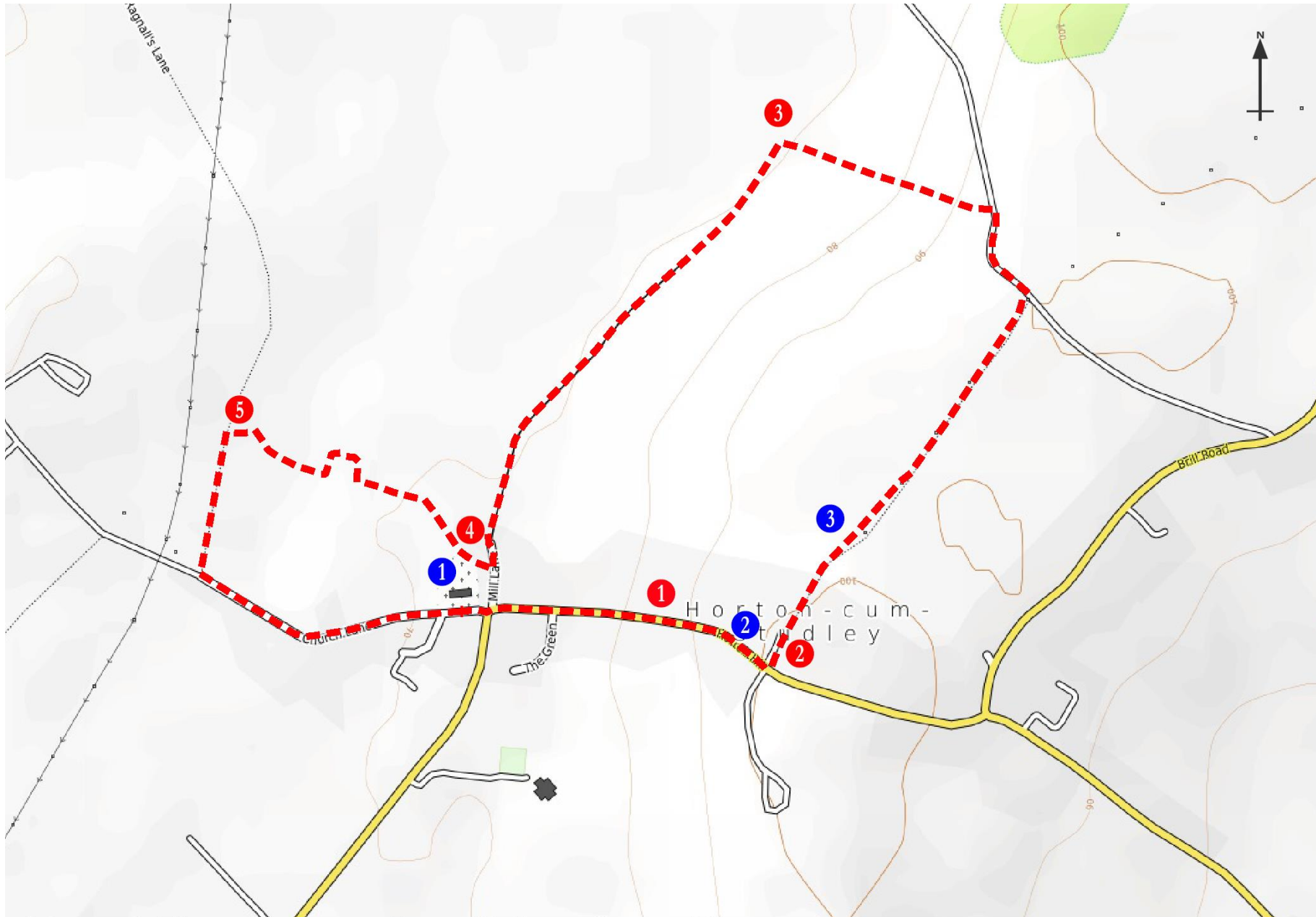


Walk 8 – Horton cum Studley Circular



Notes

This is a walk of 2.0 miles with total ascent/descent over the walk of 140 feet and should take approximately 1 hour. The route passes through three cultivated fields, where wet conditions can result in sticky walking.

The walk starts and finishes at The Church of St Barnabas in Church Lane to the left of a right-hand bend, entering the village from the Oxford direction.

Route Notes

- 1 The route ascends Horton Hill to Studley Priory (now an invisible private dwelling) at the brow, where it crosses the road to pick up a path between dwellings opposite the Priory and through pedestrian gates into cultivated fields, joining a lane.
- 2 Turn left into the lane, which soon becomes a concrete way.
- 3 At the foot of the escarpment lies Gardener's Barn. The path turns left here crossing a cultivated field, a footbridge and a further field, becoming Mill Lane, which ends in a built up close.
- 4 On the right of this close a narrow footpath takes the walker between gardens and the rear of the churchyard, then between hedges, across grazing land, following the boundary hedge on the left, over a stile and through the next field, hedge to the left, emerging through the ground and driveway of Ragnalls House into Ragnalls Lane.
- 5 The route is left here and left again into Church Lane, returning to the Church.

Points of Interest

- 1 The Church of St Barnabas in Church Lane is a Butterfield Church of beautifully shaded polychrome brickwork, containing a unique wall-mounted painted war memorial with portraits of the fallen, and a window by local, internationally known artist Nicholas Mynheer.
- 2 Before crossing the road, pause to look at the Almshouses, 'built in 1639 for Sir George Croke. In 1631 he left money in his will to provide housing for *'four men of over 60 and four women of over 50'*. He also set out a list of rules which they must follow. These included being of *'good character'*, *attending church and he noted that drunkenness and swearing were forbidden.'* (Historic England)
- 3 A great panorama here towards Bicester and across Otmoor to its other towns and beyond.