



# STEP INTO THE COTSWOLDS WALK **FOUR**

## Milton-under-Wychwood/Fifield



### Points of interest

#### Milton-under-Wychwood

Milton is a very old village dating from medieval times, founded allegedly by Kevin, Lord of Atwater. Its name derives from the Old English, meaning ‘middle town’.

#### Fifield

Fifield is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. Its name is probably a transliteration of its Anglo-Saxon name of Fihides (i.e. ‘five hides’, a hide being a field).

#### Little Rissington Airfield

Little Rissington Airfield is a RAF Aerodrome and former RAF station. It was once home to the Central Flying School, the Red Pelicans and the Red Arrows. Built during the 1930s, the RAF station was opened in 1938 and was finally closed in 1994. The married-quarters (now known as Upper Rissington) and main technical site were both sold in 1996 but the airfield has been retained by the Ministry of Defence and remains active along with some of the southern technical sites, under the operational control of HQAC at RAFC Cranwell. RAF Little Rissington is now home to 637 Volunteer Gliding Squadron who provide basic flying training for the Combined Cadet Force and Air Training Corps cadets. The airfield is also used by the forces as an emergency landing strip, a training area and a parachute training area.

#### Wychwood Forest

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, the Royal Forest of Wychwood covered much of what is now West Oxfordshire. In 1854 an Act of Parliament was passed to clear the Forest for agricultural land. In a period of only 18 months, thousands of trees were cut down and areas of woodland and heath were cleared, leaving only the present rump of woodland round Cornbury Park to the north east of Leafield. In 1997 the Wychwood Project was established to raise awareness of the history and identity of the area, and to work with local communities to restore its rich patchwork of landscapes and habitats within the Forest boundaries.

#### The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Cotswolds is considered by many people to be one of the most beautiful areas of England – the quintessential English landscape. It is also a very special area: one of only 40 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales, it is protected by Government as being of great value to the nation. This ensures the very features that attract people are there for future generations to enjoy.

The natural qualities of the AONB are unique. Limestone gives the Cotswolds its distinctive, unified appearance, visible everywhere in buildings, walls, towns and villages, which subtly blend with their surroundings.

The Cotswolds is a place of immense diversity: rolling landscapes with breathtaking views and open skies contrast with intimate valleys, villages and pastures. Ancient beech woodlands, rare flora and limestone grasslands alternate with broad swathes of arable fields. Pre-historic hill forts are found close to the fine craftsmanship of manor houses and stone cottages.

#### ‘Step into the Cotswolds’ & the Cotswolds Conservation Board

This walk, and others in the series, has been funded through money raised by the ‘Step into the Cotswolds’ Visitor Payback Scheme, where visitors make voluntary donations to local access and conservation projects.

The scheme is run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board in partnership with West Oxfordshire District Council and supported by Oxfordshire County Council’s Countryside Service. The scheme has also been part-financed by supported financially by the European Community West Oxfordshire Network Leader+ 2000-2006 programme and the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment and the Waste Recycling Group through the Landfill Communities Fund. For more information about the Visitor Payback Scheme, the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the work of the Cotswolds Conservation Board contact:

#### Cotswolds Conservation Board

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Website: [www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk)



#### Summary

A walk of 6 miles (or 8 miles following the extended route) from Milton-under-Wychwood to Fifield and Little Rissington Airfield and back to Milton.

This walk is part of a visitor payback scheme called ‘Step Into the Cotswolds’ and has these waymarkers along the route. →

