

Seven Walks Around Eydon

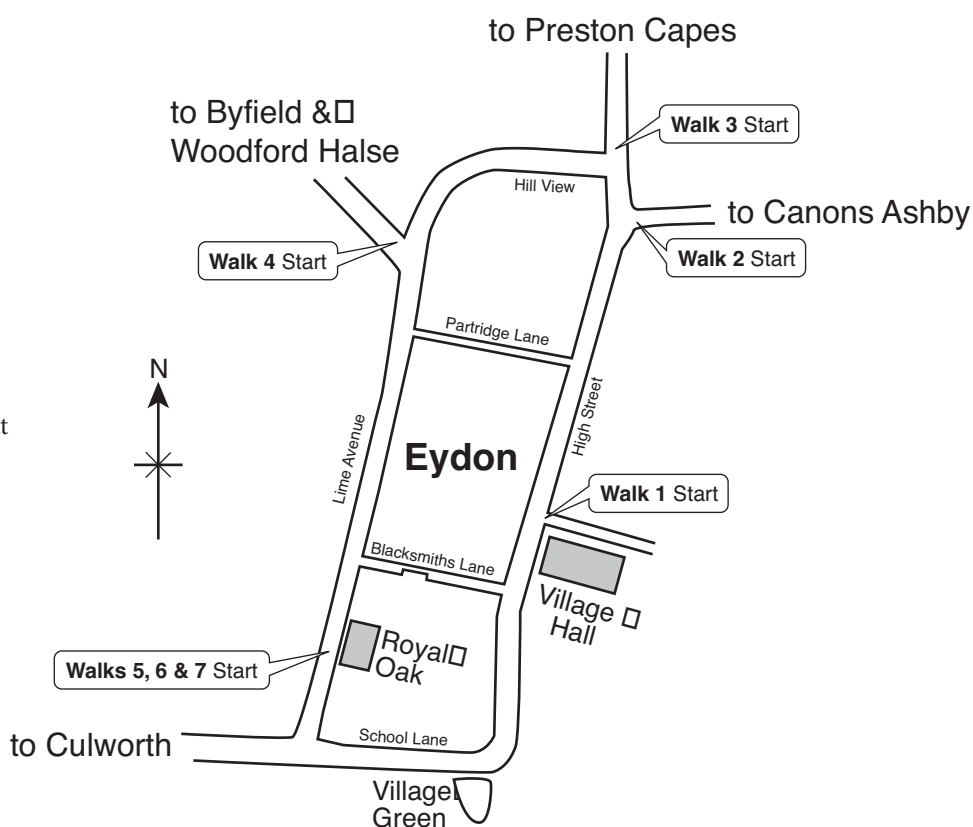
Seven circular walks in the countryside around the village of Eydon, near Daventry, Northamptonshire, with maps and detailed guidance.

A map of each route is accompanied by notes giving guidance. The numbers of these notes are marked on the map where it is felt appropriate, and the notes and map should be read together.

The walks have been arranged in such a way that each may be linked to the next to form a longer walk. Walk 4, for example, could be extended by following it as far as Note 14, and then following Walk 5, starting at Note 6.

Please remember to respect the life of the countryside. Do not harm animals, farm machinery, or property. It is our duty to preserve the beauty of the country, and to safeguard the farmer's place of work.

The walks vary from an estimated 35 minutes duration (Walk 1) and increase to around 2 hours for Walk 7. Approximate walking times are given at the head of each set of notes.



Relevant OS Maps: *Landranger Series*: Sheet 152, *Pathfinder Series*: Sheets SP/54 and SP/55. Eydon is located at SP 540500.

These walks were researched and described by Bob Penrose. Dave Howes did the artwork and page layouts. Published by Eydon Parish Council, 1st Edition April 1998. This 2nd Edition 14 March 2009.

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Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 1

