

WALKS AROUND CHARLBURY

Ditchley Park No. 5

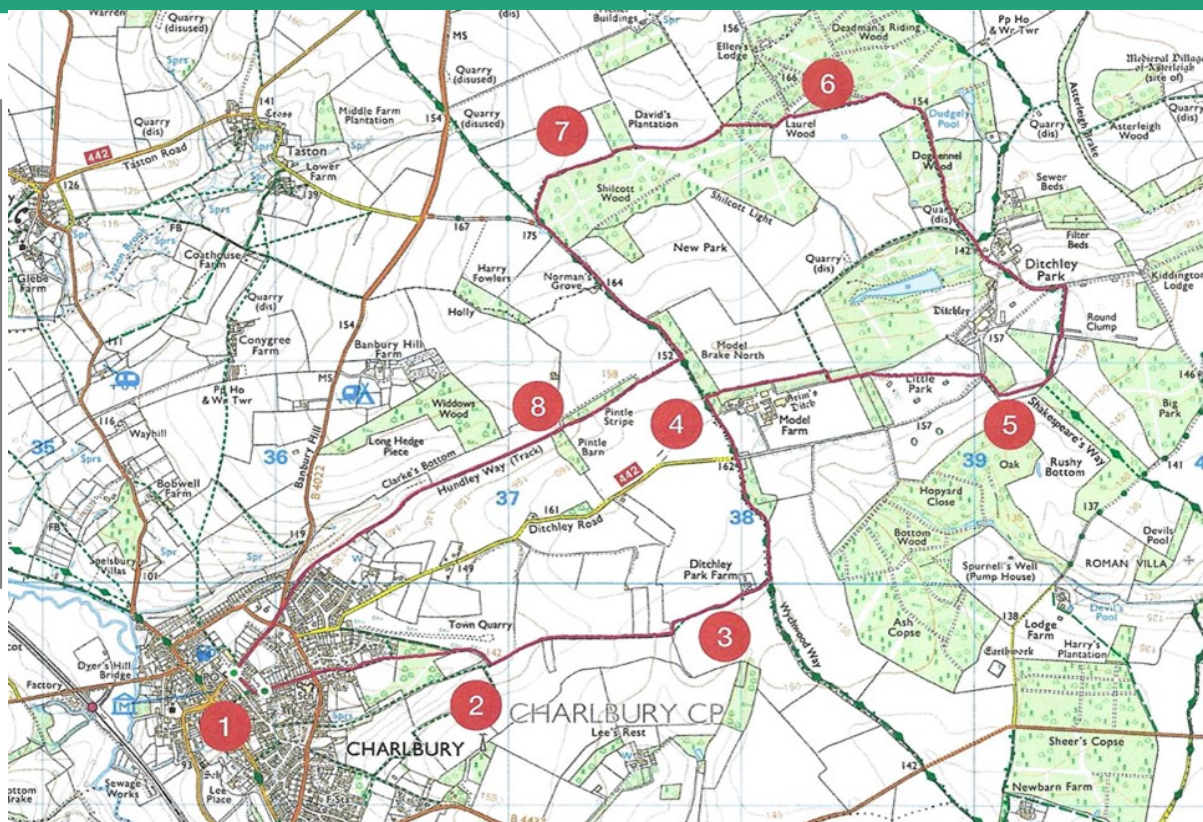
A delightful, circular walk with far reaching views across the Cotswold National Landscape and the historic Ditchley Estate, including views of Ditchley House, which was the WWII retreat of Winston Churchill.



**Distance: 12 km
(7.5 miles)**
**OS Landranger Map
No 164**
Difficulty : Moderate
**Start/Finish: Main
Town Car Park
(Spendlove)**
**1 Enstone Rd,
Charlbury, OX7 3PQ**

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Walking Directions:

- 1. Start at Spendlove Car Park:** Pass the Co-op, cross to The Playing Close, then bear left onto Crawborough. At the end, use the pedestrian crossing into Ticknell Lane. Continue straight ahead past the Bowls Club and play area on your left.
- 2. Into the Countryside:** Go through a kissing gate, turn right, and after ~200m, turn left onto the bridleway. Note the old town quarry on your left, a source of Cotswold Stone but now a haven for wildlife. This section can be muddy.
- 3. Follow the Bridleway:** Continue for ~1.6km (1 mile) to a wide track. Turn left and follow it round to the right by the Ditchley Park Information Board to Ditchley Park Farm. Turn left here onto a tarmac road which forms part of the Wychwood Way and one of the ancient Salt Ways. After ~500m, pass Ditchley House gates on your right. On your left is Ditchley Road, which can be taken to return to Charlbury town centre. The route continues ahead along the crushed surfaced track.
- 4. Field Paths and Views:** After ~300m, take a gap in the hedgerow on your right into a wood. Follow the path along the field edge, enjoying views over Ditchley Estate. Turn right at a track, then left to a large wooden gate. Cross the field bearing slightly right towards a cattle grid and gates across the estate access road. Go through the pedestrian gate and the one opposite into another field. These fields within the Ditchley Estate are for grazing cattle and sheep, with young present at times. Please keep dogs under control.
- 5. Through the Estate:** Follow the path left at the field's end for a view of Ditchley House on your left. Continue straight ahead then bear left to a wooden gate. Go through two sets of gates and between an avenue of trees until you reach a tarmac road. Turn left, follow the road downhill, bearing right, to a cattle grid, keeping houses on your right. Go through the pedestrian gate and uphill into a wooded area. Ignore a track off to your left and continue ahead into Dogkennel Wood.
- 6. Woodland Path:** Leave the track and take the well marked footpath on your left and immediately turn right along a field margin keeping the hedgerow on your right. Near the end of the field, the path bears right into Laurel Wood. Follow the signposted path through the wood. This path can be muddy.
- 7. Countryside Views:** As you leave the wood bear left along the field edge, then through a copse and another field. Enjoy the expansive countryside views here. At the field's end, turn left then left again onto a wide downhill track. Follow this track until you come to a track on your right leading across a field. Take this track.
- 8. Return to Charlbury:** Continue straight through a wood and along a field edge. Ignore the gate and marked footpath on your right near a Ditchley Park Information Board. Continue to a surfaced track with views over Clarke's Bottom. Follow Hundley Way to Enstone Road, and turn left back to the Co-op and car park to complete your walk.