

Ralphs Rambles THROUGH THE SLAUGHTERS

This is my favourite walk, because it's the reason my owners fell in love with the Cotswolds, decided to move here and ended up getting me! It's a great way for you and your owner to find out more about the area near to The Old Stocks Inn, and features some fantastic dog-friendly attractions along the way.



WALK DISTANCE

6.5km/4 miles each way
(13km/8 miles in total)



WALK TIME

Allow 2-3 hours each way
– unless you get the bus back to Stow

1 When heading out from The Old Stocks Inn, cross The Square, go past Huffkins and walk up to St Edwards' Church until you reach Sheep Street.

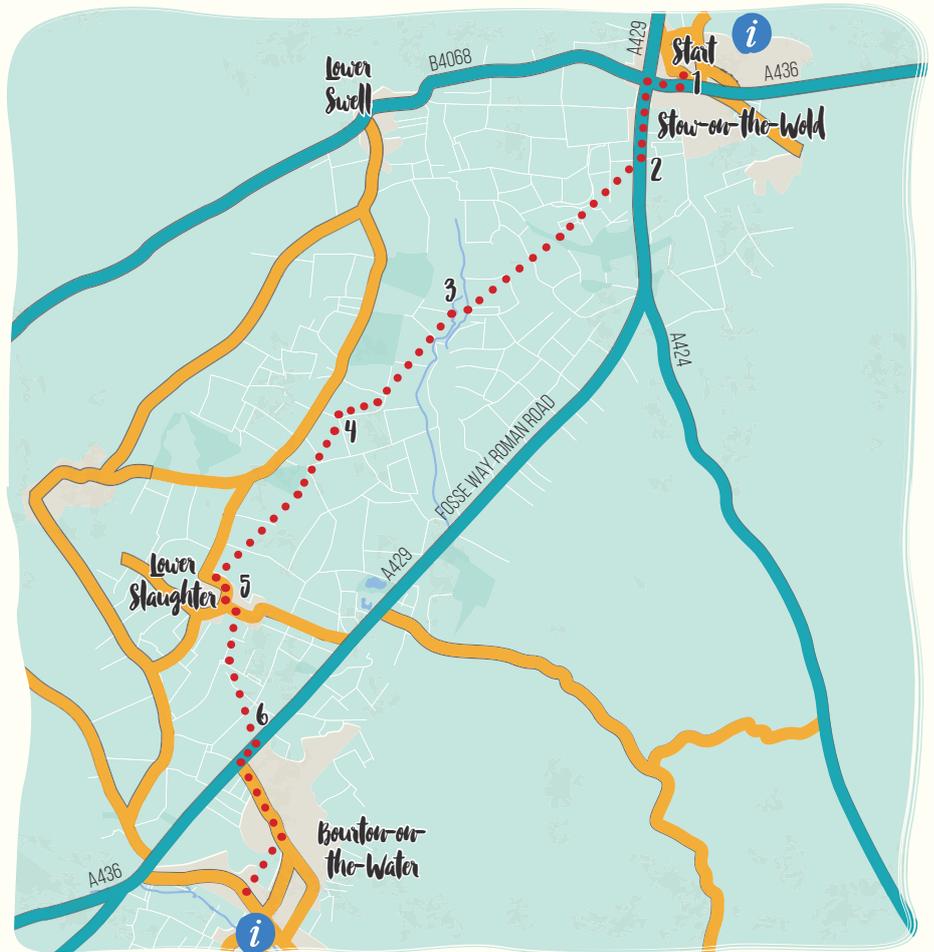
Cross the road at the traffic lights and walk down the main road known as South Hill. It's not too steep, but watch your step – walk on the inside and let your owner walk closest to the traffic. When you are about 150 metres past Bretton House, cross the Fosse Way to a track with a footpath sign next to Quarwood Cottage.

2 Follow this track into the field. Cross the field into the woodland (look out, there may be a few squirrels to chase!) and continue down through Nether Swell Manor Farm and the paddock beyond, where you'll soon reach Hyde Mill. You can't go into this mill, but if you keep going, you'll soon reach the Old Mill, which is open for visitors.

3 Cross the bridge and walk round the farm buildings. Turn right and follow the signs for Lower Slaughter. Then, turn left through the metal kissing gate to a small bridge and follow the path across four fields.

Next, you'll need to cross a small stream – that's my favourite part! – and turn right through the gate. Cross the field to the gate in the far-left corner.

4 Turn left and follow the sign for Lower Slaughter – you'll need to cross three more fields. Before the end of the third field, turn right through a farm gate and turn left follow the hedge



line past the cricket ground – and for all you fact fans, the local cricket team are sponsored by Coldplay. Turn right to join the road. Turn left to keep along the church wall on the left and follow it round to the churchyard.

You are now in the centre of Lower Slaughter, so go and explore! The Old Mill features a tea room, museum and gift shop, and there are plenty of pubs and restaurants that are well worth a visit. It's also worth peeking into the Lower Slaughter Village Hall, which often hosts art exhibitions.

Looking to explore some more? Keep going on to reach Bourton-on-the-Water.

5 Start outside the Slaughter Country Inn and follow the footpath towards the River Eye, keeping the Lower Slaughter Manor on your left. Follow the path right along the river, and continue along to a metal gate leading to a tarmac footpath across two fields. This will take you to The Coach and Horses on the Fosse Way – dogs are very welcome if you'd like to stop in for a drink!

6 Cross the Fosse and turn right to a junction, then turn left down Station Road towards Bourton. About 50 metres past Meadow Way, cross the road and take the path along the playing fields. Pass the church on your left and you'll be in Bourton High Street. While you're there, ask your owner if you can go for a paddle in the river, or stop by one of Bourton's many dog-friendly cafés.

To find your way back to Stow, just follow these instructions in reverse – alternatively, get the 801 or 855 bus back to Stow Square from Bourton High Street.

I hope that you and your owners enjoy your walk – if your owners take some photos along the way, get them to post them on Instagram with the tag #oldstocksin so I can see how you get on!

Happy walkies,

