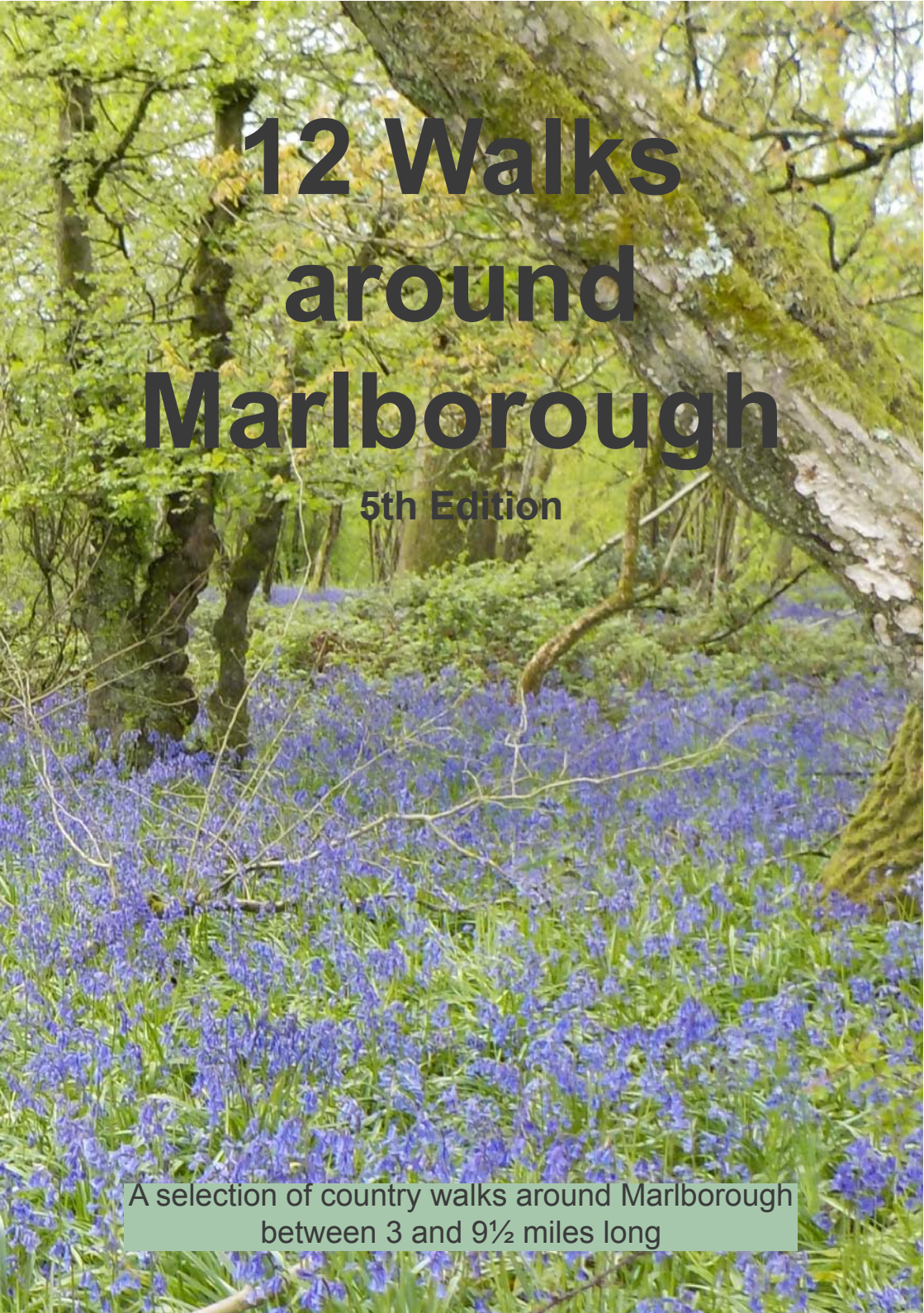


The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a forest floor. The ground is densely covered with small, vibrant blue flowers, likely bluebells, interspersed with green grass. Several tree trunks of varying thicknesses are visible, some with moss or lichen growing on them. The foliage in the upper part of the image is a mix of green and yellow, suggesting a late spring or early autumn setting. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

12 Walks around Marlborough

5th Edition

A selection of country walks around Marlborough
between 3 and 9½ miles long

12 Walks around Marlborough

These walks were devised to take you to the best vantage points in the area and to bring you back to your starting point. The routes are easy to follow using visible paths or other features described in the text or on the maps and follow public rights of way or cross access land.

