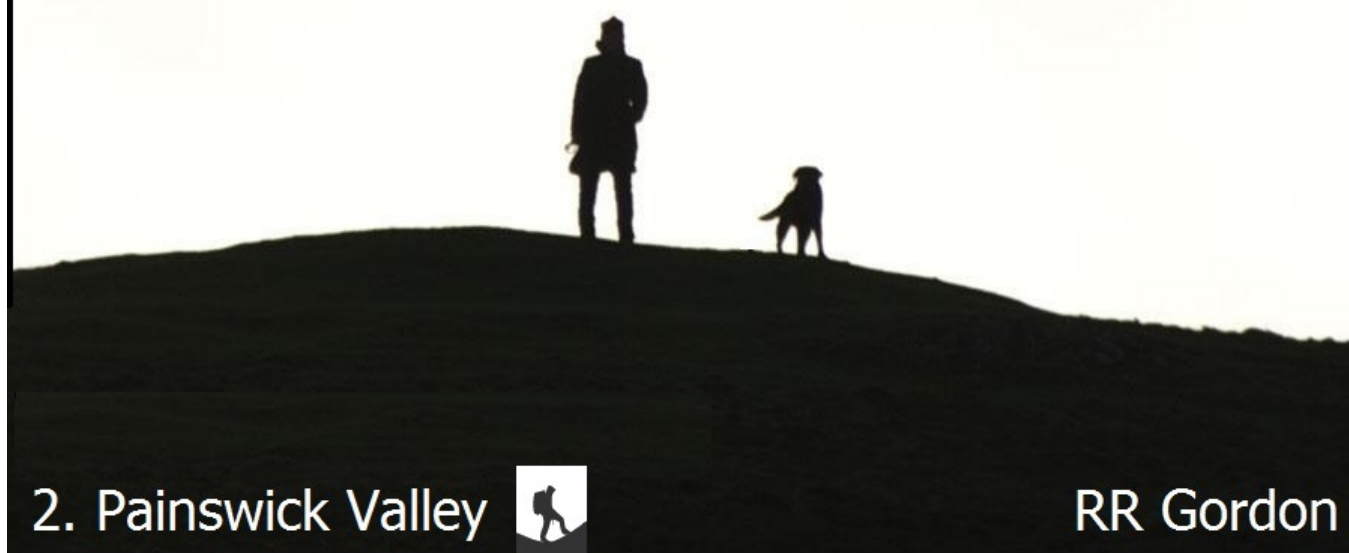


Little Cotswold Walks



2. Painswick Valley



RR Gordon

A series of short, circular walks around Cotswold villages – ending at pubs!
Covering Cranham, Sheepscombe, Painswick and Paradise

You can also download other booklets in the series from www.rrgordon.com
including 1. Birdlip & Beyond, 3. Toadsmoor Valley, 4. Frome Valley, 5. The Falcon & Oak, Painswick
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Introduction.

Sometimes I like a long, strenuous hike up an imposing hill but occasionally it's nice to just potter round a lovely little Cotswold village looking at the nice houses. This book concerns itself with the latter.

When I put these walks together, I'm looking for a good part of the walk to go through the pathways and lanes of the village, but also for part to be through the countryside around the village. I aim for an hour or so – which justifies having a pudding at the pub! This book, entitled *Painswick Valley*, contains walks in the Cranham and Sheepscombe valleys which feed into Painswick valley.

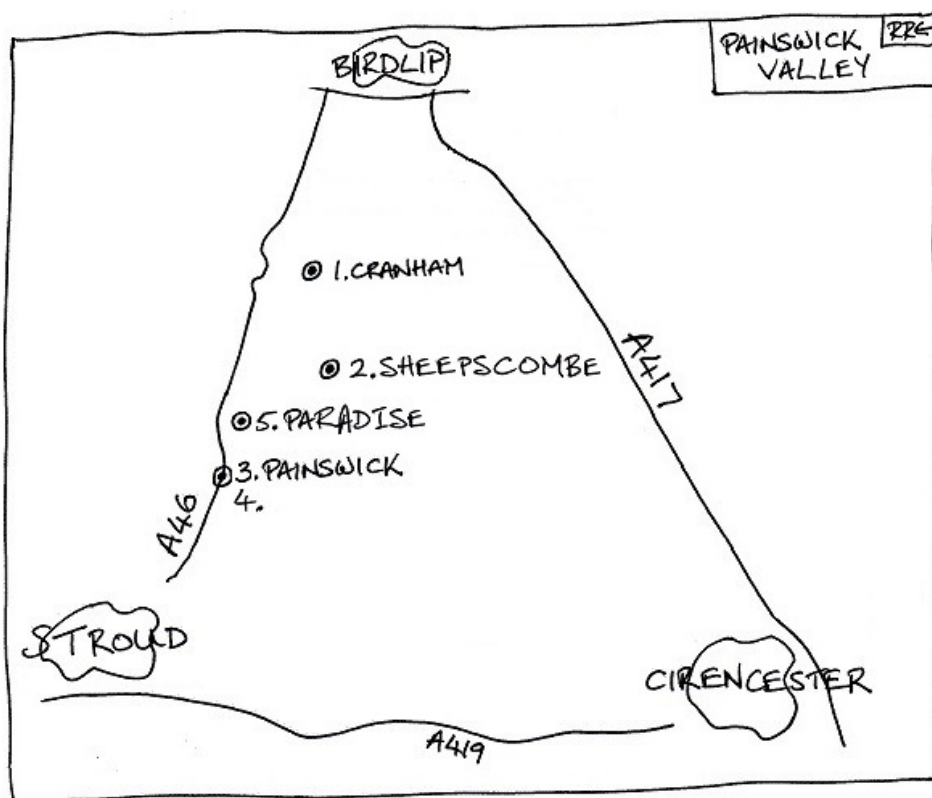
Each walk has been hand-crafted by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy. Our combined objectives were:

- **A nice village:** it's always interesting to see how the other half lives and we've tried to select some places where you can look at some nice houses and discuss whether you would like to live there
- **Circular walks:** we've tried to come up with circular (ish) walks, but there might be some interesting side paths which we've suggested and sometimes these require returning by the same route.
- **A good pub:** and why not? In my mind, each of these walks operates as follows: you finish work slightly early on a summer's evening, drive to the suggested parking spot, do a good, brisk walk and then sit outside a nice country pub. Where possible we've suggested that you park at the pub.
- **Some exercise for Daisy:** uppermost in Daisy's mind was her desire that each walk should contain a stretch where she could be off the lead. This wasn't always possible with walks around villages but nevertheless she pronounced herself happy with every walk included in this book! For longer walks, I'm also aware that Daisy will need a drink so a stream, lake, horse trough is a very useful landmark on the walk. By the way, all the pubs are happy to have dogs (at time of printing!).



