

Explorer routes

We have created three walking routes around Kidlington and the surrounding villages to encourage walking and running for pleasure and to generally improve wellbeing. These routes take in various landmarks of historical interest in Kidlington and the villages.



Better together

Route 2 - Kingfisher

Distance: 5miles | 8Km, Time: 3hr

5. Continue along the footpath which runs under the railway bridge and across water meadows to a bridge that crosses the River Cherwell and then follow the Oxford Canal left to the **Holy Cross Church**. Retrace your steps back over the bridge and head along the towpath towards Thrupp.



4. Continue along the footpath which passes **St Giles' Church** at Hampton Gay.



3. From **The Bell Inn** retrace your steps back to St Marys Church in Hampton Poyle. To the right of the Church cross a stile and then take the left hand path across another stile and proceed to Hampton Gay across the fields. Turn left when you meet the farm track to the **Manor House Ruins** at Hampton Gay.

6. The towpath leads to Thrupp and the basin at **Thrupp Wide**.



2. Proceed right along Church Lane to **The Bell Inn**.



7. The attractive row of former **bargees' cottages** faces the canal. Follow the canal back to the Jolly Boatman and then from the Jolly Boatman cross the bridge into the field and head across the field to the bridge that crosses the railway line. Cross the next field and turn left towards Thrupp Community Forest then take a right and follow the tree line back to St Mary's Church.



1. From **St. Mary's Church** in Kidlington on exiting the carpark via the main entrance take the left footpath signed to Hampton Poyle. Keep to the main track, after crossing White Bridge over the River Cherwell and continue straight ahead to **St Mary's Church, Hampton Poyle**



Please be aware that some areas are at risk of flooding and therefore can be muddy at certain times of the year also some routes have gates, stiles and may briefly join busy roads. Therefore this walk may not suit persons with limited mobility.



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Explorer routes

Route 2 - landmarks



Better together

St Mary's Church

An attractive 13th century small gothic church. It has some interesting monuments relating to the Poyle family and a beautiful mediaeval stone screen set into one wall. Hampton Poyle's 16th century priest Richard Thomason was allegedly condemned to hang in chains from Duns Tew steeple for his opposition to the first prayer book of Edward VI.



The Bell Inn

A handy watering hole if in need of refreshment after walking from Kidlington.



Manor House ruins

Hampton Gay is a deserted village, the ruins of the manor house (burned down in 1887) are very atmospheric, especially at dawn and dusk.



St Giles' Church

The churchyard of the adjacent church of St Giles' holds the graves of some of the victims of the Shipton-on-Cherwell rail crash (1874).



Thrupp Wide

This is the home of the Thrupp Canal Cruising Club, and the ranks of moored narrow boats make an attractive scene.



Holy Cross Church

A pretty little gothic church perched above the canal. Rebuilt in 1831 by the painter William Turner of Oxford.



Former bargees' cottages

A row of former bargees' cottages are located facing the canal.

