STOW-ON-THE-WOLD TO BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER (VIA UPPER AND LOWER SLAUGHTER)

Distance: 7 miles (11km)
Ascent 46ft (14m) Descent 377ft (115m)

Refreshments: Café at Lower Slaughter or Slaughters Country Inn

An easy walk, descending from Stow on the Wold before a fairly level walk to Lower Swell, the Slaughters and on to Bourton on the Water.

The walk starts in 'The Square' of Stow-on-the-Wold outside the 'Old Stocks' hotel facing the main car park. With your back to the hotel turn right and follow the pavement past the old village stocks to the corner of the buildings by the road and a sign post.

Cross the road; turn right and go past the bus stop before re-crossing the road and continue along the pavement towards the main A429 Fosse Way.

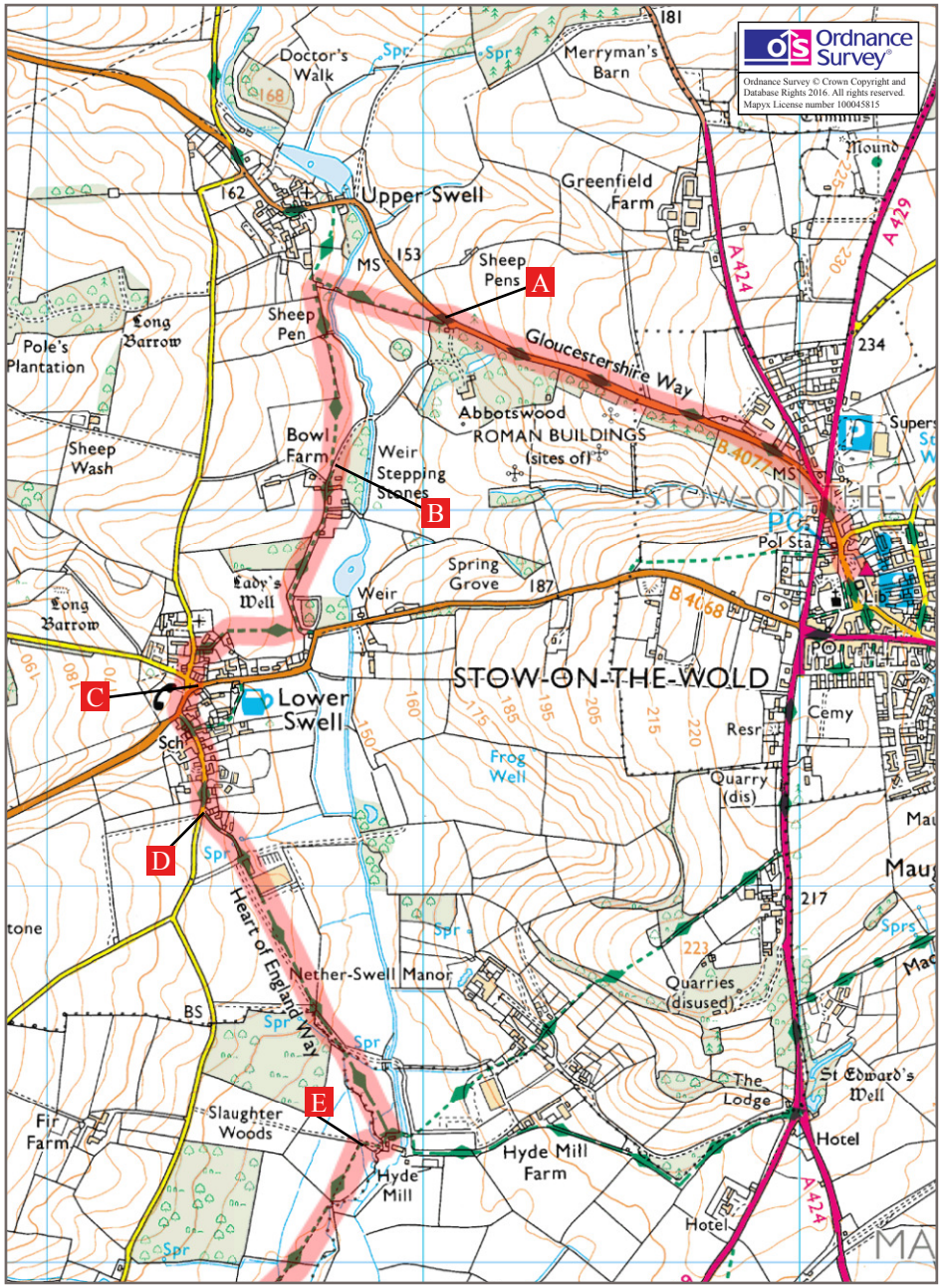
Follow the pavement around to the right and walk up to the pedestrian crossing. Cross the main road; turn left and go back to the road junction; follow the pavement around to the right. After approx 40m carefully cross the road and the second road to join a grass verge in front of a long stone wall.

