

This six mile walk drops down the Cotswold escarpment and takes in some lovely views as it crosses fields and two historic ancient commons. It eventually rises through farmland to the village of Hillesley and then steeply up through woods to the Cotswold plateau.

NB: There are 21 stiles and 3 wooden footbridges on this walk which can be very slippery when wet or frosty.

Park in Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park [1].

Cross over the road and go down the alleyway to the left of Beaufort Arms car park entrance.

Go diagonally right across the pub car park following yellow waymarks to right hand corner of car park. Bear right into the playing field

The path runs diagonally across the cricket pitch to a stile about two thirds of the way down the hedge. Continue straight ahead along track through two fields following straight ahead at way mark to meet Bath Lane (Cotswold Way). Turn left for about 50 yards (46m) and then right through a gate. [2]

Follow down the right hand edge of two fields and into a lane. Follow lane straight ahead through the wood, down the hill to the minor road (Horton Lane). [3]

Cross over and go through gate straight ahead. Bear slightly left in line with the first power line post through the field to the stile near an oak tree (NOT straight on to small gate) and then through two further fields with

a gate between, following the same line but bearing slightly left as indicated by the two way marks. Head towards the left hand stile, cross this and a small bridge into a third field. Look for a gate in the far hedge and pass through onto Hawkesbury Common over double stile by double gates. [4]

Keep on the same line and pass over the minor road and across a short stretch of common towards a metal field gate. As you walk towards this gate you'll see a rusty gate in the hedge to your right. Go through this rusty gate and head diagonally for a stile (which will not be visible at this stage) in the far corner of the field.

Pass over this stile and head for an equally invisible stile in the right hand corner of the next field (beware of hidden ditch if covered with vegetation).[5]

To your right in this field you will see a stile without any hedge to right or left, cross this stile and follow the yellow waymark on this stile to a stile in the right corner of the field.

Following in the same direction, cross the common going over a gravel track and head towards a single large oak tree in the far hedge where there is a stile.

Cross this double stile and (possibly slippery) footbridge by the large oak tree and follow up the right hand edge of this field to a rickety metal gate. Keep going across the middle of this field and the next small field on roughly the same line to the stream crossing.[6]

Keep straight ahead through the next field to the gate in the hedge gap. Follow through this

next field bearing right to a new metal gate and stile leading onto Inglestone Common with Oakhall Cottage to your left.

Go straight ahead over the common, across the road and keep walking over the common with the woods (Lance Coppice) to your immediate left. This brings you past a pond and straight ahead of you is Lance House.[7]

Pass through the gate with waymark to the left of Lance House, through the yard and over a stile into a field. Follow through this field with the fence immediately on your left and through a small gate. Walk diagonally left across this field to a gap in the hedge with faded waymark on a post. Then, following the direction of the way mark, make for the stile in the far hedge. [8]

The route now drops down into the valley where you aim for the small wooden gate roughly half way along the valley bottom to the right of the clearly visible large field gate. Go through this small gate/footbridge/gate and head up the slope towards the corner of the next field with hedge on left.

Pass into this field through the metal gate (the stile to its right is impassable at time of writing) and head uphill diagonally left looking for a waymark post roughly half way along the top hedge. This directs you slightly to the left where there is a concealed stile. [9]



“This directs you slightly to the left where there is a concealed stile”

Turn left across the field heading roughly towards Hillesley church until you come to a stile which leads you down a steep slope to another clearly visible stile which in turn leads to third clearly visible stile.

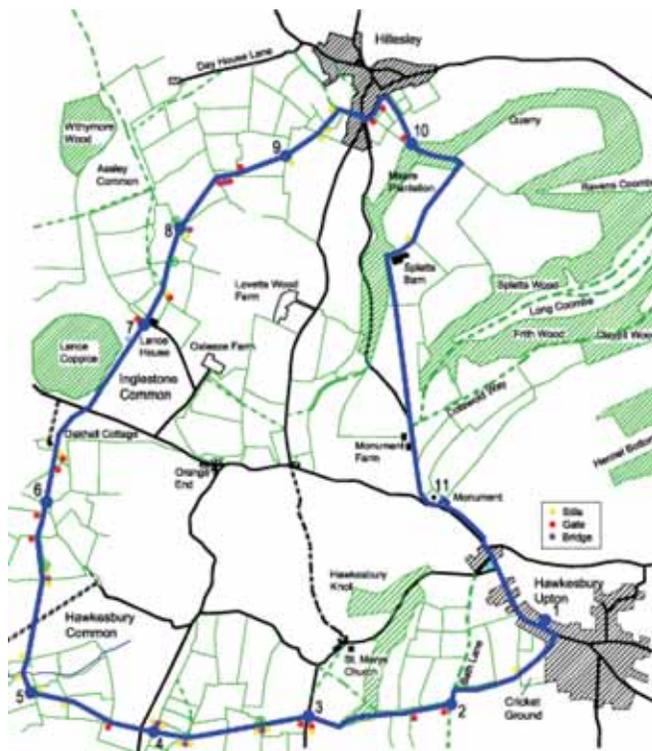


Cross over this stile and turn right into the bridleway lane with the tennis court and playing field on your left. This is Hillesley. Continue up to High Street and turn right and almost immediately left into a gravel track. Follow this track which bears left and through a small wicket gate to the left of a new garage, then through a metal gate and into a field. Follow this field along its left hand edge into the far corner and turn right up the field to a metal field gate. This leads into a fenced path which goes steeply up through Mear's Plantation.[10]

At the top turn right and follow the well defined path to a stile at the point where the path turns left. Cross this (last !) stile and go past the two buildings (the further one being known as Splatt's Barn). Turn left at the junction and proceed along the straight metalled track to where it meets the main road. Straight ahead of you is the large tower known as Hawkesbury Monument (The Somerset Monument). Proceed with great care along the main road to the Monument (there is a narrow verge on the left for a little

way, then best to cross the road so as to walk facing the oncoming traffic).

At the monument [11] use the pavement on the left and either keep on until you reach the starting point of the walk or, at the Monument, follow the directions for the permissive path that follows through the field parallel to the pavement which it rejoins at the end of the field.



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

Produced by the Walking In Hawkesbury Group of Hawkesbury Vision Parish Plan

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

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WALKS AROUND HAWKESBURY

No: 05

OS Explorer Map167
Thornbury, Dursley & Yate

Grid ref: ST 777 870

Distance: 6 miles (9.5 km)

Time: 4 - 5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate (with fairly steep sections near the end)

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall



Hawkesbury Commons and Hillesley Circular