

Stoke Mandeville

This 4 mile walk links the villages of Stoke Mandeville and Bishopstone through the open farmland of the Vale

Circular Walk

Directions

- From Stoke Mandeville School follow the waymarked path, south west out of the village and cross Stoke Brook at the footbridge. Carry on to North Lee Lane, turn right and cross the railway line at Marsh Crossing.

Main Walk

- Shortly after crossing the railway line, take the bridleway on the left and continue past Marsh Mill Farm.
- At the road junction, turn left for approximately 200 metres then take the footpath to the right. Follow the waymarked path to Bishopstone ; cross the road and take the path beside the old church.
- Follow the waymarks across the fields and re-cross the railway line. Continue to follow the waymarks past Moat Farm and back to Stoke Mandeville.

Short Cut

- After crossing the Aylesbury to Princes Risborough railway line, walkers wishing to follow the short cut should continue along the Bishopstone Road for approximately 200 metres, then take the footpath on the right to meet up with the railway line.
- After 300 metres cross the line, taking care to look and listen for trains and re-join the main walk near Hall End

Refreshments - There are a number of shops and public houses in Stoke Mandeville.

Features of Interest

- 1 The word Stoke is derived from an Old English term for an outlying farm or hamlet, whilst Mandeville was the name of the 13th century lords of the manor. Stoke Mandeville is perhaps best known for its hospital and for being the site of the games for disabled war veterans that grew into today's Paralympics.
- 2 Stoke Brook rises from a spring at Terrick and flows into the Bear Brook at Aylesbury, one of the tributaries of the River Thames.
- 3 Marsh Mill Farm – a water mill was first recorded on this site in the 13th century.
- 4 Marsh – the name recalls a time when the Vale of Aylesbury was undrained. Historically, the gault clays which underlie this comparatively flat countryside have supported grassland and the rearing of stock. However, where the occasional drier pockets of greensand have occurred, the land has been used for arable cultivation.
- 5 The large water filled moat beside the footpath is believed to mark the site of an old manor. Moats were a feature of low lying areas where abundant water supplies helped to keep them full.
- 6 The Vale of Aylesbury was colonised by the Anglo-Saxons during the 6th century. In 1858, whilst the church was being built, a number of Anglo-Saxon relics were discovered including brooches and

buckles, and these are now displayed in the County Museum at Aylesbury.

- 7 Although modern-day farming methods have created a rather hostile environment for birds, over-wintering thrushes – redwings and fieldfares – are still plentiful in the Vale and despite its numbers being dramatically reduced, the lapwing with its familiar 'pee-wit' call can still be seen foraging for insects.
- 8

Hall End Farmhouse is believed to be all that remains of the hamlet of Stoke Hallinge. It is thought that there used to be several cottages and an inn at Hall End. The present timber framed farmhouse dates back to the 17th century.

- 9 (Short cut only) Where the path crosses Stoke Brook, the outline of a large fishpond can be seen. Along with moats, fishponds are one of the commonest mediaeval earthworks to be found in the landscape.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Further Information:

Rights of Way & Access, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UY
Telephone: 01296 382171

Email: row@buckscc.gov.uk

or visit our website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way

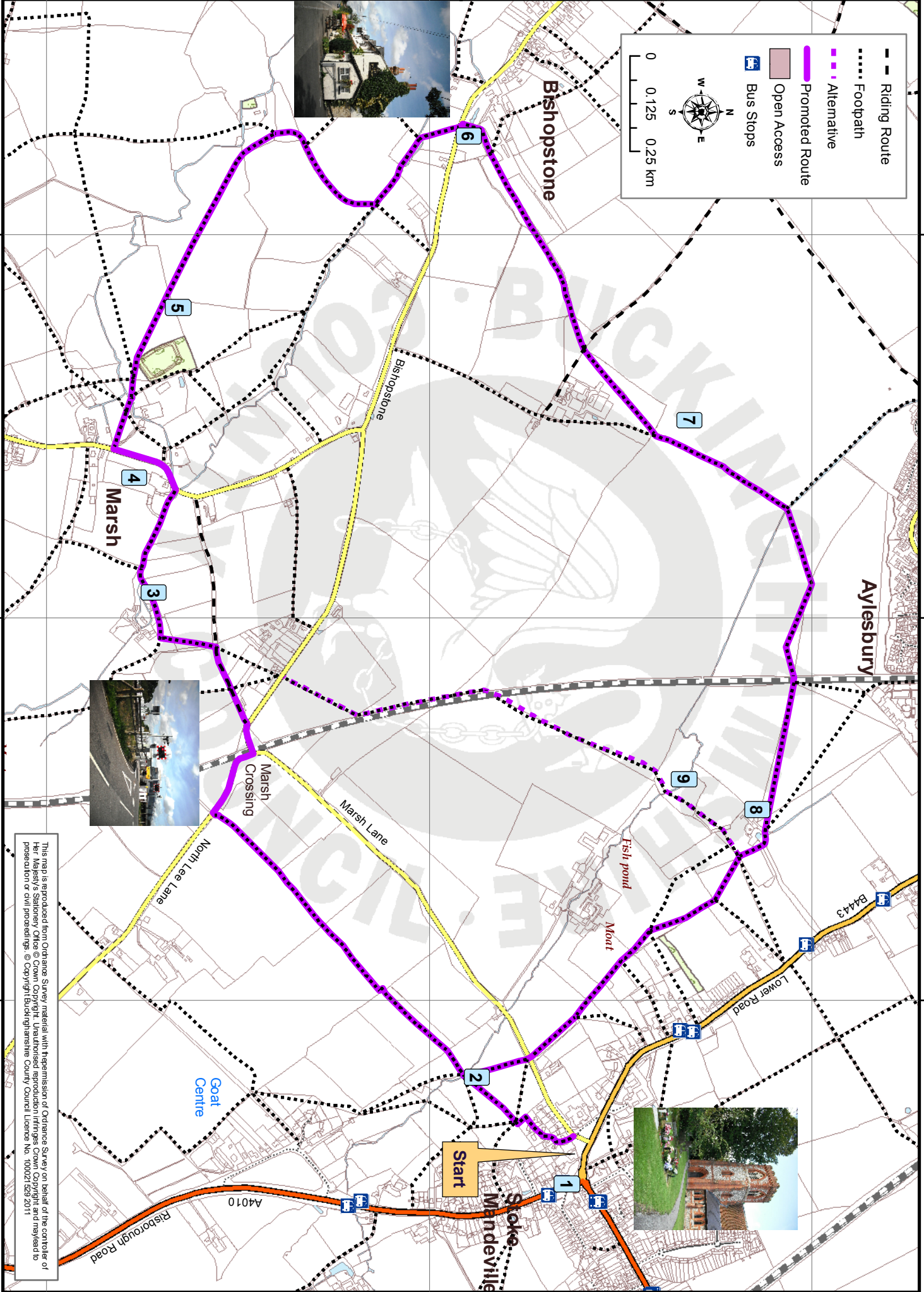


Stoke Mandeville Circular Route



0 0.125 0.25 km

- Riding Route
- Footpath
- Alternative
- Promoted Route
- Open Access
- Bus Stops



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