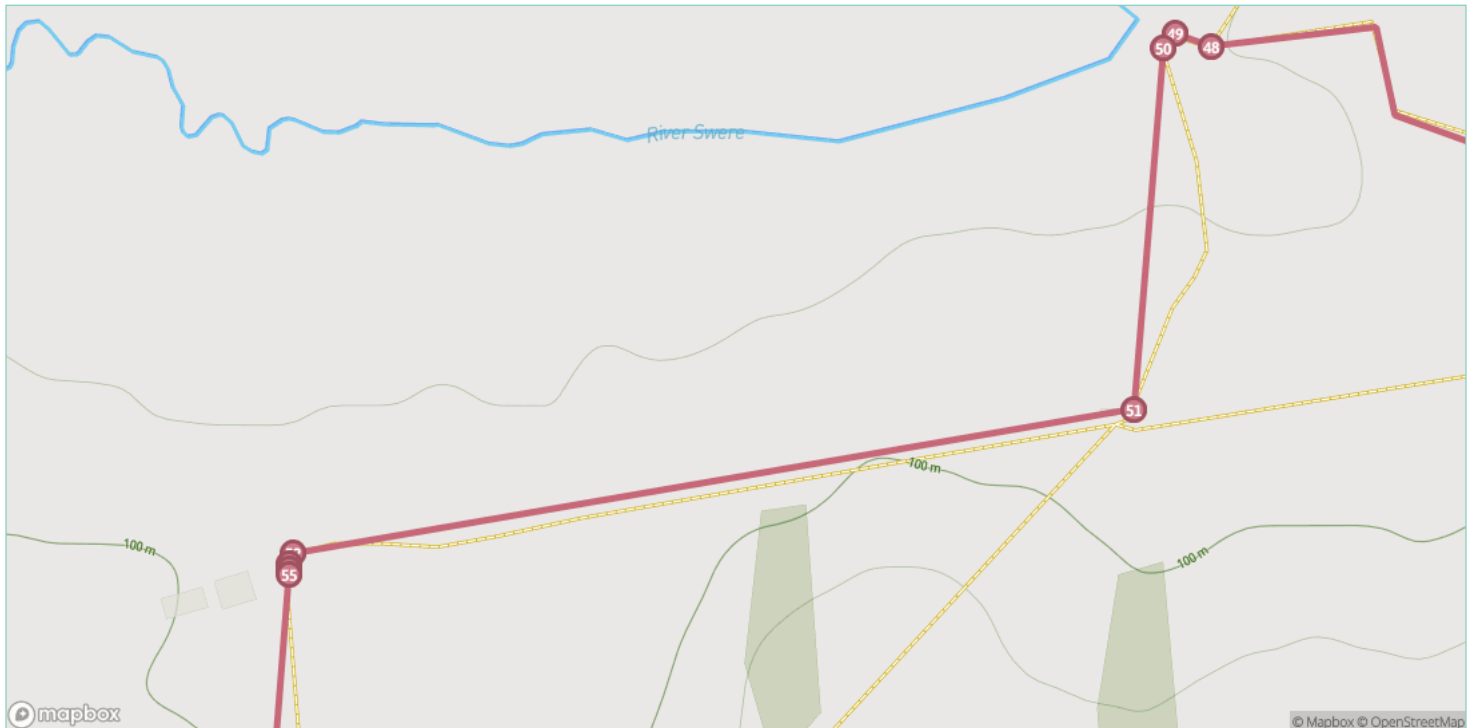
Step 44: You are aiming for the clump of trees on the far side of the field.

Step 45: Continue through the gateway in the trees.

Step 46: Turn right and follow the hedge line.

Step 47: Turn left and keep following the winding hedge line on your right.

Step 48: Pass a right turn to Paper Mill Cottages.



Step 49: Turn left at the bottom corner of the field and continue following the winding hedge line on your right.

Step 55: You may be sharing the grassland with a few cows.

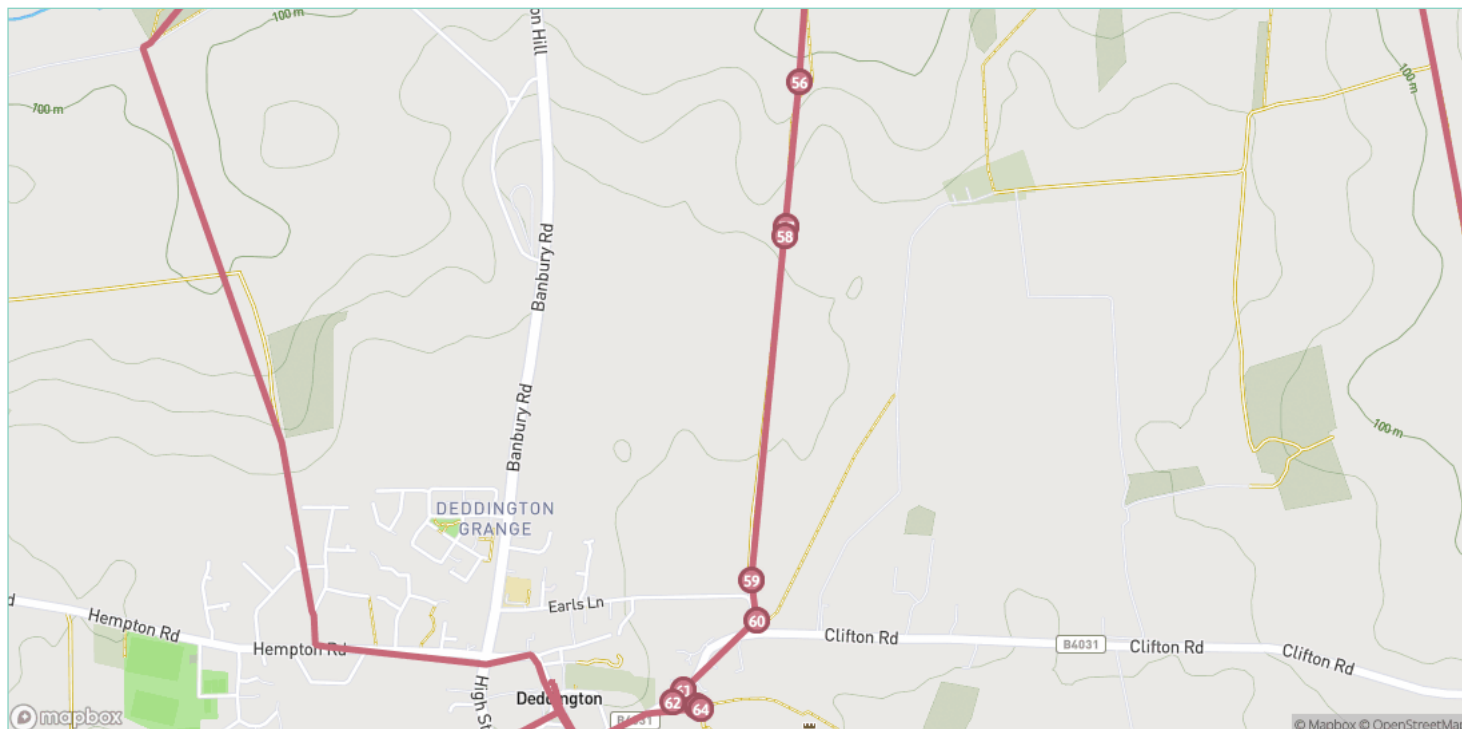
Step 50: Near to this corner are the Paper Mill Cottages, a reminder of the earlier existence here of a paper mill belonging to the Emberlin family in the late 18th to mid-19th century. This mill was later converted to a cornmill.