Turn right signposted 'Cotswold Farm Park' and follow the wide grass verge downhill for approx 1 km; go past an entrance to Abbotswood, the grass verge finishes and shortly after, go through a G on your left signposted 'Gloucestershire Way' A (9.6kms). Immediately go through a second G and follow the left hand field boundary to the far side of the field and meet a KG by a footbridge.

Cross and follow the path uphill beside some trees; the path turns 90° left by a corner of a wall. Follow the path and go through three KGs to emerge in a field. Follow the fence on your right across the field to where it turns right; continue straight on to meet a KG by a driveway B (8.8kms).

Join the drive and turn right and follow the drive past buildings, Bowl Farm, a walled garden and a lake on your left. The drive bends to the left and shortly left again before meeting the road. On the second bend approx 60m before the road, look for a KG on your right; enter the field and walk up the slope initially heading for the church.

Nearer the church, the path bears slightly left, away from the church, beside a stone



wall to meet a G at the end of a track. Go through and follow the track to meet a road where you turn left. Follow the pavement down to meet a road junction, Lower Swell, with a triangular green and stone monument in front of you C (7.8kms).

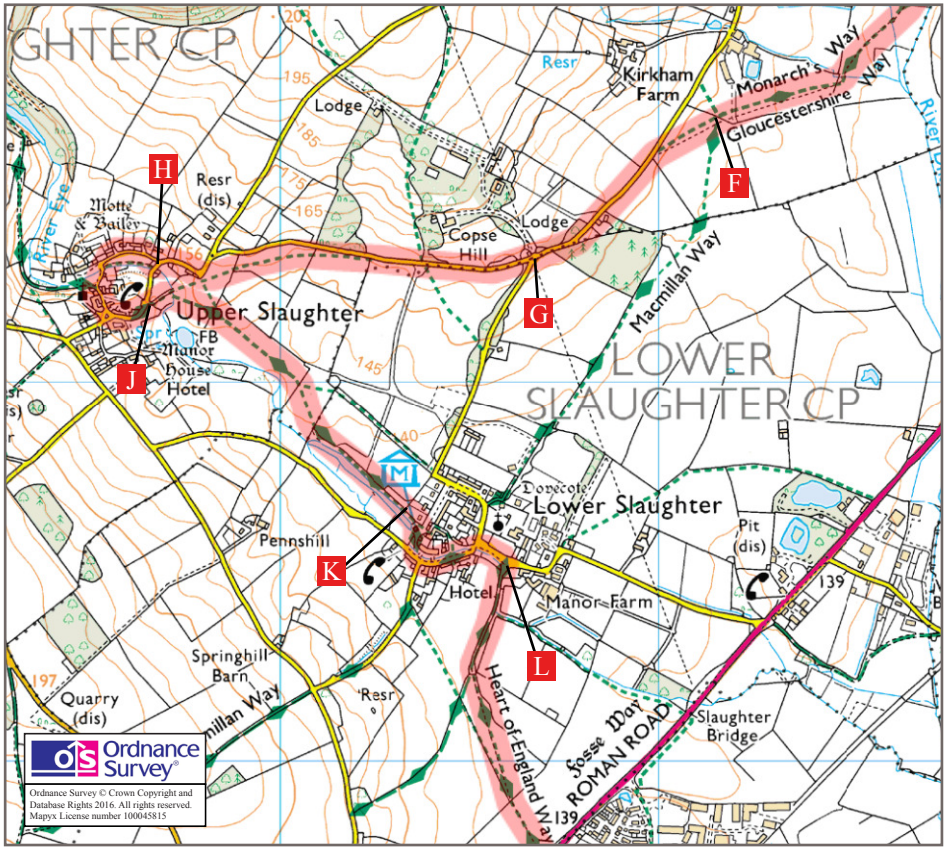
Continue straight on past the monument and a bus shelter to join the B4068. Carefully cross the road and turn right along the pavement to the next junction D (7.5kms).