Daisy absolutely insists that we regularly re-trace the walks in case anything has changed, but if you spot any errors then please let me know – we will both be mortified and will correct the error immediately and re-publish on www.rrgordon.com

Rod Gordon

rod@rrgordon.com



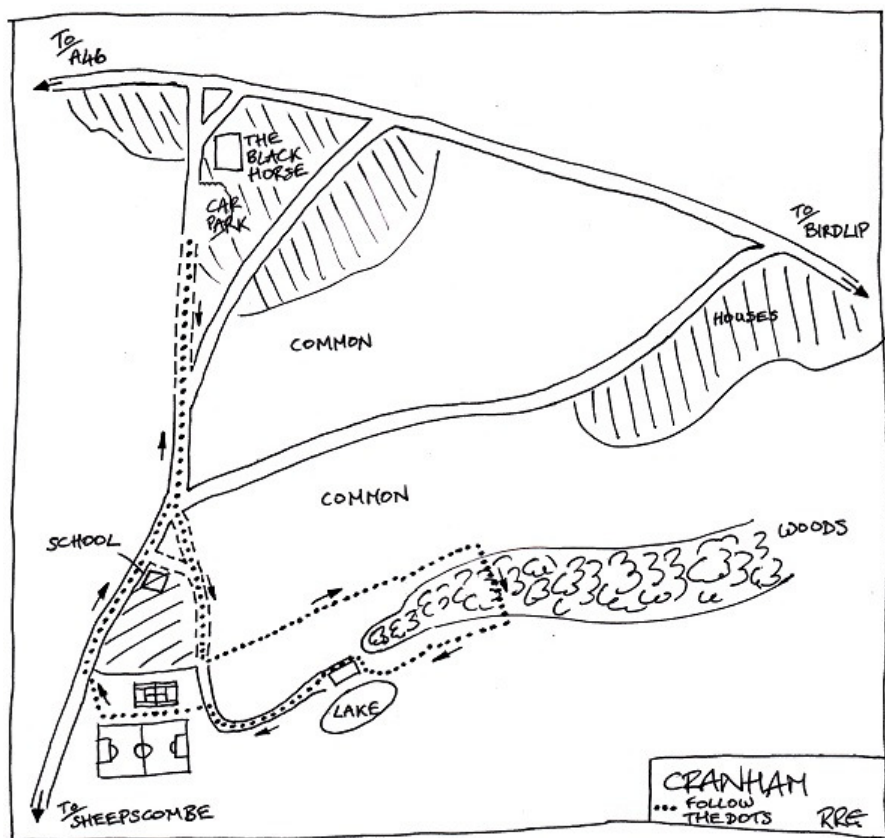
1. Cranham.

Rod's Rating	 <p>A good bit of exercise with some beautiful views along valley towards Painswick.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy feels this could be her favourite walk of the book: off the lead across the common, some interesting woods to explore and a lake to jump in!</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes. Well, a trigonometry expert wouldn't call it circular – more of a wiggly loop.
Pub	<p>Park at the Black Horse and then have a drink or a bite to eat afterwards:</p> <p>The Black Horse Inn Cranham, Gloucester, GL4 8HP http://www.theblackhorsecranham.co.uk/</p> <p>NB. Open from midday. See website for times. <i>Alternative: The Royal William (on A46 between Cheltenham and Stroud)</i></p>
How long did it take?	40 minutes – or 1 hour 15 minutes on the extended walk
What shoes should I wear?	Walking boots most of the year – a bit boggy in the fields around trout farm unless it hasn't rained for a couple of weeks (but how often will you get that?!)

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT (From the Cross Hands, Brockworth, on the A46):

Head up the A46 in the direction of Stroud; at the top of the hill, turn left into Cranham; go all the way down into the bottom of the dip in the middle of the village; the Black Horse is signposted to the right; turn right in front of the pub and go along to their wide parking area (crushed Cotswold stone base)

THE WALK - In summary:



Up across the common, almost to the top of the hill, right and down through the woods to a trout farm in the valley.

Back up again almost to where you were on the common, but turn left to go past the village football pitch & tennis courts before coming back along the road to the pub.

Extended walk adds an extra walk to the south of the lake (not shown on map).

THE WALK - In detail:

- > Exit through a wooden gate at the far end of the pub car park (do not go back past the pub)
- > **Walk diagonally up across the common** (staying on the wide, crushed Cotswold stone path – do not veer off to the right)
- > **Turn right onto the road**
- > After 50 yards you come to another road: **go straight across** onto the wide, crushed Cotswold stone track, still walking diagonally upwards
- > Head for the uppermost house (named Picardy) which is above the village school
- > **Keep to the left of Picardy**, still following crushed Cotswold stone track as it goes past the houses
- > At the last of the 4 or 5 houses on your right, before the tarmac starts, at a small parking area, **turn left, doubling back** on yourself a little, and walk up the hill along a grass footpath (*Remember this parking area!*)
- > Halfway up the hill stop and look at the view on all sides and then ...
- > **Turn right** (no landmarks here really – just look for two metal gatepost bases in the ground)
- > The footpath goes slightly downhill and into some woods (*across the valley, at the top of the hill behind the woods is a house owned by Lily Allen, the pop star daughter of actor Keith Allen; the greenhouse always stands out for me at the bottom of her garden*)
- > Go **through a wooden gate**, marked 'Cranham Common', and into the woods
- > The path cuts across a very steep hill and you wonder how trees could grow here
- > At end of woods there is a wooden five-bar gate; **walk through gate into field** and after ten yards **turn right**
- > Go through a gateway into **another field**, bearing right still
- > **Walk along the bottom of the field**, the hill slopes up to your left
- > Head towards house in front of you, at end of field (*this is the trout farm overlooking a lake*)
- > Go **through a wooden kissing gate**, over a stile and **turn right** ***

Now skip ahead to ***Main Route*** unless you want to do the extended route which follows

*** Alternative Route ***

*Alternatively turn left here to extend walk by 30 mins; follow section in italics then go to line marked by ****

- > **Turn left** past National Trust board for Saltridge Woods to follow footpath uphill into woods
- > Path bears to right to follow edge of woods overlooking lake
- > At the second waist-high footpath post **bear right and down** to stay on edge of woods (not up and left as indicated)
- > After 10 yards there is a footpath sign on a fence post; follow this fence downhill
- > Go straight through small wooden five-bar gate at the bottom and then **bear left** to follow bottom of field
- > Head for bottom right corner of field and go through gate
- > There is an interesting intersection of five gates here; take second gate clockwise (ie straight up to farmhouse)
- > Go through another metal gate, past farmhouse and out along the farm drive
- > Go through the ornate metal farm gate and immediately **turn right** through a metal kissing gate
- > Head diagonally down across field past telegraph pole to another metal kissing gate
- You are now heading back towards Cranham – and the common can be seen on hill above telegraph pole
- > Go through gate and head diagonally down to wooden footbridge over stream (Gladys' Leap – see below)
- > Head **right and up** – then **turn right** onto drive and head towards the house
- > Go to left of house (round the back) and head uphill towards woods (don't turn left halfway up)
- > Shortly after a wooden gate near the top, turn left onto tarmac drive, then go to *** below (Williams gate)

*** Main Route ***

- > Go **up and left**, around the back of the barn and trout farm
- > Go through a gateway with no gate (!) and **turn right onto the tarmac drive**
- > Follow drive up steep hill, looking across lakes on your left that run down valley towards Painswick

- > When you're nearly at the top, the drive bends round to the right
- > 20 yards before the small parking area, which was mentioned earlier, where the tarmac ends, **turn left** through double wooden gate in bushes (NB. Gate marked with manufacturer, GLC & R Williams of Tetbury)
- > 20 yards later go **through another wooden gate**
- > Walk down between the village tennis courts on your right and the village football pitch on your left, going through a metal kissing gate
- > Go through a wooden gate at the end of the field and go **diagonally left** across the road
- > Walk along a grass path between the houses which leads to the church

- > Go through a kissing gate and skirt around the right hand edge of the churchyard
- > Exit the churchyard through the lych gate (note inscriptions on the walls) and **turn right** onto the road
- > At the school, **fork left onto the grass footpath** (by the dog poo bin!)
- > Follow the hedge all the way back to the pub car park
- > Go into the Black Horse for a well-earned pint and a bite to eat!!

