

# Ridgeway and Vale Diabetes Expeditions



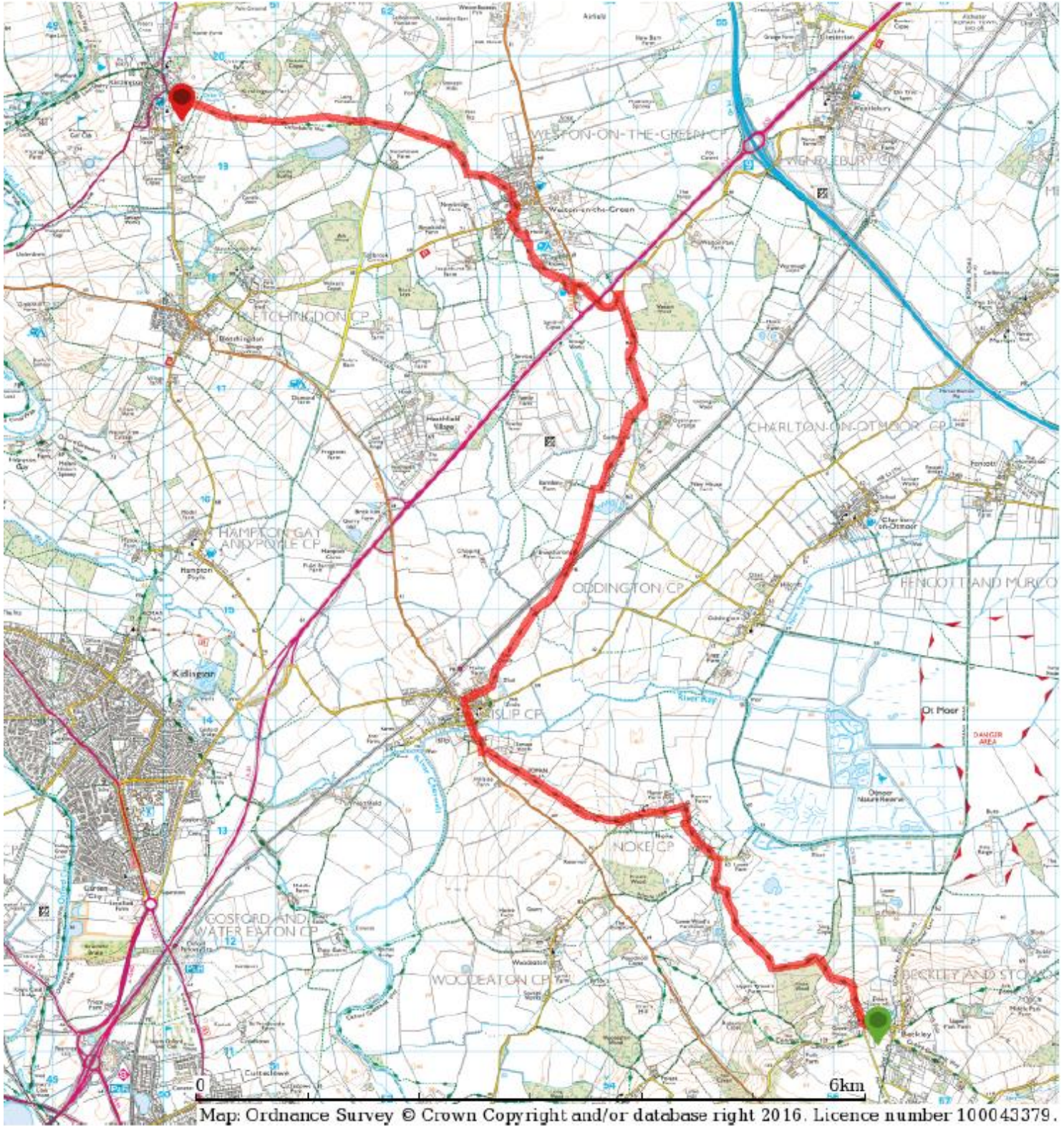
<b>Title</b>	Oxfordshire Way Stage 5 Linear Walk Sunday 09 September 2018, Beckley to Kirtlington
<b>Walk</b>	Beckley – Kirtlington (9.5 miles), with shorter walk option Beckley – Weston on the Green (6.8 miles). Contact Walk Leader for details.
<b>Map Sheets</b>	Map Sheet 1:25,000 OS Explorer Series Sheet 180 – Oxford, Witney & Woodstock
<b>Notes</b>	<p>The walk is linear; we will meet at the end as before and transfer to the start. From the Abingdon Arms in Beckley we walk to the opposite end of the village, passing the church and dropping down into open countryside with some wonderful views. We move on to Noke, with a rather splendid little church, and thence to Islip, where we cross the river on a short stretch of roadway before heading towards Weston on the Green. On the way we cross the new railway line using a much over-engineered new footbridge and negotiating the road junction over the A34 on the approach to the village. Just beyond the junction we enter the car park at the Chequers PH, and the path re-starts under a willow tree at the back of the car park. The remaining walk is across open fields to Kirtlington.</p> <p><i>Paths are in moderate condition, firm underfoot and with very few nettles or difficult undergrowth. On several occasions we have to yomp across freshly prepared fields where the path has been erased by ploughing – but surface is not difficult. The path passes through two almost impossible-to-find gaps in hedges. Be careful to keep the leader in sight at those points.</i></p> <p>The <i>shorter walk option</i> finishes at Weston on the Green (circa 6.8 miles). Those wishing to take the shorter option should initially meet at the start point (Kirtlington) and then arrange to move a car to the Chequers PH at Weston-on-the-Green, postcode OX25 3QH - where there is a large car park through which the walk actually passes.</p>
<b>Start time</b>	Walkers to meet at <b>Kirtlington</b> - at 09.45 am for a 10.00 am start. Meet at the Village Hall (postcode OX5 3HJ) which is tucked away off the village green directly opposite the Dashwood Arms PH, South Green. We will then transfer to the start at Beckley, dropping a car at Weston-on-the-Green for anyone taking the shorter option
<b>Start and Finish</b>	<b>Finish</b> (meeting point for start) – car park at village hall, Kirtlington, postcode OX5 3HJ. Parking is free. Intermediate point – The Chequers at Weston-on-the-Green, postcode OX25 3QH <b>Start</b> High Street Beckley, outside Abingdon Arms PH, postcode OX3 9UU
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate – 9.5 miles. Shorter walk option is 6.8 miles
<b>Leader</b>	Tony Carter – T: 07801 257705, E: tcarter@tony-carter.net
<b>Waypoints</b>	<b>START</b> - Abingdon Arms at Beckley - Village Church in Noke - Swan Inn, Islip – Railway footbridge between Islip and Weston - roundabout / road bridge traversing the A34 - The Chequers PH, Weston-on-the-Green – Kirtlington (Village Hall) - <b>END</b>
<b>Getting there from Aylesbury</b>	<b>Approx 23 miles.</b> For sat nav use OX5 3HJ From Aylesbury head west following A41 towards Bicester. After approx. 17 miles, at the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Oxford Rd/A41. After 0.3 miles - turn left onto Wendlebury Rd. After 0.5 miles - turn right. After 0.8 miles - turn left onto Green Ln. After 1.9 miles - continue straight onto Akeman St. After 1.9 miles - turn left onto Heyford Rd/A4095. After 0.5 miles – shortly after passing Primary School, and almost opposite the Dashwood Arms slight left onto South Green. Continue to find car park at back of Village Hall.
<b>Getting there from Oxford</b>	<b>Approx 12 miles.</b> For sat nav use OX5 3HJ From Oxford head out north on A34. Take the B4027 exit toward Bletchingdon/Islip/Heathfield. After 0.2 miles - turn right onto Islip Rd/B4027. Continue to follow B4027 and after 1.7 miles - turn right onto Springwell Hill. After 0.7 miles - continue onto Bletchingdon Rd. After 0.4 miles - turn right onto Oxford Rd/A4095. Continue to follow A4095, and shortly after passing Oxford Arms turn right into South Green and continue to car park at rear of Village Hall.

