

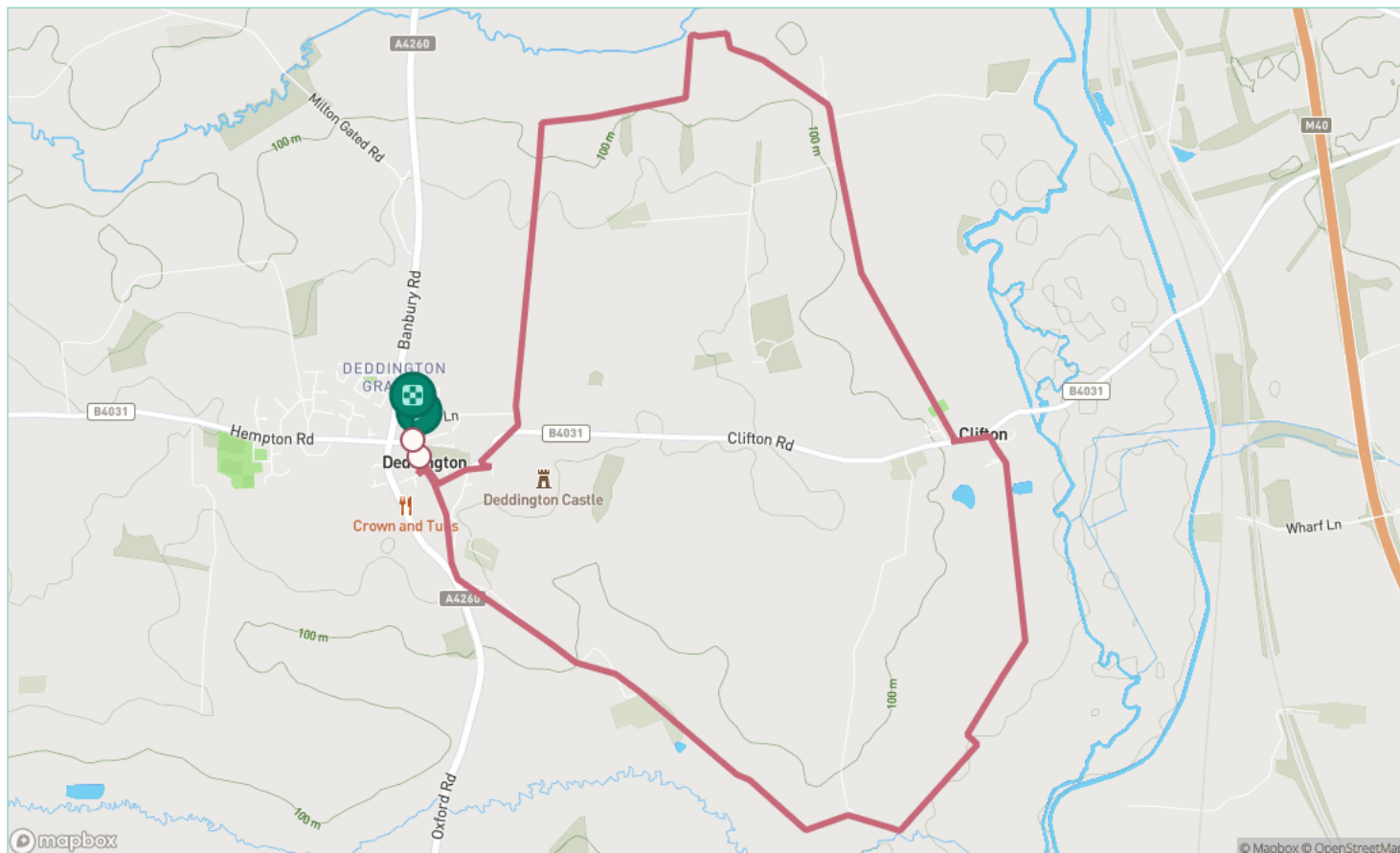


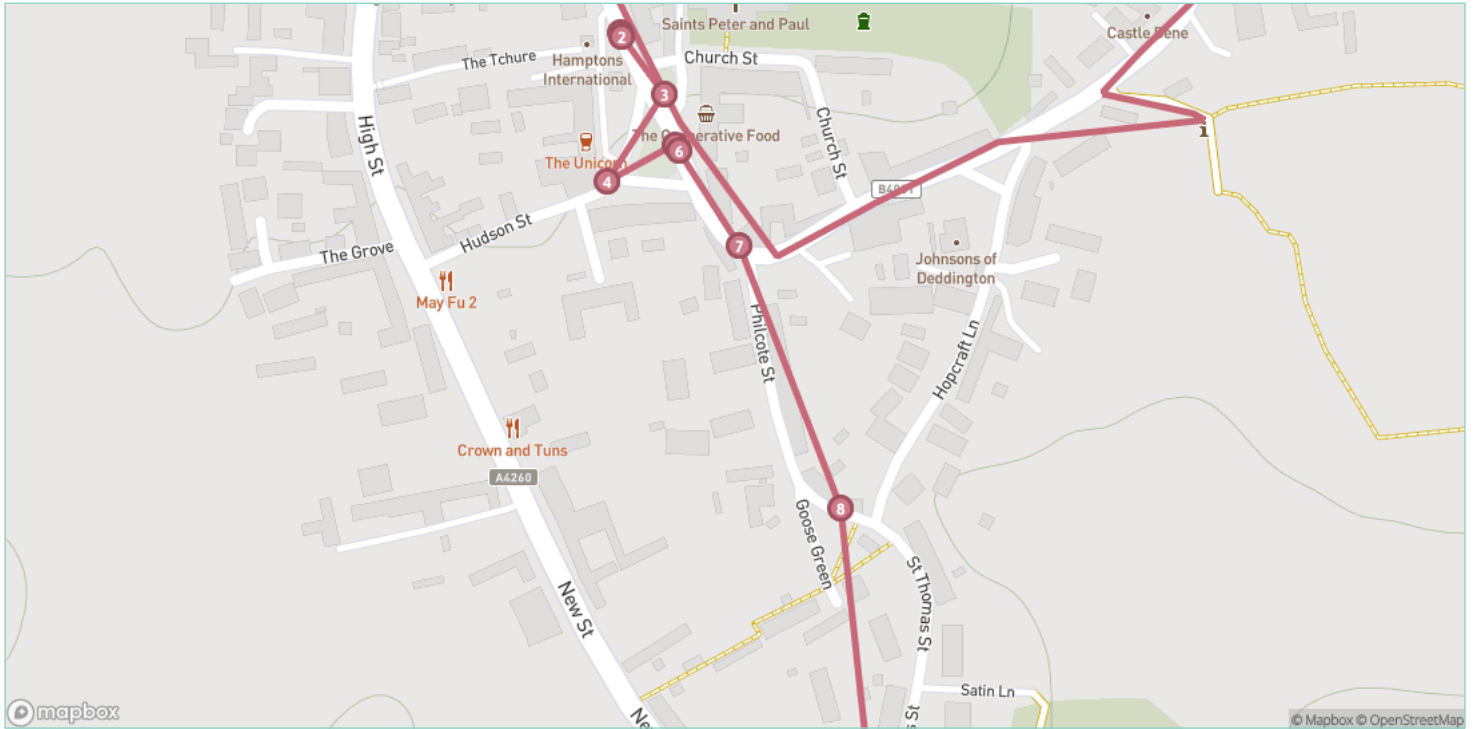
Deddington Clifton Loop

A lovely, leafy loop from Deddington to Clifton and back again. There are some livestock, one stile and a steep stretch on this walk.

Distance 9.5 kilometers / 5.9 miles

Duration 3 hours and 50 minutes





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: The Clifton Loop begins in Deddington's old Market Place which has a great choice of pubs, cafés and food stores.

Step 3: 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.

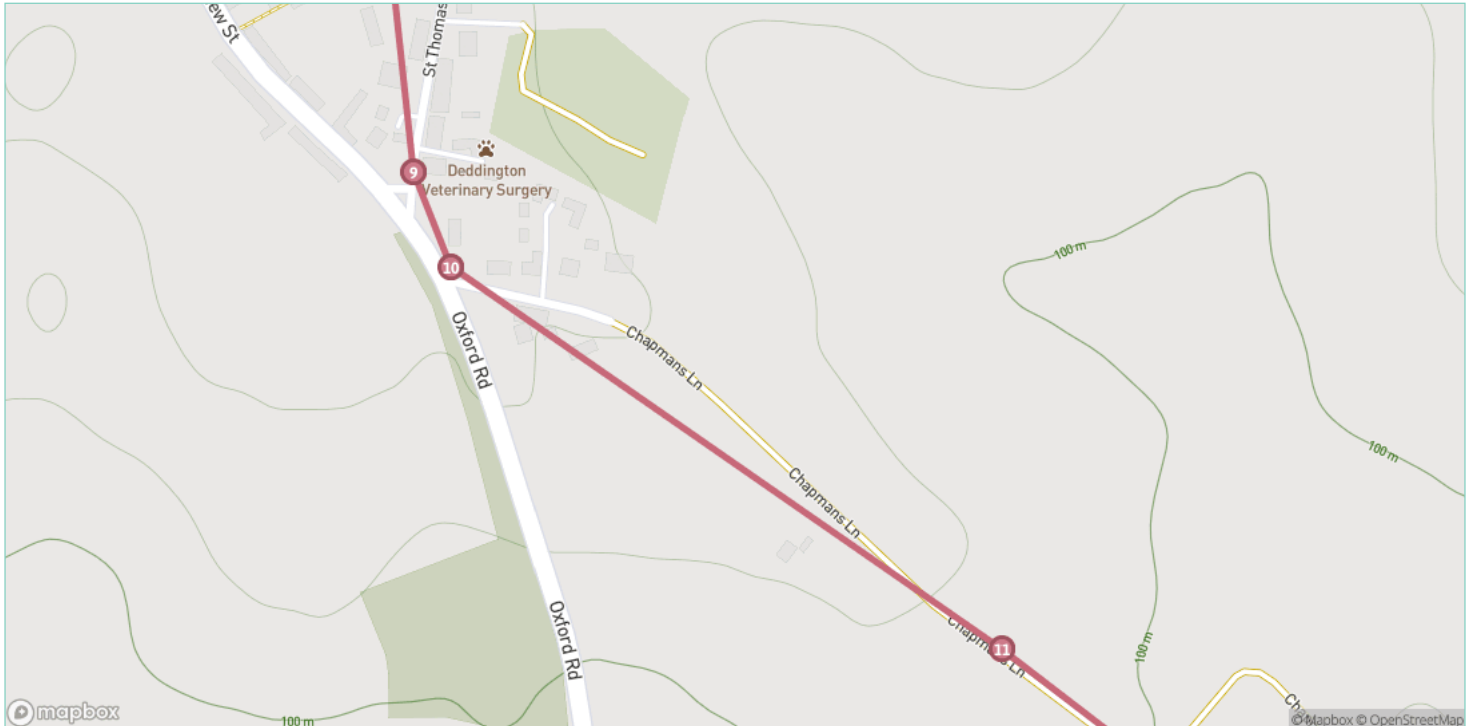
Step 4: Dominating the sky line is the 17th century tower of St Peter and St Paul, the Parish Church which dates back to the 13th century.

Step 5: In the Market Place is the Town Hall. Rebuilt in 1806, on its Coat of Arms is the Early English motto 'preo on anan gebundene' translated 'three joined together in one' which refers to the three historic manors of the Parish.

Step 6: Pass the Co-op store on your left and exit the market place on the Clifton Road.

Step 7: Once through the pinch point, then as the road bends to the left, take the first right onto Philcote Street.

Step 8: Continue on as the road bends round to the right onto St Thomas Street.



Step 9: Turn left at the junction with the main road and walk down the pavement on your side of the road.

Step 10: Turn left almost immediately on to Chapmans Lane.

Step 11: Wandering along the lane, soon it will open up to reveal the first of a number of fine views on this walk.

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.

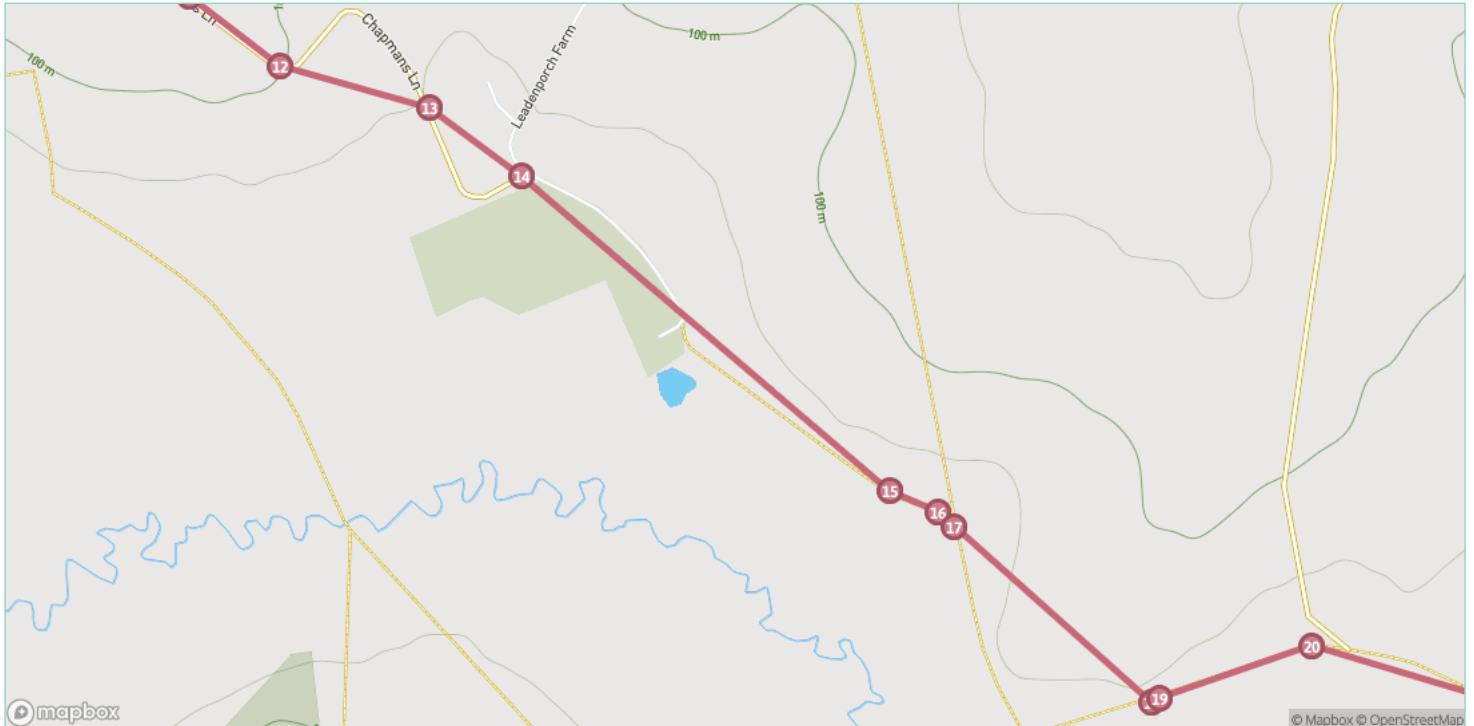
Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

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 12: 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 13: After one kilometre the lane will wind you down to some farm buildings, which you turn left in front of.

Step 14: And then right at the T-junction, continuing on between the farm yard and paddocks.