Step 51: Don't go through the wooden gate ahead. Turn right and follow the field edge keeping the hedge on your left.

Step 52: At the end of a second field, before the hay barn, are metal gates and a stepped stile on your left.

Step 53: Be wary that you will need to be mobile enough to climb this stile as the gate is normally locked. There is a good handhold to help.

Step 54: Follow the left hand hedge line of this meadow field through to the top. This is a steep stretch.



Step 56: If you have a dog with you, it will need to be on a lead for this section.

Step 57: At the top of the steep pasture look back for fine views including the spires of Adderbury and King's Sutton churches.

Step 58: Then go through the metal gates in the left hand corner.

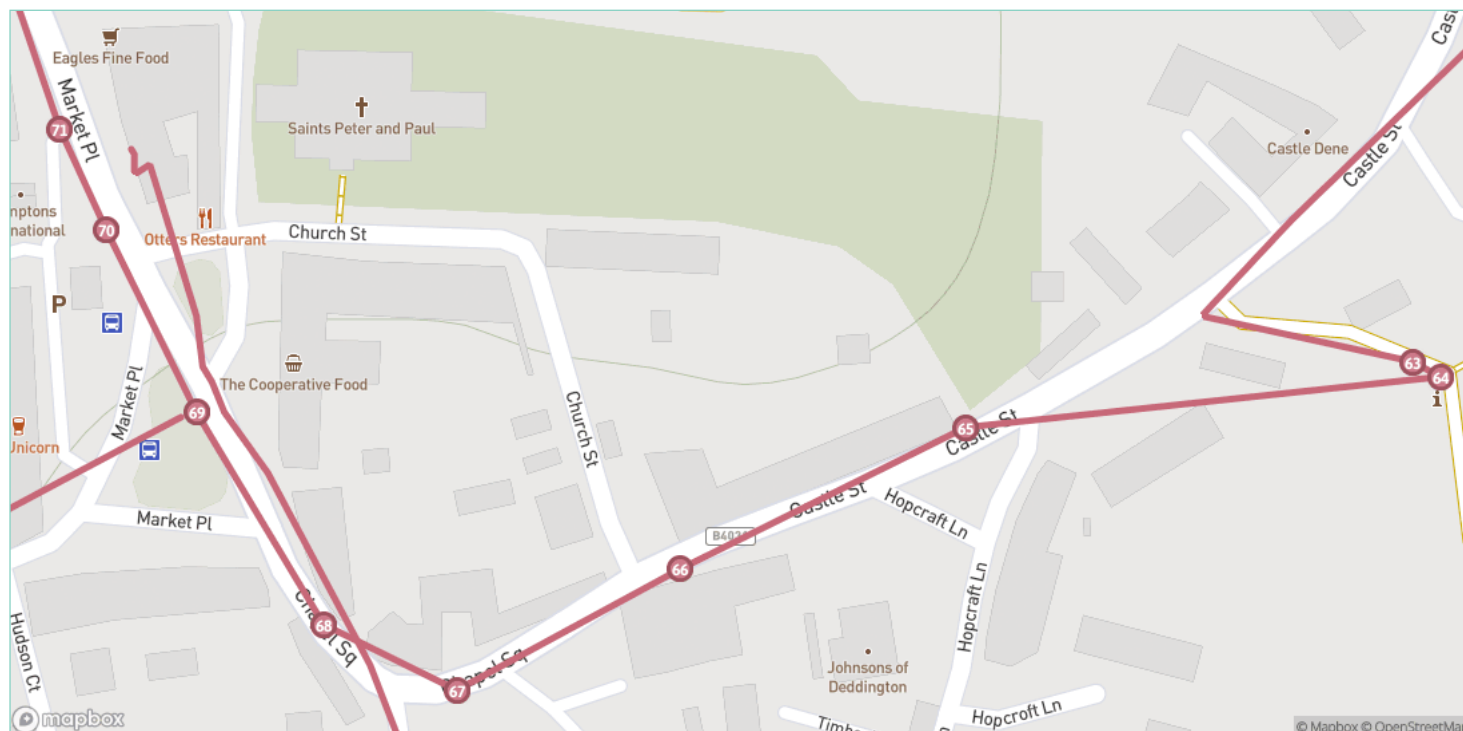
Step 59: After 600 metres you will reach Earls Lane and the edge of Deddington.