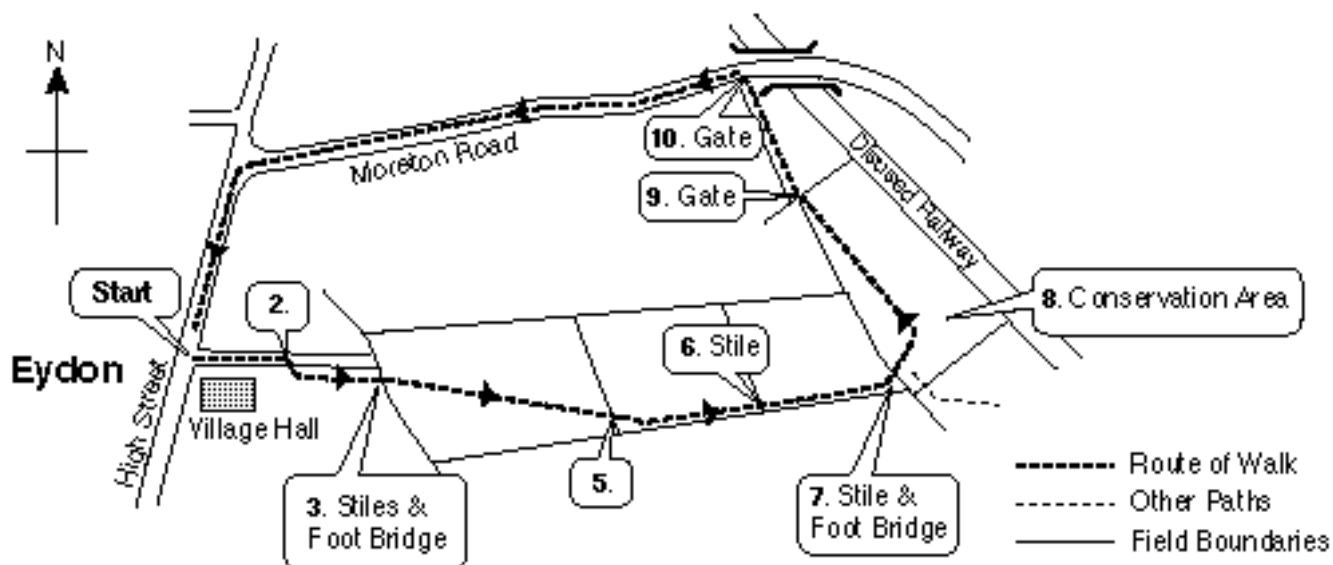
Doctors Lane to Moreton Road

Distance: 2.5 km, 1.5 miles

Time: allow 35 minutes

Start and Finish: Eydon Village Hall

Conditions: muddy after rain



1. Walk down the water company road on the left hand side of Doctors Lane as far as the entrance to the Sewage Works.
Note: The right of way is actually along Doctors Lane and then between the hedge to the right of the road and the fence, but this is narrow and often overgrown.
2. At the sewage works entrance, leave the road and walk along the path between the hedge and the fence.
3. Cross the stile, footbridge and second stile to enter field.
4. The path crosses the field to the opposite right hand corner. Walk out towards the centre of the field aiming for some high trees showing over the skyline. As the far side of the field comes into view, head for the right hand corner of the field.
5. Pass through the neglected hedge and walk along the side of the next field, keeping the hedge on your right.
6. At the end of the field, cross the stile into the next field and continue down its right hand edge.
7. At the end of the field, cross the stile and walk to the next fence. Please read the notice about the conservation area. Step over the low fence and cross the footbridge to enter the conservation area.
Note: The path to Moreton Pinkney continues over the stile to your right and under the old railway arch. However we are not taking this route on the basic "Walk 1".
8. The area you are now in, is often wet and marshy. Turn slightly left and head for higher (and hopefully drier) ground in the centre of the field. Once on firmer ground, turn left and walk down the field to the gate in the left hand corner.
9. Go through the gate and walk along the side of the field, keeping the hedge on your left hand side.
10. Go through the gate onto the Moreton Road. Turn left and return to the village along the road. As an alternative, you could turn right, and make a longer walk by joining "Walk 2". If you return to the village along the Moreton road, you need to turn left into Eydon High Street when you get to the "T" junction. Follow the High Street back to the walk's starting point at the Village Hall.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 2