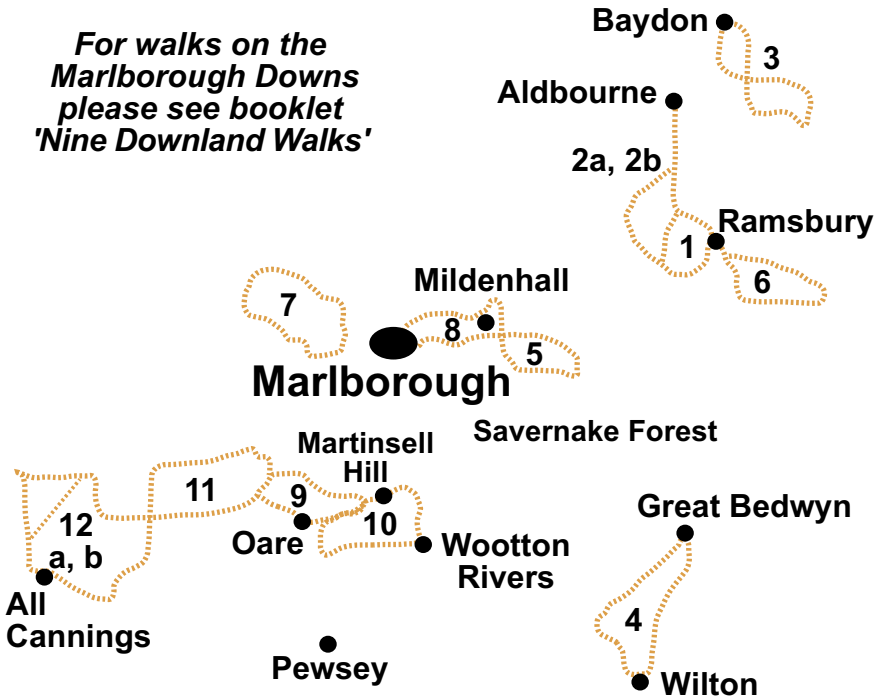
Wet weather can make paths muddy and the summer months can bring brambles and nettles, so it is important to be suitably dressed and to wear sensible footwear. A light pair of secateurs can be handy for removing brambles, particularly around stiles. During autumn, paths across fields can become obscured by ploughing before the farmer reinstates them.

Most of the walks cross roads and some use roads to link up footpaths. When walking on roads it is usually safer to walk on the right hand side in single file.



Location of Walks

For walks on the Marlborough Downs please see booklet 'Nine Downland Walks'



Production by Rob Dawson

Photographs © by Pat Crabb, Peter Gallagher,
Ken Stimson and Jeremy Wingfield

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*Originally devised and compiled by the late Bert Toomer
First published in 1982.*

*Revised and up-dated since then
by the Swindon and North East Wiltshire Ramblers
latest revision in 2023*

Other books in this series are:

9 Downland Walks

between Swindon and Marlborough

10 Walks from Village Pubs near Swindon

20 Walks around Swindon

12 More Walks around Swindon

They may be obtained from some local bookshops, Tourist Information Centres and online at <https://ne.wiltsswindonramblers.org.uk>

Ordnance Survey Maps:

It is advisable to use Ordnance Survey Maps in conjunction with the sketch maps in this book, but occasionally there will be a discrepancy between the two because of changes that have occurred on the ground and are not yet shown on the OS Maps. The sketch maps attempt to show a route that is correct at the time of publication.

Ordnance Survey maps can be bought at local bookshops or borrowed from Marlborough and Swindon libraries.

The following OS Explorer (1:25000) maps are recommended for the walks :

Explorer No. 157 Marlborough & Savernake Forest

Explorer No. 158 Newbury & Hungerford

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Be prepared:

Strong shoes or walking boots are recommended for the walks, plus weatherproof clothing. In warm weather it is advisable to take a drink, particularly on the longer walks.

Keeping paths clear:

Blackthorn, brambles and wild roses grow very quickly in summer and can soon make a path difficult to use. **Please take secateurs with you** so that you can cut back the growth which is being a nuisance.

Reporting problems:

If you come across a problem you can deal with, such as a crop, a broken stile or a fallen tree, please report the details and exact location to Ramblers by following the **Report a path problem** link on our website <https://ramblers.org.uk/>

Stiles and kissing gates:

You may find places where a stile has been replaced by a kissing gate since the route instructions in this book were last checked.