Step 60: Continue straight on and, at the junction, turn right onto Castle Street.

Step 61: Across the road to the left, a bit further on, is a track that leads to the Deddington Castle grounds.

Step 62: Up here to the castle.

Step 63: The 8.5 acre site consists of massive earthworks marking an 11th century motte and bailey. The castle itself had already been destroyed by the end of the 14th century.



Step 64: The earthwork and surrounding motte are now largely covered by mature trees, mainly sycamore and chestnut, but there are a dozen other species including ash, birch, oak, wild cherry and rowan.

Step 65: Back on the route. Follow Castle Street, keeping right.

Step 66: On through this pinch point.

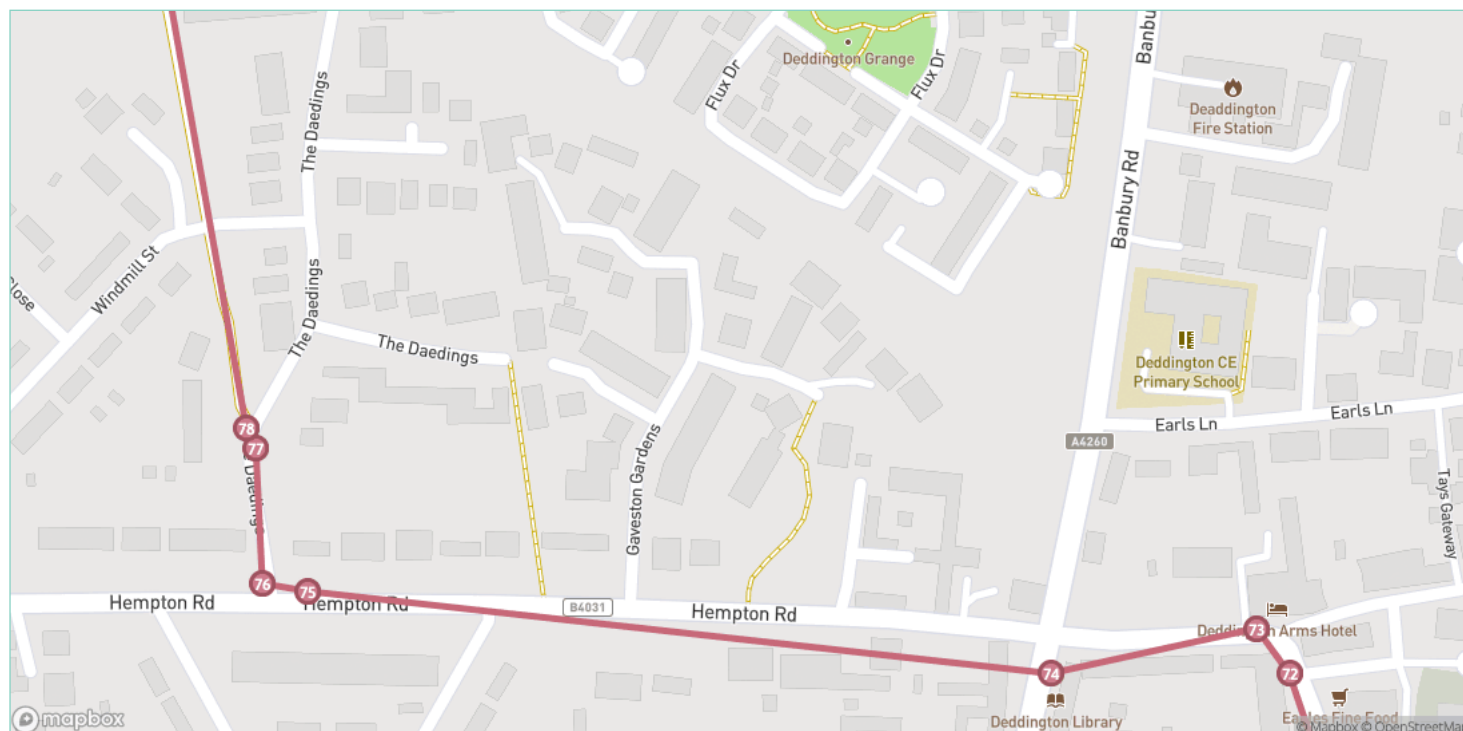
Step 67: A right turn here and you are back in the Market Place.

Step 68: This was a thriving market town by medieval times, once more substantial than Banbury. It gradually lost importance with the advent of canal and railways but at one time had 21 inns and alehouses.

Step 69: We now begin the Hempton Loop section of this walk.

Step 70: Dominating the sky line is the 17th century tower of St Peter and St Paul, the Parish Church which dates back to the 13th century.

Step 71: North of the Church you can find the imposing Castle House which retains traces of its 13th century origins. It was here that Edward II's infamous favourite Piers Galveston stayed prior to his execution in June 1312.



Step 72: From the Market Place head north, with the church on your right, towards The Deddington Arms Hotel.

Step 73: Continue left to the main road.

