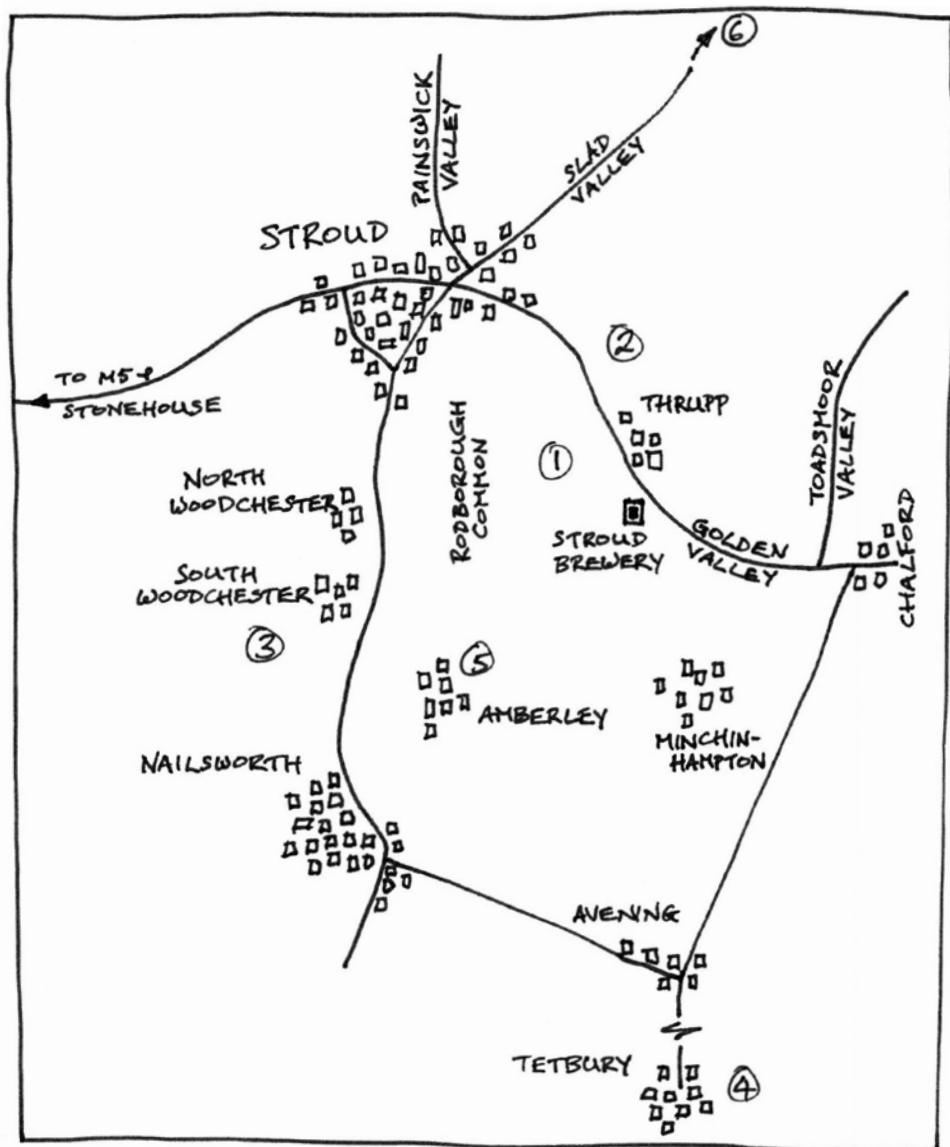


LITTLE COTSWOLD WALKS





Little Cotswold Walks: Stroud Brewery

What an honour to be asked to create a booklet of walks for Stroud Brewery, covering the pubs that sell their beers and the farms that grow their barley!

Stroud Brewery has a growing reputation both for great beers and a fantastic bar, open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday evenings, with long shared tables and benches, pizzas from a wood-fired oven and live music on Saturdays.

The other thing that makes Stroud Brewery so special is their ethos. Founder Grey Pilley strives to make the business as sustainable as possible – financially, environmentally and socially. It is not just the process of brewing beer (minimising resource use; using local and organic ingredients; recycling waste as feedstuff for pigs and cows on local small holdings; delivering locally) but the way they do business. The Brewery believe in developing a long term sustainable community to strengthen the local economy – to bring money into the area and then keep it there! This is one of the reasons why they don't sell their beer through the supermarkets, but choose to sell through independent outlets.

Greg and his team believe Stroud Brewery has a valuable role to play, adding to the wealth, culture and 'social cohesiveness' of the area – one of the reasons for this booklet.

The six walks herein have been 'hand-crafted' by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy, with a steer from the guiding hand of Greg, who sent us in the right direction.

Daisy absolutely insists that we regularly retrace the walks in case anything has changed but, if you spot any errors, please email me at rod@rrgordon.com and I will republish the revised version on www.rrgordon.com



Rod Gordon

Other booklets available in the Little Cotswold Walks series:

1. Birdlip and beyond;
2. Painswick Valley;
3. Toadsmoor Valley;
4. Frome Valley;
5. The Falcon, Painswick;
6. Stroud and surrounds.

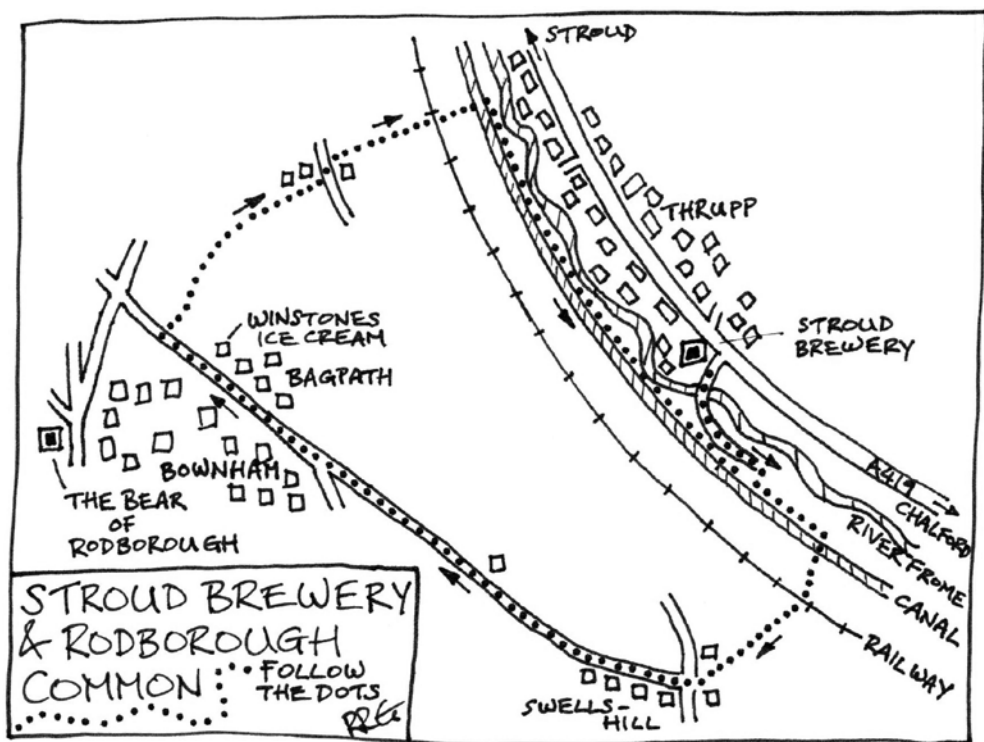
All are available to download from www.rrgordon.com