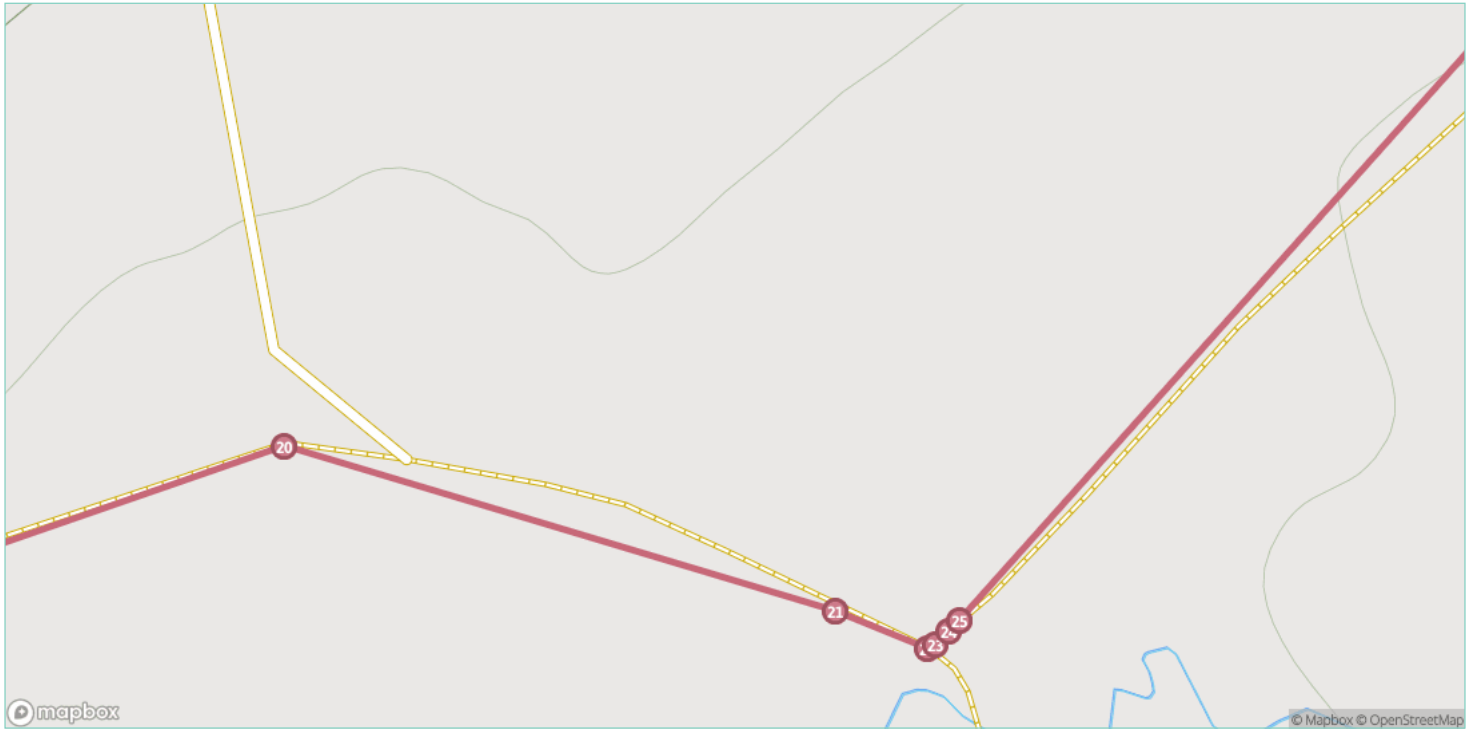
Step 15: Venture on through to the next field and along the hedge line for approx 700 metres until you reach a small pond on your left.

Step 16: At the T-junction after the pond, turn right and continue to the end of the hedged lane.

Step 17: 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 18: Turn left following the hedge and proceed through this gate.

Step 19: Continue ahead through the next field.



Step 20: After crossing the first field there will be a wooden gate which you head through. Then continue on up to the far hedge line.

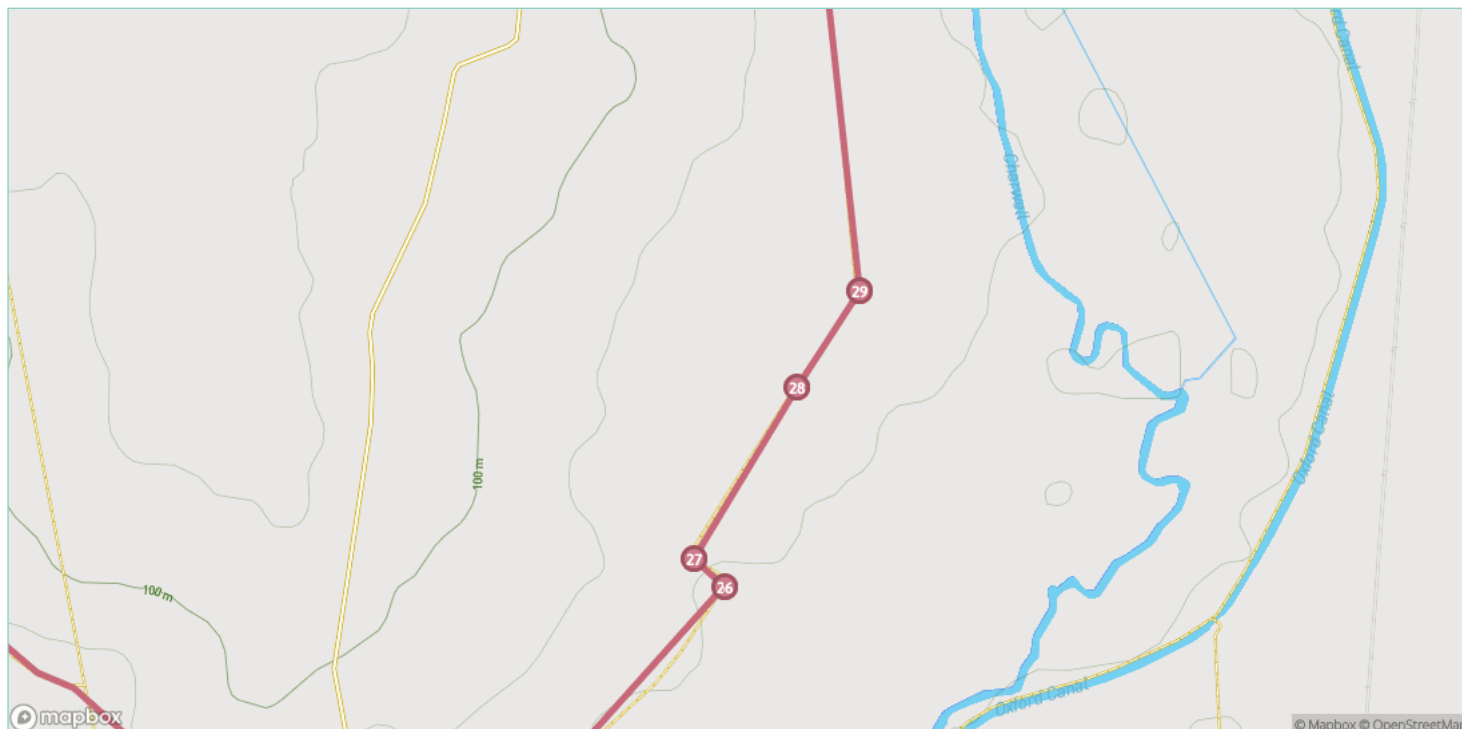
Step 21: Turning right, the hedge line will lead you down through a metal gate to a brook.

