

THE GLYME VALLEY WAY
STEP BY STEP

FROM CHIPPING NORTON TO
WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE

DETAILED ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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The Glyme Valley Way step by step is a guide to help you navigate a historic trail that passes through some lovely countryside.

The Way follows nearly stile-free public footpaths and bridleways from Chipping Norton to Woodstock and was devised by BBC Oxford and Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Service to mark celebrations in 2007 of 1,000 years of the County's history. It crosses pleasant rolling country, fine parkland, and protected meadows. About 25 km or 16 miles long, its ascents total some 280 m/900 ft, and descents, 380 m/1,250 ft. At an average pace of 4km or 2½ miles per hour, it would take about 6½ hours to complete, excluding stops. This guide supplements a 2007 leaflet giving an overview of the Way: see endnote **a**.

The Glyme Valley Way follows as closely as possible most of the course of the River Glyme, from near its source as far as the park at Woodstock's Blenheim Palace. The Ancient Britons gave the river its name, which means "bright stream"; if the light is right, its clear waters certainly do justice to the description.

The Glyme is a tributary of the River Evenlode, which runs into the Thames. It rises about a mile (1.6 km) east of Chipping Norton, close to Glyme Farm, and passing evidence of thousands of years of our history, meanders in a south-easterly direction to Old Chalford, Enstone, Kiddington, Glympton, Wootton and Woodstock. At Wootton the Glyme is joined by a tributary, the River Dorn, and itself joins the Evenlode near Bladon, just south of Blenheim park.

The Way's condition and waymarking are generally very good. Stiles: only 4 left, of 22 reported in 2007. Gates (kissing and fixed), about 50. A couple of very short stretches may get rather overgrown: depending on the season, you may need to carry a stick in case vegetation there - especially nettles - needs to be beaten down. Waymarking is deficient at very few points. For comments on these locations see the Route Description. *Last full route reconnaissance May 2021.*

- **Services:** Walking a linear route obviously means having return transport available. Fortunately, there is an hourly bus service, the Stagecoach S3 (running 7 days a week), along the A44 from Woodstock to Chipping Norton, with bus stops on it not far from various points on the Way. This makes it possible to shorten your walk and board a bus after doing 4, 5½, 8½, 10½ or 13¼ miles (6.5, 9, 13.5, 17 or 21.3 km), or to walk the Way in easy stages. Details in endnote **b**.

For refreshments, both Chipping Norton and Woodstock have hotels, pubs, restaurants and cafés, and offer takeaways and supermarket fare. Options along the Way are limited (* = near a return bus stop): the route passes the Crown Inn, Church Enstone; the Harrow pub* and Adams Stores/coffee shop* are on the A44 at Enstone (800m-1km/½-¾ mile off the Way); on the route is Glympton Post Office shop (tea/coffee, snacks, ice cream). The Wootton Stores community shop (hot pies and ice cream!) is 800m/½ mile N. of the Way, and the Duke of Marlborough pub*, a similar distance SW of the same point. For directions to these village shops and pubs, and phone numbers to check opening hours or menus, see the detailed route description and accompanying notes.

- **Maps:** (1) Ordnance Survey Explorer 191, Grid Ref. SP313271 (Start, at Chipping Norton Museum, High St., OX7 5AB) to Glympton Wood, at GR 418200; (2) Ordnance Survey Explorer 180, from GR SP418200 to end of walk, at the Oxfordshire Museum, 14 Park St., Woodstock OX20 1SW, GR 442167.

Note that all Grid References given are on the "SP" 100 km square of the Ordnance Survey's Great Britain grid; these letters are omitted in the route notes.

- **Other navigation aids:** It is always a good idea to have a compass or position finder. Some route details given will inevitably change over time, nevertheless, the intention of this "step by step" description is to make navigation easier, especially for less experienced walkers. It should not be necessary to consult a map frequently to keep on track, and the associated photographs should help orientation on the ground at points where the way forward might otherwise be unclear.

- **Photographs:** underlining of text indicates associated photographs, intended to aid navigation at those points. They can be looked up in the associated pdf file (GlymeWay.route-photos.pdf) using the **blue reference numbers** given in the adjacent Location box.

- **Endnotes** are indicated by **red letters** in the Location column. They refer to points of historical and environmental interest and of practical information.

- **Abbreviations in text:** BW = bridleway * FB = footbridge * FP = footpath * l. = left * rt. = right * rd. = road * N,S,E,W = North, South, East, West * WM = waymark. Use of N/S/E/W for directions, as well as "left" and "right", may provide useful confirmation that you are heading in the right direction!

