



## Wychwood Walk No. 5: Finstock - Ramsden

Approximately 4.5 miles / 7.5 km

Parking: School Road, Finstock SP 361 165

(Please park with consideration to residents)

Part of a series of circular walks that link in with The Wychwood Way



TL - Turn left BL - Bear left  
TR - Turn right BR - Bear right

### Start Point

**1** From the Community shop in Finstock TL along School Road before TL into Wards Lane.

**2** At the bottom of the lane TR. Follow the path on edge of the field, initially between two hedges, then keep to right down a short slope to the bottom of this small valley.

**3** TL onto a track. Follow the path. BR at a junction of paths TR to reach the edge of Topples Wood. Follow the edge of the wood.

**4** Continue to follow the track, to the Finstock / Wilcote road.

**5** TL into the road. At the bottom of a small dip, pass through a kissing gate on the right hand side of the road. BR through some trees to follow the edge of Sumteth's Copse.

**6** Go through a kissing gate and over a low fence in front of Wilcote Manor. TR onto a metalled lane. 60m past St Peters church TR opposite Wilcote Grange Farm, and BL past a pond on your right and over a stile.

**7** TL and follow the path to the lower end of the field. BL into the next field. Follow the path over a track and BR to follow the edge of the wood.

**8** BL through a kissing gate and follow the edge of the wood. Follow the Wychwood Way sign and BL across a small field onto a metalled lane.

**9** TR and follow this lane to Ramsden High Street. TR into the High Street, past the Royal Oak, and continue for about 500m. Just after Garden Cottage, beside Walnut Tree Cottage, TR onto a marked footpath which leads uphill.

**16** On reaching a large field, continue straight ahead with the hedge still on your immediate right hand side for about 450m. At a crossing of footpaths TL and cross the middle of this field.

**17** On the far side of the field, TR at the edge of a small wood, continue and cross a stile in the lower corner of the field. TL and continue downhill, passing the Plough Inn on your right.

**18** Cross the road, and continue along the short inter-connecting road to reach a junction. TR, marked 'Charlbury 2 1/2', and continue along this road past Walkers Heights until you reach the Community shop.

**14** At the second small gate TR and follow the hedge past the football ground. At the playground TL onto a path, which leads down to School Road. TL to return to the Community shop.

**13** At the waymark post (13) TR right across the field and enter the Cemetery through a small wooden gate.

**12** About 100m past the entrance to Strange's Farm, TL onto a marked footpath up a slope and follow the hedge on your left. Continue for about 300m.

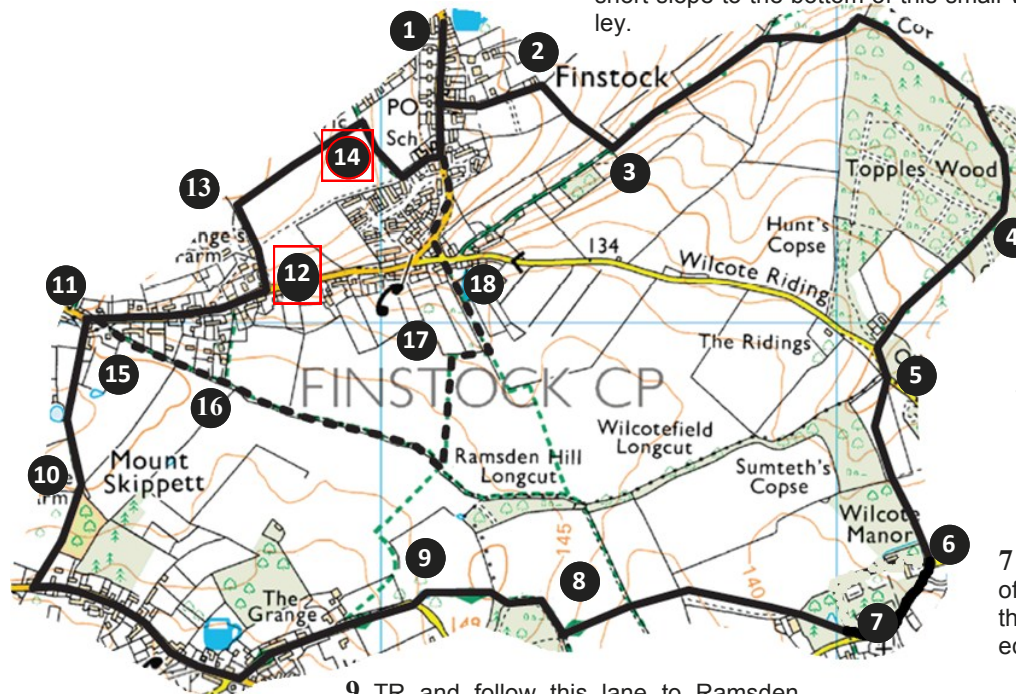
### Main Route

**11** TR and walk down the High Street for approx. 400m.

**10** After 400m BL and pass a pond on your left. Continue ahead down a wooded path to a stile. Cross a small field and, after a short distance down a narrow path, emerge into Finstock High Street.

### Alternative Route

**15** Proceed down the High Street for about 30 m. TR off the High Street, and then immediately follow the signed footpath to the left, behind the houses. Follow this path, keeping hedge to right, through five footpath gates.



## Points of Interest

1 The name Finstock means a place frequented by woodpeckers – look for some today! Sadly, the site of a roman villa, scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, is no longer visible at ground level. The monument includes not only the site of a Roman villa, but also its associated buildings, water management system and the buried remains of later post-medieval agricultural buildings.

Finstock Trinity Church has connections with Sir Arthur de Cros, inventor of the pneumatic tyre, founder of the Dunlop Tyre company and some-time resident of Finstock Manor. The famous poet T.S Elliot is also linked to the church; it was here that he was received into the church in 1927.

5-6 between these points on the walk, Akeman Street, a once major Roman road branches off to the West. It linked Watling Street north of modern day St Albans and the Fosse Way near Cirencester.

9 – 10 The village is deep in the heart of the Royal Forest of Wychwood. It was one of the first areas to be cleared of woodland for settlement, situated adjacent to Akeman Street.

10 Originally planted by Lady Reilly, the wood was donated to the Woodland Trust in 1982 and since 2007 has been managed by The Little garden Wood Ltd.



The Wychwood Way

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View towards Finstock Railway Station