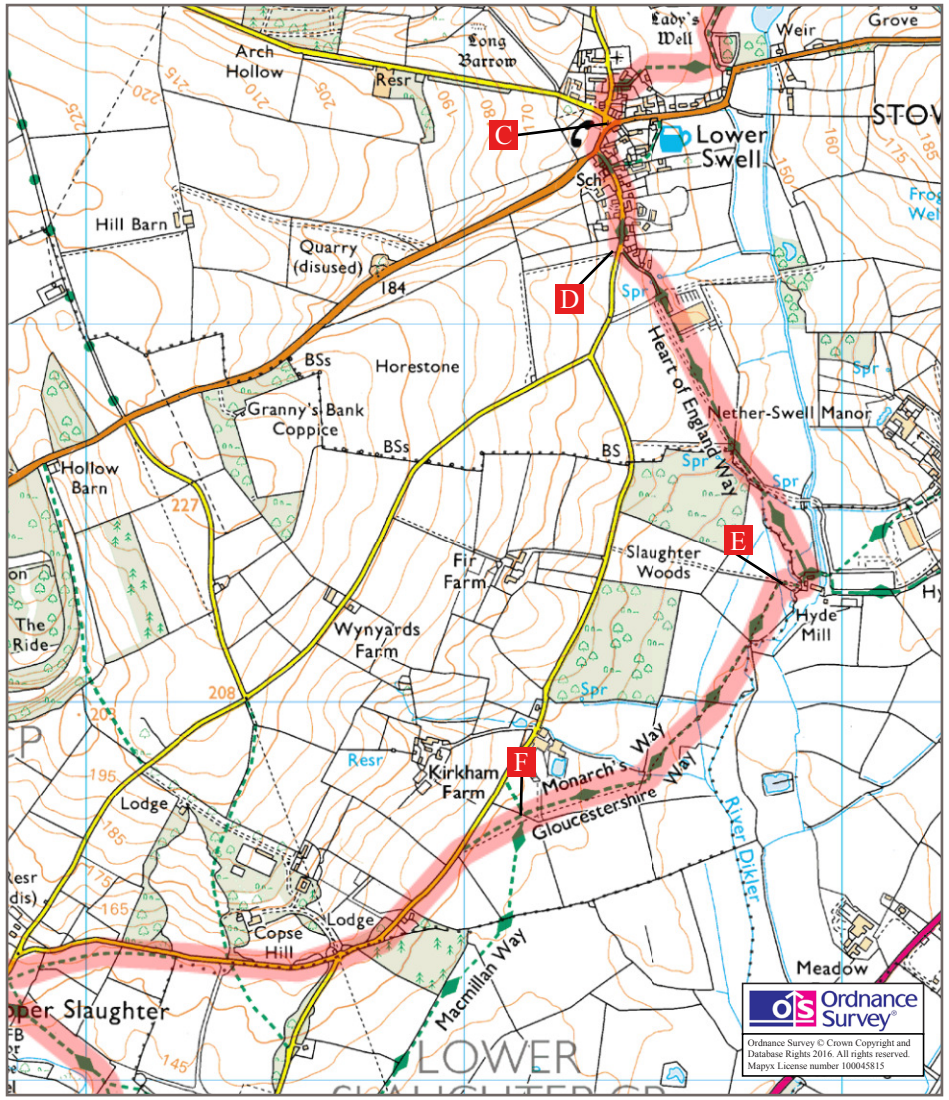
Turn left and follow the road past a school and houses; by the last house on the left follow a track to your left signposted 'Heart of England" to Rectory Farm .

