

Miles Without Stiles

Great Rissington



This short walk starting and finishing in the village of Great Rissington offers some beautiful scenery including a section of the River Windrush, small copses and water meadows at Sherborne.

Distance: 4.5 kilometres/
2³/₄ miles (2 hours) with ups
and downs of 60m or 197ft

Start: St John the Baptist's
Church - Great Rissington
SP195/171

Route:

With your back to the church gate **1**, bear right into the private road until you reach the entrance to the Windrush Agricultural Estate.

2 Turn right passing in front of two houses to reach a gate. Go through this and continue walking with the line of fir trees on your left for about 150 metres until you reach the corner of a field. Go half left, as indicated by the footpath sign, across the field to the far hedge.

When you reach the hedge, go through the gap and turn right to follow the field edge for about 100 metres to reach a waymark pointing half left. Keep in this direction until you reach the hedge at the far side when you turn right and follow it to reach the woodland bordering the Windrush. **3**

Turn left into the wood to follow the clearly defined path with the Windrush on your right. On the other side of this beautiful, soft-flowing river are the Sherborne estate wetlands and water-

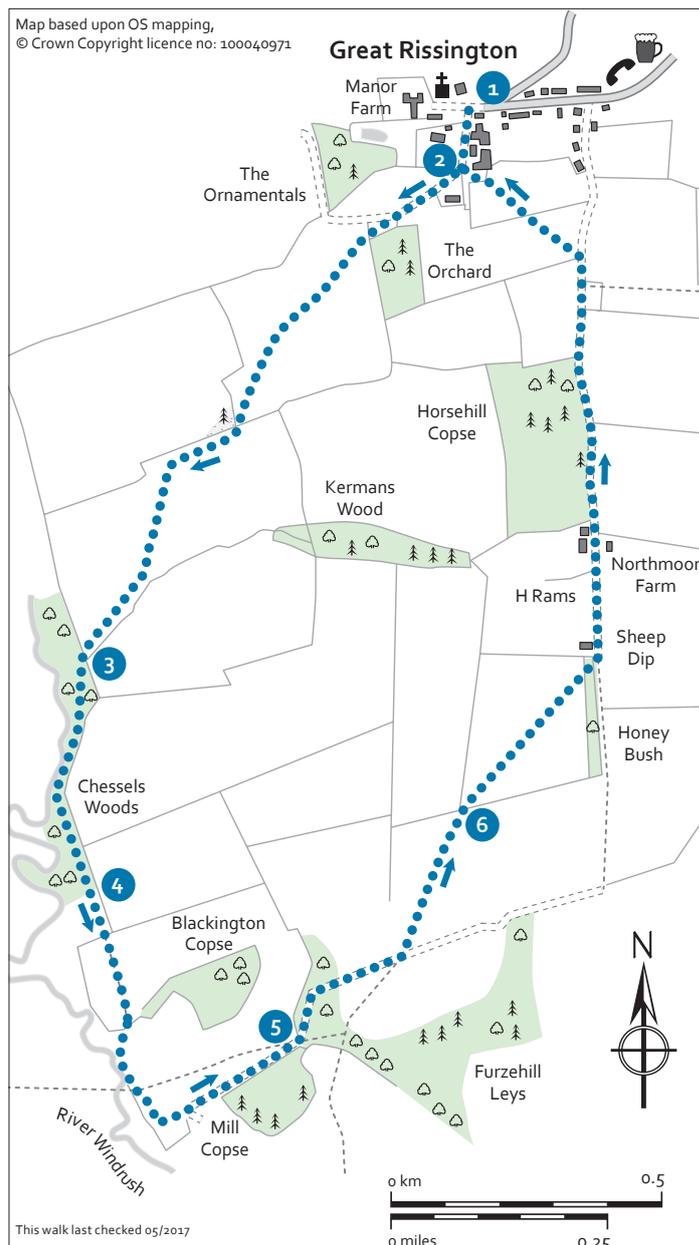
meadows, restored by the National Trust.

About 100 metres after passing through a gate and crossing a footbridge **4** you leave the wood and enter a field. Cross the field and go through a gap at the end of Blackington Copse and follow the edge of the next field until you reach a waymark post. Turn left and follow the track uphill with Mill Copse on your right.

At the top corner of the copse, **5** turn left to follow the bridleway alongside the hedge for 100 metres to the next waymark, where you turn right across the field to head for a small group of trees. At the trees, turn half-left to cross the field towards the hedge.

At the hedge, go through a gate, **6** and go diagonally across the field heading for the left hand of the line of trees ahead. Go through the gap at the end of the trees to reach a well defined track. Continue across this track for 0.8km until you reach a sign indicated a restricted byway on your right. You will very soon see a farm track going off on your left.

Turn into this entrance, then immediately half right to follow the white footpath sign across the field, heading for a farm



gate in the hedge with the church beyond. Turn left at the end of the houses to reach the entrance to the Windrush Agricultural

Estate.

2 Turn right, pass through the entrance and follow the private road back to the church.