The End. Any problems with these directions?

Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:


Composer Gustav Holst lived in Cranham for a while, and it was there, in the house now called 'Midwinter Cottage' that he wrote what is probably the best known tune for the Christmas carol In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti.

A Fairport Convention album, Gladys' Leap, is named after local postwoman Gladys Hillier, who would jump over a local stream to avoid a long journey. The Ordnance Survey have renamed that place in her honour.

A lych gate is a covered gate usually at the entrance to a churchyard. The term lych evolved from the Saxon word for corpse, and the lych gate was traditionally a place where corpse bearers carried the body of a deceased person and laid it on a communal bier. The priest would then carry out the first part of a burial ceremony under the shelter of the lych gate roof.

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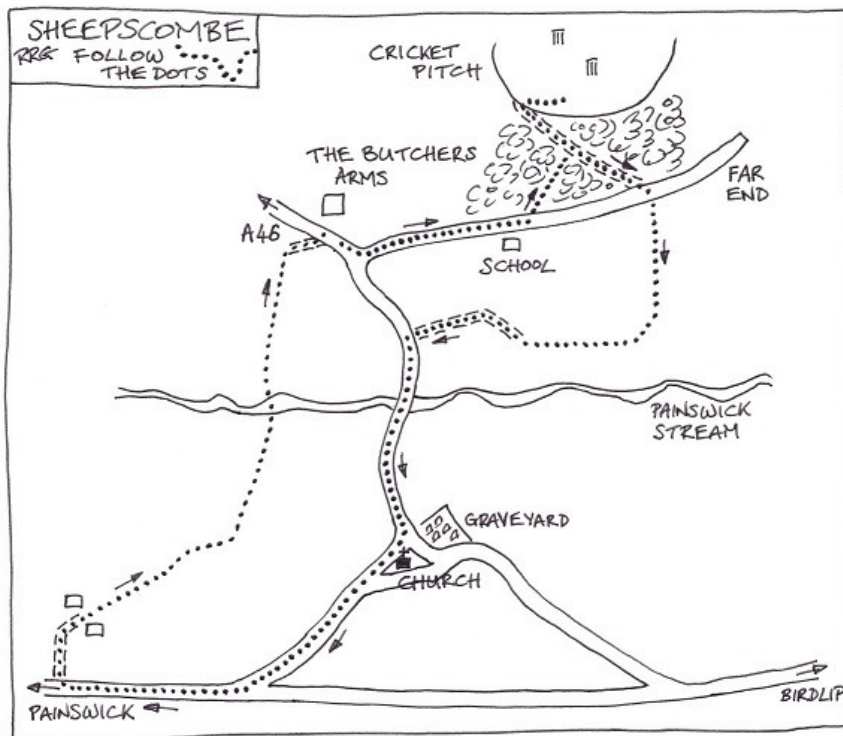
2. Sheepscombe.

Rod's Rating	 <p>I don't lavish five marks on just any walk, but this one comes close! Up and down one of the most beautiful valleys in the Cotswolds, interesting cottages scattered haphazardly around the valley sides, Laurie Lee's favourite cricket pitch, a great pub – and even the chance of seeing some alpacas (really!)</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy thoroughly enjoyed this walk, but needed to stay on the lead most of the time as there were sheep, cows and alpacas around. I'm not joking about the alpacas. Plenty of opportunities for Daisy to have a drink from the stream.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
Pub	<p>The Butchers Arms GL6 7RH – one of my favourite pubs and I nearly always see somebody I know there; http://www.butchers-arms.co.uk</p> <p>Log fires if it's winter; if you're doing the walk in the summer there is a nice garden but most people sit at the tables just in front of the pub.</p>
How long did it take?	<p>1 hour and 15 minutes – and it's tiring!</p> <p><i>NB. Can be turned into a 3 hour walk by connecting to the Paradise walk</i></p>
What shoes should I wear?	No particularly muddy bits, but quite a few fields. You could probably get away with trainers if it hasn't been raining recently.

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT (From the A46):

Take the A46 from Cheltenham in the direction of Stroud & Painswick; shortly before the Royal William pub there will be a turning to the left signposted Sheepscombe. Follow the road for a couple of miles until you reach the village and the pub is on your left. You can park in the car park or just opposite on the road.

THE WALK - In summary:



Left out of the pub.

Along to Far End and the cricket pitch, down to bottom of the valley and follow the stream back towards the village.

But then go up onto the opposite side of the valley before turning right to circle back to the pub.

THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of the pub car park and **immediately left again** into the road to Far End
 - > Continue up the road past the village school on your right and then after another 20 yards ...
 - > **Fork left** up a Public Footpath, this is just after a Cotswold stone house on the left, you need to walk a few steps up the driveway; the footpath goes steeply uphill through some woods
 - > When you emerge from woods, **go straight across** a crushed Cotswold stone track (wide enough for cars)
 - > Go through a wooden gate (marked for Sheepscombe Common) and continue straight ahead (valley on right)
 - > Go through a gate and into some woods (Workman's Woods), continue straight ahead on track, slight uphill
 - > After 200 yards **turn sharp left** (almost back on yourself) to walk slightly uphill towards top of woods
 - > At the top climb over a stone stile to the left of a gate and follow the left-hand Public Footpath sign. ***Don't fork right along the farm track; you are now following the edge of woods with valley on left***
 - > Follow path alongside a Cotswold stone wall (with woods on right); after a while you'll see a cricket pitch on your left; go through a tumble-down gap in the wall just before the cricket pavilion
- I've brought you up here because Sheepscombe cricket pitch was once described by Laurie Lee as probably the most picturesque pitch in the whole of England; playing cricket here is like playing on 'the roof of Gloucestershire'; see 'Something Interesting' below for further details.*
- > Keep pavilion on your right and when you are below it then fork diagonally right to a stile halfway along the right edge of the cricket pitch (keep cricket square on your left)
 - > Go over the stile and bear left (aiming for leftmost bench) and then bear left again to walk down crushed Cotswold stone track (which you crossed earlier) that leads from cricket pitch all way back to tarmac road

- > **Go straight over the road** onto a Public Footpath, 20 yards down to a wooden gate into a field
 - > **Go downhill**, following the barbed wire fence on your right
 - > **Go over an unobtrusive stile**, or through a wide new wooden five-bar gate into the next field
 - > **Walk diagonally down and to the right**, aiming for the corner of the field, do not cross the stream
- NB. You are now about to follow the stream back towards the centre of the village*
- > **Go over a stile**, this leads to the bottom section of a large garden – containing two alpacas!!!
- NB. They are fairly timid creatures and will back away from you. Although they do look at you weirdly!*
- > **Go through a kissing gate**, and into the next garden (fortunately separated by a low-ish hedge)
 - > **Go through an open gateway** and along the bottom of a third garden
 - > **Go over a stile** into a field, keep going straight ahead, staying parallel with the stream 30 yards to your left
 - > **Go over a stile** by a large tree and follow a path running between two gardens, a metal fence on right
 - > Head for the large house in front with some impressive inter-woven trees (*espalier*) around the grounds
 - > **Turn right**, keeping the espalier on your left, go past some stone mounting steps on your right and ...
 - > **Go out through two large stone gateposts**, the driveway leading away from the house, slightly uphill
 - > **Turn left at the top** (do not be tempted to turn right up a footpath, stay on the driveway back to road)
 - > **Turn left onto the road**, walking past Briar Cottage and follow the road down into the dip
 - > Go past phone box and village hall on your left and then **start walking uphill again**, staying on road
 - > **Ignore the Public Footpaths on the left and right** (the one on the right takes you through the

middle of somebody's garden and then out onto the road by the church; very strange)