For a route map, pictures and more information, visit the Walks pages at littlebeams.co.uk. Cover photo: the Glyme at Radford Bridge. Route notes last edited 09/03/2023.

Key to headings: Pt=route point • Km=kms/*miles* from start • GR=map grid ref. • Km/Location/GR refer to point at the start of the adjacent notes section.

Pt	Km	GR	Location	Route Notes
1	0.0	313271	Chipping Norton Museum c	From the museum, opposite the upper side of the town hall, walk down to and round corner of nearby Fox Hotel and S. along West St. Roundabout becomes visible ahead. Turn l. (E) at roundabout, by the Kings Arms Hotel. Go over pedestrian crossing, then rt. (S) at 2 nd roundabout onto Burford Road. At top of hill turn l. (E) to cross road at light-controlled crossing, leaving rd. to follow path alongside Chipping Norton School, with car park to rt. (S), and reach start of track ahead.
2	1.0	316266	Ch. N. School	($\frac{1}{2}$ mile from start) Follow FP along track straight ahead (E), passing allotments, then with fields on either side, to reach Glyme Farm house.
3	2.5 1½	327263	Glyme Farm d,e	Where track turns 90° rt. (S), with farmhouse to l. bear rt. (SSE) on FP through kissing gate to cross pasture and FB over brook, the infant River Glyme, which rises nearby. Follow well defined path through woodland and over pasture, still SSE, to arrive at junction with track at entrance to Glyme Valley Nature Reserve.
4	3.5 2	335260	Glyme Valley Nature Reserve f,g 1,2	Route does not enter reserve. Turn rt. (S) down track and after a few yards, turn l. and take left fork (E) onto waymarked BW (Shakespeare Way) by River Glyme, towards Old Chalford Farm. Closer to and at the farm, black arrows supplement standard waymarks. After about 600m, at field boundary with metal gate ahead (GR 340259), <u>turn l. (N) over old grass-covered bridge to cross river</u> then rt. (ESE) through gate to continue parallel to the other bank, crossing a grass field to reach a farm drive on the far side.
5	4.5 2¾	343257	Old Chalford h 3,4	On arrival at drive, go rt. (S), recrossing river beside pool. Continue uphill, then l. (SE) between buildings, following black arrows. At gate marked Private, dog-leg rt. (S) then l. (E) to cross paddock, then drive, and go through field gate hidden behind conifer. Descend field to waymarked gate by trees at bottom l. (SE) corner, and join track. Turn l. (ESE) onto this and follow BW with River Glyme to l. (N), below. <u>Continue ahead at junctions of bridleways; ignore a black arrow to rt. (S).</u> Reach minor rd. on right-angled bend, at pretty hamlet of Lidstone.
6	5.8 3½	356247	Lidstone i 5	Turn l. (NNE) downhill past cottages. At bottom cross Glyme and turn rt. (E) onto FP along river bank through trees. <i>To end walk, cross river and continue on rd. for 500m. uphill to junction with A44 at GR358253. Bus stop is in layby to l. (NW) of junction. [total 6.5 km/4 miles].</i> Emerge into field (no WM), bear l. (ENE) on path with wood to rt. (S). Go through <u>gap in field boundary hedge (WM)</u> and along edge of wood. At next WM post bear l. (E) up field to main A44 road; look ahead for metal FP post at roadside wall not far before (W. of) uncultivated patch.
7	7.0 4½	367249	A44 road j,k	Go through gap in wall and cross rd.; on N side turn rt. (E) on FP to cross two fields. Near end, easier not to use waymarked stile on rt. but reach finger posts ahead, on BW. Dogleg rt. (SSE, "Enstone-->") and l. Skirt field to NE then SE or if possible cross diagonally. Approaching houses, go through gap in hedge on l. (E), in line with electricity post in field. Continue ahead, cross drive at entrance to Heythrop Park and descend bank to old village mill. Climb up rd. ahead; pass Crown Inn at top and with church visible to l. (NNW) bear rt. (E) towards B4030 rd.
8	8.0 5 kms mls	380250	Church Enstone l,m,n 6,7	At B4030, with rd. to The Square and FP sign "Neat Enstone ½" opposite**, turn l. (ENE) up B road, then <u>turn rt. (SSE) onto narrow single-track rd. (no signpost) just before a l. turn (to NNW) to Little Tew.</u> After some 200 m. cross B4022 to join BW ("Cleveley ¾") heading SE across the side of Drystone Hill. Descend over FB to skirt pools at Cleveley village. Where BW sign points ahead (NE) – "Gagingwell 1½" – bear rt. (S) on small metalled rd. over R. Glyme then immediately l. (E); continue (E then S) to reach T junction with minor rd. running E-W. <i>** To end walk at Enstone go via The Square on signed FP to Neat Enstone. Entering field over stile, ignore stile ahead (SE). Turn rt. (SSW) and follow FP discs downhill over stiles. Cross Glyme (FB and causeway) and climb slope to reach road (Chapel Lane); fork rt. here to arrive at Artyard Café, or l. to The Green and P.O. Stores, both by bus stops [total 9 km/5½ mls]</i>
9	9.5 6	391239	Cleveley o 8,9	Turn l. (E) along minor rd. and shortly reach signposted junction to Radford, by the Mill House. Turn l. (NE) towards Radford, cross river again and after a few yards, at FP sign "Radford 1¼", turn rt. (E) to climb roadside bank. <u>At top bear rt. around edge of field, S then E. Leave field by waymarked gate to rt. (S) (GR396238) and initially continue E among trees, parallel to field edge, then bear rt. (S) on FP down to river.</u>
10	11.0 7	403235	Radford Bridge p 10,11,12	On <u>reaching rd. at Radford Bridge turn rt. (S) onto it</u> and after a few yards, <u>at BW sign "Kiddington 1¼", enter field on rt. (S) to climb away from road and river.</u> Where parallel paths continue ahead on either side of field boundary hedge follow rt. hand one (on W side). About six or seven minutes (0.5 km/600 yards) from Radford Bridge, <u>at junction of bridleways, turn 90° l. (E), at GR 402232, towards Kiddington Park.</u> Keep field border on rt. (S).