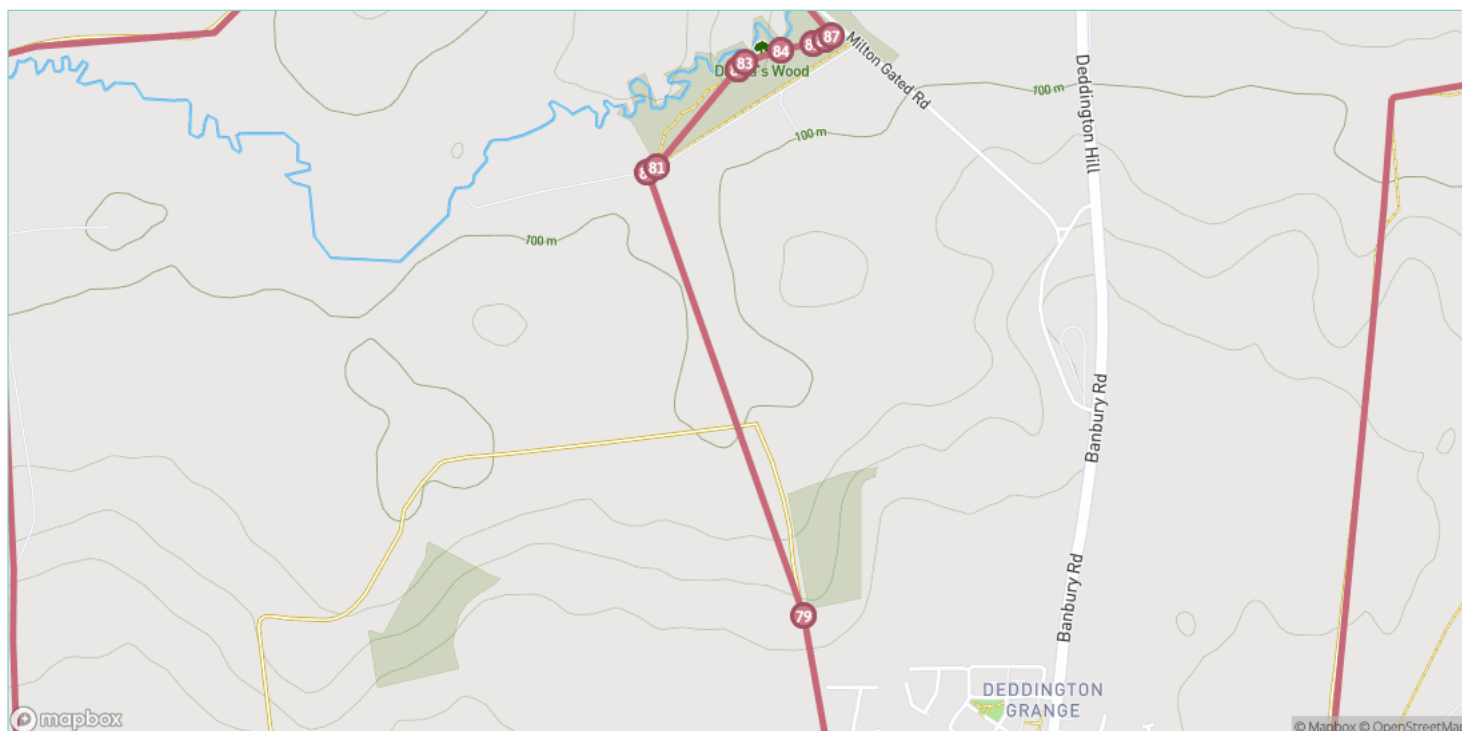
Step 74: At the traffic lights cross straight over and walk out along the B4031, signposted for Hempton.

Step 75: Keep walking until the second right-hand turn.

Step 76: Signposted 'The Daedings'

Step 77: After 100 metres, as the road begins to curve right, continue straight on down the bridleway (Cosy Lane) through the gap in the trees.

Step 78: Continue straight on across a road along the bridleway.



Step 79: From here you have a kilometre straight ahead to Daeda's Wood. There are fine views as you descend into the Swere valley.

Step 80: On reaching the tarmac lane, turn right.

Step 81: Then a swift left through the wooden gates and into Daeda's Wood.

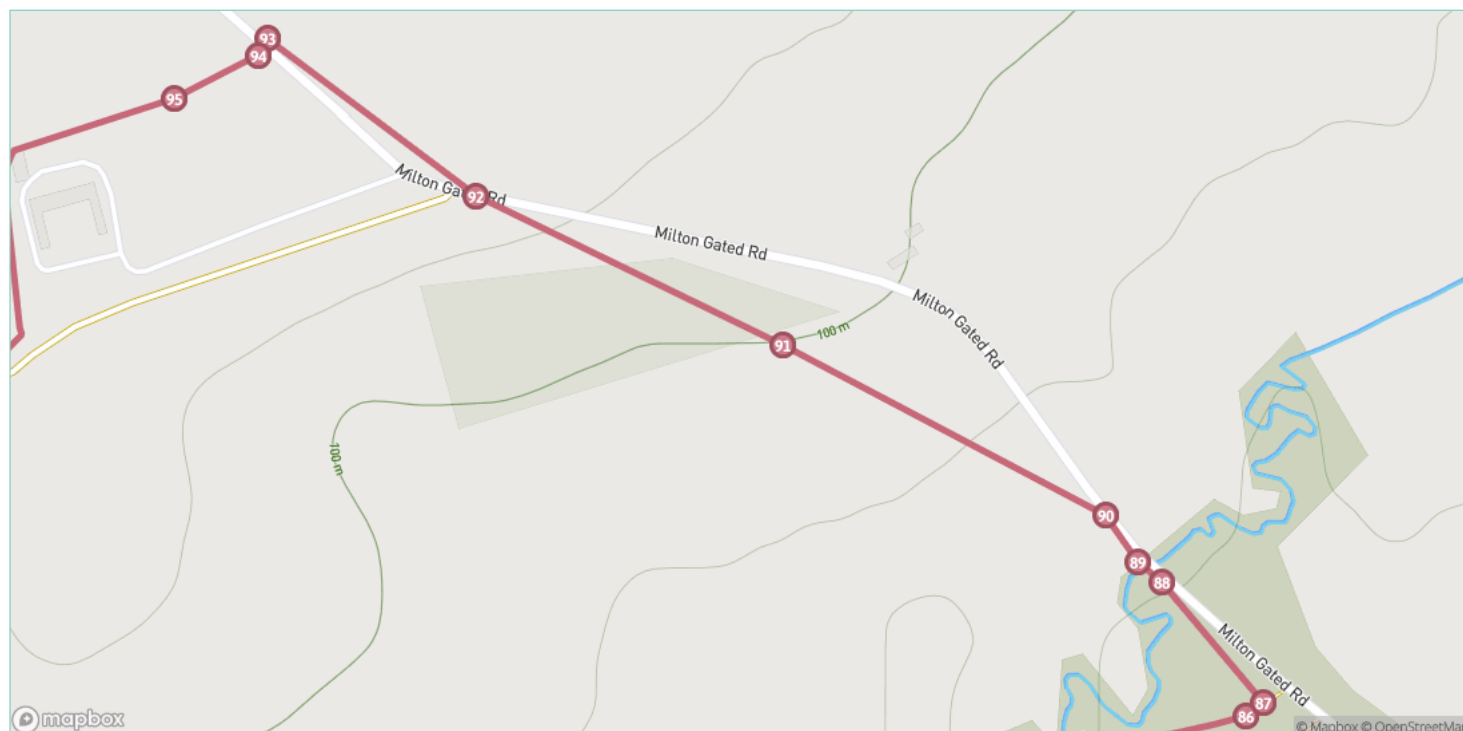
Step 82: The path winds through the woods for 700 metres, passing this bench on your left.

