

# The Golden Ball - Lower Swell



A Circular Walk from Lower Swell

## WALK II

Start at Lower Swell and walk along the road out of the village (towards The Slaughters) and take the footpath off to the left which takes you down a lane and into a series of dairy pastures. Walk along the valley floor following the Dickler and after an hour or so you come to a road. Heading for Lower Slaughter rather than Upper Slaughter, you end up walking along a quiet road into a village of great beauty.

Small cottages line the banks of the River Eye which runs through the village, with tiny bridges criss-crossing the water. The force of the current used to power a corn mill at the top of the village and you should head in this direction. From here you can follow a beautiful footpath along the bubbling River Eye towards Upper Slaughter.

Walk up the hill towards Upper Slaughter. The village itself perches astride the Slaughter Brook (the name Slaughter is thought to derive from the old name for a stream - 'slough' - and not from any murky historical associations). It boasts an elegant Norman church and the cottages in The Square were designed by Edwin Lutyens, as was Upper Swell Manor, which you glimpse through the trees as you walk from Upper Swell to Lower Swell along the river.

From Upper Slaughter you then take the high road back to Lower Swell (which is a one-lane road and fairly potholed so cars tend not to use it). This road offers breathtaking views of the landscape you have just walked through and you can see the route you have just taken from on high.

Follow the road and keep walking following the sign posts for Lower Swell.