

Race for Lawrence Home Nursing Team



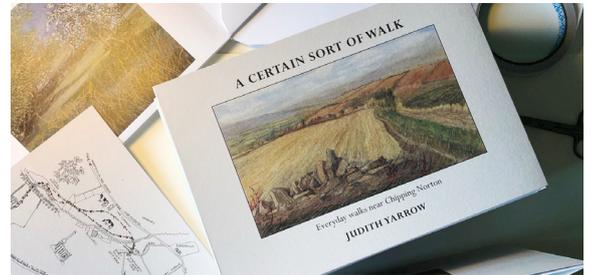
RUN or WALK THIS EASTER: 3rd, 4th or 5th April 2021*

ILLUSTRATED WALKS

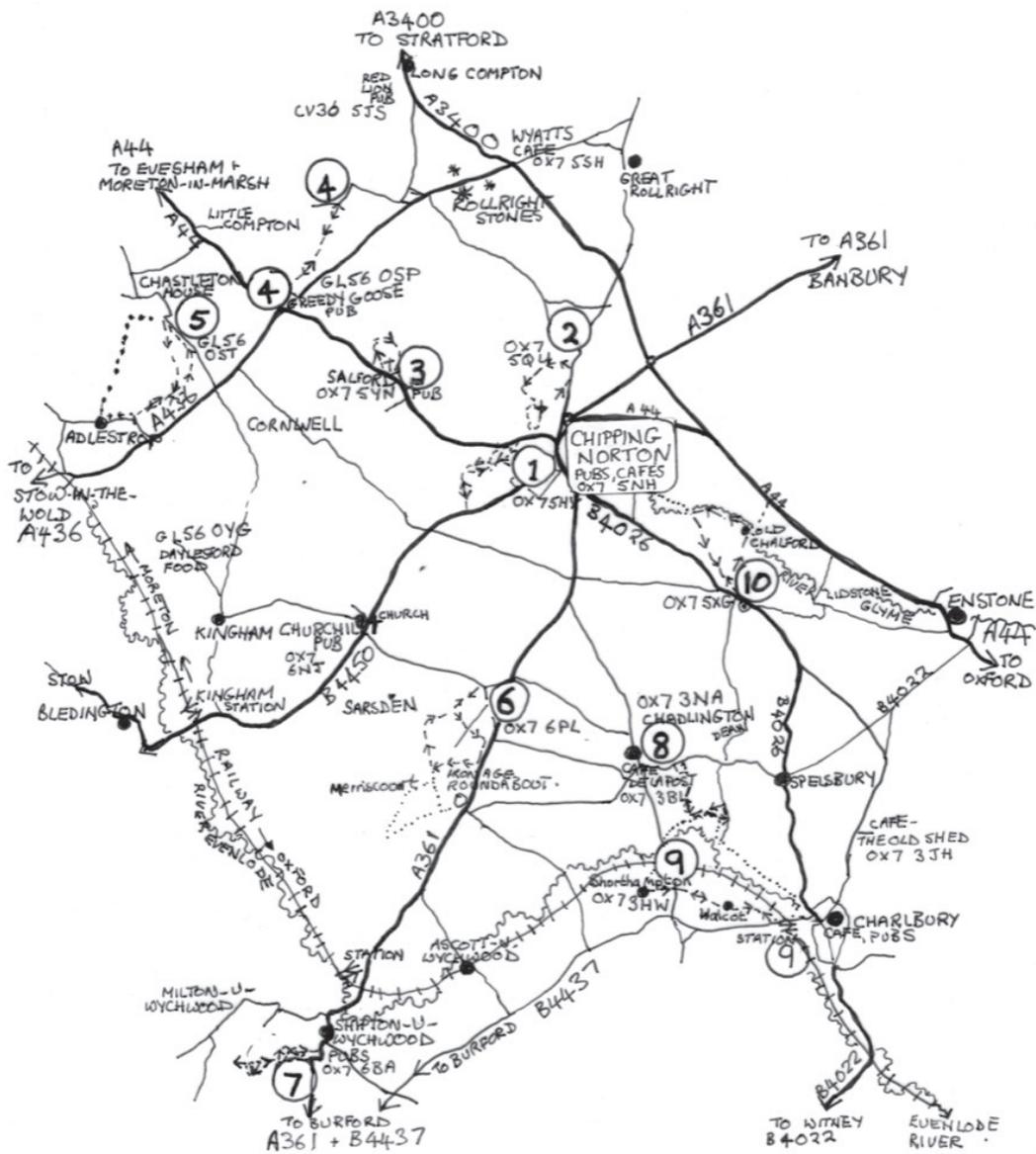
These illustrated walks are available as part of a limited edition book by local artist Judith Yarrow.