Pt	Km	GR	Location	Route Notes
11	11.5 <i>7¼</i>	402232	Jn of bridleways, Kiddington Park boundary 13-16	On arriving at park boundary wall, turn rt. (S), keeping wall on l. (E). Continue S. alongside wall, across open parkland with landscaped Glyme valley to l. (E); lakes visible if trees not in full leaf. Reach a pronounced E-W dip in the land, at waymarks where a bridleway leaves to rt. (W); go through field boundary gate on l. (E) and turn rt. (S) on other side, to climb out of the dip. The Way passes <u>Kiddington Hall and church, visible across valley</u> , but first follows BW S. to Park Farm which appears in distance.
12	13.0 <i>8</i>	409223	Park Farm Over Kiddington q, r	Near farm keep close to tree line on rt. (W) and follow it to reach waymarked wooden gate at drive. Through gate turn l. (E) along drive to farm. Pass along l. side of building in front of you and continue ahead then turn 90° l. (N) onto FP past cottages and downhill to river. FP crosses R. Glyme over gated metal bridge on rt. (NE) and passes dovecote, church and rear of Hall, bearing l. (E) to leave estate down carriage drive and reach Kiddington village. <i>For a bus, to end the walk at the half-way point, turn rt. (S) from Park Farm along path and shortly rt. again (SSW) opposite thatched cottage onto minor rd. After 300m reach bus stop on A44 by Import Cottage, Over Kiddington, at GR 409220 [total 13.5 km/8½ miles, approx. halfway point]. To start the second half of the walk from the bus stop, see endnote r.</i>
13	14.0 <i>8¾</i>	415229	Kiddington s 17,17a	Ahead, three roads meet and pass around a grassy triangle. On far side take signposted FP up bank (SE) then turn l. (E) at waymark post. At top of slope, <u>where wide vista opens across very large field, look ahead (SE) for next waymark post, on uphill slope at l. (N) edge of woodland.</u> If conditions allow, cross field on FP to reach it, otherwise skirt field margin to rt. (S). Cross waymarked fields and pastureland (E/SE) with Glyme below to rt. (S) then fork rt. (SE) to descend through trees to nearby estate rd. flanked by stone balls on verges (s). Turn l. (E) uphill on rd.; after a few yards go rt. (SSE) onto FP steps up bank. Finally, reach Glympton village; FP turns rt. (E) to rd., across gated paddocks.
14	16.0 <i>10 kms 10 mls</i>	427216	Glympton t	On reaching road turn rt. (S) downhill, pass village P.O./shop and meet B4027 rd. With riverside seat and old village stocks to l. (E), go straight ahead on roadway for about 100m. [beware traffic - no footpath], crossing Glyme. Past entrance to Rectory, at FP sign on l. (E) climb bank to field gate. Bear rt. (SW) and cross corner of field to go through wide gate onto minor rd. Turn l. (SSW) along rd. and reach main A44 road after 800m, just past Hill Farm. <i>Here is the Glympton Turn bus stop at GR 422206 [total 17 km/10½ miles].</i>
15	17.0 <i>10 ½</i>	422206	Glympton Turn (A44) 18-21	Cross A44 and turn l. (SSW) along it, using verge if vegetation allows. After 200m at FP sign on rt. (S), <u>leave rd. through gate</u> and shortly bear rt. at fork, descending a broad track through the Wychwood Forest. At bottom of slope <u>turn l. (S) through wide field gate</u> onto waymarked track up hill then descend again to W. with river visible down steep wooded bank on l. (S.) side. <u>Where track meets two more, at waymark post bear l. (S.).</u> [<i>Here the route continues on Explorer map 180, from GR 4185 200.</i>] Cross Glyme and <u>climb SSE past Glympton Assarts farmhouse</u> (assarting=forest clearance).
16	18.0 <i>11 ¼</i>	418198	Glympton Assarts Farm u,v 22-26	At top of slope where track forks (no waymark), bear l. (SE) along concrete drive between hedges. After short distance, <u>where drive bends sharp l. (E) leave it to rt. (S) with lone tree on your left</u> (E) - no waymark - to join FP along field edge. It finishes at field's end at T junction with waymarked FP: houses visible to rt. (W). Turn l. (E) to continue straight ahead on FP to A44, passing end of Grim's Ditch (see note), then recross A44 to FP sign "Wootton ¾". <u>Before and just over A44 some 400 m may be overgrown:</u> carry stick to beat down vegetation. Guided by waymarks, continue almost due E across fields. Wootton village and parish church come into view across valley to l. (N). Reach minor rd. at West End Barn. (Follow field edge round to rt. (S) for a few yards to exit field onto rd.) <i>For bus - or a drink – turn rt. (WSW) down rd. and go straight ahead for 800 m/½ ml to reach A44. Duke of Marlborough inn is opposite, by bus stop, at GR 429191 [total 21.3 km/13¼ miles].</i>
17	20.5 <i>12 ¾</i>	437195	West End, Wootton w 27-31	Cross rd. and passing FP sign take narrow lane on other side, known as <u>Top Lane, to continue ahead</u> (E). Lane ends at gate to house named <u>Zions Hill. Continue ahead just to rt. of gate, for about 10 yards, then turn l. (N)</u> and go through two gates to enter meadow. WM arrow on 2nd gate points ahead but through gate, turn rt. (E) immediately: well-defined grass path runs across upper edge of water meadows parallel to and above Glyme, through gates (WMs lacking) to picnic area with table overlooking river , FB and Wootton Jubilee Meadows. Continue ahead, now ESE, then cross gated FB over Glyme, pass Hordley Farm buildings (WMs) and <u>leave farm drive via field gate (WM), on rt. (ESE).</u> Cross field, or skirt to l. [N, E] if muddy, to reach Sansom's Farm and Cottage (site of the Oxford School of Drama), visible ahead by B rd.