Continue straight on along a straight track to meet a G. Go through, cross the track and go through another G. Follow the track downhill and after approx 100m turn right off the track and go through a FG and over a footbridge.

Cross the field to the far side heading towards some buildings, over a footbridge to a FG. Go through and bear right to a concrete bridge spanning a stream E (6.4kms).

Cross and immediately turn left and head diagonally across the field to a KG; bear slightly left across the next field to a FG in the hedge on the far side. Bear 45° right through a gap into an adjacent field before bearing 45° left towards the far left hand corner of the field.

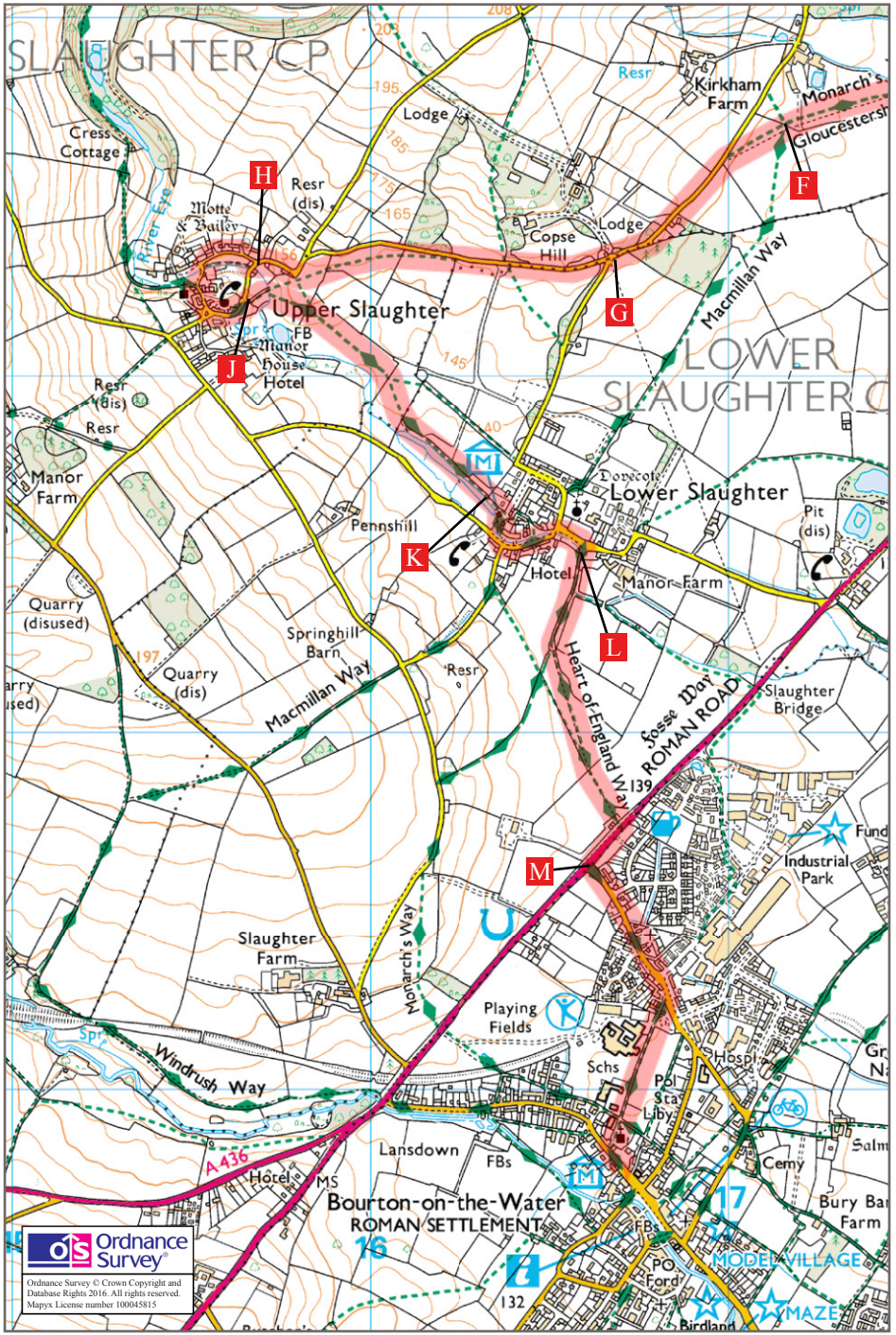




Go through a gap and follow the path to a FG approx 40m ahead in the right hand corner of the field.

Go through the FG and head to the left of the farm buildings towards a tree by the track on the far side of the field (ignore the track leading to some farm building off to your right). Go through a KG, cross a track; through another KG and bear left to a FG.

Go through the FG and here the path splits F (5.3kms); bear 45° right across the field towards the far right hand corner of the field and look for a FG by the road. Go through



a gap, join the road and turn left along the road to the next junction approx 450m by a lodge G (4.8kms).

Turn right, signposted 'Upper Slaughter' and follow the road for 400m before looking for a G on your left. Go through and turn right to cross the field to the far side and a FG; go through and continue in the same direction to a low S and FG. Enter the next field and head straight on towards a house and a FG by a road.

Go through the FG and turn left along the road to the next junction H (3.8kms). Turn right signposted 'ford' and follow the lane past pretty houses. Or alternatively walk a few paces past the junction and take the footpath on the right before the stream. Both emerge by the ford.