Step 22: 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 23: 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 24: At the brook turn left through this next gate.

Step 25: Continue with the hedge on your right along two fields.

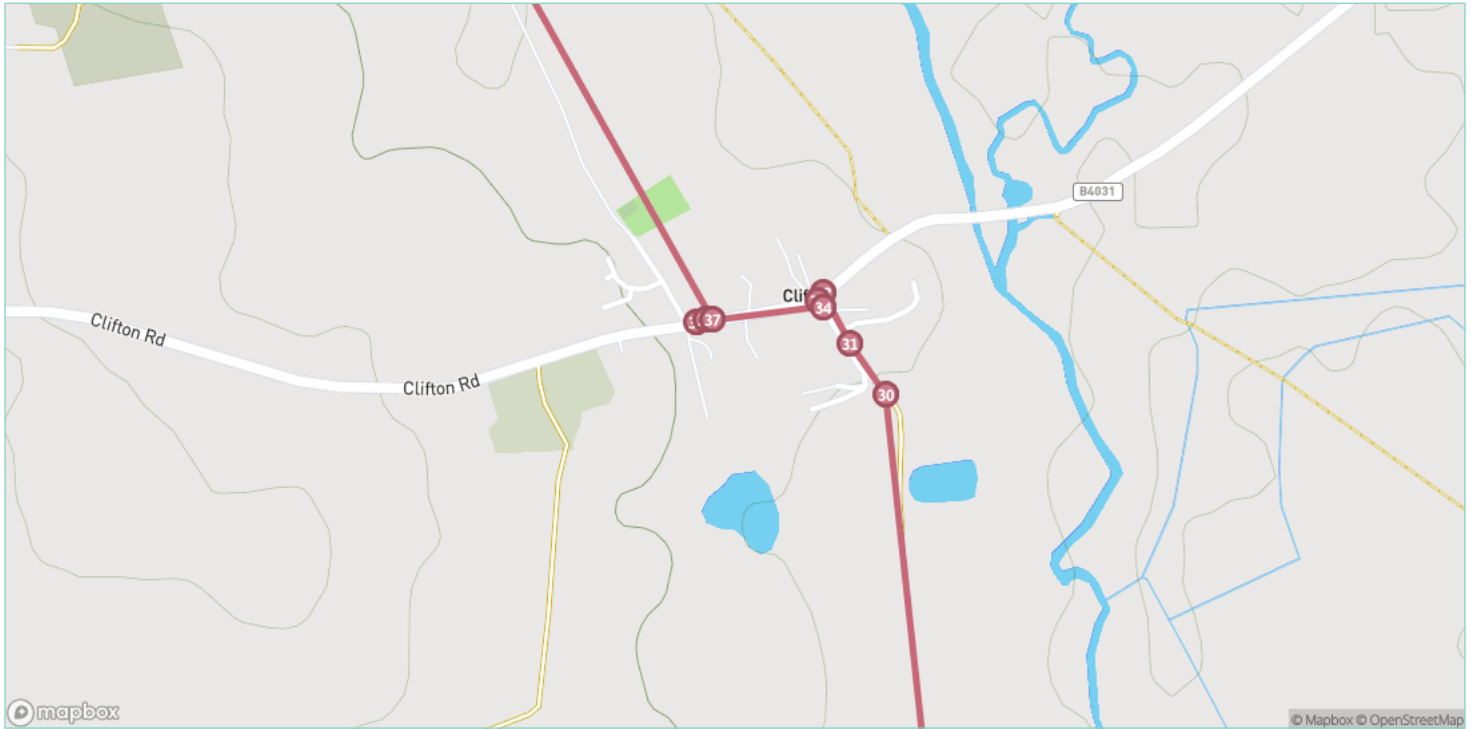


Step 26: At the end of the second field you will reach a hedge line where you turn left.

Step 27: Then, after 100 metres, turn right through a gate along the field edge.

Step 28: Continue ahead until you reach this gate and a hedged lane which you follow for approx 1 km to reach Clifton.

Step 29: Bear left with the path and continue on.



Step 30: Arriving into the hamlet of Clifton.

Step 31: 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 32: Continue straight ahead until you reach the Duke of Cumberland's Head.

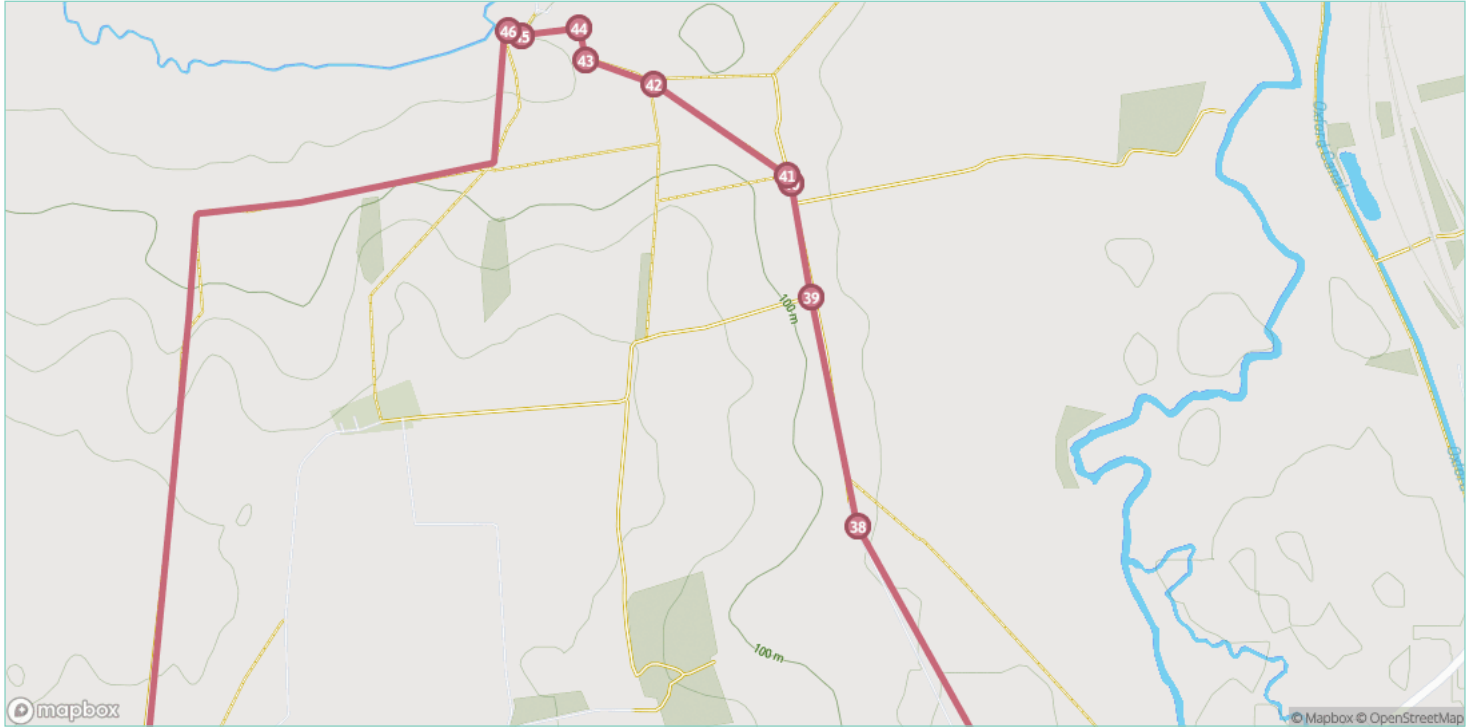
Step 33: The pub dates from the 17th century. In the mid-19th century, one of its owners ran a beaver hat factory in a neighbouring building.

Step 34: At the junction in front of the pub, turn left.

Step 35: After 150 metres, take the first right - opposite Manor Farm - up Tithe Lane.

Step 36: Manor Farm has a date stone of 1685.

Step 37: Pass County View on the left and then Welford's Piece (play area and community orchard) on the right.



Step 38: Then pass Hazel Hedge Cottage after approx 800 metres. Continue on for approx another 650 metres.

Step 39: Pass a permissive path to your left.

Step 40: Keep your eyes peeled for the waymark sign which directs you left diagonally across the field.