- > **Follow the road round to the right**, opposite the war memorial at the foot of the graveyard
- > Go past St John's church on the left, lovely huge millstone in the next garden on the left and keep going up, up, up until you reach the next road (600 yards?)
- > **Turn right** onto the road (there is a house on the right with two huge yew trees either side of the gate)
- > **Walk approx half a mile along the road** here are a few landmarks to look out for: a Methodist church, Laburnum Cottage (written up near the roof!), postbox on your left just before Woodside house
- > **Turn right** down a Public Bridleway which leads down a driveway to Pyll House (stone on the right), the Public Bridleway sign might be obscured in the hedge, but there is a bus stop sign on the other side of the driveway (NB. This is just after the last few houses of the village on the left, eg The Nook)
- > Follow the tarmac driveway down for around 25yards
- > Do not follow the blue Public Bridleway sign which goes straight ahead, but **turn right**, following the yellow Public Footpath sign; the path goes between Pyll Barn and Pyll House leading to two gates

NB. If you were to follow the Public Bridleway sign which goes straight ahead, you would walk 400

yards and join the Paradise walk that is also in this booklet

- > **Go through the gate on the left**, the gate opens electronically by pressing a button (nice!)
 - > Walk across the gravel and **through the wooden gate**
 - > **Follow the hedge on your right**, the field slopes away on your left to the valley below
 - > **Go through a wide wooden five-bar gate** with a yellow Public Footpath sign on it
 - NB. The field on your right sometimes contains around 20 alpacas!*
 - > Walk down between a barbed wire fence on your right and hedges/trees on your left
 - > **Go over a stile and turn left**, walk down the undulating field staying to the left
 - > **Cross the stream and go over a stile** (there is a sword-shaped piece of wood which acts as a dog gate)
 - > **Walk up the steep hill**, staying left initially and then at a thick telegraph pole veer right, heading towards a double wooden 5-bar gate
 - > **Go through the gate** (no public footpath sign) – **and then the next one**
 - > **Turn right** and walk up the gravel drive towards the road
 - > **Turn right onto the road** and walk down to the Butcher's Arms for a drink or a bite to eat!
- The End. Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)*

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The Sheepscombe valley was once part of a Royal Deer Park for King Henry VIII. The Butchers Arms pub dates from around 1670 and its name comes from the practice in those early days of hanging carcasses of deer killed on the hunt in what is now the bar.

The owners of the Butchers Arms asked artist Barnaby Catt-Morrison to create a new sign – and the resulting carved sign of a butcher sipping a pint of beer with a pig tied to his leg is probably the best known and photographed pub sign in the country and is featured in many publications on the subject.

'Cider with Rosie' author, Laurie Lee, once said of Sheepscombe cricket pitch that it was probably the most picturesque pitch in the whole of England. His uncles were founder members of the club, keen players and supporters – and Laurie Lee also played there himself. In 1971 he bought the pitch so that it could be used by the club forever and in 2014 the club raised £25,000 to purchase the field from Laurie Lee's estate. It is still known as the Laurie Lee Field.

Lee once compared the undulating pitch to a pony's back and his drinking pal Frank was immortalised in 'Cider with Rosie' in a section which illustrates how the field drops away at the edges: "At first only the outfield was visible, then you'd see the top of Frank's cap. Then his flushed face and great heaving shoulders until gradually, like a galleon, he'd come billowing into view and loose his fast, furious ball like a shot from a cannon."

3. Painswick (The Rec).

Not the usual Painswick walk where all the tourists go – a tour round Painswick aimed at walkers! Down into the valley, follow the stream along, back up the steep hill and then come back through the village using the lanes and cut-throughs used by the locals ...

Rod's Rating	 A fascinating hike around some beautiful cottages and old millhouses in the back lanes of Painswick – quite strenuous but worth it.
Daisy's Rating	 The longer the better, Daisy says, and there are a couple of stretches where she can go off the lead – and she does like going for a swim in the stream. However there are quite a lot of stiles.
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, most definitely
Pub	The Falcon, New Street, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6UN http://www.falconpainswick.co.uk Alternative: The Royal Oak Inn http://www.royaloakpainswick.co.uk There are two great pubs in Painswick – The Falcon Inn and The Oak.
How long did it take?	1 hour 15 minutes
What shoes should I wear?	Walking boots – and maybe even wellies in the winter. The path along the stream can be quite muddy even in summer.

WHERE TO PARK:

As mentioned on one of the other walks I can be a touch parsimonious at times and therefore I always look for some free parking. The Falcon has a compact car park at the back (approach via narrow lane to the left of the pub), but it is often full or tricky to get in and out. Stamages Lane car park is the official parking place, but I decided to start this walk at the rugby/tennis club. If you would prefer to use one of the other parking areas then I've tried to indicate where you join the walk – I hope I haven't made it too confusing. Please be aware that the rugby club can be quite busy on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday morning during the rugby season.

Parking Spot A: Painswick RFC/Painswick LTC, Broadham Fields, Stroud Road, Painswick GL6 6RS

Parking Spot B: The Falcon (postcode as above)

