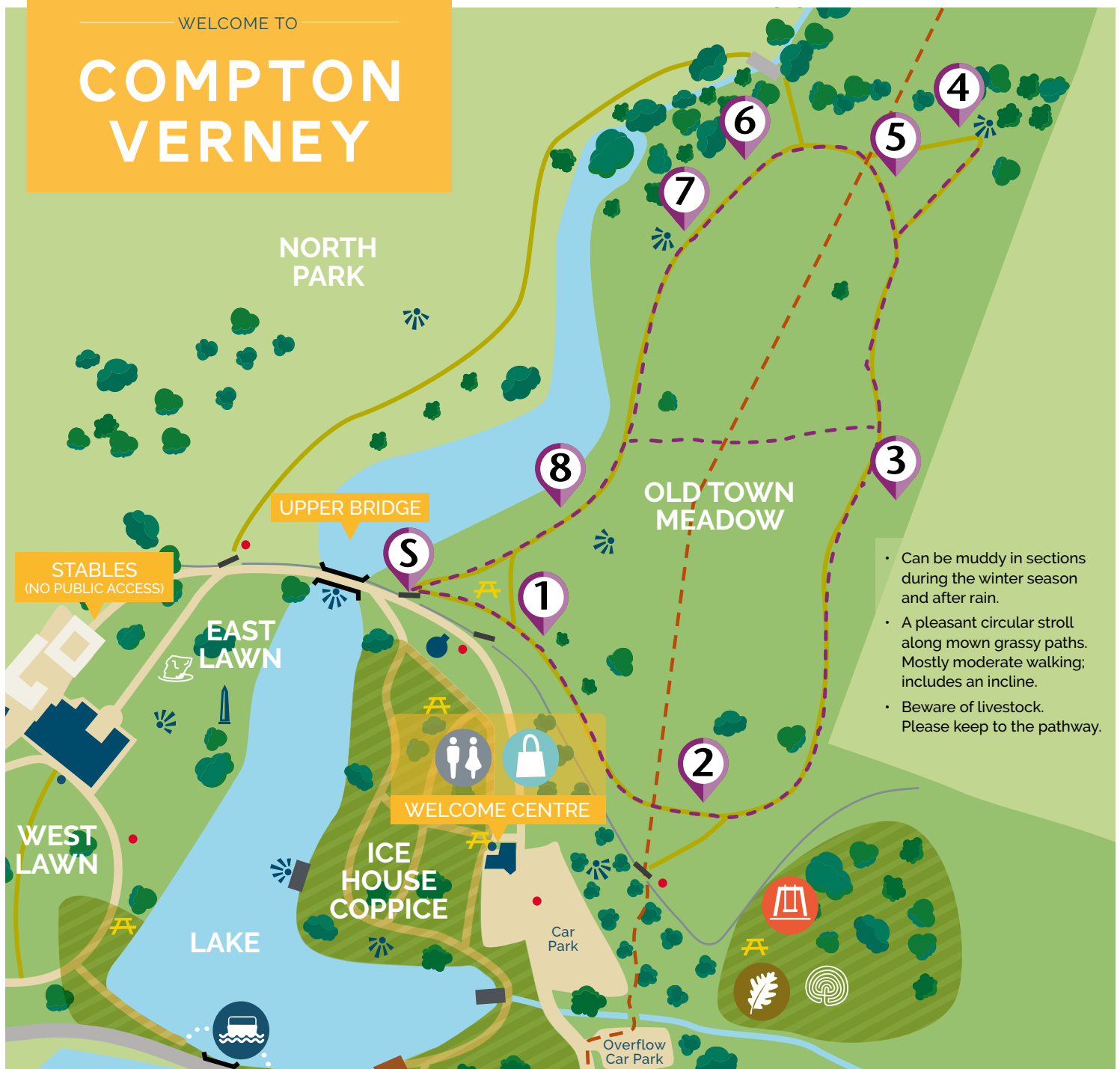


WELCOME TO

COMPTON VERNEY



Old Town Meadow Circular Trail

♥ **Approx. 1.5 kilometres** ⌚ **Approx. 45 mins.** (slow gentle pace)

Key



Old Town Meadow Circular Trail

- S START:** Enter Old Town Meadow via either of the pedestrian gates, between the Ice House and the Adam Bridge: both lead into Old Town Meadow.
- 1** Go through the gate into Old Town Meadow and take the mown path directly ahead. Immediately take the right fork in the path to follow an anti-clockwise route around the meadow. As you proceed along the path you will see the Ice House, installed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown during his landscape improvements c1771. To the left of this the impressive wellingtonia tree avenue begins. These very tall conifers from North America were planted around 1880 to form a new avenue exit from the estate. Ahead of you on rising ground is the woodland known as Kennels Coppice (no access).
- 2** As the footpath heads to the top of the hill, curving to the left of Kennels Coppice, Lodge Farm comes into view. Around the field are trees protected by deer guards; many of these have been sponsored over the years and feature personal notes from their adopters. Tree adoption is a great way to add your personal message of support for Compton Verney or to the memory of a loved one. Do enquire at the Welcome Centre if you'd like more information.
- 3** Follow the mown path along the top of the hill, towards the bench at the very far corner. Old Town Meadow is one of two fields (73 acres in total) that are managed by Compton Verney House Trust as wild flower meadows. The lower portions of the field were the location for the medieval village of Compton Murdak – the name 'Compton' describing a settlement in a valley.
- 4** From the bench, the view of the valley opens out with the Gallery sitting centrally. The ridge beyond the Gallery and buildings marks the line of the Roman Fosse Way.
- From here it is also clear to see the ornamental tree planting that is nearer to the Gallery. This distinguishes the manicured centre of the estate from the more natural countryside around it.
- 5** From the bench, proceed downhill, along the mown path which loosely follows the hedgeline. Above these fields buzzards can often be seen and occasionally red kites and ospreys. Nearer to ground, skylarks can be heard singing but often are hidden amongst the meadow grass.
- 6** Continue along the mown path that curves to follow the line of the woodland ahead, known as the Boat House Coppice. The boat house has long since disappeared and the woodland is private, but it contains substantial black poplar trees dating from 'Capability' Brown's work in the 1770s.
- 7** As the ground rises slightly and the Gallery comes into view, you will have reached a key viewpoint in the designed landscape. The view along the upper pool and across the bridge to the Gallery was recorded on a blue and white Staffordshire plate, as part of a series of landscape views produced in c.1800. One of these can be found in the Compton Verney collection.
- 8** Continue along the path towards the Gallery. Passing through the pedestrian gate concludes the Old Town Meadow Circular Walk. Please be aware of passing cars on the drive.