Pt	Km	GR	Location	Route Notes
18	22.5 14	451190	Sansom's Farm x 32, 33	Emerge from field onto narrow rd. signed "Oxfordshire Way Footpath", with B 4027 to l. (E). Join B rd. but do not cross it, turn rt. (SE) along it [beware traffic: no footpath] and after under 100 m, where it bends l., <u>fork rt. (SE) onto BW across field. BW post and BW sign may be buried in hedge, and field edge vegetation overgrown. On far side of field turn rt. (S) onto BW</u> (Cycle Way 5) which leads to Woodstock. <u>After 250m</u> (say 3 minutes) <u>BW forks. Bear rt. (SW)</u> (no WM visible); pass through woodland with nearby River Glyme to rt. (W).
19	23.5 14 ½	450176	Start of metalled rd., entering Woodstock y,z	Reach metalled rd. by sewage works. Pass cemetery and factory and at junction with Green Lane continue ahead. Then take first right (N) to enter Glyme Close, turn l. (W) with row of garages ahead, then rt. (NW) to reach Woodstock Town Water Meadows. Here the Glyme has divided; footpath follows main course WSW along river bank to reach A44 rd. at Manor Rd., Old Woodstock, by 16 th century Black Prince pub (tel. 01993 811530). To end the walk at the museum, the official finishing point, go over pedestrian crossing, turn l. (SSW) and follow pavement uphill. Shortly, at no.83, go rt. (W) to climb steps to Chaucer's Lane. Continue ahead up to Park St. then turn l. (E) to reach museum.
20	25 km	443167	Museum 15½ mls	The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock is housed in "Fletcher's House", a fine late 18th century building with Jacobean origins, at 14 Park Street, opposite the Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene and the Bear Hotel. For full information, visit the Oxfordshire Museum web pages.

