

Churchfield Lane. At the junction with the B4009 turn left and continue along the footpath to where the road bends sharp left just before the roundabout.



7. Immediately after the bend and before the roundabout, note that the footpath sign is by a gap in the hedge on your right.



Cross the road with care as you are on a blind bend. Go through the gap in the hedge

and bear right across the field towards a hedge. The path follows this hedge until a well defined track crosses the path; here you turn left.

8. Follow the track into Warborough village via The Green South which often features on TV. Who can resist watching the cricket whilst enjoying a drink at the Six Bells pub? Notice also the tower of St Lawrence church (well worth a visit) which rises behind the cottages at the end of the Green.



9. Turn left at the War Memorial and continue along the road until you reach the school. Cross the road and walk down Green Lane into the fields. After a small

gravel pit on the right, the track bears left to the hedge which borders the Dorchester bypass. Turn right and, keeping the hedge on your left, proceed to the underpass. Turn left under the A4074 and continue until you reach the hamlet of Overy. It is worth turning left for a look at the front of Overy Manor.



10. Then turn back and follow the driveway past the entrance to Overy Mill, and take the footpath directly in front of the millhouse with the millpond on your left. Then cross a stile into The Hurst Water Meadow where you can go straight across or take a longer loop round. Leave the Hurst by the kissing gate, cross the footbridge over the Thame, take the first left and follow the road leading past Monks Close. Turn left after a small copse and follow the driveway past the Rectory wall into the Abbey grounds. Leave the Abbey by the south entrance porch and go down the rose-walk. Cross the road by the bridge and you are back at the car park.

This leaflet was compiled by members of the Dorchester Walking Group and the Dorchester Abbey Museum Committee in memory of Brian Oliver, a dedicated member of both groups, who designed and prepared the first two walk guides

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Text: Gail Thomas. Production: John Metcalfe
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Exploring nearby villages and the Thames Path



Walks in and around Dorchester, No. 4

Exploring nearby villages and the Thames path

Dorchester to Benson via the Thames Path and return via Warborough (6 miles)

This walk follows the Thames Path through Shillingford to Benson, returning to Dorchester via the quintessential English village of Warborough.

1. From the car park by Dorchester Bridge, walk down Bridge End away from the main road to the start of the village green at the junction with Watling Lane. Turn right and immediately left into Wittenham Lane. At the end of the lane follow the footpath along the edge of the field to the kissing gate in the corner.



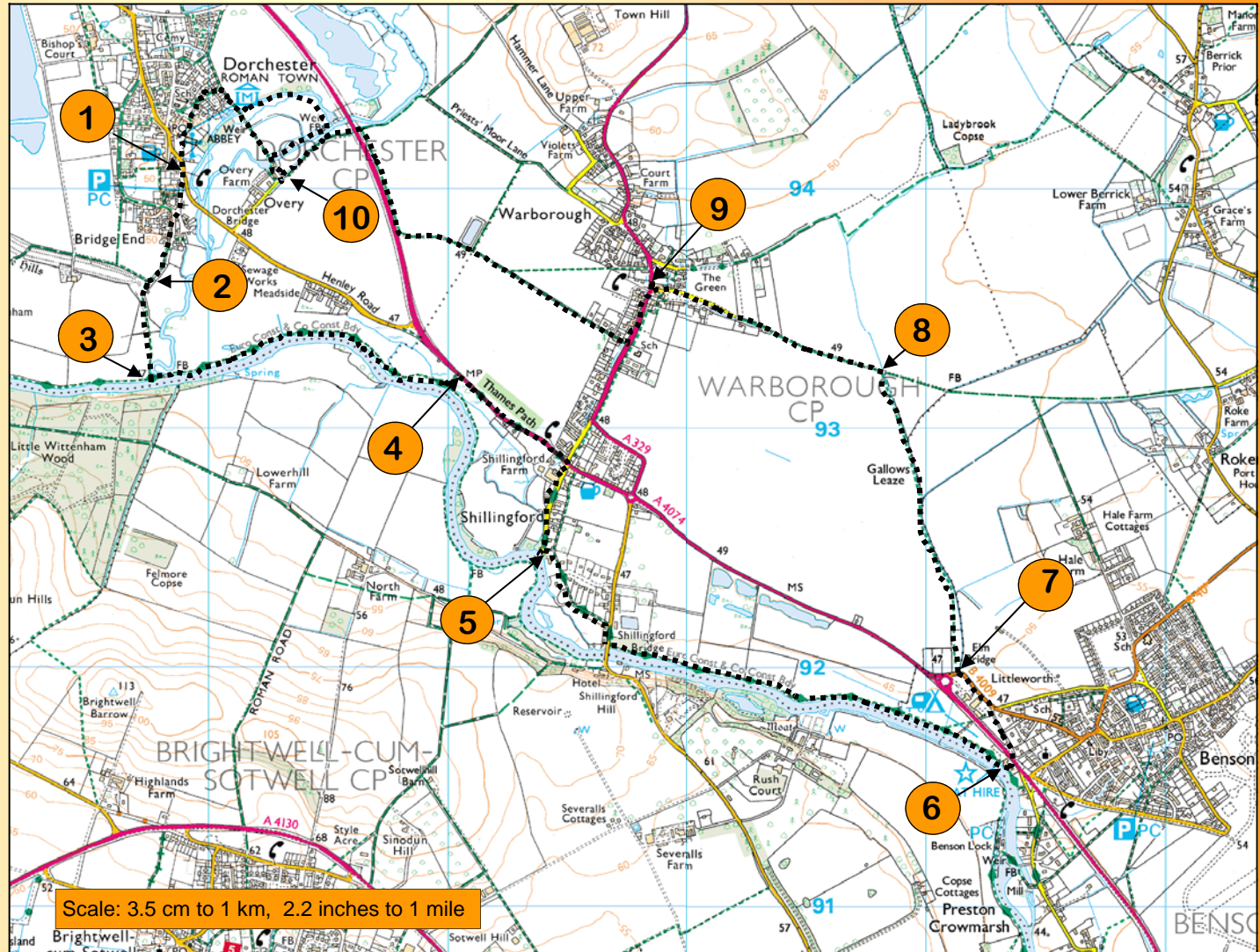
2. Go through the gate and, keeping the Dyke Hills (a double rampart of earthworks that once protected a late Iron Age settlement) on your right, walk across the field through a gate and down to the Thames.



3. Turn left and go over the footbridge which crosses the Thame at its confluence with the Thames. Follow the Thames Path as far as a barbed wire fence, then

bear left up to the kissing gate which leads onto the A4074.

4. Cross this busy road with care and turn right. Continue on the footway until you reach the bus stop, diagonally opposite The Kingfisher pub. You need to cross the road here and proceed down Wharf Road back to the Thames at Shillingford Wharf. On the wall to your left you will see the marks indicating the



Scale: 3.5 cm to 1 km, 2.2 inches to 1 mile

unbelievably high flood levels of past years.

5. Turn left along the path between two walls. Turn right at the next barrier and carry straight on until you reach an iron kissing gate. Go through the gate and turn left. Turn right at the end of the lane and cross the road to take the path down the left side of Shillingford Bridge by

the 'Ducks Crossing' road sign. The Thames Path sign indicates Benson 1.5 miles. Follow the river downstream to Benson Marina.

6. Leaving the river at the Waterfront Café, cross the busy A4074 and turn left. Just after the speed camera and by the cyclist/pedestrian sign turn right into