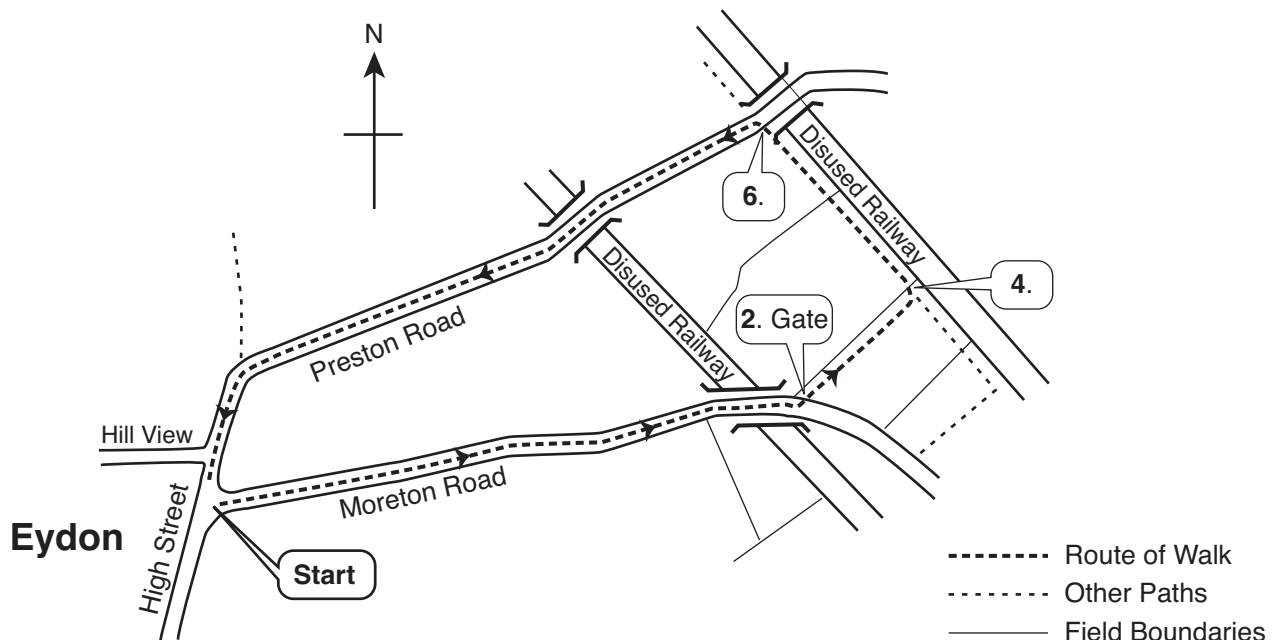
Moreton Road to Preston Road

Distance: 2.5 km, 1.5 miles

Time: allow 35 minutes

Start and Finish: Junction of High Street and Moreton Road

Conditions: muddy in Winter



1. Walk down Moreton Road to the remains of the disused railway bridge.
2. Just past the site of the old bridge, turn left through the gate.
3. Walk up the unmarked permissive bridleway keeping the hedge on your left.
4. At the end of the field, go left through the gap in the hedge.
5. Walk along the right hand side of the field with the hedge and the line of the old railway on your right.
6. At the end of the field, join Preston Road, turn left and return to the village along the road.

As an alternative, carry on across the road to join Walk 3.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 3

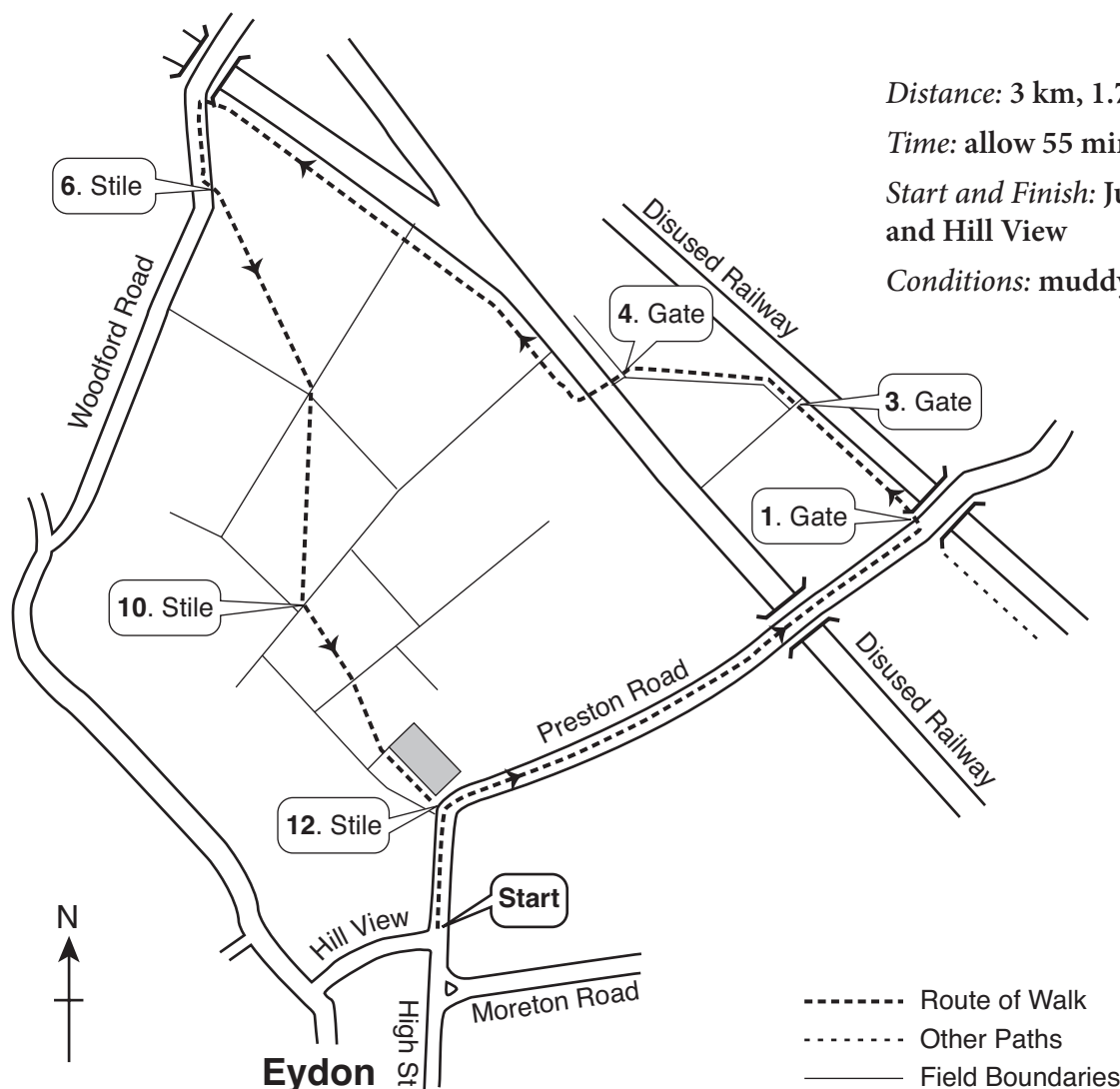
Preston Road - Green Lane - Preston Road