Notes

- a Download the leaflet from "Littlebeams Rambles" or search for "Oxfordshire CC Glyme Valley Way". It includes a simple map. The information on buses is now out of date.
- b Buses: the S3 (Oxford to Chipping Norton) timetable pdf can be downloaded from the Stagecoach Oxfordshire website. All stops and intermediate times are given on the site but not all are in the pdf. Directions to relevant stops are in the above Route Notes. Towards Chipping Norton, buses pass stops as follows (all times relative to the published Woodstock departure times): Woodstock, opposite Marlborough Arms, 26 Oxford St., start. Wootton, Duke of Marlborough pub, plus 3 minutes. Glympton Turn stop, plus 5 mins. Over Kiddington, Kiddington Turn (shown on pdf, as Kiddington Import Cottage), plus 8. Enstone Green (on pdf), plus 12. Lidstone Turn, plus 14 minutes.
- c This local museum is well worth a visit. To check opening times (usually 2-4 pm Mon. to Sat., Easter to Oct. only) or other information, visit www.chippingnortonmuseum.co.uk
- d From the entrance to the reserve to the hamlet of Lidstone the route follows part of the circular Wychwood Way. See www.walkingenglishman.com/ldp/wychwoodway.html
- e The track was an ancient "salt way", along which passed the precious loads transported from Droitwich. A part of the way is called "Swing Swang", the expression being defined as the movement of swinging back and forth like a pendulum, which laden carts may well have done when travelling along a rough track.
- f The Glyme Valley Reserve protects a remaining fragment of the limestone grassland in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. See www.bbowt.org.uk/nature-reserves/glyme-valley
- The Way passes tumuli and megaliths in various places; older maps mark such a burial mound to the left (N.) of the path and two more, plus a standing stone, to the right (S.), all of these a short distance after leaving the salt way. To the untrained eye, at least, there now appear to be no definite signs here of these prehistoric features.
- g Even if the gate at GR 340259 is passable, failing to follow the waymarked path here by changing banks will mean reaching another field gate which is invariably padlocked.
- h "Ignore a black arrow to rt. (S)": that bridleway passes close to the site of the former medieval village Nether Chalford: apparently no one knows why it was abandoned.
- i Approaching Lidstone a few of the remaining stones from another deserted village, Upper Chalford, are visible to the l. (N) across the valley, in a meadow close to the A44, just before the path passes Stone Farm. In the paddock behind the farm buildings there is a fairly large standing stone; the name Lidstone is thought to derive from "Leodwine's Stone" and tradition has it that there was a giant stone there. Lidstone Mill and Bakery boasted the largest water wheel in the county, 24 ft (over 7 m.) in diameter. The old mill house stands by the road a short way up the hill past (N of) where this crosses the Glyme. The mill races are all but blocked but 18th century ironwork and perimeter timbers of the water wheel, and the pit wheel (primary gear wheel) inside the building, are still in place.
- j Entry to each of the two fields is over a stile. They are almost the only ones now left on the whole of the Glyme Valley Way; others have been removed or replaced by gates.
- k There were six mills in the parish of Enstone, at Old Chalford, Lidstone, Church Enstone, Cleveley (2) and Radford. This was the last to close, in the 1960s.
- l Crown Inn Church Enstone, tel. 01608 677262/www. Enstone: The Harrow 01608 678852; P.O. Stores (coffee) at The Green, 01608 677233. No toilets at Stores.

m The River Glyme was once known as the Enis, and may have given Enstone its name. Alternatively, it may have got its name from the Ent (giant) stone. This is a standing stone also known as the Hoar Stone. It forms part of the shattered remains of a chambered Neolithic long barrow tomb (c. 3000 BCE) situated under roadside trees S. of Neat (Cow) Enstone where the Charlbury and Fulwell roads cross (GR: SP378237). Three stones survive there; in 1925 there were six, with a burial mound. "Hoar" may refer to the ancient British goddess Hœr, both source and destroyer of all life, who became associated with this and other hoar stones.

