

Not a difficult walk but there is some rough and muddy terrain and in winter the route can be very wet in places.

The Lower Woods Nature Reserve parking area is reached by travelling down the gravel track opposite Inglestone Farm, which is on the minor road from Hawkesbury Upton to Wickwar.

With The Lodge and barns on your right the walk starts at the gate leading to a wide grassy track (**not** into the field directly next to The Lodge)[1]. Follow this wide grassy track (Plumbers Trench) for about 850 yards (800 metres or 15 minutes) to the end, ignoring all tracks coming in from right and left.

At the end of the track, turn right at the yellow waymark sign and follow a narrower track for about 300 yards (275 metres or 5 minutes) to a crossroad of paths where there is a yellow waymark sign. Turn left at the sign towards the metal kissing gate (which may now be a self-closing gate) at the edge of the wood. Go through the gate into the field [2].

Walk diagonally across the field (there are good views from here to Wickwar Church, far hills and the Tyndale Monument above North Nibley) and about 2/3rds of the way along, go through the **second** opening (now gated) in the hedge on the left.

After going through the gate, the line of the path is diagonally across this field to a metal gate, walking to the right of the telegraph post in the middle of the field. However, if the field is obstructed by high crops or impassable then it is permissible to follow the field boundary. When you get to the gate, go into the next field and head down the slope towards the bottom left hand corner of the field.

Turn left at the bottom corner of the field to reach a small wooden gate/stile and then cross over the mediaeval pack horse bridge (Sturt Bridge), which is known locally as 'The Roman Bridge' or 'Roman Arches' [3].



Turn immediately left once you have crossed the bridge to the sunken way and after a few yards go over the stile/small wooden gate on left. Follow the direction of the yellow waymark sign along the left hand edge of the field.

At the next field boundary, cross the footbridge over a small stream into the next field. Continue along the left hand edge of the field, then cross a stile/small gate with a footpath sign that leads to a small road [4]. Turn left and after a few yards turn right up the track to a large gate/stile (usually open). Go through it and turn immediately left, following the yellow waymark sign along the side of the field, which drops down to a small stream.

Turn right along the path with the stream on your left and then cross the stream over the footbridge and the stile. Turn right and follow the field boundary on your right until you come to the corner of the field and the stream. Cross the stream at a yellow waymark sign and bear left up the bank, following the path

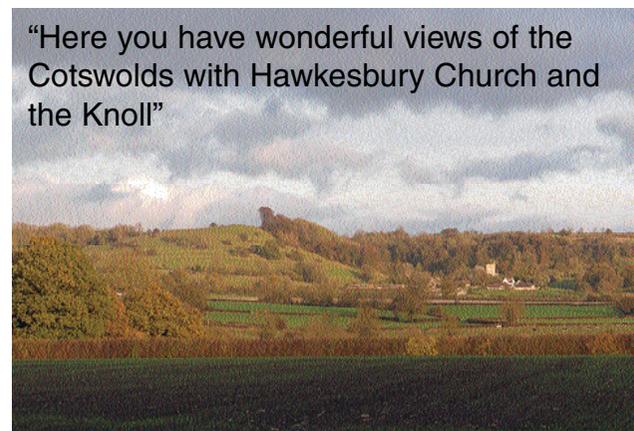
with scrub to your left until you reach a metal field gate (ignore the track into the wood).

Go through this metal gate into the next field and continue to the far left hand corner of the field. Go through the opening into the next field and just past this opening, turn left at small gate/stile [5] and go into the woods. There is a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust sign just inside the gate.

Follow the woodland ride for about 325 yards (300 metres), bearing right and then turning right at the yellow waymark sign.

Where the ride starts to open out bear right onto the broad bridleway (Horton Great Trench), passing a blue bridleway waymark on a post beside an oak tree. Keep on this broad bridleway, past a second blue waymark sign clearly visible on an oak tree in the middle of the track. At the third blue waymark sign [6], turn left and re-enter the woods.