Distance: 3 km, 1.75 miles

Time: allow 55 minutes

Start and Finish: Junction of Preston Road and Hill View

Conditions: muddy after rain



1. Walk down Preston Road and over first disused railway bridge. Just before the second disused railway bridge turn left through the gate opposite the brideway fingerpost.
2. Walk up the side of the field, keeping the route of the old railway line on your right.
3. At the end of the field, pass through the gate, and then turn left and walk up the side of the field keeping the hedge on your left.
4. Arrive at two gates on your left hand side and go through the second gate marked with a Bridleway sign and walk up the lane and over the old bridge.
5. Continued along the lane to the Woodford Road. Ignore the signs to the Woodford Nature Reserve.
6. Turn left onto the Woodford Road and in about 50 meters you should find the sign to Eydon (usually partly hidden in the hedge), turn left here and cross the stile into the field.
7. Turn half right and cross the field diagonally to the far right hand corner.
8. In the corner of the field, cross the stiles and footbridge into the next field.
9. Turn half right and cross the field diagonally to get to the gate in the opposite hedge about 50 meters from the right hand end of the field.
10. Cross the stile beside the gate and walk straight on across the next field to the gate on the opposite side. Pass through the gate and walk across the field to the gate on the right hand side of the farm buildings.
11. Go through the gate and walk past the rear of the buildings and then over a stile to join the Preston Road.
Note: this area is often very muddy, especially so in wet weather.
12. Turn right onto the road and walk back to the village.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 4

Woodford Road, Woodford Nature Reserve, West Farndon, Butterfly Lane.

Distance: 5km, 3.1 miles

Time: allow 1 hour 15 minutes.

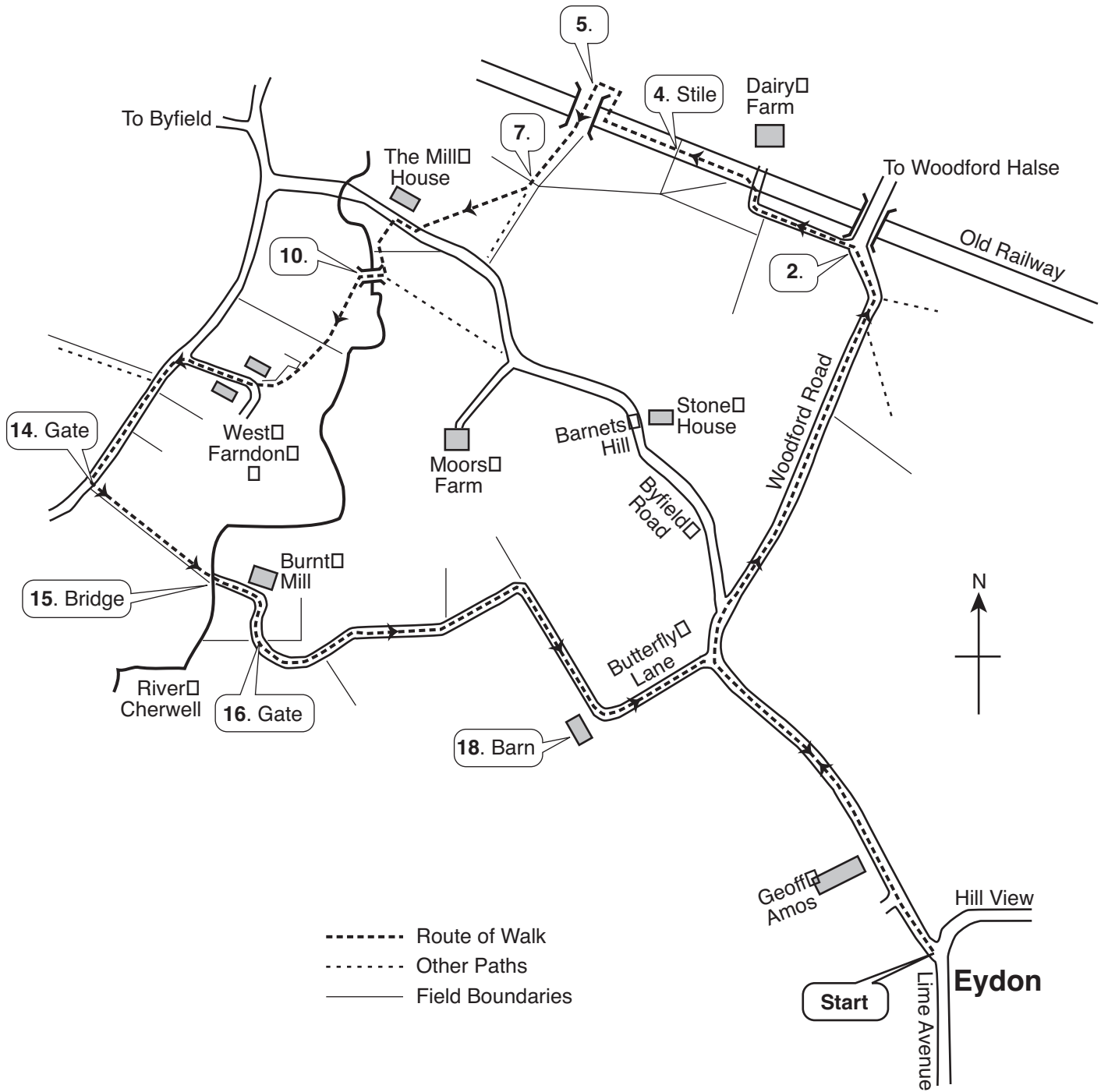
Start and Finish: Junction of Lime Avenue, Hill View and Byfield Road

Note: This walk may be shortened by walking out or back along Byfield Road between its junction with Woodford Road and The Mill House. Barnets Hill, however, is steep and some may find it difficult walking towards Eydon along this route.