n The "minor road running E-W" is the old Worcester to Oxford turnpike road.

o Cleve meaning cliff, or rock, and ley, land put down to grass or clover, "Cleveley" is descriptive of a landscape where Cleveley Bank rises above the valley fields.

p In the past, both Cleveley and Radford had fulling mills, where the pure waters of the Glyme were used to cleanse and thicken wool to be used for cloth.

q Kiddington Hall is owned by celebrity and film producer Jemima Khan. Constructed in 1673, with the surviving dovecote, the Hall itself was rebuilt in the 1850s. What we see today is the work of Sir Charles Barry, who also rebuilt the Palace of Westminster after the destructive fire of 1834. The park was landscaped by "Capability" Brown in the 18th century. The 14th century church is associated with Poet Laureate Thomas Warton, Rector from 1770 to 1790, "a fat little man" who spoke with "the gobble of a turkey-cock."

r **To start second part (45%) of walk** - 12.5 km/8 miles - from bus stop on A44 at Import Cottage, Kiddington Turn, take minor rd. N towards Kiddington. After 300m fork l. opposite thatched cottage onto bridleway signed "Radford 1½". Continue ahead (N) past farm buildings, then ... *see main route description, from Pt 12, ... "downhill to river"*.

s Turn rt. (W) on estate rd. (right of way) to visit the nearby parish church. This adjoins Glympton Park House, owned by a Saudi prince, whose 2,000-acre estate includes Glympton village. The present mansion is mostly of 19th century construction. The 12th-century church contains a Norman font and a beautiful early 17th century monument with striking almost life-size alabaster effigies of Thomas Tesdale, a major benefactor of Pembroke College Oxford, and his wife Maud.

t Glympton Stores offers pies/pasties, homemade sandwiches/cake, ice cream, tea/coffee; toilet available. Open Mon-Tu & Th-Fr 9-5, Wed 9-1 (May 2019). Tel. 01993 811486.

u Dug in the 1st century, Grim's Ditch or Dyke may have been a chariot barrier. The name occurs in a number of places and may date from Anglo-Saxon times. The Anglo-Saxons applied the name to features they did not understand; Grim was their name for Woden, the Norse god of war and magic, and was associated with the Devil, so Grim's Ditch could be thought of as an alias of Devil's Dyke (and Grimsby, residence of the Devil!). As a scheduled monument, this ditch is held to be of national importance, but where according to the OS map the FP passes the end of it, disappointingly all that is visible on the surface is a shallow gulley half-hidden by the branches of a thicket of trees.

v The Duke of Marlborough inn's telephone number is 01993 811460. On the way there, at a road junction continue straight ahead (WSW), following the sign to Stonesfield.

w From Zions Hill, there are refreshments 800 m/½ mile away, at Wootton Stores. Through gate out onto river meadows, where our route (FP) goes rt. (E), turn l. (W) and descend waymarked BW to nearby rd. There, cross Glyme and climb hill up through village to reach this community shop on Church St., just below the church. Tel. 01993 811474, website woottonstores.org.uk. It caters for all weathers, with hot pies and ice-cream on offer. The Stores volunteers suggest phoning in advance to reserve your pies.

x The "narrow rd." is the Roman Akeman St., which leads WSW to the little Stratford Bridge, at the start of 800 m. of the Glyme where over-deepening and straightening had degraded natural habitats. With new meanders and ponds created, animal and plant life is regenerating, and one of the ponds has been stocked with endangered native carp.

y If returning from Woodstock by bus, when time is short, the quickest way to the bus stop (though missing the pleasant final stretch through the water meadows) is not to enter Glyme Close but to continue ahead, pass Union St., and fork l. (SW) into Upper Brook Hill. Climb straight ahead to reach nearby Oxford St., the main A44 road. Turn l. (S) along the street and continue along it to the Marlborough Arms hotel. To catch a bus back to Chipping Norton, cross the road to the stop opposite the hotel.

z To see how, in the 1760s, the humble Glyme was transformed by damming into the impressive lakes of Blenheim Park, use pedestrian crossing close to The Black Prince and enter park through double wooden doors on the other side, to the rt. (N) of the crossing. They bear a house number, 95, but are on the bridleway, so should be unlocked during the day. A picnic in the park, with fine views of Blenheim Palace and of its lakes created by Lancelot "Capability" Brown, is a great way to finish the Glyme Valley Walk!

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