Parking Spot C: Stamages Lane car park, Painswick, GL6 6UZ

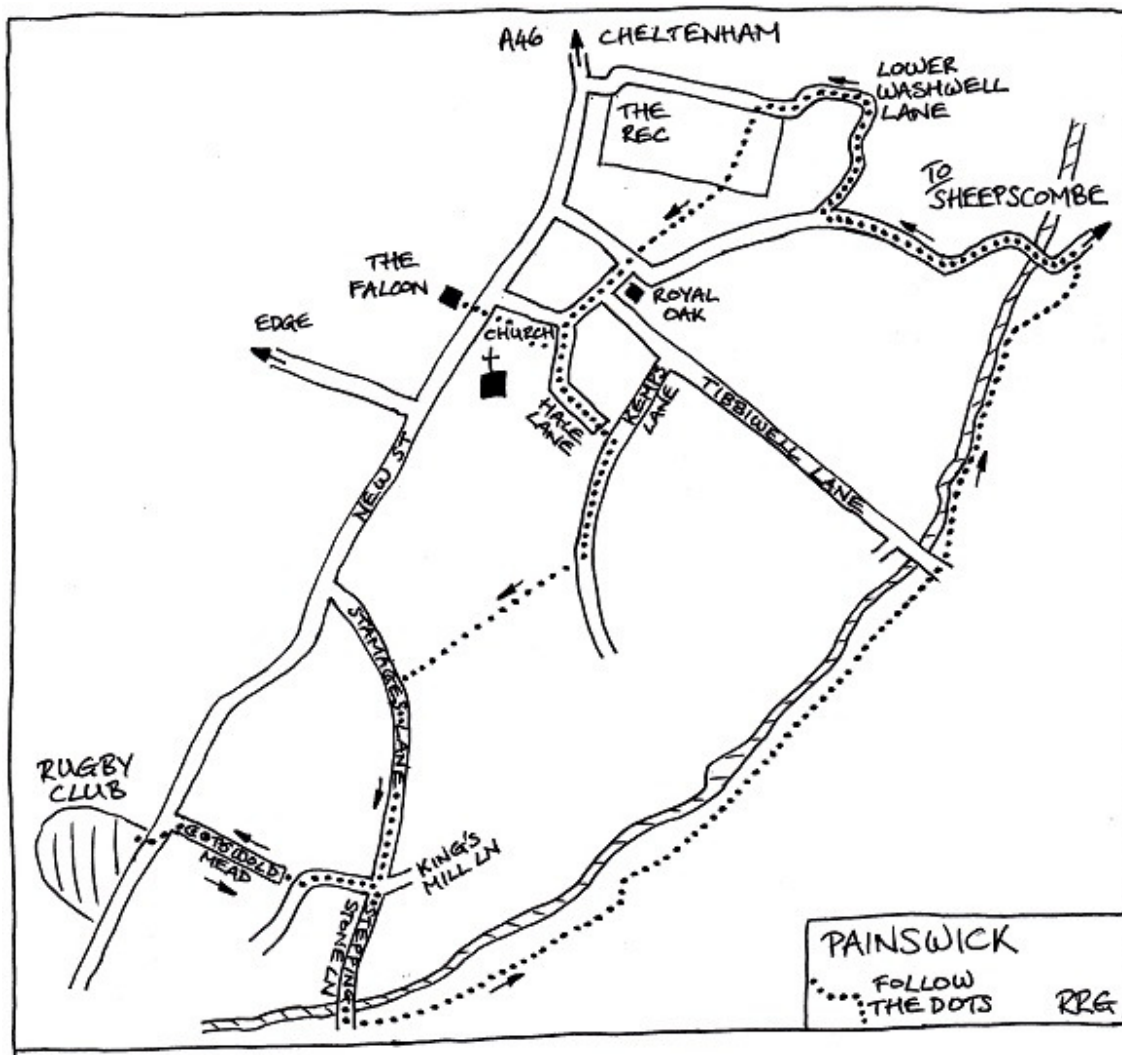
DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

(From Cheltenham/Brockworth on A46)

- Drive along the A46 in the direction of Stroud; as you travel through Painswick all parking spots are on the main road: the Falcon is on the right opposite the church, Stamages Lane is on the left shortly after the church, the rugby club is on the right at the bottom of the hill as you leave Painswick in the direction of Stroud.

THE WALK - In summary:

Starting at south/Stroud side of the village, walk north/upstream along stream at the bottom of the valley. At the last millhouse at north end of valley, turn left to head uphill back to the middle of the village, then walk back through the high part of the village through The Rec, the churchyard, past the village stocks



THE WALK - In detail:

From Parking Spot A

> From the tennis courts walk back along the tarmac drive to the A46. Cross the road into Cotswold Mead (this is a residential street opposite the rugby club entrance) and continue along the road

> Go through pedestrian gateway in the stone wall at the end of Cotswold Mead (to Kingsmill Lane)

> Turn left (my son Cal actually considers this to be straight); in any case head towards Painswick (ie north)

> Turn right after 50 yards at cross-roads onto Stepping Stone Lane; follow the road downhill

NB. If you have parked at Stamages Lane car park ie Parking Spot C, then exit via the car exit and turn left down Stamages Lane, walk downhill and you will reach the above-mentioned crossroads with Kingsmill Lane; continue straight

on down the hill, the road is now called Stepping Stone Lane ...

> Turn left at a Public Footpath sign about 20 yards after crossing stream in the dip at bottom of valley, just after last house (Swallows Nest); you are now on a farm track and about to follow the stream up the valley

> Go through V-shaped step-through stile on your right; this is shortly before the barns; go into field

> Turn left to follow the fence on your left, when the fence ends keep going straight across the field, maybe a hair to the right/uphill, aiming for midway point on opposite side of the field; hidden in the hedge is a strange three-piece chicane of gates

> Turn left after going through the gate, you are now walking between two hedges; after 50 yards the hedges disappear and you merge into

another footpath that joins from the right; continue straight on; at the bottom of the field the path bends to the right and you are then walking between two fences

Remember: you are following the stream! Although at this point it is 25yds to the left, slightly down the hill

> Technically you should ignore the farm track that appears after another 100 yards, leading diagonally down to the left towards some houses, but if you have enough energy, can I suggest that you nip down to look at the beautiful millpool and the houses around it; you'll have to walk back up again, but it's worth a look; anyway if you'd rather pretend that I never mentioned that...

> **Walk straight on** along a grassy footpath between two fences, a lovely treehouse on your left

> **Go through wide wooden gate**, which is marked 'Please Keep Dogs on Lead'; continue straight on

> **Step over a wooden bar**, which is about a foot off the floor (strange!)

> **Go through a gate**, which is next to a house; you are now on the driveway off this house

> **Go straight on**, keep house on left and small stable on right; walk down the driveway, nearer to stream

> At bottom of driveway is a cluster of converted mill buildings; you come to a road

> **Turn left onto the road, go five yards, then go right** up a driveway

You are now walking up a tarmac drive towards Brook Farm, there is a Public Footpath sign pointing up the track; by the way, if you want to return to centre of Painswick at this point you could turn left up the road

> Halfway up the track **fork left** (Public Footpath follows stream left as drive bends round to the right)

> **Go over a wooden stile**, keeping alongside the stream – it's always muddy here!

> **Go round another wooden stile** – or go over it if you prefer! Daisy normally jumps in the stream here (again)

> **Go up a dozen steps and over a stile**, the path diverges from the stream slightly here

> **Turn left after climbing the stile and walk along the bottom of the field**, still following the stream below

> **Go over a stile** into next field, continue straight ahead, you are walking past a large millhouse on your left

> **Climb over the stile on your left**, which is at the end of the millhouse garden

> **Turn left on the road**

You have finished the section of this walk that **follows the stream along the valley**; now back up to village...

BACK UP TO THE VILLAGE

> **Follow the road steeply uphill**, as it bends to the left around the millhouse grounds and back to the right

> At the top of hill you reach a row of houses, another road coming in from the right, white wooden fence

> **Turn right** onto this road, sharp hairpin in front of Cranmore Cottage (sign above front door)

> **Follow the road uphill for quite a way** (half a mile?); this is Lower Washwell Lane, go past some houses: Verlands (large, studded, wooden gates), Magpie House, Whispering Trees, Woody Steeps, are you tired yet? Follow road around to the left and then it finally flattens out

> Straight ahead is a recreation ground (known as "The Rec"), wide metal gate marked 'No Vehicles By Order Of Parish Council'

> **Go into The Rec** via the pedestrian wooden gate next to the metal gate

> **Head straight across** in the direction of the tennis courts and the church steeple

> **Go straight down the lane** between the tennis courts on your right and the youth club on your left

> **Follow the footpath until it comes out at a road**, with a Hamptons estate agents on your left and The Painswick Centre on your right (*why not pop in to look at the art exhibition or see what events are on?*)

> **Go straight ahead** between the village shop and The Royal Oak pub, keep going straight ahead, past Friday Street on your right (although there's a nice deli up there), past Tibbiwell Lane on your left (although Cardynham House is a nice place to eat), past public toilets on your left; you are now on Victoria Street which bends round to the right, but you should ...