1. Walk along Byfield Road to its junction with Woodford Road, then fork right down Woodford Road towards Woodford Halse.
2. Just before the old railway bridge, turn left down the track marked with a footpath fingerpost and Dairy Farm sign.
3. Where the track turns right to enter the farm, continue on over the stile on the left hand side of the track (beside a gate), to enter Woodford Nature Reserve. Walk straight ahead along the path.
4. At the end of the Nature Reserve, cross the stile to the right of the green gate, and walk on along the bed of the old railway.
5. Just before the footbridge over the old railway, turn right and go up the steps and cross the stile into the field beyond. Turn left, and left again, to go through the gate onto the footbridge following "Jurasic Way" signs (the bolt on this gate is stiff to operate – lift the gate a little to slide it more easily).
6. Cross the bridge and go through the gate on the other side. Walk straight on along the side of the field, keeping the hedge on your left.
7. At the next field junction, cross the stile on the right following the "Jurasic Way" sign.
8. Cross the field diagonally aiming for the left hand end of the Mill building in front of you.
9. In the corner of the field, cross the stile onto Byfield Road. Turn right, and after a few meters, cross the stile on the left, still following the "Jurasic Way" signs. Cross the paddock and stile into the next field.
10. Continue on, keeping the stream on your right. After about 50m cross the footbridge over the infant River Cherwell. Enter the next field over the stile and turn half left.
11. Walk forward towards the nearest building. Before reaching the building, cross the stile to the left of the gate. Walk forward to the corner of the wall and then on round the front of the cottages.
12. Cross the stile to the right of the gate onto the road.
13. Walk forward along the road, then turn left at the road junction, still following the "Jurasic Way" signs.
14. After about 250m turn left through a gate marked with a Bridleway fingerpost. You are leaving the Jurasic Way here. Walk down the field, keeping the hedge on your right.
15. At the end of the field, cross the bridge, and go through the gate. Walk forward along the track past the old mill building, and follow the track round to the right to the next gate.
16. Go through the gate to enter Butterfly Lane. Walk forward, following the Lane.
17. At the top of the first little hill, turn around, take a breather, and admire the view! Further on, look left across West Farndon to Byfield and across Moors Farm to Charwelton Hill (with the telecomms tower) beyond Woodford Halse.
18. Follow Butterfly Lane on through a gate by a barn and on to Byfield Road. At the road, turn right and walk back to the village along the road.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 4

Woodford Road, Woodford Nature Reserve, West Farndon, Butterfly Lane.



Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 5

Butterfly Lane, Jurassic Way & Jack's Ford

Distance: 5.6 km, 3.5 miles

Time: allow 1 hour 40 minutes

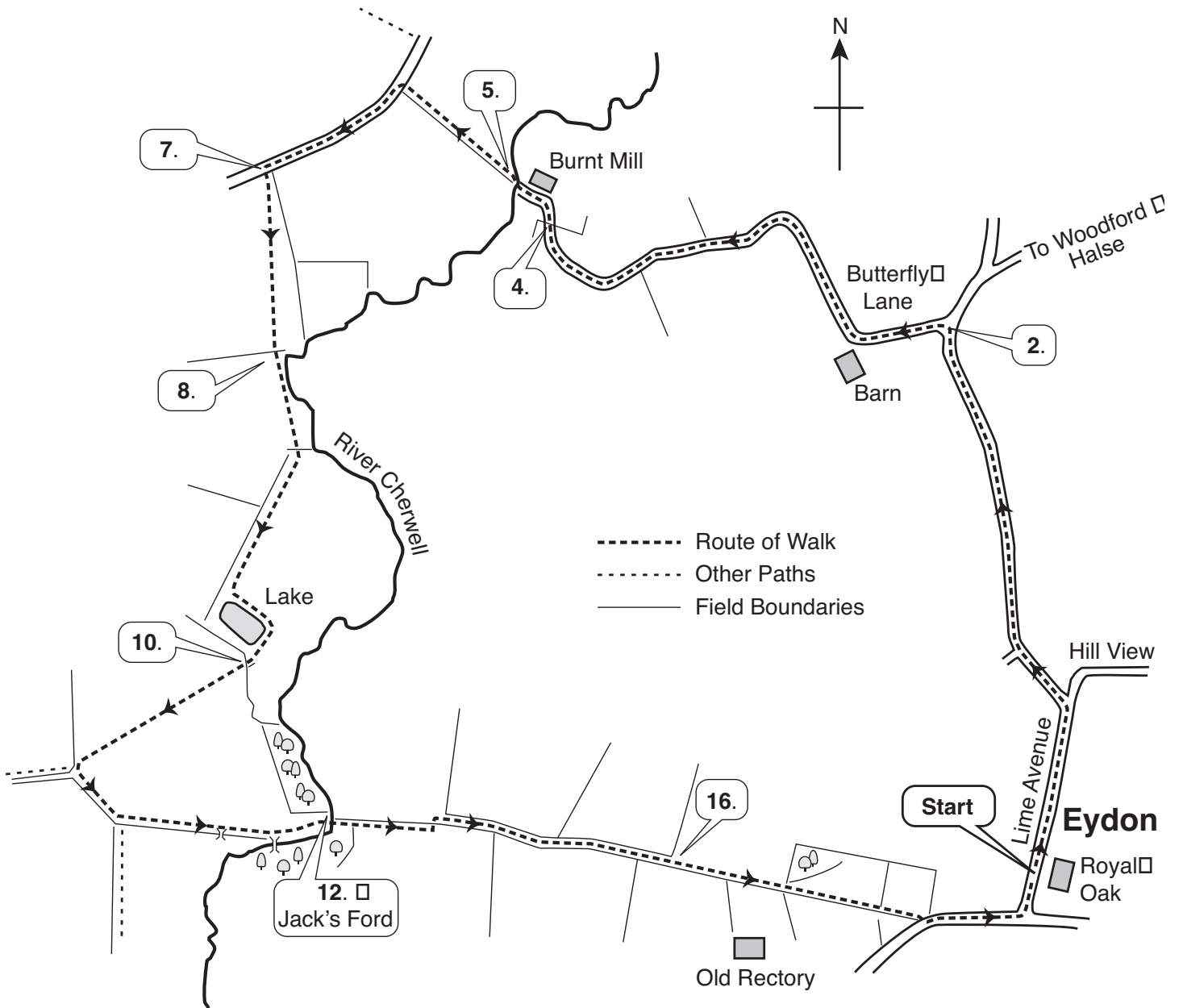
Start and Finish: The Royal Oak, Eydon

Conditions: cattle frequently in some fields to be crossed

1. Walk North from the Royal Oak along Lime Avenue, and after passing the Post Office, fork left along Byfield Road.
2. Pass Geoff Amos Coaches and in about half a kilometre (one third of a mile), note a Bridleway fingerpost in the hedge on the left hand side of the road. Turn left down the farm track indicated by the fingerpost. This is Butterfly Lane.
3. In a little way you will come to a gate across the track. Pass through the gate and turn right. Continue along the track, noting the views to the right over West Farndon and Moors Farm to Byfield, Woodford Halse and beyond.
4. Go through the gate and follow the track round in front of Burnt Mill, a red brick building.
5. Go through the next gate and cross the bridge over the River Cherwell. Walk up the side of the field with the hedge on your left.
6. At the end of the field, go through the gate onto the road. Turn left and walk along the road.
7. At the next gate on your left (marked with "Jurassic Way" fingerpost), go left through the gate into the field. Walk down the side of the field with the hedge on your left.
8. Go through the gate at the end of the field and continue on with the river on your left.
9. Go through another gate into the next field, turn half right and walk round the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. At the end of the field, follow the path round the small lake.
10. Leave the lake by "Jurassic Way" signs and enter next field. The path is usually marked across this field, but if not, walk ahead aiming to pass about 10m to the right of the prominent tree. On coming level with this tree. Look ahead and look for the gap in the hedge at the far side of the field, with a track beyond it. Head for this gap.
11. On reaching the edge of the field, do not go through the gap, but turn left and walk round the side of the field with the hedge on the right. You leave Jurassic Way at this point. Part way around the field you join the River Cherwell on your right. Ignore the footbridge and old bridle bridge crossing the river, and continue on round the edge of the field.
12. At the end of the field find the footbridge and ford with waymark signs, cross over the footbridge. This ford is known as Jack's Ford.
13. Walk through the edge of the plantation with the dense blackthorn thicket on your left.
14. Cross the stile to enter the field and walk up the side of the field with the hedge on your left.
15. At the end of the field, cross the stile on your left beside the gate. Turn right along the track and after a short steep section, stop to admire the view over the gate on the left, then continue up the track.
16. Go through the gate which is across the track and continue on past The Old Rectory and the cricket ground (Oakey's Field) on your right.
17. Pass through another gate across the track and then join the road at the kissing gate.
18. Walk forward down the road and turn left into Lime Avenue to return to The Royal Oak.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 5