'A Certain Sort of Walk - everyday walks around Chipping Norton' can be obtained at Judith's website:

www.judithyarrow.com.



WHERE THE WALKS ARE

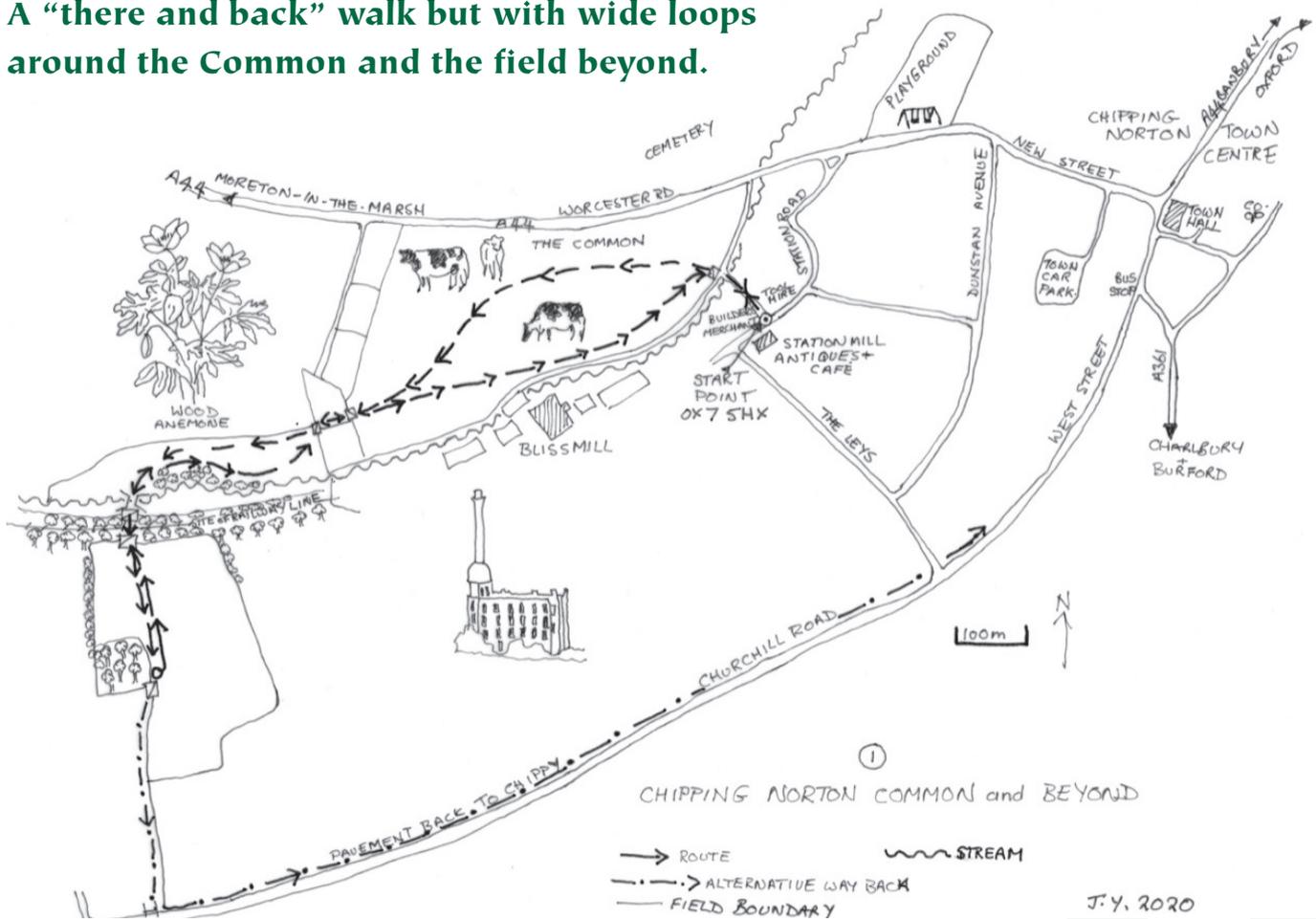


- MAJOR ROADS
- MINOR ROADS
- — → THE WALKS
- OTHER OPTIONS
- + + + + RAILWAY
- ② REFERS TO WALK NUMBER
- ~~~~~ RIVERS EVENLODE and GLYME.