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<b>Beckley</b>	Beckley stands on a ridge of the Oxford Heights, 350 feet above the plain of Otmoor. Otmoor contains a layer of Oxford clay and for centuries was a swamp, used for wildfowl and fish and ringed by rough pasture. This way of life persisted for centuries, until the moor was forcibly enclosed in 1830 and the Otmoor Riots that followed are famous. 'Progress' won in the end and the River Ray was rechannelled, although these measures were never wholly successful and the moor remains a haven for birds and plants. The church of St Mary was originally Norman, rebuilt in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Beckley Park, now a listed building, was built around 1540, possibly as a hunting lodge, though the history of the site and three moats goes back many centuries before.
<b>Noke</b>	The name 'Noke' is derived from 'the oak tree', recalling the origin of the village as a clearway in the forest. There are still a few of the ancient oak trees surviving. The church dates from the thirteenth century and was restored in 1883. When Edward the Confessor granted the fees of Islip to the Abbey of Westminster, part of the parish of Noke was included in the grant. Those who paid their tithes to Islip buried their dead in Islip churchyard and to this day the path from Islip to Noke is therefore known as the 'Wake' or 'Coffin' path. Manor Farm dates from the late sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and the Old Rectory has a central block dating from the seventeenth century with later extensions. The Plough Inn was originally a cottage and probably dates from the seventeenth century.
<b>Islip</b>	Islip has many attractive buildings including the Old Rectory, built in 1690 by the Rector Dr South who also founded and endowed the village school in 1710. Other buildings include Manor Farm in Upper Street (sixteenth century) and a house in High Street (seventeenth century), formerly the King's Head Inn. Islip lay on the coach route from London to Worcester and had at one time twenty-one inns. Now there are only two, the Red Lion and the Swan Inn. In the last field you crossed before entering the village once stood a palace of Ethelred the Unready, where in AD 1004 King Edward the Confessor was born. When King Edward built Westminster Abbey he gave it to the manor of Islip. Simon of Islip became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1348, and John of Islip became Prior of Westminster in 1500 and presided over the building of the Henry VII chapel. As befitting for a village with such history, Islip church dominates the village. In the Civil War, Islip was an important outpost in the Royalist defence of their headquarters at Oxford, and in 1645, Cromwell defeated the Royalist forces at Islip Bridge, the bridge over the River Ray at the southern end of the village. The old stone bridge was rebuilt in 1878. Until the latter part of the nineteenth century, when drainage and new cuttings partially tamed the River Ray, Islip was a prime source for fish supplies.
<b>Weston-on-the-Green</b>	Weston-on-the-Green is now a village of mixed architectural styles and periods. The stocks still stand on the green. The church has unexpectedly grand door-cases, for a little village church. The font is Norman and the altarpiece is a painting attributed to Pompeo Batoni. Weston Manor, now a hotel, was originally a medieval building and was remodelled about 1540 by Lord Williams of Thame, who also built Beckley Park. The present façade was built around 1820 and during the nineteenth century much of the interior was remodelled.
<b>Kirtlington Park Palladian mansion</b>	Kirtlington Park Palladian mansion was built between 1742 and 1746 for Sir James Dashwood. It is in private ownership and no footpath goes close enough for the house to be seen, but a distant view of the south front can be glimpsed if you look back after leaving the village.
<b>Kirtlington</b>	Kirtlington has existed since Saxon times, and its church dates from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

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