Turn left and go over the footbridge spanning the stream and head uphill through the village Upper Slaughter to a junction with a road.

Turn left and go past the entrance to 'Lords of the Manor', which was an old rectory, and follow the road around a left hand bend. Turn right along a path J (3.4kms), signposted 'Wardens Way' and follow this to a stone footbridge and KG.

Bear right across the field to a KG and follow the path for ½ mile (0.8kms) through another 4 gates (a KG, 2 G and a KG) and meet the River Eye on your right before reaching a KG by an old watermill (2.4kms).

In front of the mill, (now a shop, café and museum) turn right and follow the narrow path around a building before turning left to follow the pavement beside the river through the picturesque Lower Slaughter to meet another road.

Cross the road and follow the pavement opposite, alongside the river for 100m before turning right K and take the footpath following the river signposted 'Wardens Way'. After approx 100m the river flows under the path and turns left; ignore the footpath on the left and continue straight on.

The path enters pastureland and continues straight ahead towards the A429 Fosse Way; go through a G and turn right along the pavement to the traffic lights L (1.1kms). Cross the road at the traffic lights and continue along Station Road towards the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water.

Continue for approx ¼ mile M (0.25km) and you cross a road on your left, Meadow Way; here cross the main road at the traffic lights and take the path signposted 'Wardens Way' on the right.

Go down the slope and straight ahead past the school entrance; continue straight ahead until you reach the church and a road. Here turn left and follow the road into the centre of Bourton on the Water to finish by the bridges spanning the river.