

A pleasant circular walk, with views of deer (probably) and eagles (possibly). Plus the chance to see where raindrops decide whether to flow into the Bristol Channel or the North Sea.

Distance: 5.8 kilometres/
3½ miles. (2 hours)

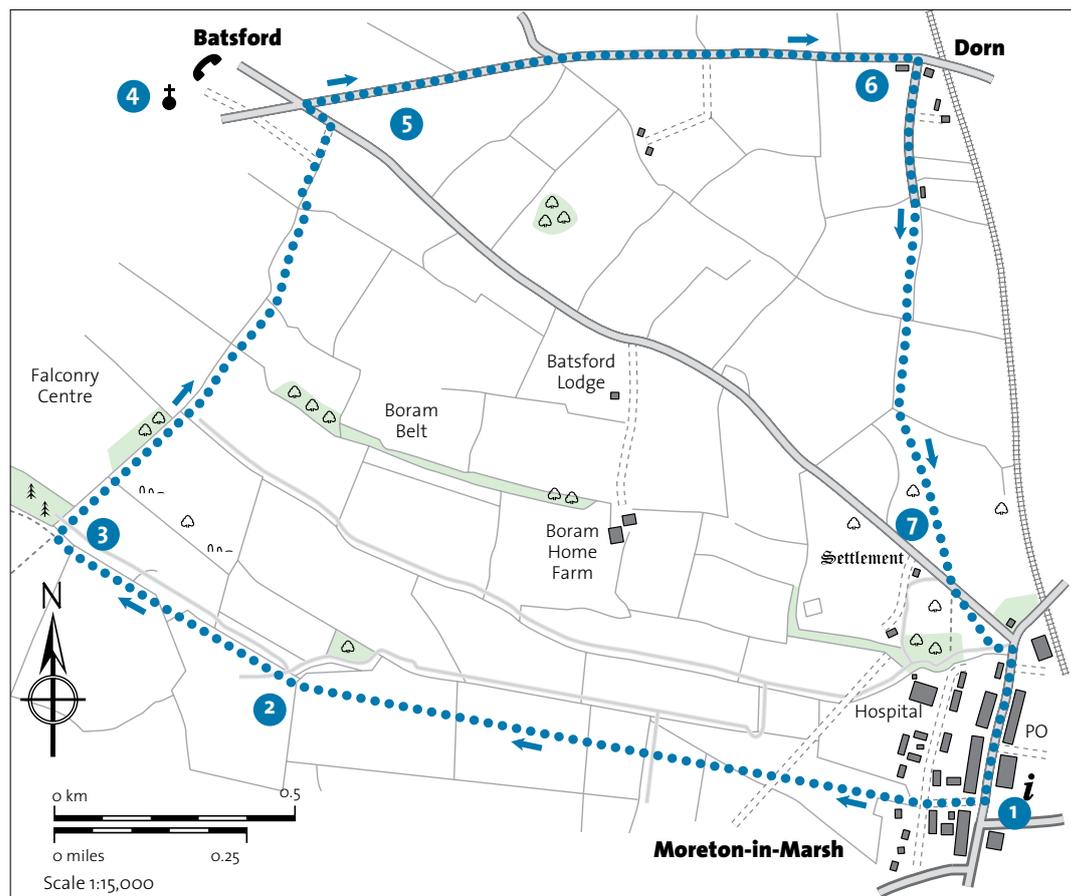
Start: Moreton-in-Marsh
War Memorial, High Street

Route:

Walk south towards the Redesdale Hall in the middle of the High Street. The Roman Fosse Way is three feet below you. Turn right by the Co-op **1** into Corders' Lane. At the end cross a road, pass the allotments and through the first of 7 kissing-gates into a field. Straight on, with a glimpse of Batsford House, and look for a wooden kissing-gate in the hedge on your left.

Continue through five more kissing-gates. At the fifth, turn half right onto a stone bridge **2** over a stream which eventually becomes the Thames. With a spinney on your right, after two more kissing-gates, look for a long wall on your right. **3**

Here turn right through a gate and follow the track beside Batsford deer park. You might spot an eagle being exercised from the falconry. After ¾ hours of walking you should see the deer and Batsford House, a Victorian pile in the



Elizabethan style, where the Mitford girls grew up. After a wooden gate, a track veers left toward farm buildings, but keep straight on through the metal gate, and you'll reach a hunting gate on the road.

Turn left and walk along the road on the right (facing the traffic) for 50 metres. At the crossroads **5** turn right into a quieter lane. (You could detour to Batsford Church **4** - a Victorian Norman gem).

It may look nothing but you are now walking the watershed, where raindrops turn left for the Bristol Channel (via the Stour, Avon and Severn) or right for the North Sea (via the Evenlode and Thames).

After the first house in Dorn hamlet, **6** turn right on a track which becomes a footpath across the fields to Moreton. At a wooden kissing-gate entering the last field

(Moreton Showground) turn half-left past two mature trees framing a distant house.

Before the road, spot the low mound on your right, **7** the remains of a Roman fort. Cross into the recreation ground, slant left beside the playground and climb steps to the road. Turn right for the High Street and the War Memorial.