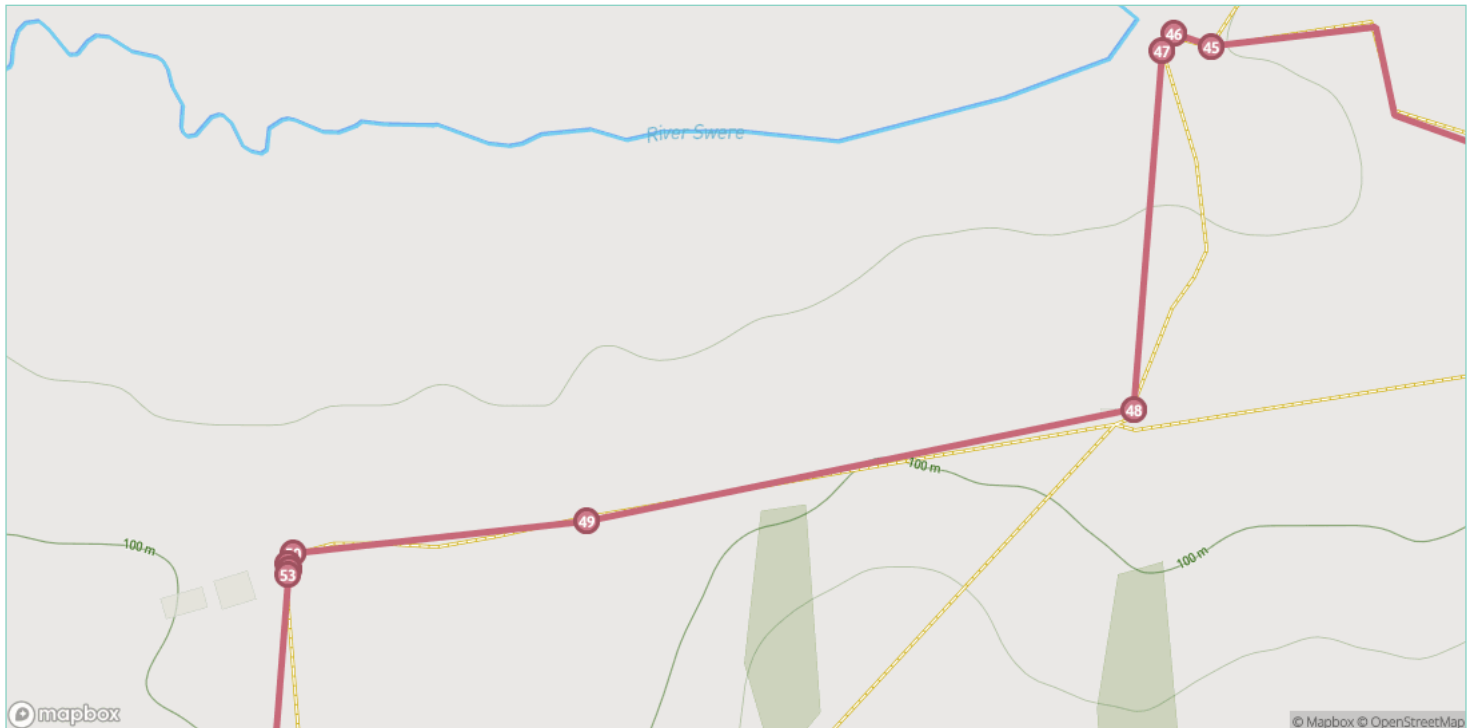
Step 41: You are aiming for the clump of trees on the far side of the field.

Step 42: Continue through the gateway in the trees.

Step 43: Turn right and follow the hedge line.

Step 44: Turn left and keep following the winding hedge line on your right.

Step 45: Pass a right turn to Paper Mill Cottages.



Step 46: Turn left at the bottom corner of the field and continue following the winding hedge line on your right.

Step 47: 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 48: Don't go through the wooden gate ahead. Turn right and follow the field edge keeping the hedge on your left.

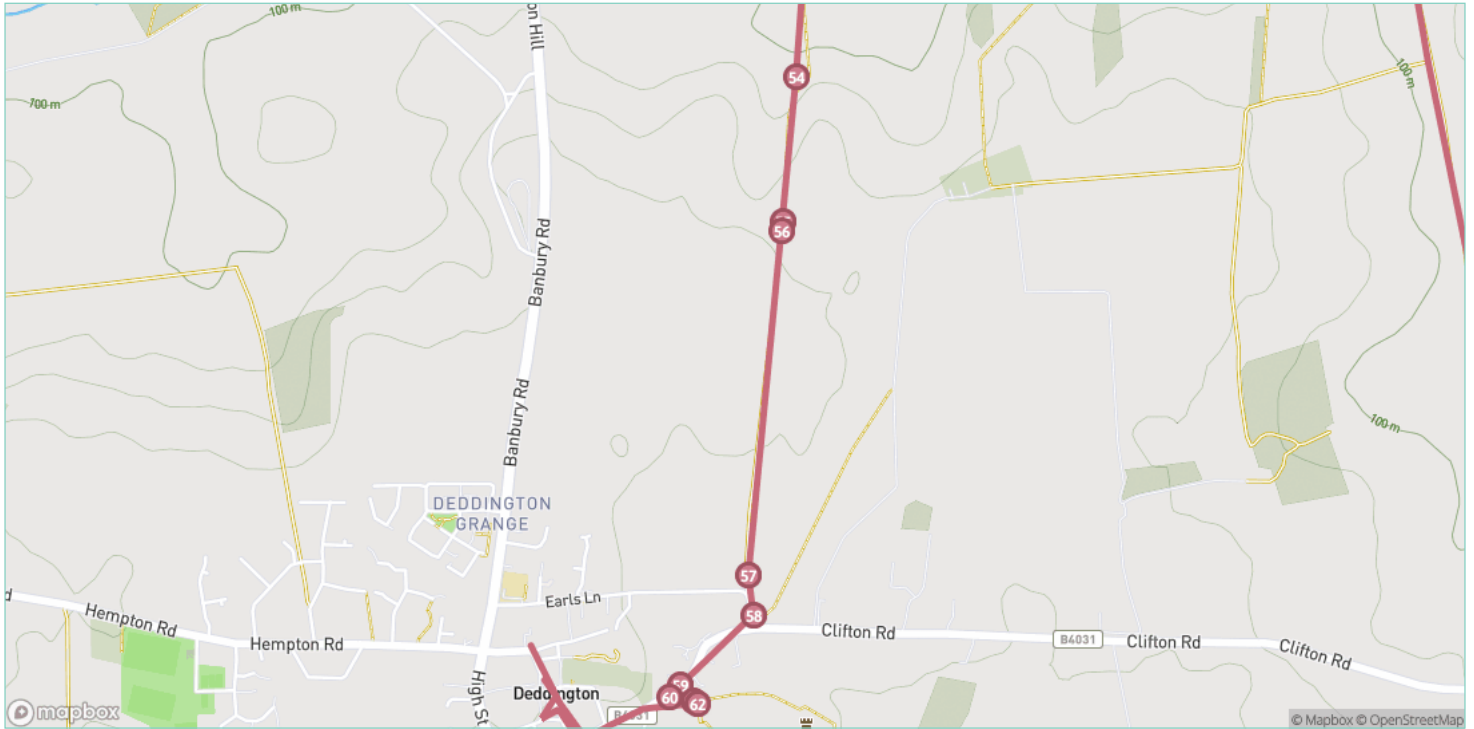
Step 49: At the end of the first field, continue straight onto a path with hedges on both sides.