Step 83: Daeda's Wood is the first of 200 new Millenium Woods in England and Wales created by the Woodland Trust, with substantial contributions from local inhabitants and Cherwell District Council.

Step 84: Some 3500 trees were planted in 1996 in a former arable field and seeds were sown to create a wild flower meadow.

Step 85: The trees and shrubs selected are all suitable for this riverine site: ash, five species of willow, oak, alder, grey and black poplar, aspen, downy birch, osier, hawthorn, blackthorn and guelder rose.

Step 86: The variety of wildflowers is increasing and changing as the Wood develops and includes white campion, ragged robin, ox-eye daisy, meadow cranesbill, poppies, musk mallow, purple loosestrife and knapweed.



Step 87: Continue on and at the end of the wood you will reach a road where you turn left.

Step 94: Pass through the gate and continue along the fence line.

Step 88: After a short while you will reach the River Swere here at the bridge.

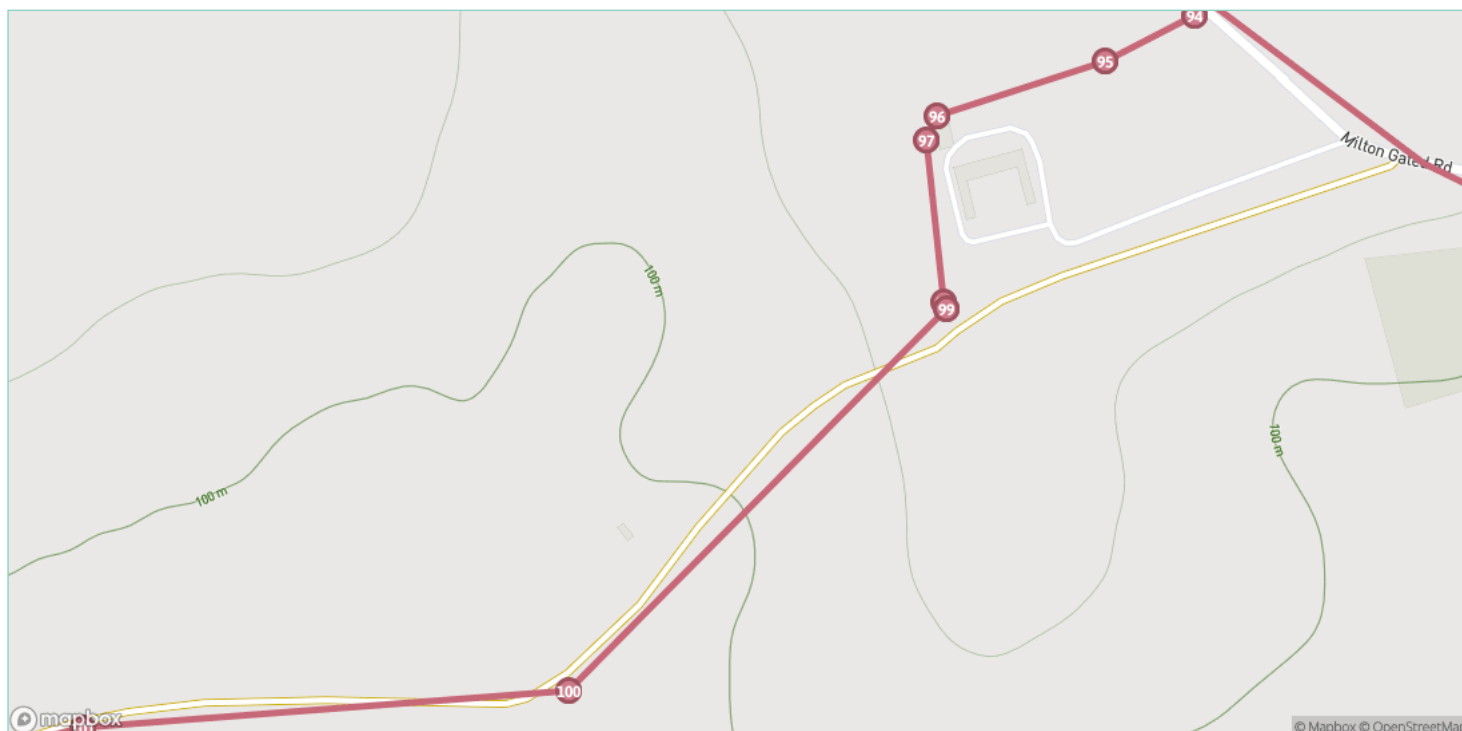
Step 89: Otters have been sighted in the River Swere, which forms Daeda's Wood's northern boundary. The site is a popular destination for walkers and nature watchers as well as for community events, such as walks and picnics.

Step 90: Continue over the bridge and up the hill towards the house at the top.