1. Stroud Brewery to Rodborough Common and the canal

1¾ HOURS / 3 MILES

A circular walk up the hill near Brimscombe to Rodborough Common, then down through Butterow and back along the canal

Directions/where to park: Take the A419 from Stroud in the direction of Chalford and Cirencester. As you drive past Thrupp (on the left), Stroud Brewery is on the right in Hope Mill Industrial Estate. Park in the Brewery car park, or the overflow car park opposite.





Rod's rating: This vigorous walk leads from Stroud Brewery up to Rodborough Common via Brimscombe, Bownham, Butterow and then back along the Thames and Severn Canal which runs along behind the brewery. The walk can include a stop at The Bear of Rodborough which stocks Stroud Brewery ales – and also Winstones ice cream! (open 10am to 6pm)



Daisy's rating: Daisy loved the run up the hill and across the common; also plenty of places for a drink, although she was always very tempted to jump into the canal!

- ▶ Turn left out of front door of Stroud Brewery.
- ▶ Turn right out of the gates of industrial estate.
- ▶ Follow the road down, across the River Frome, and left through the park homes.
- ▶ At the start of the next small industrial estate (with Star Centre on left) turn right, then walk 10 yards and turn left between a stone wall on left and a metal link fence on right; follow canal path for few hundred yards.
- ▶ At a brick bridge over the canal, turn right to go over the bridge.
- ▶ Go straight ahead under a bridge under the rail tracks (Brimscombe Road Bridge 100-12 SWM).
- ▶ Fork right to follow a tarmac path leading uphill with stream on left (Brimscombe is to your left).
- ▶ At the top of the hill, step through a stile next to a metal 6-bar gate.
- ▶ You emerge onto a very narrow road between some houses, this is Swellshill.
- ▶ At a small crossroads (red postbox), continue straight ahead (uphill) past Box Cottage; up, up, up!
- ▶ The road bends to the right with views over Golden Valley and the brewery; cattle grid sign.
- ▶ Continue following the road, past Morningside, over the cattle grid; you are now on common land and therefore you may walk anywhere (within reason!), ie. you may choose to walk on grass instead of road.
- ▶ Go past a sign for Rodborough Quiet Lane, still following road, then fork right onto road at top (the hamlet of Bownham is on the left behind the Cotswold stone wall); continue along the road for some way.
- ▶ Go past house called Fourtrees and road opens out onto the common; Winstones ice cream is on right.
- ▶ At this point why not turn left to walk up to **THE BEAR OF RODBOROUGH** which sells Stroud Brewery ales; the Bear is an inn and therefore open all day also selling teas and coffees; after a refreshing drink return to this point of the walk in order to continue.
- ▶ With Winstones ice cream on your right, continue straight ahead across the grass, past two benches [SW Hooper] and [M Trickett] heading for a small trough.
- ▶ Shortly before the trough, head right and down to follow a footpath across the grass.
- ▶ The path becomes a Cotswold stone track with fence posts marked by National Trust; continue downhill.
- ▶ You walk between some trees and then at the bottom of the path, go through a wooden gate.
- ▶ Continue straight ahead past a house on your left, still heading down.
- ▶ Turn left onto a quiet road; walk a few yards and then turn right at a public footpath (kissing gate) just past Montserrat Cottages; go straight down grass field; the path leads to a crossing over some train tracks.
- ▶ Go over a stile, across the tracks (looking very carefully!), down some steps, over a stile and then across a black and white bridge over the canal; this is Jubilee Bridge.
- ▶ You need to turn right here to head back towards the brewery but you actually need to turn left and left to get onto the canal and then back under Jubilee Bridge.
- ▶ Follow the canal all the way back to Stroud Brewery, going past a brick bridge, a new lock and another bridge (go under or over); notice the River Frome runs along your left.
- ▶ When you reach the park homes behind the fence on your left, the path goes up a slight rise; turn left at the top of the rise and you will see the Star Centre industrial unit again; follow the road round to the left, through the park homes over the River Frome and back to Stroud Brewery.

2. The Heavens and back

2 HOURS / 4 MILES

A circular walk with a fair bit of climbing: through Thrupp and up the hill, along the ridge through The Heavens, down to Bowbridge, and back along the canal towpath. The walk can be started at one of three start points: A. Stroud Brewery; B. The Crown & Sceptre; C. The Bowbridge Arms

Directions/where to park: Take the A419 from Stroud in the direction of Chalford and Cirencester. As you drive past Thrupp (on the left), Stroud Brewery is on the right in Hope Mill Industrial Estate. Park in the Brewery car park, or the overflow car park opposite.



Rod's rating: There is an area on the hills above Thrupp which is called The Heavens, which commands a view overlooking Golden Valley, Rodborough Hill and even over into the Severn valley and beyond. This walk goes from the brewery, up through Thrupp, along The Heavens, back down into Stroud and back along the canal path. If you like stunning views then this is the walk for you!