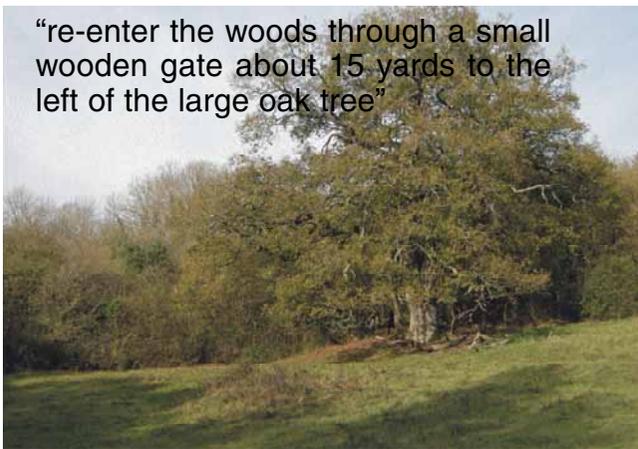
Follow this ride to its end (about 400 yards/380 metres), taking care in the slippery dip part-way along. At the end of the ride, go to the wooden gate leading into a field [7]. Here you have wonderful views of the Cotswolds with Hawkesbury Church and the Knoll.



Head straight across the field, using a line towards Hawkesbury Church to guide you, and go through the wooden gate on the other side.

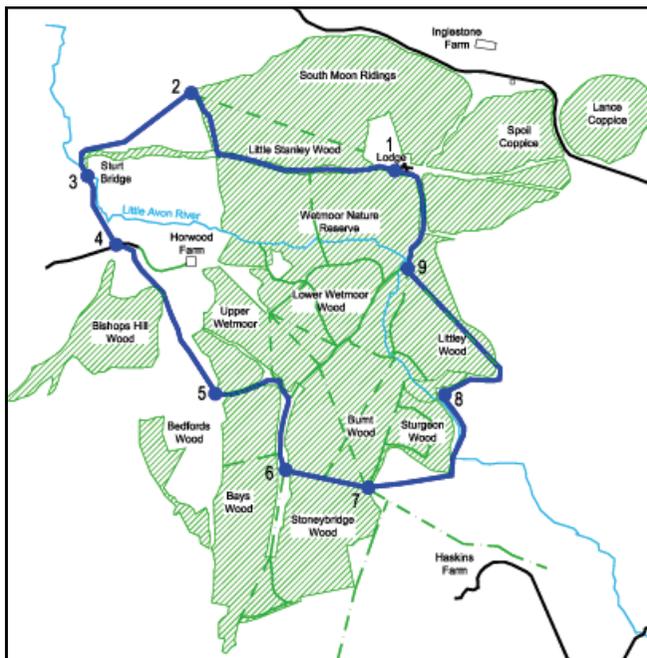
Go across this second field, heading towards the Monument to guide you, and drop down into a thicket. Go right into the thicket to find a small wooden gate. Go through this gate and keep left following the field edge. Dip down over rough ground to ford a stream and then go through the small wooden gate. Cross the field, keeping close to the woods on the left and at the end of the field re-enter the woods through a small wooden gate [8] which is about 15 yards to the left of the large oak tree in the field.

“re-enter the woods through a small wooden gate about 15 yards to the left of the large oak tree”



Once through the gate turn immediately right and follow the path which leads gently uphill, keeping the fence to your right. Stay on this path, which bears right at the top. When you see a fence on your left, follow this (ignoring the 5 bar gate) and walk close to the fence on the left until it turns sharp left into an overgrown area. Taking care, walk through this overgrown area until you come to a large wooden gate and levered latch gate leading back into the woods.

Go through the gate and walk along a grassy ride (Little New Trench), going all the way (about 650 yards/ 600 metres) to the Little Avon River (Kilvers Pill). Go through a gate [9], and ford the small stream near the main river footbridge (**don't** cross the bridge) and turn right up the bank. This bank is called Shepherd's Knap and leads you onto a stony track at the top, where you turn left to return to the start of the walk.



NB: The Village Hall car park has an honesty box for donations for car park use

Produced by the Rights of Way Group of Hawkesbury Vision Parish Plan

http://www.hawkesburyupton.com/rights_of_way.html

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WALKS AROUND HAWKESBURY

No: 04

OS Explorer Map167
Thornbury, Dursley & Yate

Grid ref: ST 749 885

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Start: Lower Woods Nature Reserve car park



The Roman Arches, Lower Woods Nature Reserve, Cotswold Views