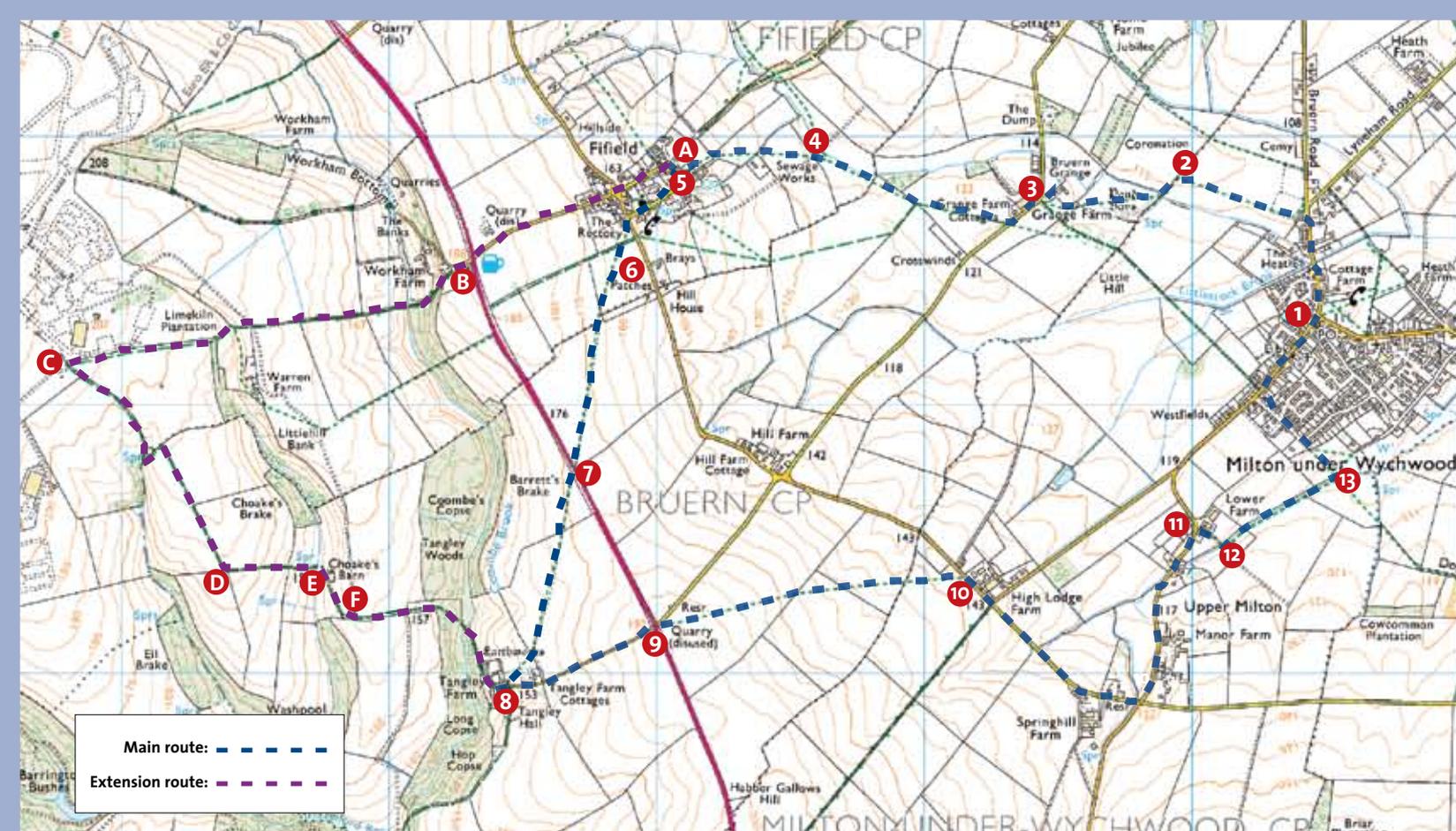


#### Walk information

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Start/End Point:  | The Quart Pot, Milton-Under-Wychwood   |
| Grid Reference:   | SP263183   |
| Distance:         | 6 miles (9.6km); 8 miles (12.8km) with extension   |
| Terrain:          | Gently undulating with one short, steep section on the extension route near the Merrymouth Inn   |
| Parking:          | On-street parking  |
| Public Transport: | Details of bus services can be found in the ‘Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport’ leaflets available from the Cotswolds Conservation Board (Tel: 01451 862000). You can download the leaflets from: <a href="http://www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk">www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk</a> . They are also available at most Tourist Information Centres and libraries |
| Public toilets:   | None   |
| Refreshments:     | Milton-under-Wychwood - The Quart Pot public house, Wychwood Deli and the village store.   |



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### Route Description

**1** From The Quart Pot pub, turn left into Church Road heading towards Lyneham and Kingham. After 400m, opposite the turning to Lyneham, turn left through a gate into some allotments. Immediately turn left. At the corner turn right and walk straight ahead to the far side of the field.

**2** At the far side of the field turn left and cross the footbridge to reach a gate. Cross the next field towards Breurn Grange, reaching a field gate by a garden wall. Bear slightly right to the corner of the garden then continue up to a gate onto the lane.

**3** Turn left up the lane. After approximately 130m take the bridleway on the right marked 'Fifeild 1'. Go diagonally left across the field to a gate. Turn right and follow the field edge to a gap in the hedge. Cross the footbridge and walk straight ahead alongside a stream

**4** Where a bridge crosses the stream, turn left and go through the gate into the next field. Bear right across this field to a gate next to an electricity pole. Continue diagonally up the next field following the electricity poles to a bridlegate in the corner. Turn left and follow the edge of the playing field into Fifeild.

**Route for extension – see A right.**



**5** Turn left and follow the lane round to the right and up to the church. At the top of the lane, turn left and then right onto the Darcy Dalton Way. Follow the path between a fence and hedge to a gate leading into a field.

**6** Continue diagonally across this field to a gap in the hedge. Turn left and follow the edge of the next field, to another gate. Continue diagonally right across the next field to the A424.

**7** Cross the road carefully then bear diagonally right across the next two fields before crossing a gate. Continue across the next field before passing through a gate at the back of the farmhouse onto a lane.

**8** Turn left and follow the farm track and lane leading uphill, past Tangley Farm Cottages, to the main road.

**9** Cross the road then almost immediately take the footpath on the right. Bear diagonally right across the next three fields using through gaps in the hedges. At the far edge of the third field, pass through a gate. Cut across the corner of the next field to a gate. Cross the paddock to a field gate onto the lane.

**10** Turn right and follow the lane until a crossroads. Here turn left onto the lane marked 'Milton Under Wychwood'

**11** Turn right onto a footpath beside Lower Farm House. Go straight ahead to a field gate. Continue straight ahead across the field to a bridge.

**12** After crossing the bridge turn left and follow the stream along the edge of the next 3 fields

**13** Halfway along the 3rd field turn left over a stone bridge, through a gate and straight ahead to another gate leading into Jubilee Lane. Continue straight down Jubilee Lane before turning right into High Street to return to the Quart Pot.

### Route for Extension:

**A** Turn right and follow the lane round to the left then straight ahead to reach the main road (A424). Cross the main road and take the lane by the side of the Merry-mouth Inn.

**B** Where the lane bears right by Fonthill Farm, continue straight ahead down the restricted byway. Follow the track, until a locked gate leading onto the airfield is reached.

**C** Turn left before the gate and follow the hedge alongside the field. At the corner of the field turn left, then right and continue along the edge of the next field.

**D** At the corner of the second field on the left, turn left and follow the track as it descends to a gate. Continue straight ahead and cross the bridge.

**E** Shortly after crossing the stream, the bridleway bears right and climbs to a metal gate. Go straight ahead, between two hedges, and through a second gate onto a farm track.

**F** Follow this track to Tangley Farm bearing left over the cattle grid to re-join the walk at point (8).

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