

Miles Without Stiles

Northleach, Hampnett and the Saltway



An interesting circular walk from the 'wool town' of Northleach including the Cotswold Discovery Centre, and the Salt and Fosse Ways

Distance: 7.2 kilometres/
4½ miles (2½ hours) with
ups and downs of 80m or
262ft

Start: Northleach Square
SP 113/145

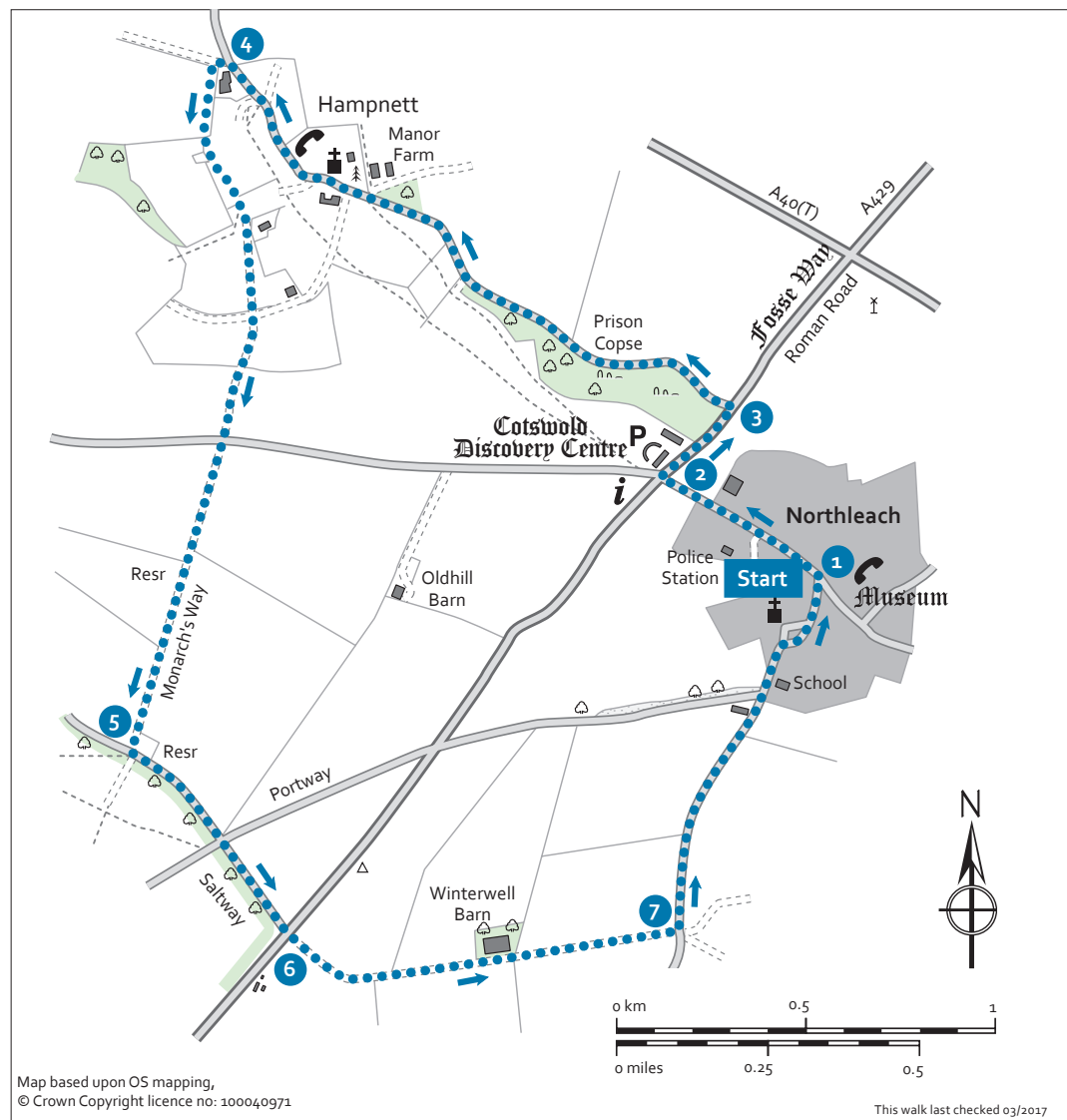
Route:

From the square **1** turn left (west) along the main street to the crossroads at the end of the town. **2**

Cross the Fosse Way carefully to the Cotswold Discovery Centre and turn right. If you are visiting the museum you can start the walk from here.

Climb the hill and turn left onto the road to Hampnett. **3** The Norman church is worth visiting to see the chancel painted by the Victorian rector, a controversial act in its day. Pass the church and keeping right, walk on to the village green. In Norman times, Hampnett was a much bigger village and you may be able to detect the foundations of deserted houses across to your left.

At the top of the hill just beyond the village, take the bridleway by 'Ballingers Barn' to the left **4** and almost immediately turn left again. Go through 2 gates and continue straight on to a third gate, and with a wall on your left descend into the valley. Cross a track at the bottom and ascend the other



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This walk last checked 03/2017

side of the valley. Cross the road and carry straight on to another road. **5**

Turn left on this road and walk to the Fosse Way. The road you are on is an ancient Saltway along which salt was transported from Droitwich to the Cotswolds and beyond.

Halfway along you cross the Portway, the C13th road from Gloucester Abbey to its sheep market in Northleach, To shorten the walk, you can follow the Portway back to Northleach. Cross the Fosse Way to a restricted bridleway on the opposite side. **6** (The main

Saltway continues a little further to the right.) You are following the side route to Northleach and Eastington. The path bears left along the wall and becomes a track passing Winterwell Barn and Church Farm. At the next road turn left **7** and follow the road down into the centre of Northleach.