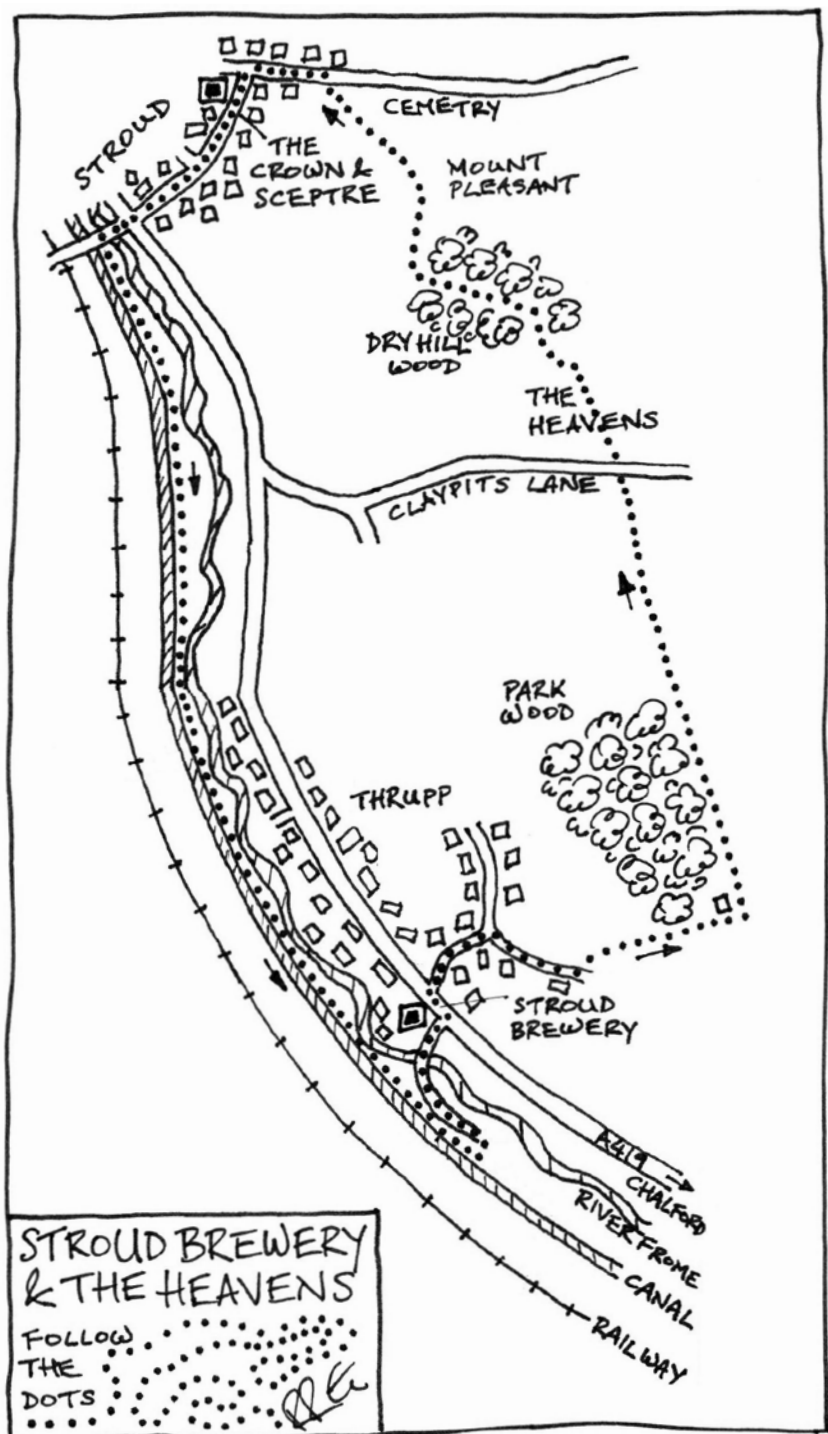


Daisy's rating: Daisy loved this walk. We were out of the built-up area within just a few minutes and Daisy was able to be off the lead as we headed up the hill through the trees. She thoroughly enjoyed foraging through the woods and roaming around the grasslands. Also plenty of streams for a drink. All in all, she was a happy customer!

A. Stroud Brewery

- ▶ Turn left out of the brewery gate onto Hope Mill Lane.
- ▶ Walk up to the main road (A419) and go straight across.
- ▶ Head up Brewery Lane to the T-junction at the top (Thrupp Lane).
- ▶ Turn right, heading along the road, slightly uphill.
- ▶ After a few hundred yards, turn left and climb over a stile (next to a metal 6-bar gate, opposite no. 54 Thrupp Lane); follow a public footpath uphill through the trees; past a reservoir on left (Severn Trent).
- ▶ After a while there is a barbed wire fence across the way in front of you; the footpath kinks to the right into a field; head uphill on left side of field (do not follow the game trail going straight across field).
- ▶ Go over a home-made metal stile next to a metal 7-bar gate (don't forget to look at the view behind!).
- ▶ Still walking uphill across the middle of the next field, aim to the right of the house at the top (if you need a breather look at the view again – Brimscombe, Bownham, Rodborough Common).
- ▶ Climb over stile just to the right of the house (Parkwood Cottage) and continue straight on up.
- ▶ Follow path as it bends to the right at top, following track away from house; then almost immediately turn sharp left uphill following a public footpath sign to walk around above house.
- ▶ Climb over stile next to a metal 7-bar gate and follow track straight across field to far right corner.
- ▶ Climb over stile into the woods (do not go through gateway into next field).

continued overleaf ▶



- ▶ Follow path along right/top edge of woods, the valley away to your left; you are now heading along the ridge for a couple of miles in the direction of Stroud (the top end of Bisley Road).
- ▶ Climb over a stile halfway through the woods and walk straight on, keep to right/top edge of woods.
- ▶ Towards the far end of the woods the path forks; take the right fork to continue near the right edge.
- ▶ Climb over a stile to emerge from the woods, go through a white gate and head straight across field.
- ▶ Go through gap in Cotswold stone wall (a toddler's stair gate!) and head straight across next field, slightly left if anything, heading towards left-hand telegraph pole (of the two directly ahead).
- ▶ Climb over a stile next to a wooden 5-bar gate and cross the road (Claypits Lane).
- ▶ Climb over stone stile next to metal gate & head slight left, diagonally down to light coloured garage. This area of the hills is known as The Heavens (see view of Stroud down to the left).
- ▶ Climb over a stile at bottom of field and head to the left of garage (ignore the tempting stile to the right of the garage) and follow track behind/below it; follow tarmac road down between houses, then stone track.
- ▶ Climb over two stiles in quick succession next to metal gates, continue ahead with woods and valley on left.
- ▶ Continue along the top/right edge of the woods (ignore small path off to the left).
- ▶ The path heads slightly downhill, then leaves the top edge of the woods and bends left, heading more steeply downhill (ignore the yellow public footpath off to the right) and head downhill into the valley.
- ▶ At a gap in trees on right you will see a church with a graveyard; the walk heads past the graveyard later.
- ▶ Go through a metal kissing gate, continue straight on, heading downhill (ignore path on left).
- ▶ Go through a metal kissing gate to emerge from the

woods.