Step 91: Follow the road round to the left and continue on the gentle climb.

Step 92: Passing these gates and then the gates to Coombe Hill Farm.

Step 93: 150 metres past the farmhouse gates, look out for a metal pedestrian gate on your left (out of sight behind the hedge).



Step 95: Depending on the time of year, beautiful wildflowers can line the fields.

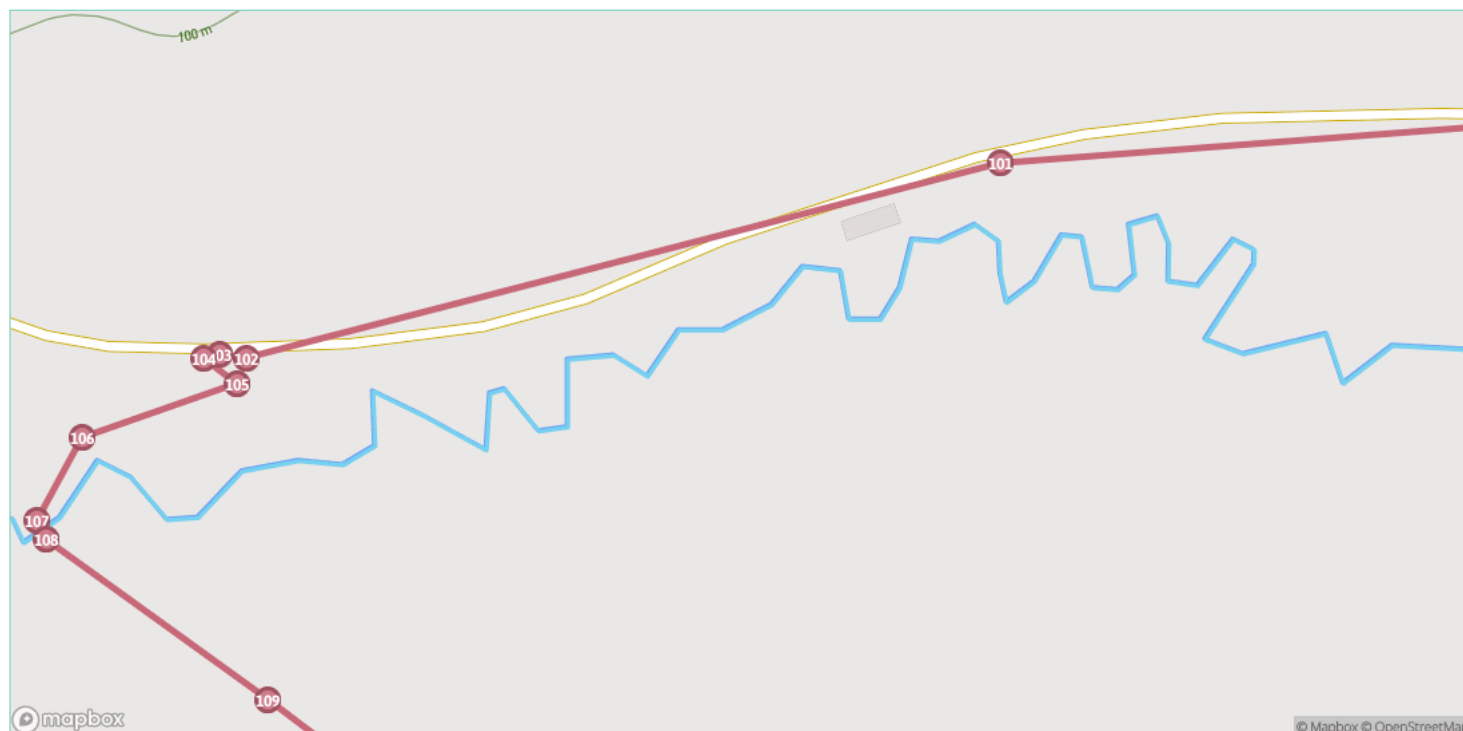
Step 96: After the farmhouse the footpath turns left. This is an alternative route signed around the Farm by the landowner.

Step 97: It runs along the front of the farmhouse, down to the hedge at the end.

Step 98: Pass through the wooden gate and then turn right.

Step 99: A fine view down towards Barford Mill opens up in front of you. Note the meanders of the River Swere as you reach flatter ground.

Step 100: At the bottom of the first field is a gate which will open with a nudge, or you can cross the cattle grid.



Step 101: Wind on through the next field and the next gate.

Step 102: Head on through a third gate and 150 metres ahead you will see Barford Mill.

Step 103: Barford Mill is a listed building in ironstone rubble dating from the 18th century. Corn has been ground here until recent times. With its pond, the setting amongst pasture has great charm.