J.Y. 2020

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A “there and back” walk but with wide loops around the Common and the field beyond.



Distance: 3.75k, time: 50 mins. GR: 306 269, postcode: OX7 5HX
Walk from Chippy or park near Station Road

Refreshments at Station Mill Antiques Café or in Chippy town centre
Original notes with Griff: 01.19. Additional notes 28.03.20

Start at Station Road, Chippy, just opposite Station Mill Antiques. Take the unpromising looking fenced path between WHC Tool Hire and Jewson Builders merchants - Alice's snack van here, is open 8-2 Mon-Frid. Roots lift the tarmac and there's razor wire on your R. You quickly come to the Bliss Tweed Mill driveway. Go straight over and through the gate opposite, where you are released onto the open slopes of this ancient common land. Cows are on the common in summer - never divide calves and cows as you walk.

Below is the iconic, country-house styled, Victorian Bliss Mill which produced high quality tweed and in WWI, khaki for soldiers. It closed in 1980 and was converted to apartments. Head up the hill diagonally to the L, following a faint path in the grass which takes you around the Common. A wide dip marks where the main toll road went. Bramble-covered hawthorn bushes grow in the dips. At the far side of the Common, in March, look out for a startling patch of wood anemones, unusual in open grassland.

Here, instead of looping back round, continue straight ahead, traversing a steep, grassy dip to a gate in the corner, then across a small paddock to a gate opposite. Go straight ahead keeping to the top of this field of old pasture (03.2020- two tortoiseshell butterflies dance among the dandelions and a queen bumble bee scouts for a nest site). At the end of this field, just before a couple of old pear trees, which are magnificent in blossom in spring, veer L down the hill, across the concrete bridge and over the stream with a muddy cattle watering spot. Continue up through double gates, across the old railway line, now overgrown, which linked to Kingham (and to Oxford) in one direction and to Kings Sutton (and to Banbury) in the other and serviced Bliss Mill. It was closed in 1964. Two geese fly over. Walk up the hill to the top R hand corner and admire the views back over to distant Chippy and the Bliss Mill chimney. Three hares run leaping and cows are mooing, desperate to be in the sunny fields, still wet from the winter rain. Rooks caw, nesting in the tops of tall trees. [You can carry on through the gate, up to the Churchill road and back along the road to Chippy.]

Return down the hill. I can hear the Heythrop hunt hounds, in kennels off the Worcester road. A white swan flies over and there are clouds of pussy willow. Back across the bridge, turn R, to follow the stream at the lower side of the field. The stream flows between ash roots, hawthorn and stones, with the sound of a mountain stream. Follow a faint path back up to the gate, through the paddock to the Common. Griff and I have seen foxes in the bushes that border the common. Griff is briefly off on their scent, joining me as I walk R along the lower side of the common next to the imposing Tweed Mill. Today in March, the common is sprinkled with buttercups, daisies, celandine and dandelions. Return the way you came.

5 min drive from Chippy. Easy parking in a layby. Suitable all year round.

(Route overleaf)



SARSDEN ROUND

Distance: 5k, time: 1 hr 10 min. GR 302 231, postcode: OX7 6PL
5 min drive from Chippy. Easy parking in a layby. Suitable all year round
Refreshments: The Chequers at Churchill or Café De La Post, Chadlington
Notes taken: 20.03.20 during the Coronavirus epidemic

Go through the impressive metal gates, down the gently sloping driveway with its wide mown verges and avenue of trees. Mature mixed woodland each side of the grass frames the scene.