- ▶ The natural route here appears straight on but fork right, heading down to a stream in the trees (under telegraph wires) in direction of church spire.
- ▶ Cross stream and head uphill towards the edge of the graveyard, up stone steps and through kissing gate.
- ▶ Follow tarmac path along side of graveyard, go up to top and turn left (houses on left, a park on right).
- ▶ At the end of the lane, **THE CROWN & SCEPTRE** is straight ahead of you – go in for a well-earned pint; they always have a Stroud Brewery ale on draught.

B. The Crown & Sceptre

- ▶ After The Crown & Sceptre turn downhill (Spider Lane).
- ▶ At bottom of Spider Lane turn left and follow main road all the way down to the traffic lights on A419.
- ▶ The Bowbridge Arms is straight ahead of you, just to the right of the lights. Pop in for a pint or a bite to eat!

C. The Bowbridge Arms

- ▶ Turn right out of the pub, turn right at the lights onto Butterow Hill and walk down the road past the Citroen garage..
- ▶ Turn left and go down steps to join the canal path, just past garage and willow tree (before Bowbridge Vets)
- ▶ Follow canal path all the way back to Stroud Brewery: joining at a lock; then going past a bridge; Griffin Mill Lock; Jubilee Bridge (black and white); another lock; and another bridge.
- ▶ Where canal ends at a culvert, the path rises slightly, turn left here (Air Plants Ltd right, Star Centre left)
- ▶ Turn left in front of Star Centre office to walk through park homes.
- ▶ Follow road as it bends to right and crosses stream (River Frome); Stroud Brewery is on the left.
- ▶ Now, if you started at **B** or **C**, turn the page back to **A**.

3. North Woodchester to Nailsworth

2½ HOURS / 7 MILES

A circular walk along the side of the valley, through North and South Woodchester to the outskirts of Nailsworth returning along the valley floor using the cycle and footpath

Directions/where to park: Drive along the A46 from Stroud towards Nailsworth. Just after the Old Fleece pub on the left, turn right into North Woodchester. Head for **The Royal Oak** at top of the village, above the church. Park in the pub car park.



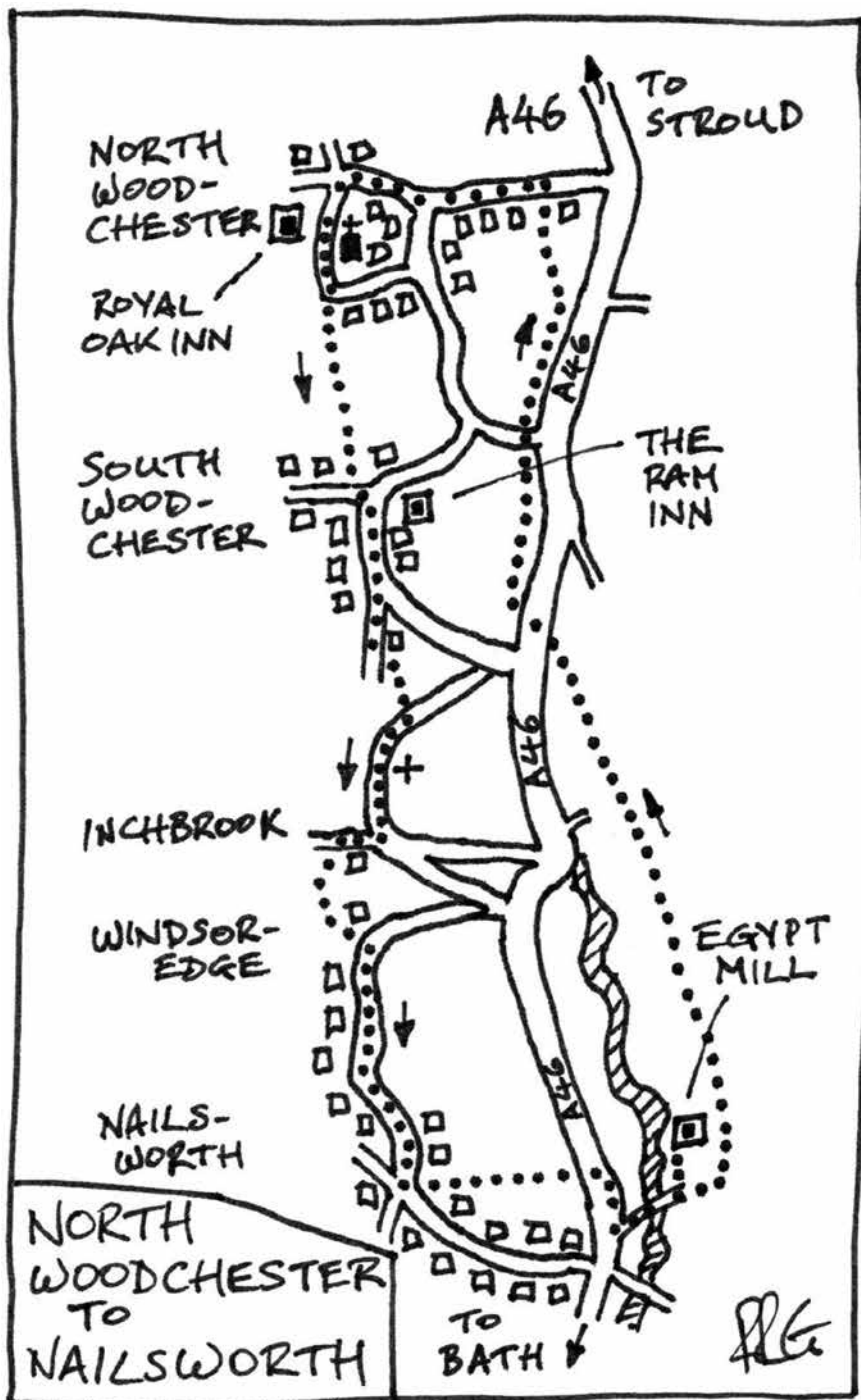
Rod's rating: A wonderful walk along the footpaths and lanes through the pretty villages of North and South Woodchester to Nailsworth.



Daisy's rating: Daisy loved roaming around the small spur valleys running down to the main valley. The narrow lanes through the villages are almost devoid of traffic so very enjoyable as well.