> **Go straight ahead** into St Mary's Street

Just before the churchyard you will see Church House, which is the former residence of composer Charles Wilfred Orr, generally known as CW Orr. His life's study was the expressive setting of poetry to music, including the works of A.E. Housman, such as The Shropshire Lad

> **Go into the churchyard and turn right**

> Head up to the main road (New Street) and cross over for a well-deserved ...

DRINK AND BITE TO EAT AT THE FALCON

If you have parked at The Falcon (ie Parking Spot B) then you can join the walk at this point.

> Cross the road and enter the churchyard

> Walk down footpath on left side of church yard, walking parallel to Victoria Street (with St Michaels restaurant)

> Exit the churchyard by the same entrance you entered earlier, **turn right** onto St Mary's Street

> **Walk along to the village stocks**, which are on the right against the churchyard wall

> **Turn left** at Stocks Cottage to head down Hale Lane, walking away from the church

> **Continue straight on at bottom of Hale Lane** where it narrows to a footpath between two cottages

> **Turn right** onto road (Kemps Lane) and continue for 75 yards past houses, eg Fig Tree Cottage, Wyck House

> **Turn right** at a Public Footpath sign into the driveway for Knapp End and Halebourne houses (do not go down Knapp Lane)

> **Go through gate** and follow the grass footpath and out of the gate at the other end

> **Turn left** and walk down the road (Stamages Lane) for around 200 yards

> **Turn right** at Cross Hands House (with postbox in wall) onto Kingsmill Lane

*NB. If you started the walk at The Falcon (Parking Spot B) then do not turn right at Crossroads House, but continue straight on and follow instructions from earlier in walk from ** follows the stream along the valley***

> **Turn right** after 50 yards through the pedestrian gateway into the bottom of Cotswold Mead

> **Continue up Cotswold Mead and cross the road back to the rugby club**

> **The End**. Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!) Do let the Falcon/Oak know you are following our walk as they very kindly sponsor these booklets!

WHAT ABOUT A CUP OF TEA?

The two pubs are mentioned above, but there is also a lovely tea shop, The Patchwork Mouse, on the main road.

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Known as the *Queen of the Cotswolds*, Painswick grew up around the wool and cloth trade in the 14th Century. Many of the houses along the stream at the bottom of the valley have waterwheels and two of the houses in Bisley Street contain "donkey doors" which were doorways wide enough for donkeys to pass through with wide paniers containing wool from local farmers. St Mary's church is famous throughout Gloucestershire for its 99 yew trees and legend has it that every time a 100th tree is planted the devil comes along to pull it out. A bell ringers' society was formed in 1686 and the ringers are still known as the "Ancient Society of Painswick Youths".

While Royalists were encamped in Painswick during the Civil War, tradition has it that King Charles went up to Painswick Beacon, the hill a few miles to the north, and, seeing the beautiful valley to the east said "This must be Paradise". Since then that valley, and the hamlet on its western side to the north of Painswick have been called Paradise.

Thomas Twining, tea merchant, was born in Painswick in 1675, and in 1706 set up his first tea shop at 216 Strand, London, - later to become home of the famous Twinings brand.

4. Painswick (Broadham).

Rod's Rating	 <p>A nice walk through some interesting back lanes – and of particular interest is the sculpture in honour of Tony Drake, principal creator of the Cotswold Way.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Not a bad walk and Daisy is able to be off the lead in the rugby fields (don't forget your pooh bags!) and up the short stretch of the Cotswold Way.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, most definitely
Pub	Two great pubs: The Falcon, New Street, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6UN http://www.falconpainswick.co.uk and The Oak
How long did it take?	35-40 minutes
What shoes should I wear?	Walking boots only needed if it's raining – otherwise you are mostly on roads or fields that are pretty dry.

WHERE TO PARK:

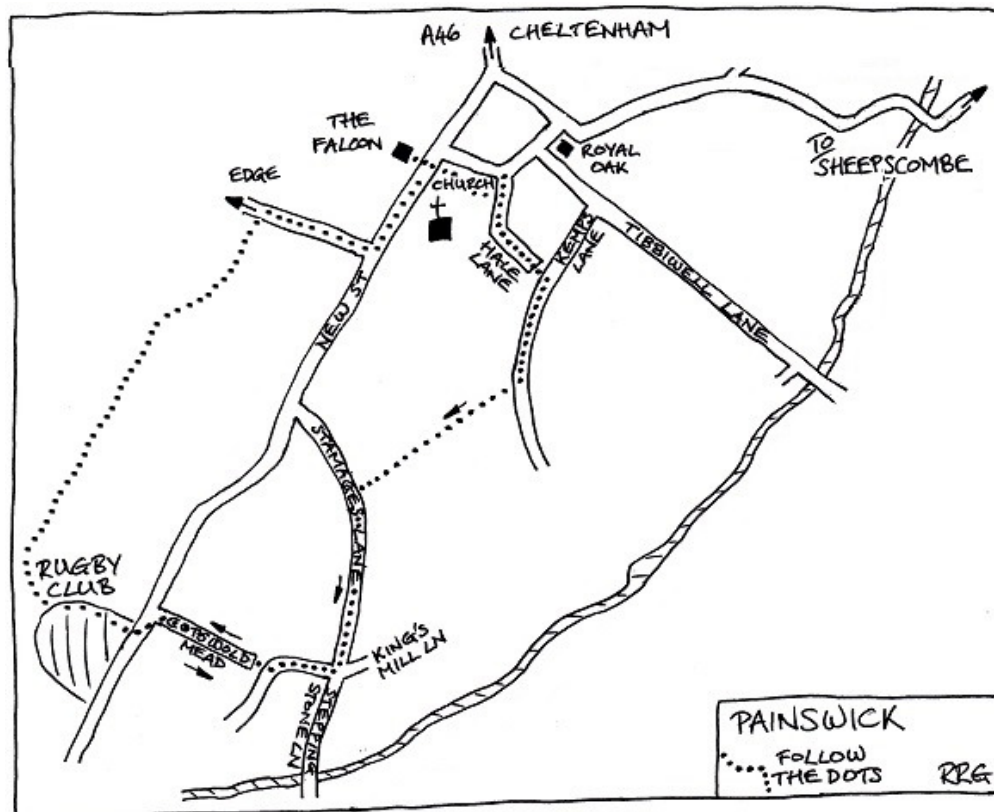
The Falcon has a compact car park at the back (approach via narrow lane to the left of the pub) or alternatively you can use Stamages Lane public car park a little bit further down the road.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT: (From Cheltenham/Brockworth on A46)

Drive along the A46 in the direction of Stroud. As you travel through Painswick, The Falcon is on the right opposite the church and its car park is approached via a narrow lane just after the pub.

THE WALK - In summary:

Out of the Stroud end of the village, through the rugby club and back uphill through a couple of fields.



