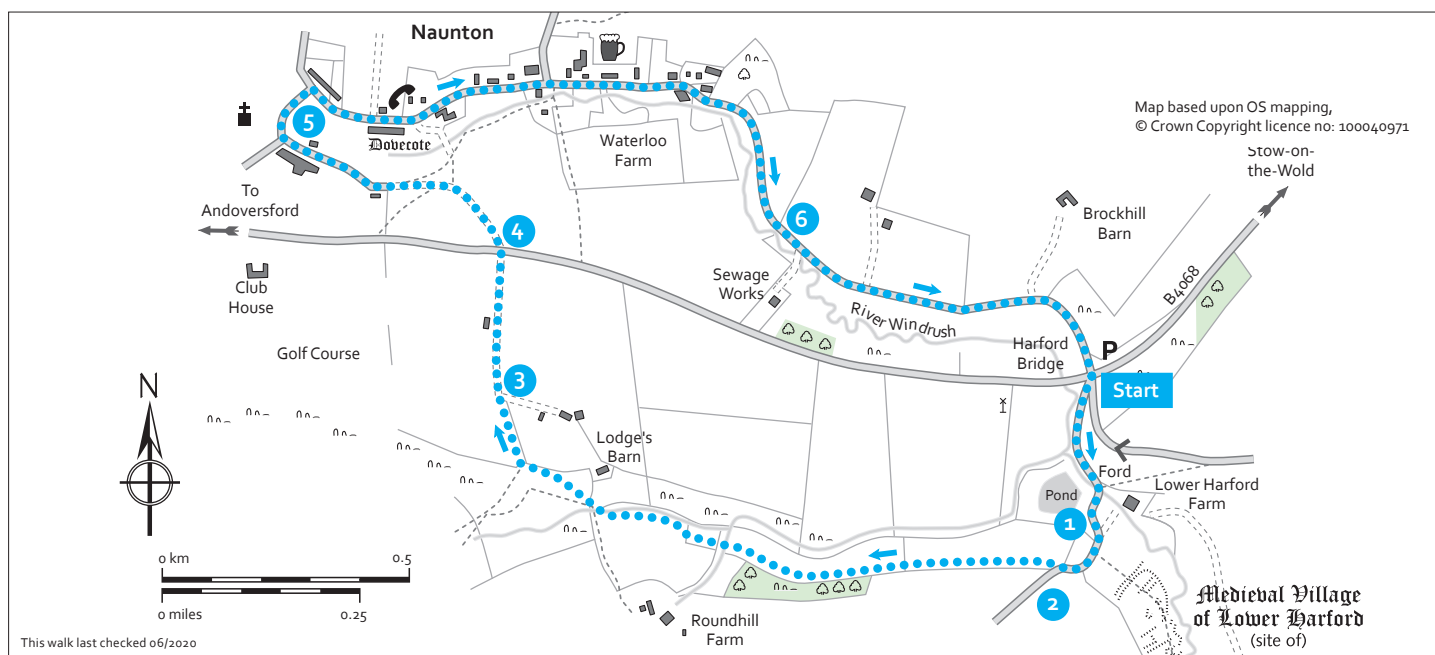


Miles Without Stiles

Harford Bridge, Naunton



This short circular walk takes in the deserted medieval village of Lower Harford, the area around Naunton Village and a small section of the Windrush Way. It is ideal for an evening stroll along the banks of the River Windrush.



Distance: 4.8 km/3 miles with ups and downs of 65m/ 213ft

Time: 1.25 hour

Start: Park 1 mile (1.6km) south-east of Naunton, on roadside verge near Harford Bridge, north side of B4068 Andoversford/Stow road. SP129229

Route:

Cross the B4068 to follow the lane to Lower Harford Farm. Near the farm entrance, cross the footbridge **1** over the River Windrush.

The humps and hollows in the field south of the river, indicate the site of the deserted medieval village of Lower Harford.

Leaving the farm, follow the lane a short distance uphill to a signpost in the hedge on the right hand side marked 'Windrush Way' **2**. Turn right here, noting the lake opposite through the trees with its birdlife, pass through the gate, turning left to follow the Windrush Way along the valley floor for approx 1/2 mile (1 km) passing through a field gate and over a stile until you reach a gate. Pass through the gate and turn right to cross a stone bridge over the stream, following the path uphill to reach a gate at the edge of Naunton Downs golf course.

3 Follow the bridleway across the course, recrossing the B4068 to a farm gate. Pause for a

panoramic view of river, village and church. **4** Follow the track downhill, bearing left at a fork in the path and over a stile signposted Wardens Way to Dale End Lane. Pass along the lane, then turn right to the green and its shading beech trees.

Behind the green, 'Windrush View' leads to the wool church of St Andrew. Basically perpendicular, it has been much modified over the centuries, it has a wineglass pulpit and two sundials.

Beyond the green, cross the Vicar's Bridge **5** over the Windrush, passing the old cider mill at its right hand side. Bear right at the junction, then uphill

and follow the road. Opposite the village hall, a lane labelled 'No Through Road' leads past the manor house to the river and the medieval dovecote.

Continue along the main street to the Black Horse Inn. Some 40 metres beyond the inn is Cromwell House built circa 1600. Further on, in a garden on the right hand side, is a large vertical shaft - once part of the corn mill, now converted into flats.

Proceed along the lane **6** to reach the start point at Harford Bridge.