- ▶ Turn right out of the pub, heading towards the church.
- ▶ Continue past church and where the road bends to the left, continue straight ahead through an iron kissing gate (next to a dog poo bin); take the public footpath which is straight ahead (not the one to the left).
- ▶ Follow the tarmac path down through the trees and then up the other side to a black kissing gate.
- ▶ Continue straight ahead across face of the entrance to Woodchester House, following path across grass.
- ▶ Join the road and follow the Cotswold stone wall on your right as it curves to the right.
- ▶ Go through an iron kissing gate (next to a farm gate) straight ahead of you on the other side of the road and follow a stone track across the front of some cottages.
- ▶ Emerge on Bospin Lane (phone box below and to left); go left then right (effectively straight on) to follow the road through South Woodchester, going past houses such as Brambles, Greystone, Bracks.
- ▶ Follow the road for a hundred yards, then fork right onto Atcombe Road (not down Frogmarsh Lane).
- ▶ Follow the road for 200 yards; after the last house before a field, go through a V-shaped stile on the left (five yards down a drive).
- ▶ Take the right hand public footpath (not the left), head across the field towards the right-most house on the far side; go through a metal kissing gate, across a driveway, down into a dip and up the other side.
- ▶ Go through a metal kissing gate and turn right onto road (Convent Lane); head uphill past Upper Summerwells Cottage.
- ▶ Follow this quiet road for about a mile as it bends to the left at the top and continues past houses such as Caradoc, Woodview Cottage, the Convent of Poor Clares, South Woodchester church down and to the left, Chester Hill Lodge (and others with similar names!).
- ▶ As the road turns sharply to the left, to head downhill to the church, turn right up Park Lane.
- ▶ Just past Applegarth House on the left, climb over a stile to follow a footpath down and across a field.

continued overleaf ►



- ▶ At the bottom of the field, go through a wooden kissing gate, turn left to head downhill, cross the road leading to Woodchester Valley Village and follow a public footpath up some steps through the woods.
- ▶ Climb up the hill between two gardens to reach the outskirts of Windsoredge.
- ▶ Emerge into the driveway of a house called The Dulkan, continue straight up the steep driveway to the top.
- ▶ Turn left at the top, iron rail on the left of the road; look at view back to South Woodchester church.
- ▶ Continue down the road and head downhill (ignore Church Road turning on the left).
- ▶ Turn right at the road opposite Old Inchbrook School (this is now the hamlet of Inchbrook).
- ▶ Follow this road (Northfield Road) for about a mile past the turning for Jubilee Road, houses such as The Gables, Hillside, The Nook, Windermere, and past Whitecroft road on the left.
- ▶ When you reach main road (Nympsfield Road) by Nailsworth Youth Club, turn left down a public footpath just past a house called Toad Hall; the footpath leads steeply downhill.
- ▶ On arriving at A46 main road, cross over, turn right and head along pavement.
- ▶ **EGYPT MILL** will be on your left as you reach Nailsworth; head into the Mill and ask for a pint of Budding!
- ▶ The return route is via the cycle and footpath which runs along the bottom of the valley.
- ▶ Turn left out of the Egypt Mill car park, past Nailsworth fire station and follow the blue cycle and footpath sign in the direction of Woodchester, Stroud and Stonehouse (National Bike Route 45); follow this all the way to North Woodchester, crossing the A46 around halfway.
- ▶ As you reach North Woodchester: you will cross a girder footbridge over a stream and a little way later the path rises slightly to some metal railings; this is in a small estate of new houses.
- ▶ Turn left heading up the road (first house, no. 5, is in a heart shape!).
- ▶ Turn right onto a road called The Garden and a few yards later bear left to follow a path between houses.
- ▶ At the top continue straight ahead towards the church.
- ▶ Fork right before the church up a footpath which leads onto Berrymore Road.
- ▶ Turn right at the top and The Royal Oak Inn is on the left after 50 yards.



EDWIN BEARD BUDDING

Budding is Stroud Brewery's most popular pale ale with a grassy bitterness, sweet malt and luscious floral aroma. It is a pale ale of 4.5% with Fuggles used as the main bittering hop – then late hopped to create the luscious floral aroma.

Edwin Beard Budding (1796–1846) of Thrupp, Stroud, invented the lawnmower in 1830 – ‘for the purpose of cropping or shearing the vegetable surface of lawns, grass plants, and pleasure grounds’.

Budding was an engineer servicing the abundant wool mills of the Stroud valleys and he took his inspiration from a machine with a helical blade that cut the nap (fluff) off the newly woven cloth. Budding went into partnership with John Ferrabee to produce the mowers at Phoenix Mill Foundries in Thrupp. An example of Buddings original lawnmower can be seen at the Stroud ‘Museum in the Park’ and also at London’s Science Museum.

The first lawnmower was of course manual, but some horse-powered versions were produced and it was sixty years later that the first steam-powered lawnmower came along.

4. Tetbury

2½ HOURS / 7½ MILES

A circular walk from Tetbury: head north to Star Farm then east towards Trull Farm; walk back along the old railway line

Directions/where to park: Use either **The Royal Oak** car park which is just below the pub (a large gravel area), or a few yards further down in the free old railyard car park (just off Herd Lane).



Rod's rating: A couple of the farms which provide malt barley for Stroud Brewery are on the outskirts of Tetbury; and there's a great pub called The Royal Oak which stocks their beer. My father also lives in the town and, although he's 80 years old, still goes on five mile treks with the Tetbury rambling group. He helped me design this walk with his own local knowledge and the expert advice of friends in the town.