Bus Services:

Many rural bus services are financially supported by local authorities. Routes, bus operators and timetables can change frequently. If you intend to use the bus, please check current services and times before setting out on your walk.

Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this booklet but the Ramblers cannot accept any responsibility for changes which affect the routes described or for the consequences.

Walk 1

Circular from Ramsbury

Distance: 3½ miles

OS Maps: Explorer 157 Landranger 174

Start: Ramsbury, Back Lane east of Burdett Street. (S17273717).

W3w: spits.mixing.file

Bus: Stagecoach routes 46 and 48 from Hungerford / Marlborough or Swindon to The Bell (not Sundays)

Directions:

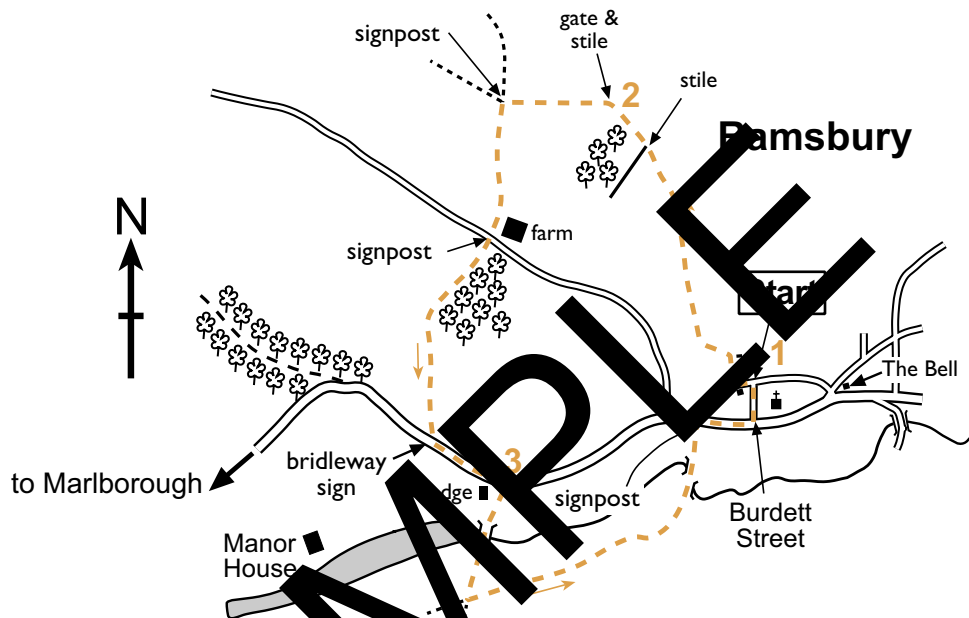
1. Pass Burdett Street, and after 50 yards take a narrow, surfaced path on right opposite the large house. Bear left at the top of the hill between the houses. At the bottom turn right along the gravel track through the valley. Continue between two hedges then, with a corner on the left, to a gate into the field. Bear left, keeping the fence on the left.
2. After about 200 yards go through a gate with a stile on the left to follow the verge (or track) with the hedge on the right to reach cross tracks. Turn left up the hill, cross the road to a track running along the right hand side of a wood, (*downhill section may be stony*) make a steep descent between two hedges. Turn left at the road to the bottom of the hill.
3. At the main gates to Ramsbury Manor cross the road with care and pass through the white gate marked 'PRIVATE ROAD' (*it is a public bridleway*). *Linger over the view from the bridge*, and carry on to the cross tracks. Turn left in front of the houses along a narrow tarmac road. At the wooden gates turn right then immediately left along the path between hedges. After some distance look out for two cottages on the right, one with a high wooden fence. Turn right and go over two bridges to reach the main road. Turn right along the High Street then left up Burdett Street to return to the start.

Refreshment: pubs in Ramsbury

Toilets: in High Street



River Kennet at Ramsbury © Peter Gallagher 2021



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Kennet Ford at Ramsbury © Peter Gallagher 20213

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The Ramblers was founded in 1935 to encourage walking and mountaineering, to foster a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, to work for the preservation of natural beauty, protection of footpaths and the provision of access to open country.

It has played a major role in gaining and improving legislation that protects and improves our countryside today, yet every year brings further need to represent the ramblers' case to Ministers, MPs and government departments. Specialist staff are employed to do this work and a headquarters office has to be maintained. Please give your support to the work they, and all the volunteers, do on your behalf by becoming a member of Ramblers.

Membership will bring you a **quarterly colour magazine** and **local newsletters** and **local walks programmes**.

For further details please visit either www.ramblers.org.uk/join

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