THE WALK - In detail:

- > From The Falcon, go across the road and left to enter the churchyard at the top by Victoria Sq.
- > Walk down footpath on left side of church yard, walking parallel to Victoria Street (with St Michaels restaurant)
- > Exit the churchyard at the far side and **turn right** onto St Mary's Street
- > **Walk along to the village stocks**, which are on right against the churchyard wall obscured by parked cars
- > **Turn left** at Stocks Cottage to head down Hale Lane, walking away from the church
- > **Continue straight on at bottom of Hale Lane** where it narrows to a footpath between two cottages
- > **Turn right** onto Kemps Lane and continue for 75 yards past houses, eg Fig Tree Cottage, Wyck House
- > **Turn right** at a Public Footpath sign into the driveway for Knapp End and Halebourne houses (do not go down Knapp Lane)
- > **Go through gate** and follow the grass footpath and out of the gate at the other end
- > **Turn left** and walk down the road (Stamages Lane) for around 200 yards
- > **Turn right** at Cross Hands House (with postbox in wall) onto Kingsmill Lane
- > **Turn right** after 50 yards where road bends to left & go through gap in dry stone wall into the bottom end of a residential road (Cotswold Mead)
- > Continue up Cotswold Mead and **cross the road to the parking area by the rugby club**
- > **Walk up the narrow tarmac road leading to the rugby club house**
- > Go to the left of the club house and **walk along the edge of the field**

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Tony Drake took over as Footpaths Secretary for Gloucestershire Ramblers in 1949. In December that year the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act came in. There were no maps showing rights of way so the main provisions were for a survey of them. Tony Drake and other Gloucestershire Ramblers scrutinised Ordnance Survey maps, submitted details of footpaths that they had walked and, as a result, claimed 300 public footpaths for Gloucestershire.

In the process of doing so, they looked at long distance routes and came up with the idea of the Cotswold Way, a trek along the top of the Cotswold escarpment with occasional forays down to nice villages. The original plans were submitted by Tony to Gloucestershire County Council in 1950 but they sat in a pigeonhole for two decades until the council launched it during Footpath Week in 1970. However it wasn't until May 2007 that the Cotswold Way was designated a National Trail, which at last meant that grants were available for its upkeep. In 2001 Tony was awarded an MBE for Services to Public Rights of Way.

- > Walk past a large oak tree **beside the bottom of the tennis courts**, heading towards the hedge
- > At the far corner of the lower tennis courts there is a **kissing gate**; **go through and turn right**
You are now on a short stretch of the Cotswold Way
- > **Head uphill** with the tennis courts on your right (behind the trees/hedge)
- > **Go through a kissing gate** and walk steeply uphill with barbed wire fence on your left; aim for tree at top
- > At the top of the hill, **go through a kissing gate**, which leads to a path running between some gardens
- > **Turn right at the end of the path**, across the drive leading to a house called The Lantern and follow another path between some gardens (follow Cotswold Way sign)
- > **Go through a kissing gate** into a small triangular field; **walk along the right hand side**
NB. Halfway along the field you will see a lovely sculpture dedicated to Tony Drake, the principal creator of the Cotswold Way
- > **Go through gate onto tarmac road and turn right** (this is Edge Road)
- > At the end of the road you reach the church again – **turn left and you will find The Falcon on your left**

The End. Any problems with these directions?

Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!) Do let the Falcon/Oak know you are following our walk as they very kindly sponsor these booklets!

5. Paradise.

Prior to the Siege of Gloucester during the Civil War, King Charles I and his army made camp just north of Painswick – and legend has it that when the monarch looked out across the beautiful, meandering valley he asked “Is this paradise?”

The name caught on and you will see *Paradise* on the map as the label for a small cluster of houses just off the A46 as it runs from Cheltenham towards Painswick. Many other Londoners have visited the Cotswolds over the years and been struck by the exquisite prettiness of our rolling hills and valleys – and other royals have even made permanent camp here.

There is a wonderful walk which starts from Painswick Golf Club and follows the Cotswold Way for a short time, before dropping down into Paradise valley to follow the stream at the bottom. After climbing back up from the valley, there are a number of welcoming signs outside the golf clubhouse encouraging walkers to pop into Hortons café for a cup of tea – or something stronger.

After completing this delightful yet vigorous ramble, it is wonderful to sit with a drink in your hand on the golf club veranda overlooking the 18th green and the magnificent valley you have just walked. Paradise.



Rainbow over the Paradise Valley as seen from Painswick Golf Club car park

Rod's Rating	 A walk of variety: a golf course across common land, woods, fields, a stream at the bottom of a valley, plenty of ups and downs.
Daisy's Rating	 Thoroughly enjoyable! Off the lead for long stretches, a couple of streams to drink from, woods to hunt around in – and it's a long one.
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
Bar	'Hortons' café at Painswick Golf Club Golf Course Road, Painswick, Gloucestershire . GL6 6TL 01452 812180 http://www.painswickgolf.com Open until dusk, 6 days per week
How long did it take?	1 hour 30 minutes – and quite strenuous! <i>NB. Can be turned into a 3 hour walk by connecting to the Sheepscombe walk</i>
What shoes?	Walking boots; often muddy following the stream at the bottom of the valley

WHERE TO PARK:

Painswick Golf Club (address as above) – but in Walkers Car Park which is the opposite golf club entrance.

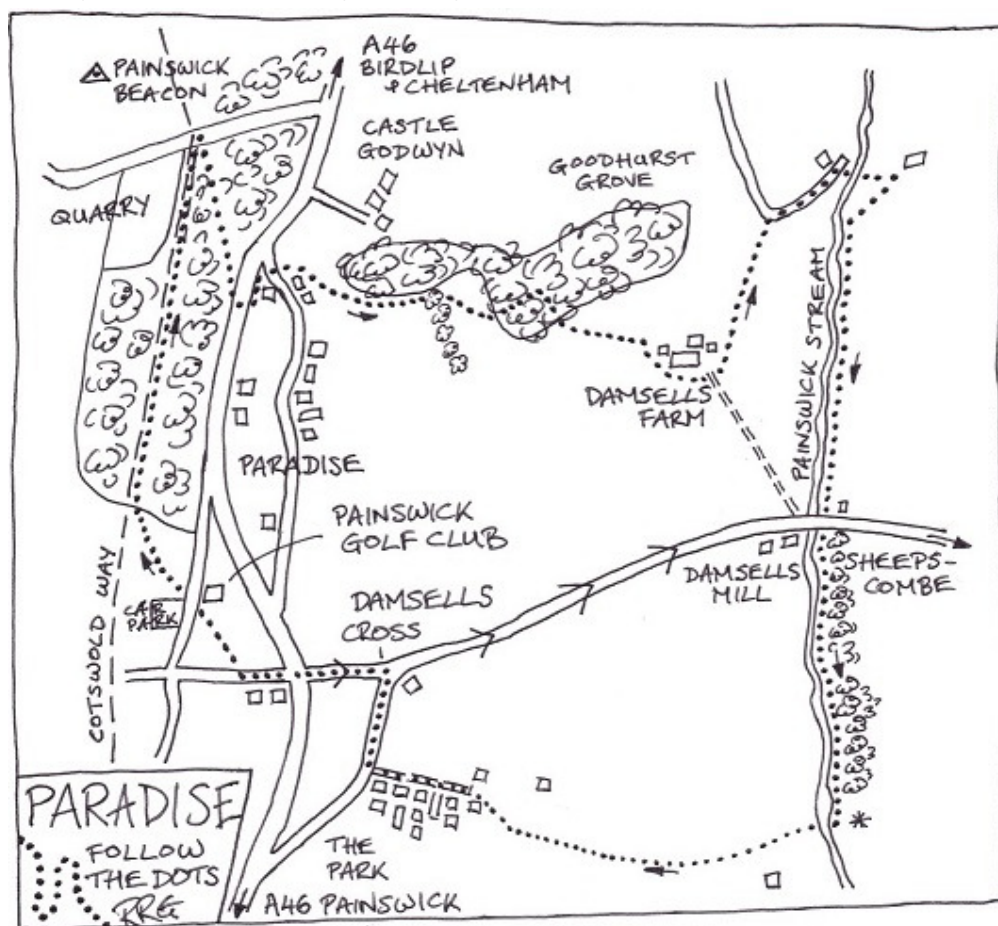
DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

(From Cheltenham/Brockworth on A46)

- Drive in the direction of Painswick/Stroud along the A46; go past Royal William pub
- Shortly before you reach Painswick there is a turning on the right signposted Cemetery, Walkers Car Park and Painswick Golf Club (and Hortons café) – turn right here
- Continue for around 400 yards and you will find the golf club on the left; the Walkers Car Park is a crushed Cotswold stone area opposite the second golf club entrance, next to the first tee.

