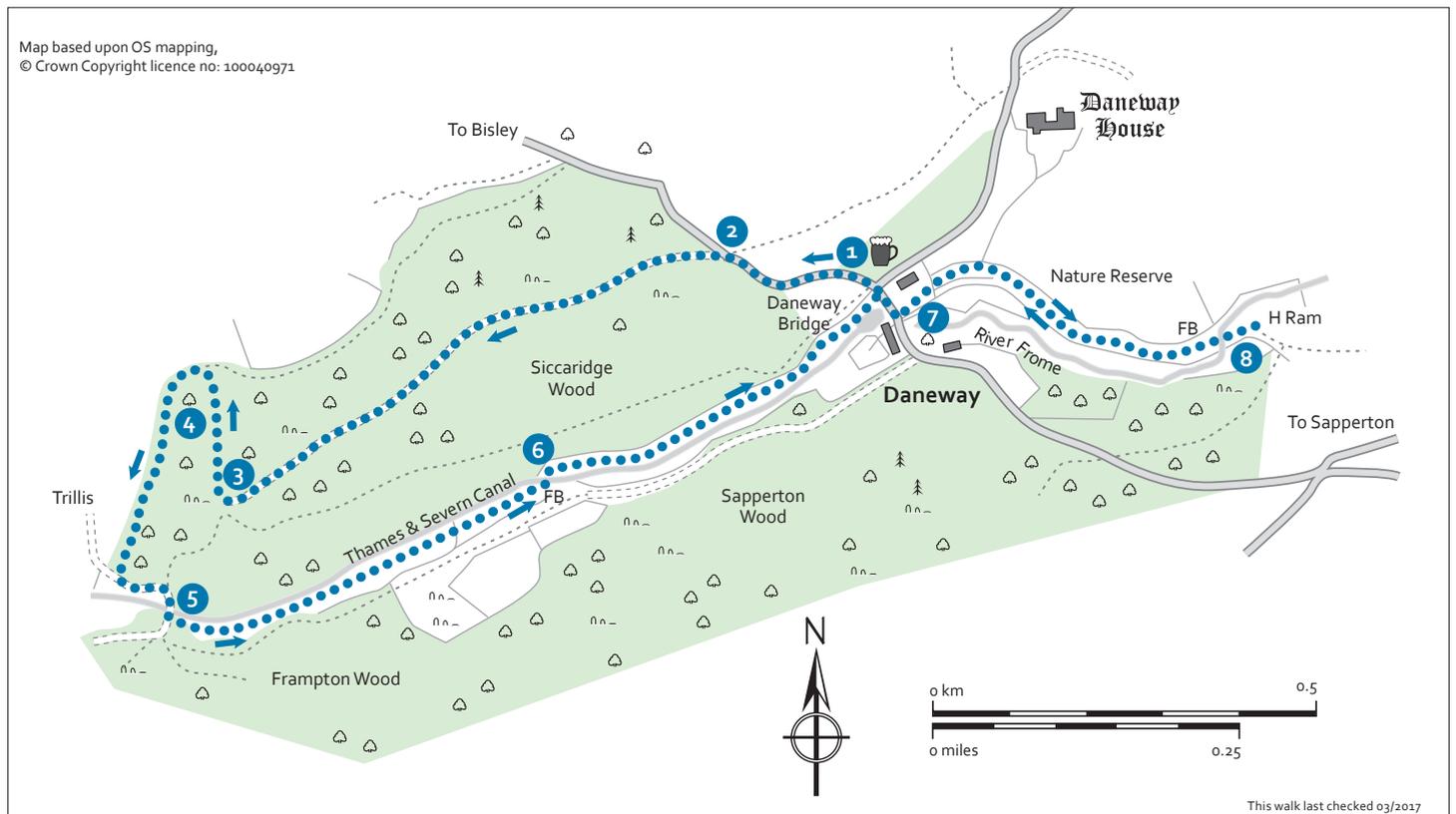


# Miles Without Stiles

## Siccaridge Wood and the Frome Valley



Siccaridge Wood and the Frome Valley A short circuit of the wooded slopes of the Frome Valley sampling the delights of the Thames and Severn Canal and Siccaridge Nature Reserve.



**Distance:** 2.4 kilometres/  
1 1/2 miles (1 hour) with ups  
and downs of 82m or 269ft.  
To tunnel is 116m or 367ft

**Start:** Daneway Inn. Limited  
parking on Sapperton side  
of the bridge or the Inn car  
park (ask for permission)  
SO 938/034

### Route:

From the Inn take the road **1**  
up hill to Waterlane and Bisley.

After 200 metres go through  
a gate on your left into

Siccaridge Wood. **2**

Follow the path ahead for about  
half a mile (0.8km) ignoring  
turns to left and right until you  
reach a fork in the path. **3** The  
left hand path splits into two;  
take the right hand path instead  
and follow downhill. After 100  
metres fork left on a path  
turning back **4** almost in the  
direction you have just come  
and follow it down to the canal  
bridge. The steep descent to the  
bridge needs care.

Cross the bridge to turn left on

the tow-path between the canal  
and the River Frome **5**. The  
canal on this stretch was  
abandoned in 1933 although no  
commercial traffic used it after  
1911.

Walk along the tow-path to a  
footbridge **6** where you cross  
over an old lock to continue  
back to the Daneway. Just  
before you reach the road notice  
on your right, behind the fence,  
the old basin where barges used  
to wait their turn to go through  
the canal tunnel.

If you wish to see the restored

tunnel entrance cross the road  
to the path opposite and  
continue for about half a mile  
(0.8km). **7** Return the same  
way.

The tunnel is 3817 yards long,  
(3.5km) and built between 1784  
and 1789 and was the wonder of  
the age. **8** Barges traversed  
the tunnel using 'leggers' who  
lay on top of the barges and  
'walked' along the side or roof.