After about five mins, follow the blue Bridleway sign where it forks to the L of the 'Private' gated drive. Daffodils line the drive and the grass is sprinkled with daisies and scilla. I see my first violets on the woody bank. Walk a couple of minutes, then at a post with a BW sign take a L turn, up through the woodland. You quickly emerge into open arable fields. Sky-blue speedwells line a sunny sweep of bright green winter wheat, as you ascend towards the copse of beech trees ahead. In summer the path gets overgrown - follow the edge of the field. Today I stopped to pick young nettles for soup. Follow the path past the edge of the copse with great beech branches swooping gracefully overhead to form a tunnel, which I stop and sketch. Views open up and in the wood are signs of old quarry workings.

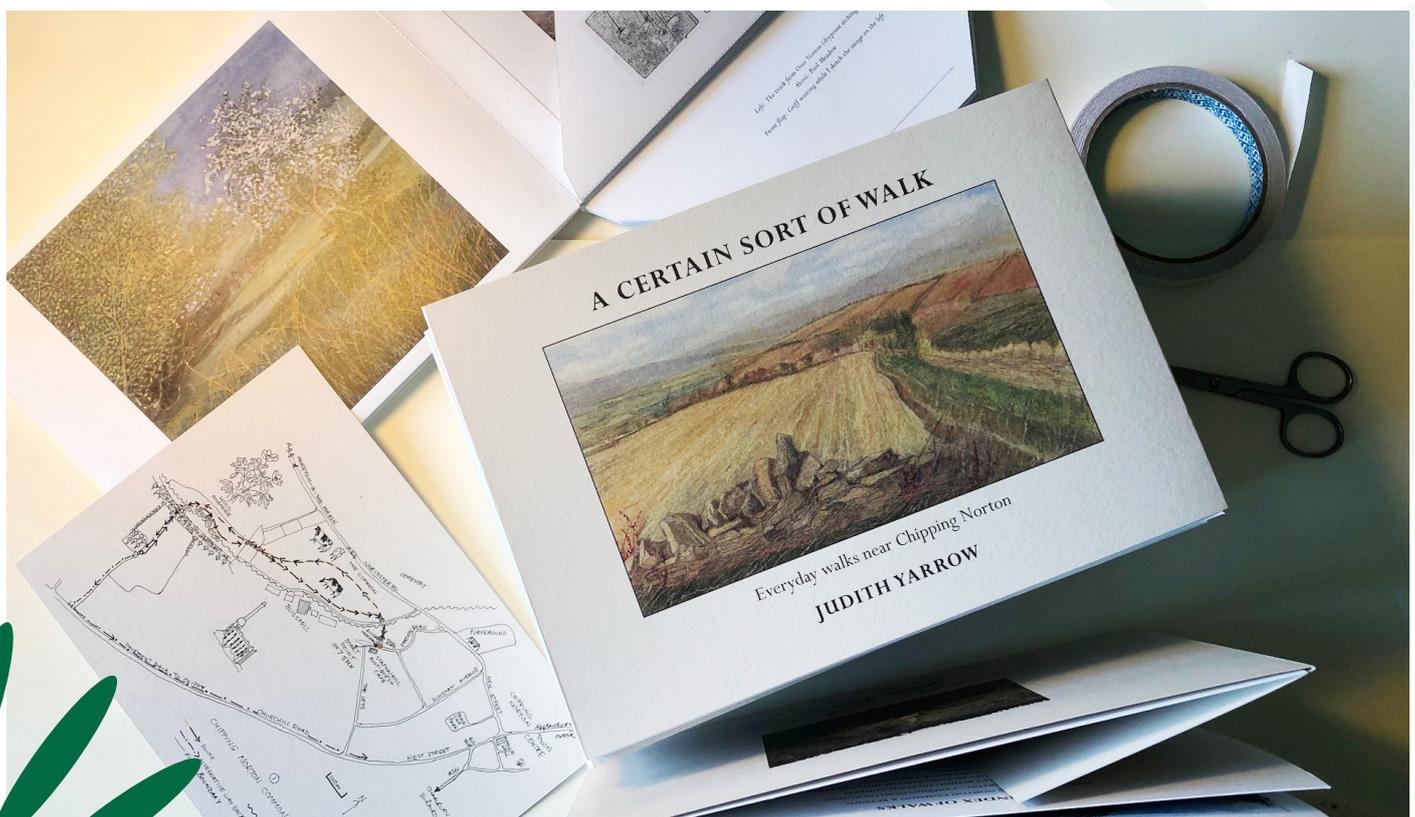
Soon, at the driveway, go straight over, keeping straight on, over a cultivated field. If the FP has been ploughed up, head for a tiny window of light in the line of trees ahead. Keep well to the R of a bank which is the boundary for a working stone quarry. Keep your dog close to you and then on a lead, as you suddenly come to the main road to Burford. You used to be able to walk just inside the woods that run parallel to the road, but the path has been planted over with laurel bushes. However, it's only five mins along the grassy verge - the L side is wider. Keep an eye out for the Bridleway sign where you turn R, with woods on the R. Newly planted trees are on your L (03.20) still in their white protective sleeves. You soon enter a small coppice for a short while, with hazel, hawthorn and other native trees, emerging to a cultivated field and wide views across to Shipton-under-Wychwood and far away.

