

Pilgrim Paths

Oddington to Noke Circular Walk

Distance: 3.75 miles

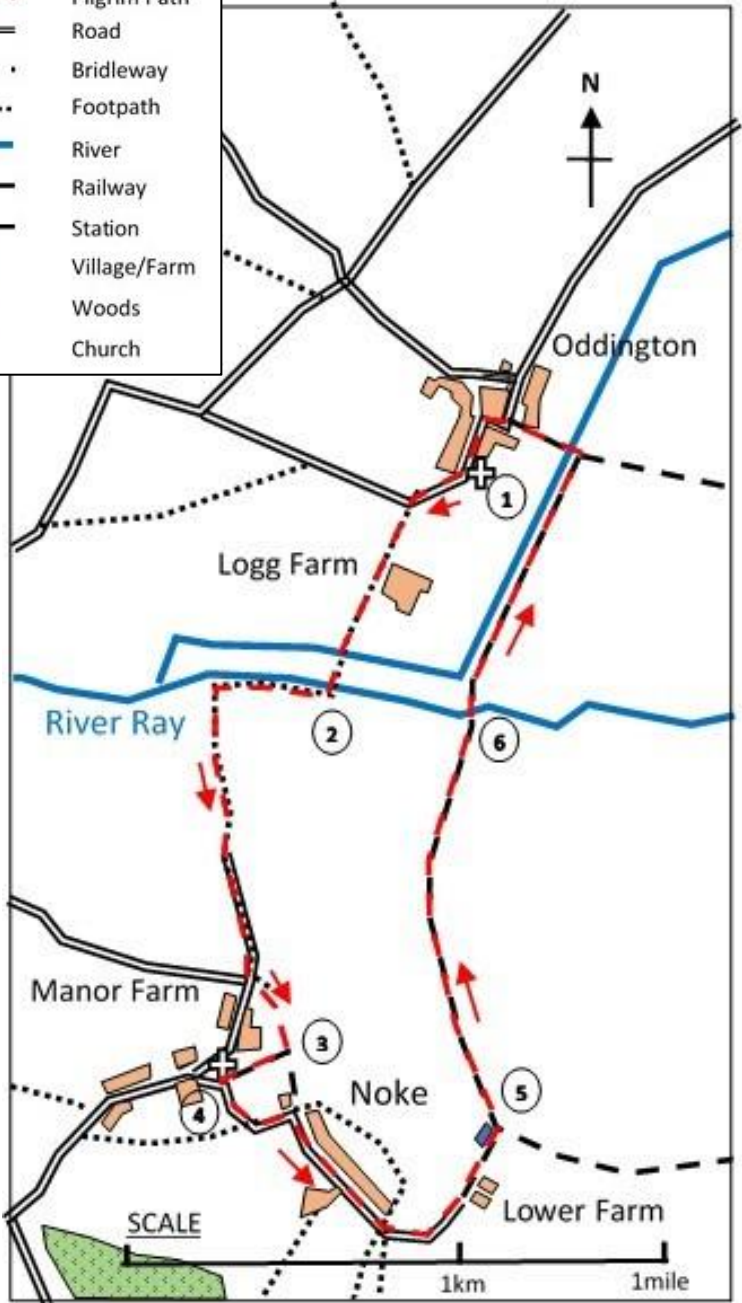
A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place.

This leaflet offers Bible passages and reflections to accompany your journey, with suggestions of places to pause. Please allow much more time than you would usually spend on a walk to be able to contemplate the journey.

The circular walk may include road walking through villages, footpaths through woods and fields and negotiating some stiles. You may also encounter sheep, cattle or horses grazing in the fields.

KEY

	Pilgrim Path
	Road
	Bridleway
	Footpath
	River
	Railway
	Station
	Village/Farm
	Woods
	Church



START

LOCATION: Church of St Andrew, Oddington



Pause, Reflect & Pray

Be with us, Lord God, as we set out today. Open our eyes to see the beauty of your creation and open our hearts to receive your love.
Amen.

i A mention of Oddington in a Papal bull written in 1146 suggests the village had a parish church by the middle of the 12th century*. In front of the altar (under a carpet) is an early 16th-century monumental brass in memory of Ralph Hamsterley, who was the parish priest and died in 1518. It is a cadaver monument, showing his corpse in its burial shroud, which is a style unusual for monumental brasses in England.



* Lobel, Mary D., ed. (1959). *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 6*. Victoria County History. pp. 276–285



Turn left out of the churchyard and, after 200 yards, take the footpath signposted Noke, straight across the field, following the footpath to cross over a stile. Turn left and continue following the path to the right of Logg Farm, crossing over another stile and then eventually crossing the River Ray and the Old Ray. Turn right, along the far bank of the Old Ray. On reaching the field boundary turn left, keeping the hedgerow on your right. Across to your right at some point in

the far distance you should eventually see the tower of St. Nicholas, Islip with its delicate pinacles. You will reach a low concrete building which is a small water tower and is sometimes rather overgrown. Follow the path to the right of this, continuing in a straight line. In about 200 yards turn left on a track around Manor farm, through a small wood and then immediately right after the wood on the bridleway (3) leading to the Church of St Giles (4).

LOCATION: Church of St Giles, Noke





Noke is one of eight parish churches in the Ray Valley Benefice. The church is a small, but beautifully proportioned stone building constructed in limestone rubble with ashlar dressings under a plain-tile roof, seating about sixty. Although a church has existed here since at least 1065, the earliest part of the present building is the arcade between the nave and north aisle, which was built in about 1200. The chancel was rebuilt in 1780 and was remodeled in 1861, when the rest of the church was restored.

Extensive repairs have also been made over the last 20 years. Do take time to notice the beautiful altar cloths that change with the church calendar's seasons.

Pause, Reflect & Pray

As you take time to rest in the church, take time to pray.

Lord of all time and eternity, we thank you for moments of tranquillity and rest. Help us to slow down, to enjoy the beauty of your creation and to live our lives with hope and gratitude.

On leaving the church, turn left on the road through the village (It is usually quiet but listen out for any vehicles). Initially go past the Old School (now a private home as shown) and then following the road through a series of bends.





Photo: Nigel Lambert

Admire the houses as you pass through this peaceful backwater. The Manor House is on your left, with a blue plaque marking the

previous resident William Logsdail.



After passing "Lower Valley" house on the left (pictured) continue down the road (signposted as a private road.)



Photo: Nigel Lambert



Photo: Nigel Lambert

Continue going straight, taking the left fork where the private road bends to the right as it approaches Lower Farm. You will come to a pond on the left, as shown.



Photo: Nigel Lambert

At the T-junction by the pump house (5) turn left on a wide grassy track, with the RSPB reserve on your right. You will reach "The Iron Centre Weir" (6), a bridge over the Old Ray, as it emerges from the moor. The track continues along the River Ray. To the left you will see the Church of St Andrew. During the summer there is an abundance of wild flowers along this stretch.

At the T-junction, on reaching Oddington Bridge, turn left over the Ray, shown below in the beauty of summer.



Photo: Nigel Lambert



Photo: Nigel Lambert

Turn left into Oddington and keep following the road left until you reach the church (1).



Photo: Nigel Lambert

Pause, Reflect & Pray

We have come to the end of our walk, taking the experience with us ...

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine brighten your heart.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.

Old Gaelic Blessing

END

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

LEAVE GATES AND PROPERTY AS YOU FIND THEM AND WALK ONLY ON
DESIGNATED PATHS.