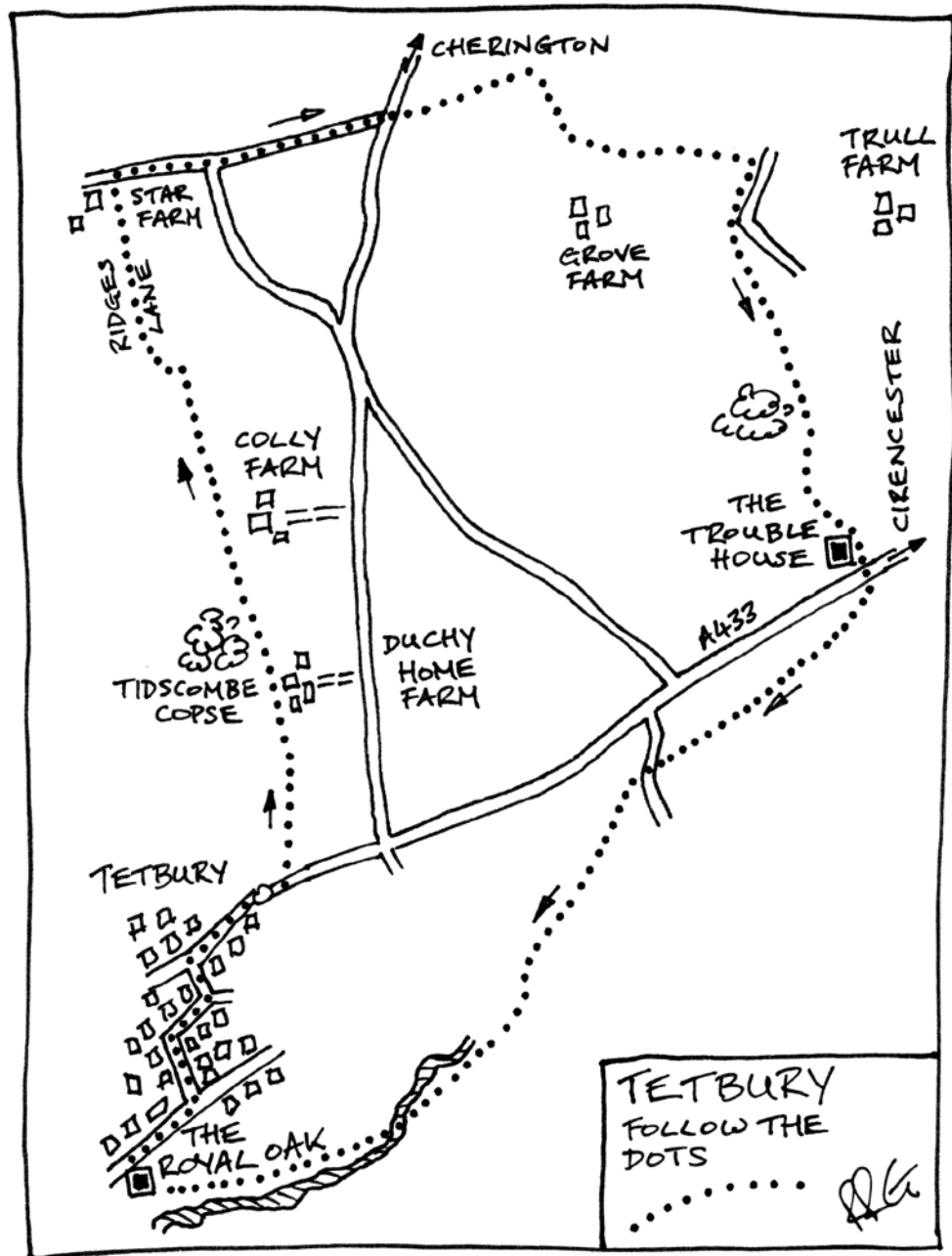
Daisy's rating: Daisy's favourite walk in this booklet.

- ▶ Turn right out of The Royal Oak; follow the road uphill.
- ▶ Turn left onto Northfield Road which then bends to the right and then back to the left.
- ▶ Turn right onto the main road (pavement on other side of road).
- ▶ Go straight over double mini roundabout (pavement on other side of road).
- ▶ Go straight over roundabout by Audi garage (walk along grass in front of Audi garage for about 50 yards).
- ▶ Turn left at the driveway for Cherish Salon.
- ▶ Fork right and head diagonally across the grass towards a stile halfway along the fence on the right.
- ▶ Go over stile and, almost immediately, over another one.
- ▶ Head diagonally left to far left corner of field, aiming for tall pine (The Lonesome Pine as my dad called it).
- ▶ Go through a wooden 5 bar gate (Duchy Home Farm buildings can be seen on your right).
- ▶ Go straight forward and down across the field to a wooden 5-bar gate halfway along the hedge.
- ▶ Head diagonally left up the rise to a large oak tree and go through a wooden 5-bar gate under the tree.

At certain times of the year the next half dozen fields can be re-organised by electric fences; the public footpath is normally unchanged but you may have to duck under fences or temporarily unhook the electric lines using the handles provided.

- ▶ Head for the middle of the top end of the field.
- ▶ Go over a stile to the right of a gate and through some trees and bushes, going to left of pond.
- ▶ Climb over Cotswold stone stile and then a wooden stile; when you emerge from the bushes, head slightly to the right of the hedge in front of you.
- ▶ Follow left edge of field which narrows to a point at the top (you are now on Colly Farm which is one of the farms which provide barley for Stroud Brewery via Duchy Home Farm).
- ▶ Go over a wooden stile, walk a few yards through a thicket and then out over a wooden stile. Note carefully the direction of the arrow on the stile (you need to be heading 45 degrees to the left of the direction of the plank of the stile).