Follow the hedge until you come to two grand romantic stone pillars topped with urns.

[At this point, across a couple of fields to your L is an Iron Age hill fort - The Roundabout - see map for FP route.]

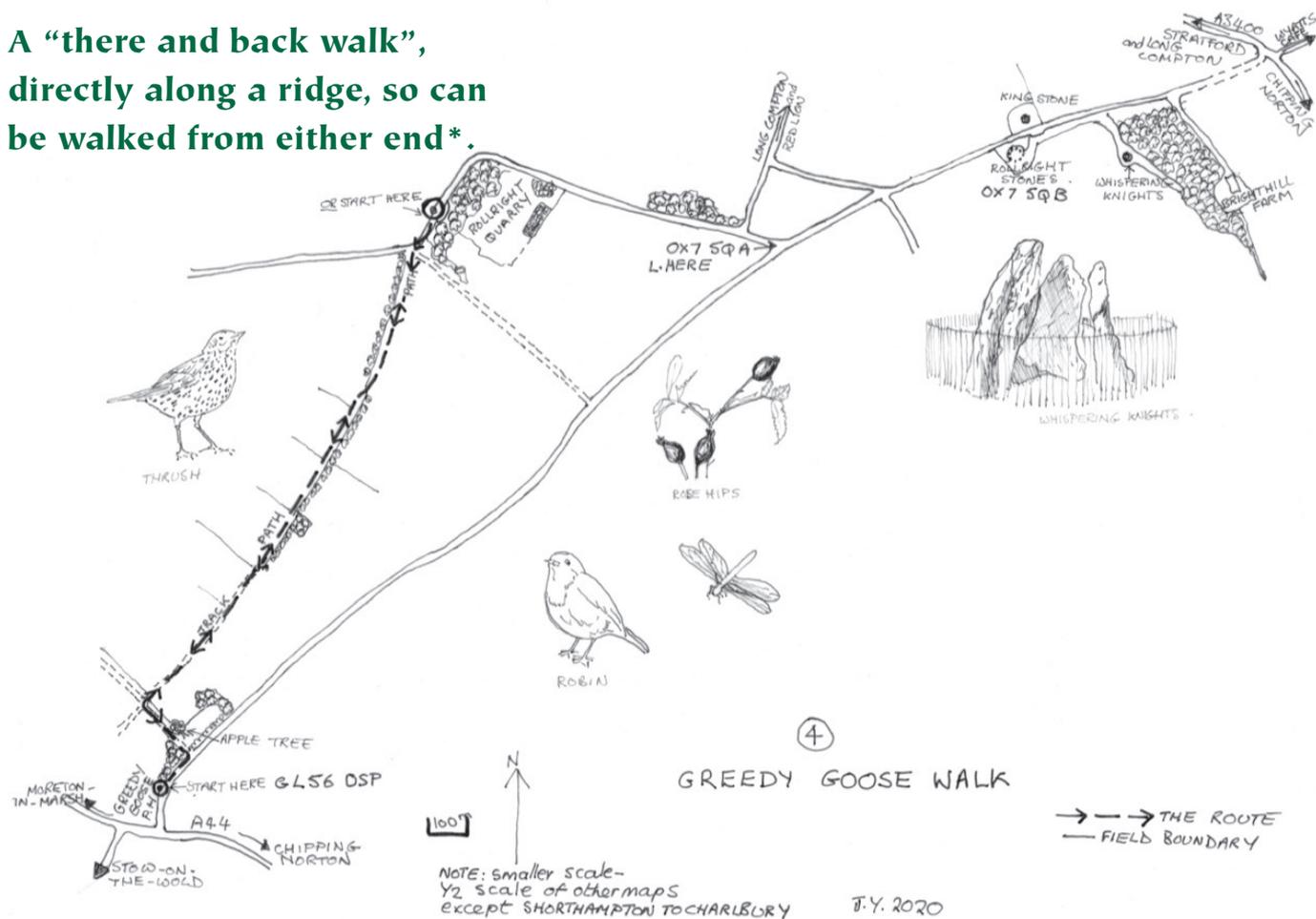
Turn R through the pillars, stopping a while in the memorial garden immediately to your R, with a stone seat to rest on. The plaque on it reads: 'To the happy memory of Henry Haughton Reynolds Lord Moreton who farmed this land for more than 30 years and loved this view 1857-1920'. Daffodils still come up through ivy and brambles. Continue across a grass gallop. The hedge to your R is decorated with wild white cherry blossom and blown like confetti across the path. Violets grow in the shelter of the hedge. When you come to Fairgreen House and farm buildings, continue straight across the drive, past three stone stable courtyards on your L. On past the buildings go straight over another track, heading downhill, which becomes a way through the woods, banked with blue periwinkle.