Butterfly Lane, Jurassic Way & Jack's Ford



Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 6

Jack's Ford & Trafford

Distance: 5.6 km, 3.5 miles

Time: allow 1 hour 40 minutes

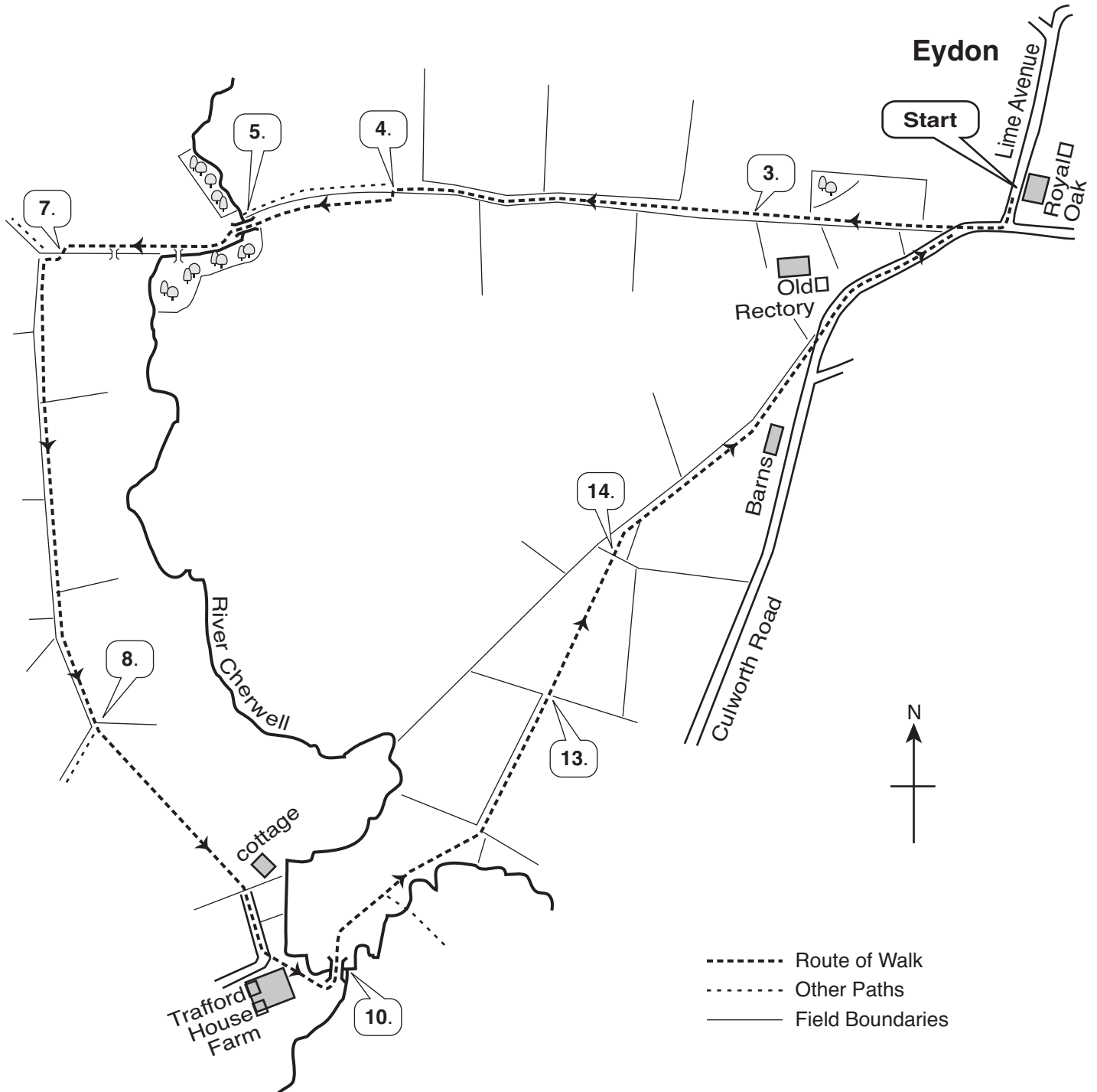
Start and Finish: The Royal Oak, Eydon

Conditions: Frequently wet over one short section

1. Walk South from the Royal Oak to the end of Lime Avenue, and turn right into Hollow Way.
2. At the Bridleway fingerpost, go through the kissing gate and walk straight forward through the gate in the fence in front of you. Keep straight on with the cricket field on your left.
3. Go through the kissing gate and walk forward along the farm track noting the views over the gates on the right.
4. After descending a short steep section, you will come to a gate across the end of the track. Cross the stile on the left hand side of the gate following the footpath waymarks. *Ignore the Bridleway waymarks.* Walk down the side of the field with the hedge on your right.
5. At the end of the field, cross the stile into the spinney and follow the path forward round the dense blackthorn thicket on your right. When you come to the footbridge, cross over the River Cherwell. Jack's ford is beside the bridge.
6. Turn left on the far side of the bridge and walk up the side of the field with the river and then the hedge on your left. Ignore the old bridle bridge over the river and the footbridge, and continue up the side of the field.
7. About 20m before the end of the field, turn left through a gap in the hedge, and then right to follow a well defined bridleway along the side of the field with the hedge on your right.
8. At the end of the third field, follow the clearly defined path, marked by a footpath waymark, across the field towards the building.
9. At the end of the field, go through the gate and walk forward along the track to a track junction. Bear left at the junction, and walk across the grass to the left hand corner of the barn. Then walk down the field to a prominent tree with a bare lower trunk, and on from that to the end of the bridge. Note: site of the abandoned medieval village of Trafford with its characteristic hollow ways.
10. Cross the bridge, turn half right and walk forward over marshy ground to gain higher and dryer ground further into the field.
11. On reaching higher ground, turn right and walk along the edge of the ridge of dry ground with the marshy ground and river on your right.
12. When you come to the gate at the corner of the field, go through it into the next field and walk up the side of field with the hedge on your left.
13. Go through the gate at the end of the field, and walk straight on across the centre of the field to the gate that is visible in the far boundary.
14. Go through the gate, and walk forward through the gap in the hedge and along the path with the hedge on your left, and the fence on your right. Keep walking straight forward ignoring the tracks on the left and right. Where the fence turns right, continue on, keeping the hedge on your left.
15. Join Culworth Road near "Eydon" sign and walk back into the village along the road, turning left into Lime Avenue to arrive at The Royal Oak.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 6

Jack's Ford & Trafford



Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 7

Trafford, Blackbird Hill, Eydon Park

Distance: 6.25 km, 3.9 miles

Time: allow 2 hours

Start and Finish: The Royal Oak, Eydon

Conditions: Frequently wet over one short section. Path difficult to follow in places and sometimes ploughed out or blocked with crops. Be prepared to return along Culworth Road or use Farm Road.