continued overleaf ▶



- ▶ Continue straight across the field, heading for tallest tree (a straggly ash) on opposite side; please note that occasionally the farmer will guide walkers around the right hand side of this field using an electric fence but still head for the lone, tall ash tree (ash have black buds and the resulting leaves are grouped into small fronds of 9–13 leaves).
- ▶ Continue past the tall ash tree, straight on down to a line of trees in a dip heading for another tall ash tree.
- ▶ Climb over a wooden stile at the base of the ash tree (please note there is a locked gate about 20 yards to the left which is not on the public footpath); continue straight ahead up the rise.
- ▶ Then head for the far left corner of the field, aiming for a tall copse of trees; go right into the corner.
- ▶ Follow a track (Ridges Lane) which runs between two fields; it was originally a wide farm track but it now overgrown so only a narrow footpath remains.
- ▶ When you reach a clearing in the trees turn left (do not follow the tempting path straight ahead).
- ▶ Go past a derelict house on your left (the former Ridges Farm).
- ▶ Turn right onto a broad farm track, with the copse on your right and a field on your left; head for farmhouse ahead (Star Farm).
- ▶ Go through farmyard, first right (after first barn on right) then left and turn right onto the road; you will now continue in this direction for a couple of miles, first along a road then a track.
- ▶ Follow the road for a few hundred yards then continue straight ahead where road bends to the right.
- ▶ Ignore footpath signs left and right and stay on the road to go past Lockstone Bottom Barn.
- ▶ At a T-junction just past electricity substation, continue straight ahead over a horse stile onto a footpath.
- ▶ Footpath continues between two hedges, look for footpath sign at the end of the second field on right.
- ▶ Turn right through new gate at public footpath sign into a field (Grove Farm).
- ▶ Head diagonally left to a clump of trees in the middle of the field and continue past it in the same direction to a farm track.
- ▶ Turn left along farm track.
- ▶ Don't follow farm track at right turn (past paddock) but go just past and take next right through a gateway into a field.
- ▶ Head diagonally across the middle of the field to far corner (head for trees in distance).
- ▶ Go all the way into the corner of the field and go through wooden gate to right of large farmgate.
- ▶ Go left then right to follow Cotswold stone wall all the way to the main Grove Farm entrance; go through first gate, straight across the drive and through the other gate which is signposted for a public bridleway.
- ▶ Walk down the left hand side of the field (the fields stretching away to your left belong to Trull Farm which also provides barley to Stroud Brewery).
- ▶ At the end of this large field, continue straight ahead through a small cluster of trees; the footpath then opens out into another large field where you need to turn diagonally right to cut across to the opposite corner, going past a large tree in the middle of the field.
- ▶ Right in the corner of the field, go through a small gateway and turn left to follow a narrow pathway with trees on left and a field on the right.
- ▶ A pub (actually more of a café these days) called the Trouble House is on your left at the end of the pathway as you reach the road.
- ▶ Cross the road, into layby opposite, and continue straight ahead, walking away from the main road (do not go into field at the rusty metal gate but go straight ahead keeping the fence on your right).
- ▶ After just 50 yards the path goes up a slight rise; this is the embankment of an old railway line; turn right following old railway line all the way back to Tetbury (don't go over stile straight ahead); the path follows the old railway line which you should easily see as a slightly raised embankment with trees either side; after approx. half a mile the footpath turns right through a gate, goes up to a road, crosses the road and goes back down to the railway line on the other side of the road.
- ▶ Keep following the old railway line for 2–3 miles until you reach the outskirts of Tetbury; you will see more people walking their dogs and a stream, the Tetbury Avon, will appear on the right of the footpath.
- ▶ You will eventually reach a car park which is the old railway goods yard; at the end of the car park turn right, by a red dog poo bin to cross over a stream using a wooden footbridge; walk a few yards slightly uphill; The Royal Oak pub will be directly in front of you.

5. Amberley

1 HOUR / 2½ MILES

A circular walk through Pinfarthings, the edge of Minchinhampton Common, and back along the edge of Nailsworth Valley

Directions/where to park: Halfway from Stroud to Nailsworth, turn left up to Amberley. Park by the Amberley Inn, either in their parking area over the road or just outside Amberley school a few yards up the hill.



Rod's rating: An interesting walk which criss-crosses the little settlements which are scattered around the edge of Minchinhampton Common, including St Chloe, Littleworth, Pinfarthings, Bownham and Amberley.

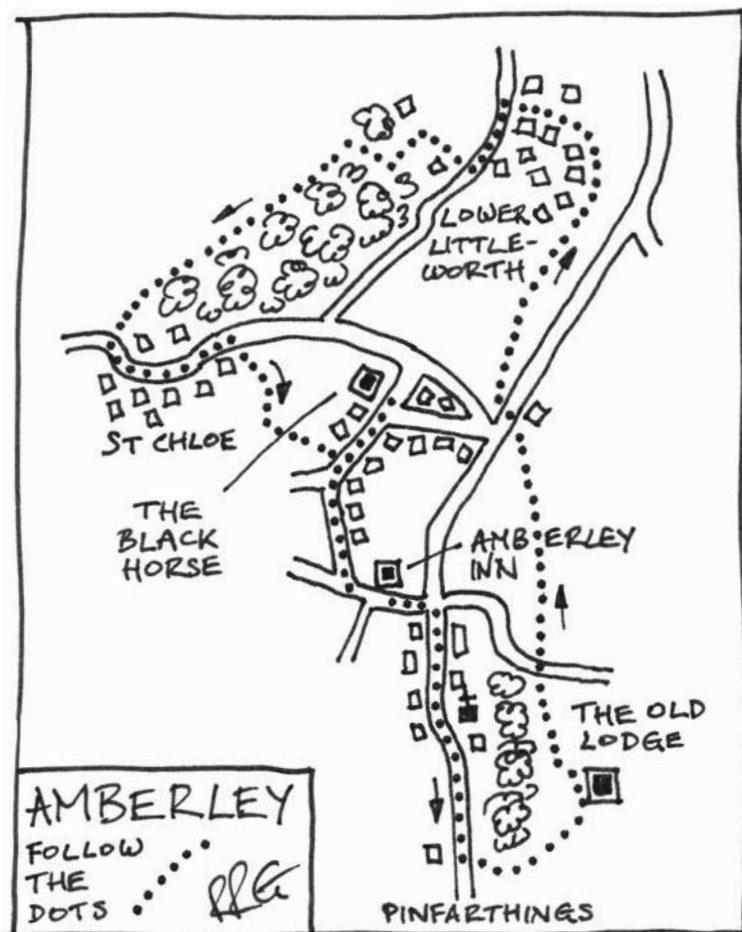


Daisy's rating: Daisy liked roaming across the common but particularly enjoyed the woods which were on the slopes down to Nailsworth Valley.

- ▶ From Amberley Inn take the road opposite which is signposted to Pinfarthings and Church; walk past the school on the left and then the church.
- ▶ At T-junction at the end of the road, turn left heading uphill for a short way on the next road signposted Nailsworth and Minchinhampton.
- ▶ Just past the sign for Pinfarthings, take a stony track which forks up to the left (opposite blue house).
- ▶ This takes you up to Minchinhampton Common; the public footpath curves to the left and then heads up the fairway to the Old Lodge (selling Stroud Brewery ales!).
- ▶ Turn left ten yards after a black and white post to head back towards houses among the trees (Nailsworth valley is on your left).
- ▶ Go past a golf green on your left and over the road between black and white chevron signs.
- ▶ Go past a bench between two trees and take the wider path to the right (not down to houses).
- ▶ Follow the edge of the common with Amberley and the valley to your left until you reach Amberley village green, with war memorial in the middle and bus shelter on the right.
- ▶ Cross road, walk past war memorial, cross next road.
- ▶ Head for backless wooden bench and curve right past two big trees, go past more backless benches.
- ▶ The walk continues along the edge of the common, heading in the same direction; follow Cotswold stone wall and houses on your left.
- ▶ The path curves to the left across the entrance to Moor Court and then bends further left to head downhill between two walls.
- ▶ Fork right down a drive and then turn sharp left onto a road (or cut across the grass).
- ▶ You are now in Lower Littleworth heading towards St Chloe; follow road past a spring on the left.
- ▶ After 30 yards turn sharp right at a public footpath sign.
- ▶ Follow narrow tarmac lane which goes past a house called Woodvale and leads steeply downhill.
- ▶ 50 yards short of a house at the bottom of the drive, turn left to follow a public footpath sign into woods.
- ▶ Follow path as it goes up and down with barbed wire fence and garden on your right.
- ▶ Turn right at a footpath which leads steeply downhill between two old Cotswold stone walls.