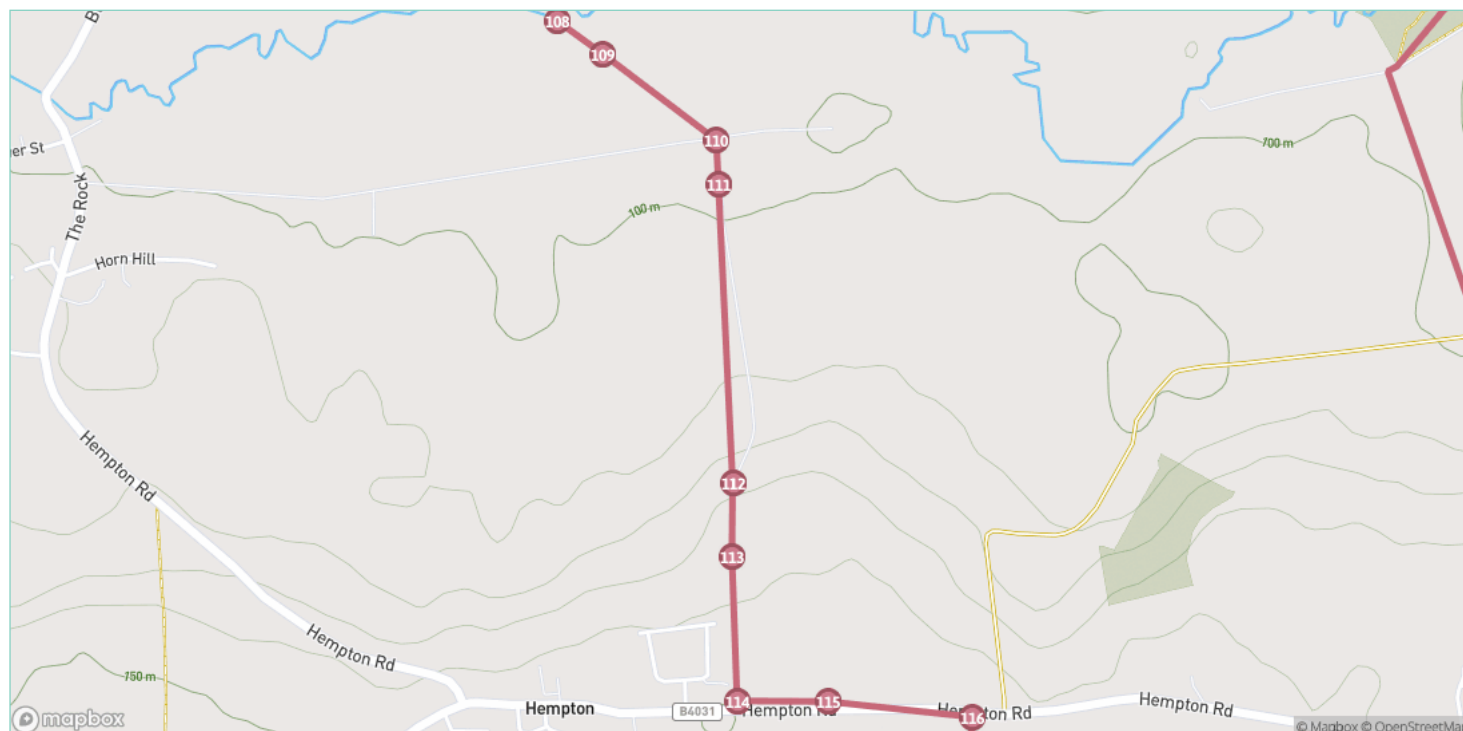
Step 104: 50 metres before the Mill, take a left and follow the permissive route.

Step 105: Go down some steps and across the bridge into the paddock (you may be sharing this one with a friendly foal or two!). Dogs on leads here.

Step 106: Head right and up towards the Mill, following the footpath round to the left just before it.

Step 107: Through the trees is a small footbridge you will cross.

Step 108: Out the other side are two fields to cross on the diagonal. These can get very waterlogged after rain.



Step 109: On through this gap in the hedge, and keep going through the second field.

Step 110: At the end you will reach the farm road, which you cross and head onwards up Snakehill Lane.

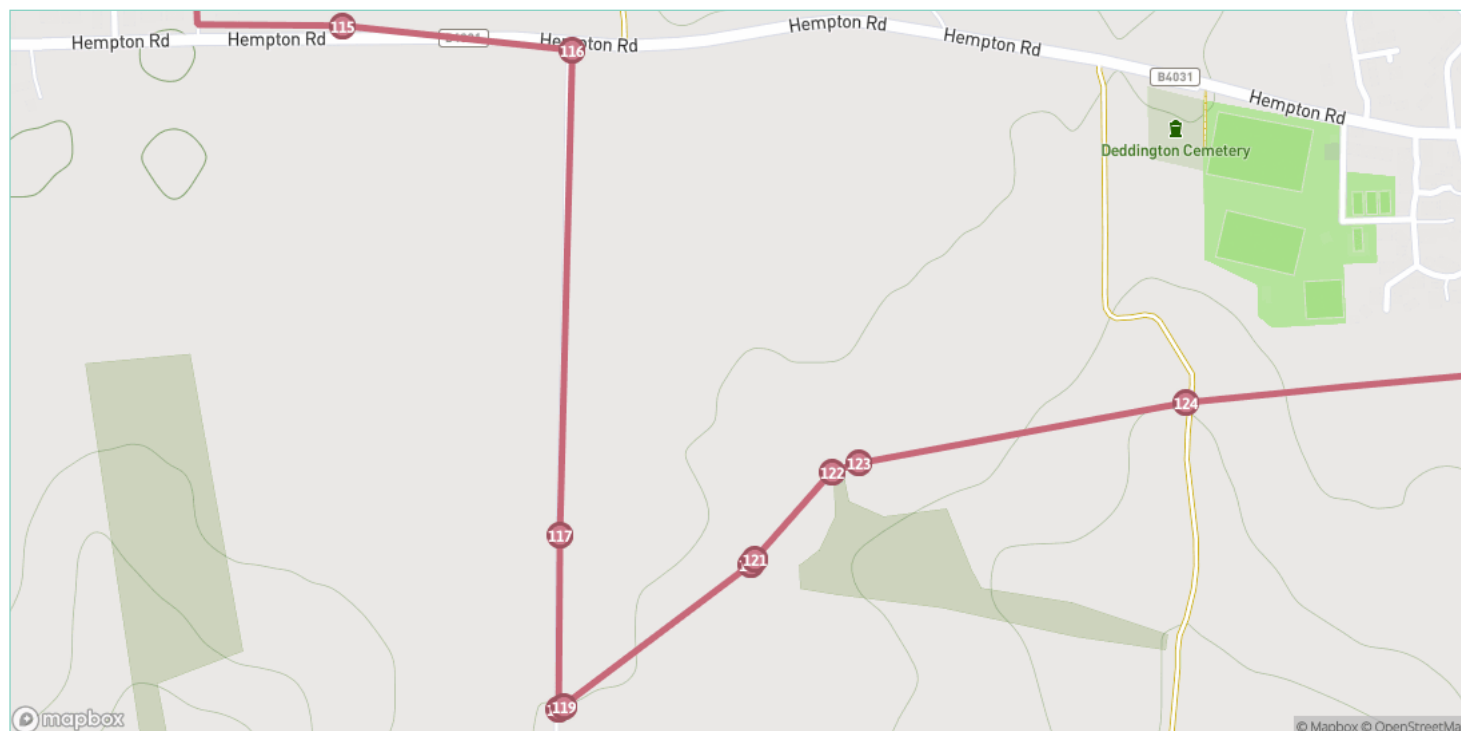
Step 111: The origins of the name of the lane are unknown but fear not, no snakes & have been spotted!