1. Walk South from the Royal Oak to the end of Lime Avenue, and then turn right into Hollow Way. Continue on along Culworth Road past the Cemetery and the Cricket Ground on your right.
2. About 100m past the entrance to the Old Rectory, turn right through the gate marked with a Bridleway fingerpost. Walk forward along the grassy path with a wall and later a hedge on your right. Ignore the tracks to the left and right and keep ahead with the hedge on your right.
3. After narrower section with hedge on your right and fence on the left, pass forward through a gap in the hedge to face the gate across the track.
4. Go through the gate. Note the gate in the opposite boundary of the field, and walk across the centre of the field towards it.
5. Go through the gate and then walk down the side of the field with the hedge on your right.
6. At the end of the field, go through the gate into the next field. The field is roughly level to your right, but slopes down to a stream on your left. Walk forward along the edge of the level area with the sloping area on your left. Pass to the right of the solitary thorn bush, and in about 170m you will see a footbridge over the stream on your left. Pick your way down through the marshy ground to the bridge.
7. Cross over the bridge, and if the path is marked in the next field, follow it up the field. If the path is not marked, stand on the end of the bridge and note two electricity transmission poles in the field. Hold your arm fully outstretched in front of you with hand and fingers pointing upwards. Measure four finger widths to the left of the right hand electricity post and note the corresponding point on the skyline. Walk towards that point. (This is not as difficult as it sounds!)
8. As you walk up the field, note the adjacent field to the left of the one you are in. The hedge of that field forms a right angle, head for that angle.
9. On reaching the angle in the hedge, look back at views behind you. Then look forward to the hedge at the end of the field. Note the two large trees and the large bush, almost a tree, to their right. Head between the two trees. As you get closer, you should see a gate between the trees, walk up to it.
10. Go through the gate, and walk up the side of the field with the hedge on your left. Then turn right and walk along the top edge of the field with the hedge still on your left.
11. You will come to a stile in the hedge, look back and admire the views.
12. Cross the stile onto the road, and turn left.
13. In about 100m turn right over the stile at the Footpath fingerpost. Walk along the side of the field with the fence on your right. At the bend in the fence, see the large badger set on the right, and look down on the village of Culworth.
14. A few metres after the fence gives way to a hedge, you will come to a steel gate on your right. Go through the gate into the field (the gate will open, but it is often easier to climb over).

Walk 7 continued next page

15. Look across the field and in the far boundary, well to the right, see the old railway bridge. Walk to that.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 7

Trafford, Blackbird Hill, Eydon Park

(continued)

16. On reaching the bridge, turn back and walk along the side of the field with the fence and the bed of the old railway on your right.
17. In the corner of the field, cross the two stiles and go through the hedge into the next field. If the path is marked in this field, walk forward along it. If the path is totally blocked with a crop, you can usually walk round the right hand edge of the field. If the path is not visible, but the field is clear, stand with your back to the transmission pole and note the bushy topped tree just showing over the skyline. Measure two finger widths to the left of this (same method as in 7, above). Note the point on the skyline and walk forward towards that. As you come onto the crest of the field, you will see a gap in the hedge at the far side, walk to that.
18. Go through the gap, cross the farm road, and walk along the side of the next field with the hedge on your left.
19. At the end of the field, go through the gap in the hedge. If the path is marked, follow it. Your only legal right is to follow the Right of Way (see paragraph below) but if the path is blocked by a crop or ploughing, you may wish to go round the right hand side of the field. Follow the hedge and then the edge of some scrubby woodland. On the far side of the field, a bank drops to a stream and a little way from the corner of the field find a path leading down to a footbridge.

To follow the Right of Way (which is the correct thing to do), look across the field: to the right there is some scrubby woodlands and extending to the left from that, a line of trees. Just to the left of the scrub and at the start of the line of trees, the trees are distinctly shorter (this is a little to the left of the line of sight to Eydon Hall). Walk straight towards the shorter trees. At the lower level of the field, you will lose sight of your aiming mark, so as you approach the lower ground, note a point on the more distant trees and keep walking in a straight line. At the far end of the field, find a path leading down to the footbridge over the stream.

20. Cross the footbridge and follow the path, past the broken gate, and up to the stile in the fence.
21. Cross the stile, look across the field and see the farm track beyond the boundary. Walk straight across the field towards this.
22. Cross the stile and walk forward up the farm track. Where the track becomes a metalled surface and bends left, keep on forward on the grass path with the fence on your right.
23. Where the fence bends right, go half left and follow the path round the edge of the trees to join Eydon Hall drive. Turn right and walk towards the village.
24. About 50m before the lodge gates, turn left off the drive and walk to the kissing gate in the stone wall. Go through the gate, turn right and walk to the village green.
25. Turn left, walk up School Lane and then turn right into Lime Avenue to return to The Royal Oak.

Seven Walks Around Eydon: Walk 7

Trafford, Blackbird Hill, Eydon Park