continued overleaf ▶

- ▶ Go all the way down to the stile and look at the lovely view down to the bottom of the valley (the village opposite is North Woodchester and you could walk straight ahead down the footpath here to North Woodchester; walk 3 in this booklet).
- ▶ Walk 15 yards back up the path and turn right along a path which follows the lower edge of the woods for about a mile, with the valley on your right.
- ▶ After 200 yards take right fork which is the more main path leading slightly downhill, on edge of woods.
- ▶ A little further on, another path comes down from left to join main path; you should continue straight on.
- ▶ When you come to a road, turn sharp left to head uphill past an 'Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles' sign; you are now in St Chloe; go past houses called Highwood and Little End.
- ▶ At the top, go straight ahead through an iron kissing gate, following yellow public footpath sign.
- ▶ The path goes past allotments on the left and then bends to the right; there is a field to your left.
- ▶ Go through another iron kissing gate.
- ▶ Turn left and after a few yards you will find **THE BLACK HORSE** pub; the pub sign announces an 'awesome view' – and it's right!
- ▶ Turn right out of the pub (back past iron kissing gate).
- ▶ Turn right opposite a house called The Old Lamb Inn, heading downhill.
- ▶ Follow the road around to the left.
- ▶ Turn left at the main road or cut across the grass; the Amberley Inn is on your left.



6. Honeycombe Farm, Miserden and The Camp

1¼ HOURS / 3 MILES

A circular walk into Holy Brook valley towards Honeycombe Farm and back past Miserden cricket club

Directions/where to park: Miserden is a couple of miles south of Birdlip. Turn left just after the Fostons Ash pub on the way to The Camp. In the **The Carpenters Arms** car park or on the road in Miserden.



Rod's rating: A little up-and-down walk which at one point has the whole of Honeycombe Farm laid out in front of you. The farm is one of the barley producers for Stroud Brewery and, when I did this walk at the end of August, I was fortunate to see them harvesting the crops.

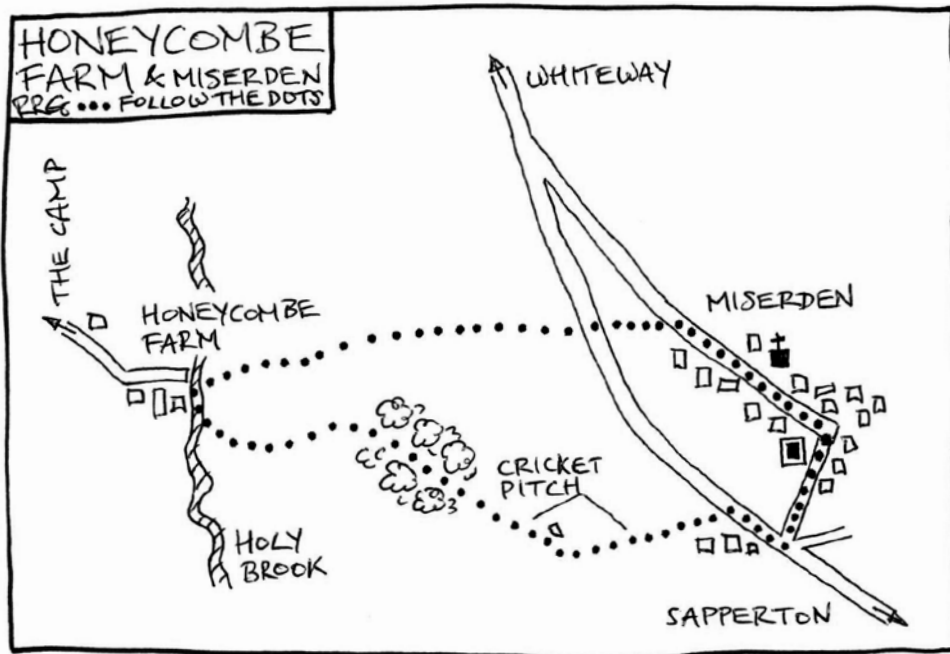


Daisy's rating: Being an arable farm there was plenty of opportunity for Daisy to be off the lead and a stream at the bottom of the valley for a refreshing drink.

- ▶ Turn left out of the pub.
- ▶ Turn left at the covered circular bench around a huge tree
- ▶ After a hundred yards you walk past the village church; the war memorial opposite the church Lychgate is by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944) who is often referred to as the greatest British architect (he also designed some aspects of Miserden Park).
- ▶ Continue past the shop, village hall and school (ignore public footpath to the right).
- ▶ Turn left at public footpath just before the black and white 'National Speed Limit Applies' sign.
- ▶ Head diagonally right towards gate on opposite side.
- ▶ Go through gate, straight across road and climb over wooden stile.
- ▶ Head diagonally right (following direction of public footpath sign) towards far right corner of this big field.
- ▶ Walk right into the very corner of the field, heading for a Cotswold stone stile under a small tree.
- ▶ Sit on other side of the stile to look at view: the houses at the top right of the far side of the valley are The Camp, the fields laid out before you on the opposite slope of the valley are Honeycombe Farm which provides barley to Stroud Brewery.
- ▶ Walk straight down across the field, 20 yards from the left edge, heading straight for farm buildings in valley.
- ▶ On other side of field, keep heading straight for farm buildings, go through trees and over wooden stile.
- ▶ Keep heading for farm buildings in the next field; at far side the path is just to right of tall bush.
- ▶ Head down grassy bank.
- ▶ Climb over wooden stile and continue down grassy bank to bottom of valley.
- ▶ At the farm buildings turn left up a crushed Cotswold stone track (you are now starting the return route).
- ▶ Follow farm track all the way to the top; the track bends to the left, there is a view of a nice valley (Holy Brook Valley) to your right.

continued overleaf ▶

- ▶ The track bends to the right and continues under the trees; after a long flat stretch the track bends anti-clockwise (left) around Miserden cricket pitch.
- ▶ Turn right onto road; cars can travel quite fast on this road sometimes, but you are only on it for 200 yards until just past the first buildings (Lypiatt Farm).
- ▶ Turn left onto the road signposted Miserden; I suggest walking on the grass verge on the right, the grass is normally kept short.
- ▶ The Carpenters Arms is on your left as you enter the village.



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