Step 50: At the end of a second field, before the hay barn, are metal gates and a stepped stile on your left.

Step 51: Be wary that you will need to be mobile enough to climb this stile as the gate is normally locked. There is a good metal handhold to help.

Step 52: Follow the left hand hedge line of this meadow field through to the top. This is a steep stretch.

Step 53: You may be sharing the grassland with a few cows.



Step 54: If you have a dog with you, it will need to be on a lead for this section.

Step 55: At the top of the steep pasture look back for fine views including the spires of Adderbury and King's Sutton churches.

Step 56: Then go through the metal pedestrian gate in the left hand corner.

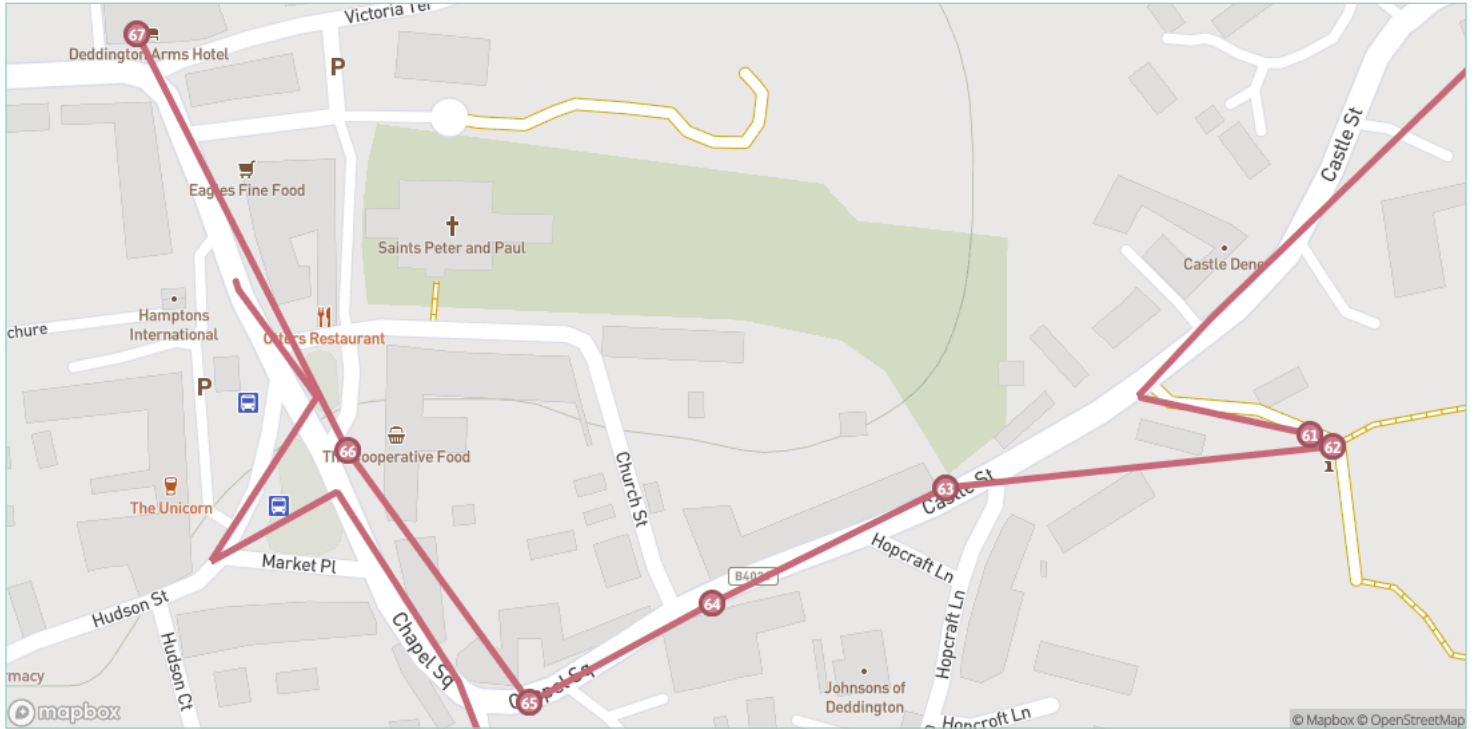
Step 57: After 600 metres you will reach Earls Lane and the edge of Deddington.

Step 58: Continue straight on and, at the junction, turn right onto Castle Street.

Step 59: Across the road to the left, a bit further on, is a track that leads to the Deddington Castle grounds.

Step 60: Up here to the castle.

Step 61: 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 62: 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 63: Back on the route. Follow Castle Street, keeping right.

Step 64: On through this pinch point.

Step 65: A right turn here and you are back in the Market Place.

Step 66: 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 67: Thankfully three of those Inns still exist for you to visit, including the Deddington Hotel at the top of the Market Place.