Turn sharp R just before the lake, following a wooden fence on your L and gradually uphill until you rejoin the outbound route. You return back up to the entrance gates.



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A “there and back walk”,
directly along a ridge, so can
be walked from either end*.



GREEDY GOOSE TOWARDS ROLLRIGHT STONES & BACK

Distance: 4k, time: 1hr. GR: 270 289, postcode: GL56 OSP
7 min drive from Chippy. Turn R just before Greedy Goose pub. Park on verge. Start here
Extensive and far-reaching views west over Warwickshire and Gloucestershire
Good for contemplation, sunsets and the autumn when the hedges are full of berries
Food and drink: The Greedy Goose or Wyatts Farm Shop OX7 5SH
The Rollright Stones (OX7 5QB) are a further 2k and a good place for children to explore
Notes taken 18.01.20

*To do it in the opposite direction: continue along the road taking the first lane L: OX7 5QA. Shortly after sharp L bend park in layby. Walk down to the nearby gate on the L, follow the path, then track, in a straight line along the ridge and back, admiring the views.

From the back of The Greedy Goose, walk along the road towards the Rollright Stones, for one minute, turning L through a small wooden gate with a Bridleway sign. There's a spinney and a quarry on your L and a grass field on your R. There's an apple tree just here on the R. [This was my 1st sketch (illustrated here) for this book on 01.10.18. I wrote notes in my sketchbook: 'Blue tractor harrowing the barley stubble field, throwing out a smell of earth. A robin and dragonfly, silver stems of cow parsley, solitary sky lark, distant chainsaw, a light aircraft, soft glow autumn sunshine with cool air and a light breeze. Griff (the dog) milling around, sniffing... white fluffy clouds!'] Today there are violets on the bank and a few out of season dog-daisies and yarrow flowers.

A grassy path heads down and shortly joins a track where you turn R across an open arable field with skylarks singing high and invisible. There are views across to Moreton-in-Marsh and beyond - in the direction of Wales and the way we drive to the mountains. Follow the track across a couple of fields where it swaps to the uphill side of the hedge until you reach the road and the alternative parking spot. In the autumn the native hedges are full of berries and colour - pink and orange spindle berries, hips, hawthorns, inky blue sloes, elderberries and blackberries.

The sun is just slipping below the distant horizon as I return. An evening thrush sings. Watch for the Macmillan Way FP sign to turn L back up the grassy track with a stone-wall on your L. You come to the road after about 5 mins. Turn R and walk for a minute to your car.

Nearby - a further 2k along the main road - are the Rollright Stones, a complex spanning 2,000 years of Neolithic and Bronze Age megalithic monuments, on the borders of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. There's an honesty box: £1 for adults, 50p children 7-16yrs. The site comprises: The King's Men stone circle (2,500 BC), The King Stone (1,500 BC) and the Whispering Knights (circa 3,800-3,500 BC - early Neolithic dolmen). Park in the layby. Children like it here - start by counting the stones in the circle. The number of stones is said to be different every time you count.