THE WALK - In summary:

Head north, following the Cotswold Way for a few hundred yards, then turn right and, crossing the A46 near Paradise, meander down to the bottom of the valley. After following the stream south, in the direction of Painswick, turn right and climb back up to the golf club.



THE WALK - In detail:

> From the Walkers Car Park **head up the first fairway of the golf course**, steeply uphill and away from the golf clubhouse; follow the track that runs diagonally uphill and across to the right side of the fairway

> Two thirds of the way up the hill on the right, there is a Cotswold Way footpath with a bench; follow the path into the trees

- > The footpath runs up through the woods for a few hundred yards before emerging at Catbrain Quarry
- > Continue along the footpath, keeping the quarry buildings on your left
- > Walk around the quarry gate and along the quarry driveway which leads to the tarmac road
- NB. You can extend this walk by climbing up to Painswick Beacon at this point (see top left corner of above map); simply cross the road and bear left up the hill, heading for trig point at the top; great views of Severn valley; return to this point to continue ...**
- > **Turn sharp right** where the quarry driveway meets the road, following a signpost for the Wysis Way
- > The footpath runs downhill through the woods to the A46; at the road **turn left**; it is best to walk on the other side of the road as there is a pavement; although you only need to walk 100 yards along the road
- **Turn right**, just past the house on the right, following Wysis Way signpost, and **go down the steps**
- > **Go straight across road** (this is the Paradise road) at the bottom of the steps and onto a footpath opposite
- > After a few yards through bushes and a small area of grass **climb over a low stile** into a field
- NB. To the left, at the far end of this field is Castle Godwyn, the home of fashion designer Cath Kidston and her husband Hugh Padgham (producer for Genesis, The Police, The Human League, Sting, McFly) – but sadly you can't see the house from any of the public footpaths!**
- > **Walk downhill and to the right**, following a path which runs below a couple of houses
- > After the houses, the path curves to the left as the field opens out
- > Continue downhill and to the left, heading for a gateway at the bottom of the field where the trees begin *(the remnants of a public footpath sign can still be found on gatepost on the left, the gate is usually open)*

- > After going through the gateway, stay on the left and after 20 yards go through a gap in the trees on the left, stepping across a small stream
- > After walking under the trees, you emerge into another field, the valley dropping away to your right, woods to your left; **walk across the field, diagonally right** (a little downhill), aiming for a wide wooden five-bar gate in the trees halfway along the far side
- > **Go through the gate and into the woods**
- > After 20 yards, turn right, climbing over a stile
- > **After another 20 yards, go through a kissing gate** & emerge into field which runs down into the valley
- > Walk across field following permissive path under the telephone wires down to wooden footbridge
- > After crossing the bridge bear left across field following yellow arrow and go through wide metal gate
- > Keep to left through horse paddocks and walk to end of field
- > **Climb over a stile** and into another field (you will now see the track that leads to the farmhouse)
- > **Bear left**, cross the farm track and head for the gate which is near the corner of the farm garden next to a small, round, thatched outbuilding; **climb over stile that is to the left of wide five-bar gate**
- > **Follow the track straight ahead**, as it goes up a field, past the edge of a finger of trees from the right
- > Head for five-bar gate straight ahead, **go through the kissing gate** to its right and **turn right** onto stony track
- > Go down the track for 200 yards to the bottom of the valley; the track curves to the left on the way down
- > At the bottom there is a house on left & a weeping willow on the right; **turn right just before willow tree**
- > **Follow a path around the downstream end of a small lake** (keep the lake on your left)

> Cross a wooden footbridge over the stream which leads out of the lake

> Climb over a wooden stile and head to the right to follow the stream

NB. You are now going to follow the stream along the bottom of the valley thru a few fields

> Join a farm track at the end of a field and **go through gateway** (no gate!) – and continue into next field

> **Go through the metal gate (or over stile)** at the end of the field – and continue into the next field

> **Go through a wooden kissing gate** at the end of the field to find yourself on a road

NB. The next section of the walk follows the stream through some woods and can be muddy at times – and overgrown at others – but it's worth it! However there is the opportunity to turn right and sneak up the road from this point (see map above and then follow directions from Damsells Cross below)

> Go straight across the road, keeping the Cotswold stone house (Damsells Mill) on your right (and its garage on left), cross small bridge made from two sleepers and go down footpath signposted Wysis Way

> There is a stile after just ten yards, then follow the stream for a long distance (going straight ahead through a metal gate after about 600 yards) and then after another 400 yards you come to an intersection of half a dozen footpaths. I call this intersection *Sixways*. At the intersection there is a stile on left and a metal 6-bar gate.

*NB. If you were to turn left here over the stile (marked by * on the map above), you could walk 400 yards to join the Sheepscombe walk that is also in this booklet (you would join at Pyll House); continuing on the Paradise walk will now lead you back up the hill to the golf club*

> Turn right at this intersection to cross the stream over a wide concrete bridge & enter field

> **Head diagonally left and upwards** aiming for a telegraph pole with a yellow warning sign on it

(the next few instructions actually get you to follow the telephone wires up to the village at the top of the hill)

> After first telegraph pole, head for topmost of 4 large oak trees in top left corner of field. **Up, up, up!**

> Bear left heading between the trees into a connected, offset field and head up to the next telegraph pole

> Keep to the right of this field and when you crest the rise you will see houses on the right ahead of you (This village is called "The Park")

> Head for the houses and go over a stile to the right of a wooden 5-bar gate

> This takes you into the large garden of a house, joining the driveway halfway up

> Follow the driveway and exit through the gate

NB. Officially the public footpath goes over the fence 30 yards to the left of the gateway (and across a small field to a concrete bollard and along a path), but I always feel it is quicker to exit the property by the driveway; they lead to the same point (phone box) so it's up to you

> After exiting the property, follow the gravel track and join tarmac road at a phone box; **turn left onto road**

> Continue up the road, keeping a series of wooden and Cotswold stone houses on the left

> After 100 yards **turn right at the T junction**

> After 200 yards, you will reach an intersection called Damsells Cross, turn left here & follow the road uphill

> After 400 yards, you will reach the A46 – **cross straight over (be careful –it's busy!)**

> After 200 yards, you will see the golf course – **turn right** following the footpath sign across the 17th fairway and back to the golf club house

The End. Any problems with these directions?

Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The Wysis Way is a 55 mile walking route which forms a link between the Offa's Dyke and Thames Path national trails running between Monmouth and Kemble. It provides a link which provides continuous walking for 400 miles from the North Wales coast to Greenwich. The name is a reference to the saying: "blessed is the eye between Severn and Wye".

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