



EVENLODE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WALKS

Our vision is of an Evenlode with improved water quality, better flood management, more wildlife and greater community engagement



Chastleton – Wetland Creation

Wonderful wetlands

Wetlands are crucial landscape features that offer lots of benefits for people and wildlife. They are highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystems that enhance water quality, control erosion, maintain stream flows, sequester carbon, and support at least one-third of all threatened and endangered species!



Reconnecting to the floodplain

When we reconnect a river to its floodplain, we are trying to put the river back into a more natural state, allowing it to move within the valley as part of natural processes rather than through narrow, man-made channels. This rewetting of the river valley will help to alleviate floods and droughts, making the river more resilient to climate change and improving the habitat for wildlife. Here, we have cut through the channel bank to allow the stream to spread and flow over the landscape as it is naturally meant to do.

Creating fish passages

This small weir was creating a barrier to fish movement; fish such as the brown trout can't move freely upstream due to the 'steps' caused by weirs. We removed the weir and flattened out the stream. Finally, we added a gravel bed from local stone to create a fish spawning ground and shelter for aquatic invertebrates.



• • •
Follow our walk on the next page



Discover the project on this self-guided walk

Accessibility

Route: 6.5 miles (10.5 km)

This walk includes stunning views across the **Cotswolds National Landscape**, as well as riverside walking and visiting quaint villages. See the magnificent **Chastleton House** along the way.

Start and finish at Little Compton and follow the map clockwise.

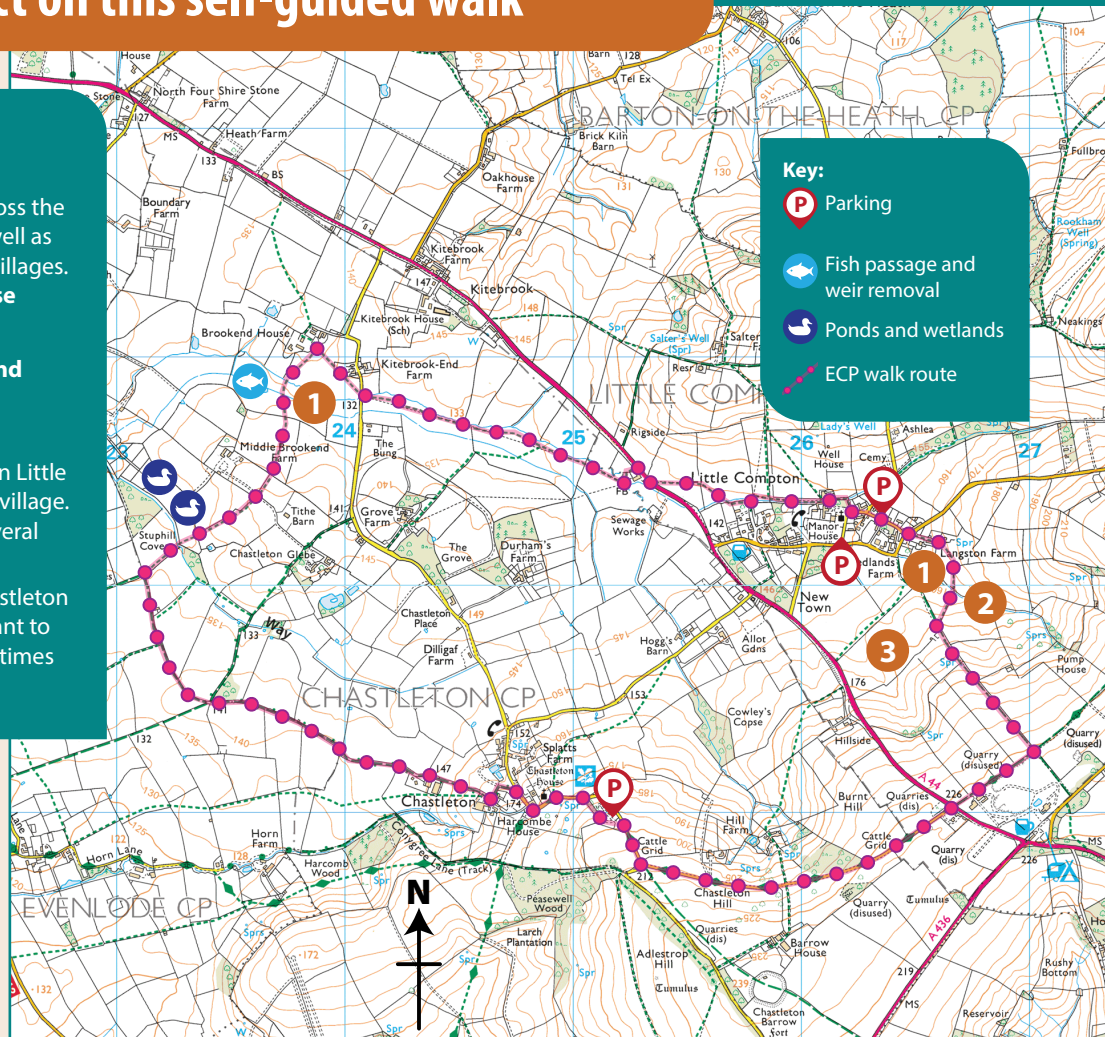
Option 1: This is a circular walk. We recommend that you start and finish in Little Compton and park on the road in the village. The lanes are narrow but there are several places for on-road parking.

Option 2: There is also parking in Chastleton at the National Trust car park if you want to start there, but do check the opening times before setting off as the gates shut.



Ponds and wetlands

Ponds are crucial for our wildlife, supporting two-thirds of freshwater species. *“Creating clean, new ponds is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect freshwater wildlife”* – **Freshwater Habitats Trust**. These ponds are a key part of our river reconnection work.



2 Reinstating the natural watercourse

Mill leats are artificial aqueducts, narrow channels, that increase the force of water to power a watermill. Here, the stream has been pushed out of the mill leat and directed into a 'paleochannel' to slow the flow of the water, which helps prevent flooding further downstream and creates a healthier riverbed for aquatic life. A paleochannel is a remnant of an inactive river or stream that has been buried by sediment.

3 Releasing the brook from a culvert

Here, the culvert has been broken in order to release the brook from the pipe and allow for the natural flow of the stream on the surface. This slows the flow of the stream and creates a healthier environment and ecosystem. It also allows more species to benefit from the stream as it no longer runs underground.

...
to find
out
more
visit our
website