Step 112: Although you may spot one or two beautiful, soaring birds.

Step 113: Continuing on, the hill runs for one kilometre up to the main road.

Step 114: When you reach the road, cross it carefully and turn left to walk alongside it. Turn right if you want to visit Hempton village.

Step 115: Hempton's two-storey ironstone rubble cottages date mainly from the 18th or early 19th century. Attached to the Church (built in 1850) is what was once a Victorian schoolroom but is now a community centre.



Step 116: After 400 metres, there's a metal gate on your right and a signpost across the road to your left. Turn right here and follow the track towards Tomwell Farm.

Step 123: Emerging upwards where the Deddington Church spire should appear ahead of you. Head on towards it.

Step 117: When you reach these beautiful twin trees, proceed another 100 metres keeping your eyes peeled for a gap in the hedge.

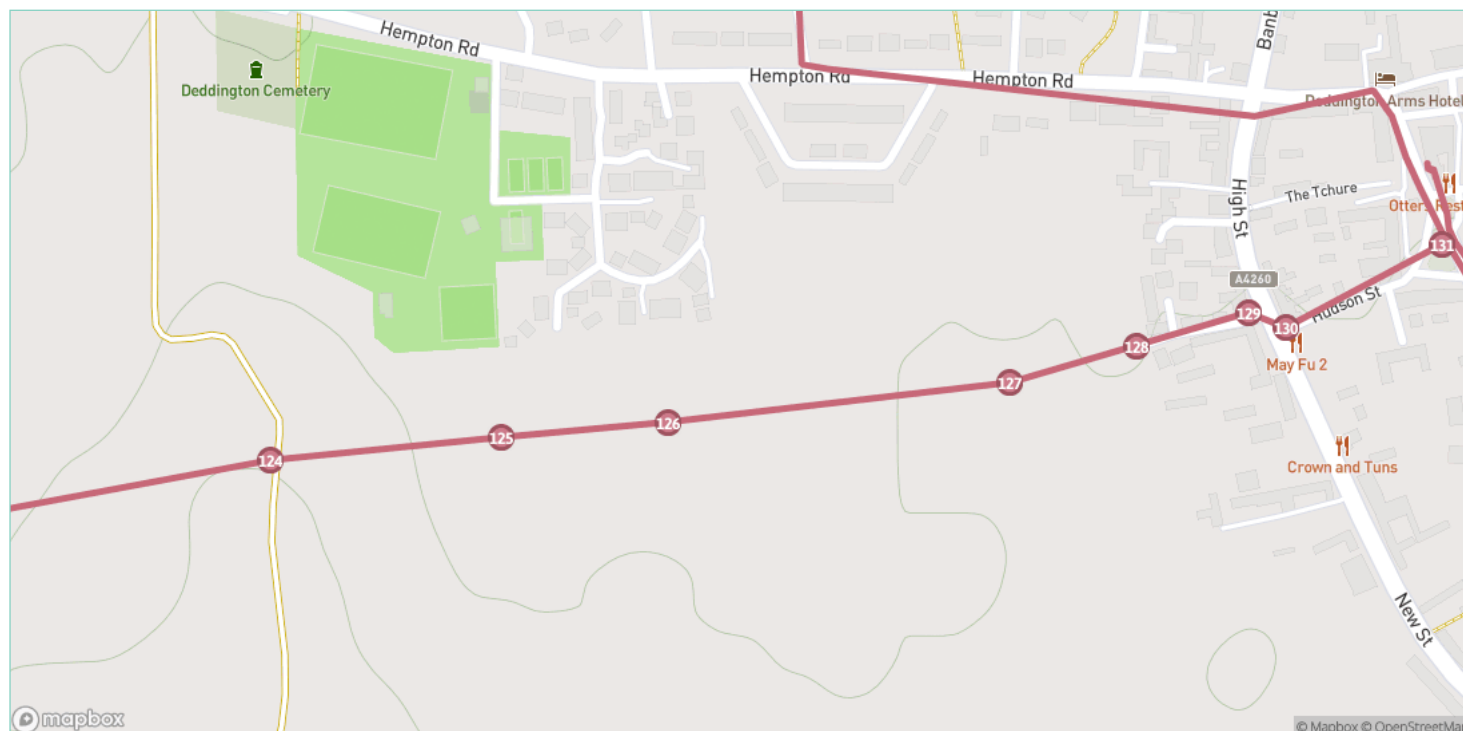
Step 118: When you find it, turn left and head through the gap. The fields ahead can be muddy and slippery in wet weather.

Step 119: Head left on the diagonal. The footpath should be obvious on the ground, particularly when it's cut through the crop.

Step 120: Pass through the next gap and continue on.

Step 121: On through the next field.

Step 122: And the next gap in the hedge.



Step 124: Climb steeply up to cross a farm lane.

Step 125: Continue uphill and follow the telegraph poles towards town.

Step 126: Continue across a second field.

Step 127: Follow this lane and continue straight through to The Grove.

Step 128: Back on the edge of town.

Step 129: At the end of The Grove, cross the main road carefully, aiming for Hudson Street here on the diagonal.

Step 130: Head on down Hudson Street.

Step 131: As you emerge, look left and you will recognise the Market Place where this loop starts and ends.