

Grafton Flyford Walking route

Length: approx. 6.5km (2.5 hours to walk)

Parking: Grafton Flyford Church car park

This walk takes you through the famous Grafton Woods – home to the brown hairstreak butterfly, and along a stretch of the Wychavon Way before winding back through the village itself. This is the essential route to take if you wish to see the beauty and variety in Grafton Flyford's small corner of England. Please note for dog walkers you will be crossing fields with livestock so please keep dogs under strict control. Several stiles on the route are not dog friendly and you should be prepared to lift or help your dog over these.

Route Guide:

Exit the car park at the far(?north) end and turn left to head towards Manor Farm, passing a pond and beehives. When you have entered the farmyard make your way to a gate tucked away in the far-right hand corner, this will lead you into a field behind the house. Directly across the field is a gate marked clearly by a large dead tree. The pedestrian gate, to the left of the field gate, crosses a small bridge and leads onto a track running down the side of a crop field. Follow the Wildlife Trust's red signs towards the woods. Through the next gate way the path bends right before taking you through the middle of a crop field to the wood's entrance.

There are two information board just inside Grafton Wood which tell you about the local environment, volunteer work and of course the rare brown hairstreak butterfly – these are very interesting reading. Continue straight through the woods, do not take any turns at the path intersections and you soon reach the other side of the woods (A).

Once out of the woods, turn left and trace the edge of the woods – you are now on the Wychavon Way! The path dips back into the woods momentarily but quickly bends back into a field along a narrow path which soon becomes slightly overgrown. It re-enters the woods where you should see a sign for the Wychavon Way before heading back out into another overgrown field. Soon enough though you are back in the woods and must climb two horse jumps and stiles to reach a large grassy field. Continue to trace the edge of the woods until you come to a large gap in the hedge line which leads into the next field.

Walk across the middle of this field towards the large dead tree in the centre – look out for a geocache underneath it, maybe add something to it if you can find it? Continue past the tree to the corner of the field where there is a path intersection (B). Stay on the Wychavon Way which leads you across the field with a large electricity pole to the right of the path. Cross a dry stream bed to reach the opposite gateway into the next field. Follow the left-hand hedge line towards the stile and bridge on the other side of the field – there may be sheep in this area so keep dogs on leads. You will be able to see Jasper's Farm in the field to your left. Once you have crossed the stile into the next field, head across it, the path bending slightly away from the farm. Through a gap in the hedge you should cross a bridge over a ditch to your right, putting the line of willow trees on your left. As you cross this field, you will see Upper Kite's Wood on your right. Pass through a gate into the next field – do not cross into the field containing a pond but walk directly along the hedgerow towards the road (C).

Cross the road and enter the opposite field by a gap in the hedge slightly to the left of the gate you just used. Follow the stream channel towards King's Wood. When you reach the corner of the

woods, cross the stream channel, and follow the edge of the woods towards the village in the distance. You should pass three large pipes and a pond on your right. Continue down the edge of the fields on this trajectory until you have passed the end of King's Woods. At this point you will find an overgrown bridge which you must use to pass through the hedge into the next field. Follow the same hedge line on your right to the next field boundary, where you will cross another bridge before continuing across the final field and cross yet another bridge to reach the road. You should exit opposite a house called The Gardens. Turn left and walk past this house to find a footpath leading off to your right. Follow it to find several benches and an iron gate followed by a stile into the next field. Directly across this field is another stile (D).

The left-hand half of this field extends further than the right, walk to the far corner of the extended section, past a dog agility paddock. Through a gate you will find a short track onto the road. Turn right and walk along the road until you come to a junction, with one road marked as leading to Huddington. Cross the Huddington road to reach a stile into a field, turn left in the field to follow the road you were just walking along towards the Church. Continue to walk through several fields, following the road until it bends to the right, forming two edges of the last field. In this field find a 5-bar gate in the centre of the opposite hedge to the one you entered through. Cross the road here and enter the field on the other side of the road. Walk up a steep grassy slope towards the farm buildings before going over a stile to the right of the barn and farm gate. After crossing this small field you will find yourself on the same track as you began with – the pond and beehives on your right this time. Follow this track a short distance back to the car park. Congratulations!

Issues noticed on the route: OS map (1:25 000 scale)

975563 (path) – tree across the path

974567 (stile) – no dog access

973575 (stile and bridge) – bottom step of stile broken, handrail unreliable, no dog access

968579 (gate) – missing gate into field beside Hill Top Road

964578 (bridge) – overgrown and difficult to access

963575 (bridge) – broken handrail

963571 (stile) – no dog access

962566 (stile) – unstable and no dog access

962566 again (bridge) – not on route but noticeably overgrown and uncrossable - on public footpath

961564 (stile) – no dog access

Pictures for Reference:



Church car park



Road to Manor Farm



Entrance to Grafton Wood



Bridge near line of Willow Trees



Footpath off the road through the village



Footpath off the Huddington road



Geocash Tree

Map of Route:

