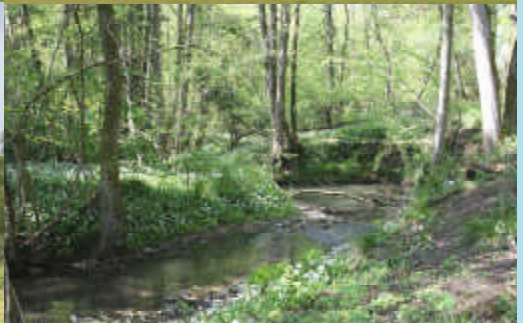
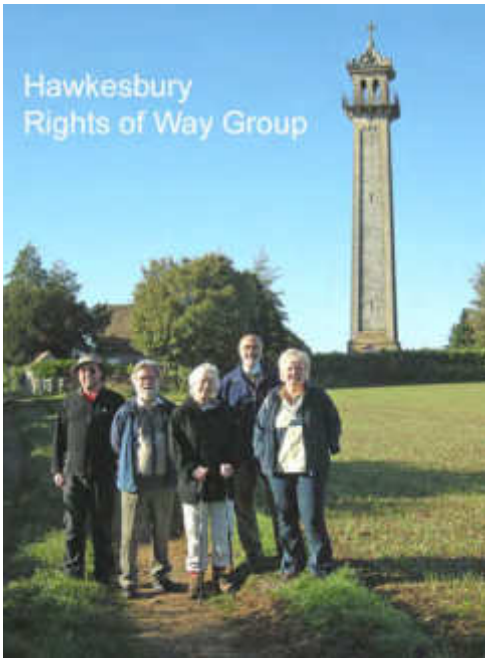


10 WALKS AROUND HAWKESBURY (revised edition 2017)

A varied selection of walks through
meadows and ancient woodland, over
ancient commons with riverside rambles
and Cotswold views

OS Explorer Map167
Thornbury, Dursley & Yate





The Countryside Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under safe control
- Consider other people

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the route directions, the countryside is not static and we cannot accept responsibility for any changes in details given.

From left to right:

Peter Salenieks, Gef Lucena, Liz Howard, Terry Truebody, Jane Jones

The historic parish of Hawkesbury has a wealth of public footpaths and bridleways criss-crossing the varied landscape of high plateau, steep escarpment, ancient woodlands and commons. The ten fairly easy walks offered here will give the visitor or local resident the opportunity to savour the English landscape at its best and most varied. The Rights Of Way Group evolved out of the Hawkesbury Vision Parish Plan as many local residents indicated an interest to know more about their footpath heritage. The Group has learnt a lot about these ancient routes in walking them and we hope that visitors and residents alike will have as much enjoyment in following these walks as we did in their planning.

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

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

Published by the Hawkesbury Rights Of Way Group © 2017

Walks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 start from:

Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park **Grid ref:** ST 777 870

Walks 4 & 8 start from:

Lower Woods Nature Reserve car park **Grid ref:** ST 745 880

(NB: The woods can be muddy and there are small stream crossings)

Walk 1: The Marshfield Path, Bodkin Hazel Lane and Bath Lane

An easy to moderate walk of 4.5 miles (7 km) over the Cotswold plateau. Open farmland with good views of Severn Vale and into Wales.

Walk 2: Circular Walk to Kilcott (can be combined with Walk 6)

A moderate 4 miles (6.5 km) through the attractive Coombes to the village of Kilcott. Then up to Hawkesbury along the Cotswold Way.

Walk 3: Broad Hill and Horton

A moderate 4 mile (6.5 km) walk on the Cotswold plateau, down to Horton with its ancient church and Horton Court, then steeply back.

Walk 4: The Roman Arches, Lower Woods Nature Reserve

Lovely Cotswold views as well as ancient woodland, the Little Avon river and a mediaeval pack horse bridge in this 4 mile (6.5 km) walk.

Walk 5: Hawkesbury Commons and Hillesley Circular

A longer walk (6 miles, 9.5 km) with fairly steep sections near the end, but well worth the effort for the views and varied terrain.

Walk 6: Short Walk to Hawkesbury Church

Historic St Mary's Church in its beautiful setting is the focal point of this short 3.75 mile (6 km) walk but does have one steep climb.

Walk 7: Church Wood & Lizens Wood

Another short walk (3.75 miles, 6 km) of moderate difficulty through woodland and meadows with bluebells near the end in springtime.

Walk 8: The Little Avon River and Beyond

River, ancient woodland and meadows with extensive views all make this short walk of 3.5 miles (5.6 km) very rewarding.

Walk 9: 'Beating the Bounds' around Hawkesbury Upton

The walk around the village is just under 2 miles (3km). This can be extended to just over 3 miles (5km) to take in Hawkesbury Church.

Walk 10: Hawkesbury Upton, Hawkesbury, Chalkley & Horton

A moderate walk of 5 miles (8 km) with 2 steepish inclines which takes in 2 ancient churches and historic Horton Court (National Trust)

Walk 1: The Marshfield Path, Bodkin Hazel Lane and Bath Lane

Grid ref: ST 777 870 **Distance:** 4.5 miles (7 km)

Time: 1.5 - 2 hours **Difficulty:** Easy/moderate

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

Turn left out of the Village Hall car park onto High Street, cross over the road to the footpath leading to the Beaufort Arms car park and proceed to the bottom right hand corner of the pub car park. [1] Here you'll find a yellow waymark which takes you down the right hand side of the new house and follows a footpath that runs along the bottom of the gardens of several houses.



Stay on this footpath, which turns left at the last house [2] and then right in the corner of the field [3] continuing to follow the line of the houses, past the allotments and keep straight on across the field in front of you, following the line of the telegraph poles.

At the end of this first field go through a metal kissing gate, down the bank and keep walking straight across the next field towards the footpath sign and metal kissing gate in the far hedge. As you walk across the field, keep the corner hedge to your right. Ahead in the distance you will see the Marshfield Path.



Cross Sandpits/Highfield Lane [4] and enter Marshfield Path on the other side of the road. You'll now follow the Marshfield Path for approximately 1 mile (1.6 km), aiming for the woods on the horizon. About half way along this path keep right of the field boundary hedge/wall.

When you reach the top of the slope (with Bodkin Hazel Wood on your right), you will see a track (Bodkin Hazel Lane) coming from your left. Join this path and turn right through a gate [5] and continue along the path with the woods on your right.

Keeping Bodkin Hazel Wood on your right all the time, continue along the wide grassy path and keep following this path and you will eventually leave the woods on your right and enter open countryside. You are now on Bodkin Hazel Lane. The “lane”, which remains a wide grassy strip, will take you all the way to a gate that leads onto Highfield Lane. During this part of the walk you'll have a great view of Hawkesbury Monument.

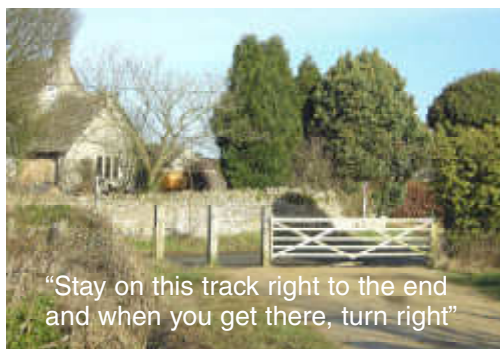
When you reach Highfield Lane [6] go straight across and then over the stile on your right and continue along the Monarch's Way/Cotswold Way as they run parallel to Highfield Lane for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1 km). This short stretch of path has some fantastic views across the Severn Vale. You can see both Severn Bridges and the mountains of South Wales.

The Monarch's Way/Cotswold Way now joins Bath Lane (footpath

signs on your left and right) where you turn left. [7]



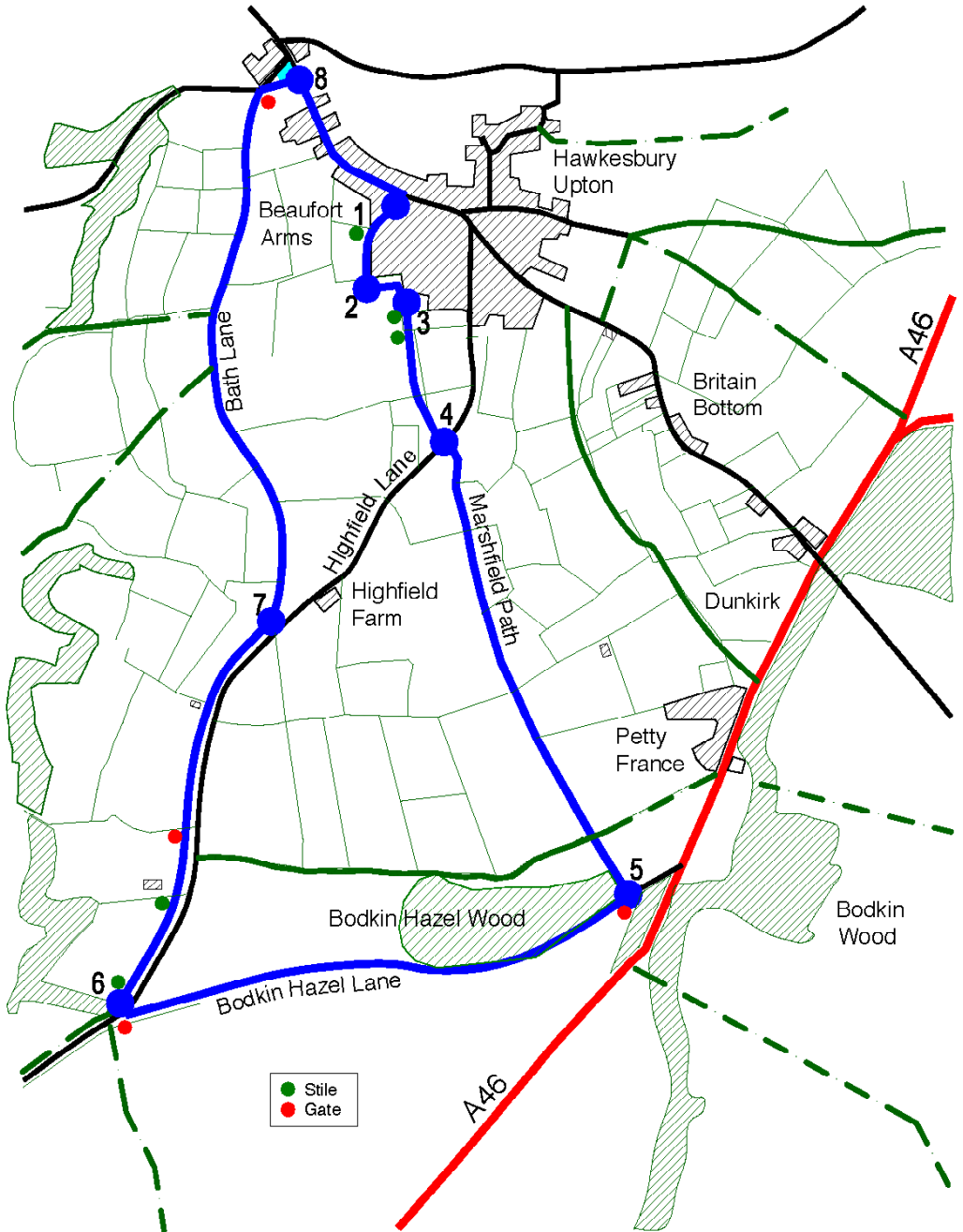
Stay on this track right to the end and when you get there, turn right and follow the minor road past the Drovers Pool (keeping the pool on your left) and up to the main road. [8]



Please cross to the other side of the main road where there is a pavement and then head right, up to the centre of the village.

Before long you will come to the Village Hall on your left and The Beaufort Arms on your right.

Walk 1: The Marshfield Path, Bodkin Hazel Lane and Bath Lane



Walk 2: Circular Walk to Kilcott

Grid ref: ST 777 870

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km) **Time:** 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate (one steep climb, 2 stiles)

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

Turn left out of the car park [1] and walk towards the Fox Inn bearing left at the war memorial down Back Street. Follow Back Street (passing St Johns Street on left) to the T-junction at the end. Cross straight over and go down the “stony alley” footpath which was once the village rubbish dump! [2]

Go through the metal kissing gate and follow the track through the trees to the big ash tree on the right, then head along the grassy track keeping the wire fence on your right follow this clear track



Continue through the woods along Small Coombe with the stream still on your right until the path opens up into a wide clearing (used for pheasant shooting by the Badminton Estate).



down through the fields. In the fourth field will see on your left a small footbridge over a small stream which you cross and bear right, keeping the stream on your right, towards the woods and through a gate. [3]



Continue along this coombe, taking the grassy walk down towards the right following the stream (often dry in summer) and ignoring the farmtracks on the right and left. Stay on this route all the way until you reach the Kilcott Road. [4]

Go through the gate and turn left along the Kilcote Road. Pass a water-pumping station on your left (this supplies all the water for Hawkesbury) and a road to the right. When you reach Kilcote with the mill and cottages, look out for the Cotswold Way sign on the left-hand side opposite Mickley Cottage.[5] Go up this sunken and possibly muddy track, the top part of which is quite steep. *You will now be following the Cotswold Way right back to Hawkesbury – so look out for the signs!*

At the top of the hill (when you have had a rest!) go through a gate and bear right into a field, keeping the hedge / trees on your left-hand side. [6] You will have good views over to the right – and may be lucky enough to see buzzards circling over the opposite hills.

Follow the track into the woods. At the end turn left through the wooden kissing gate [7] and up the hill and past another kissing gate (now redundant) into the next field to meet a stone track running along the ridge. [8]

Turn right and follow this track along to the Hawkesbury monument. [9] As you walk, look over to the distant hill and you will see Newark Park (National Trust) the C16 hunting lodge of the Poyntz family of Iron Acton. There

is also the village of Tresham at the top of the hill and further along a view of Wotton-under-Edge nestling below the Cotswold escarpment.

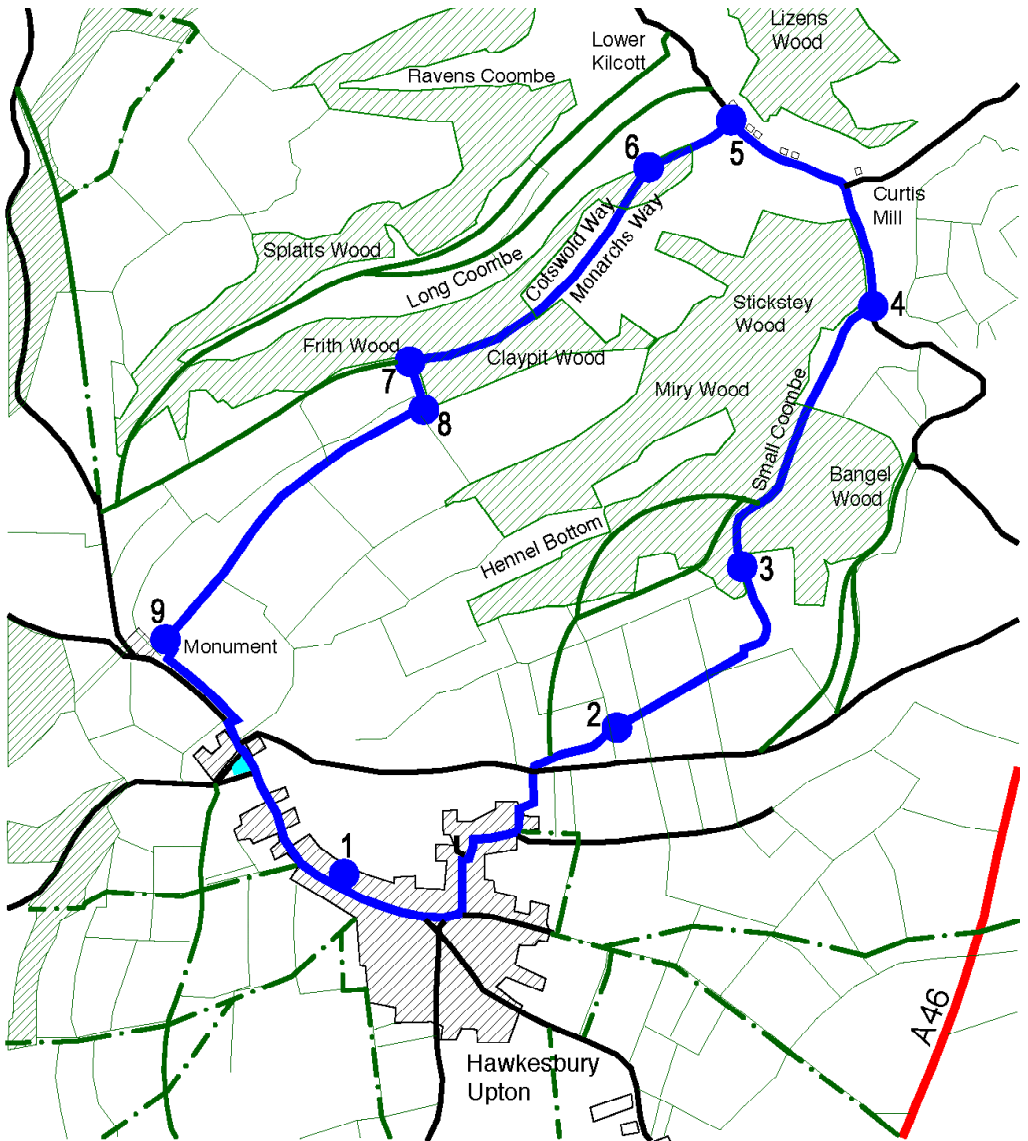


The monument was erected in 1846 by public subscription to commemorate Lord Somerset, a member of the Beaufort family, and the part he played in the Napoleonic wars. From the escarpment there are stunning views to Bristol, Wales and the River Severn.

Before the end of the track, by Monument Cottage, take the permissive footpath through a kissing gate on the left, walking round the edge of the field and joining the road into the village through another kissing gate. Follow the road back into the village where you started.

NB: This walk can be combined with Walk 6

Walk 2: Circular Walk to Kilcote



WALK 3: Broad Hill and Horton

Grid ref: ST 777 870 **Distance:** 4 miles (6.5 km)

Time: about 2 hours **Difficulty:** Moderate
(one steep climb)

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

Turn right out of the Village Hall car park [1] onto High Street, cross over the road and along the pavement. Just past Beaufort House Residential Home turn left onto the track and keep straight on with hedge on your right, go into the narrow lane to pass the water pumping station on your left and walk along the right hand edge of the next field to the intersection with the made-up track (Bath Lane - part of the Cotswold Way).

Turn left onto the track [2] and follow this for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1 km) with open views of the Severn Vale and Welsh hills on your right and the distant Marlborough Downs to your left.

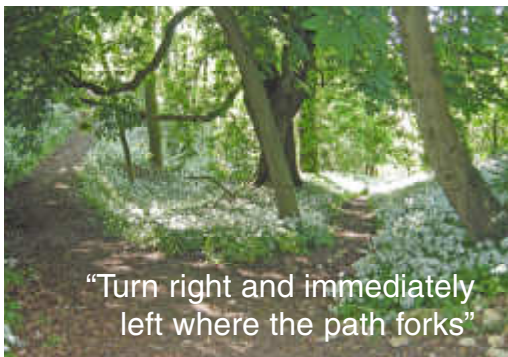


Just before the track’s junction with the road (Highfield Lane) bear right at the Cotswold Way / Monarch’s Way waymarks [3] and go along the path, which runs parallel to the road, passing through two fields.



Go through the (missing) kissing gate [4] to the third field and immediately bear right following the Cotswold Way sign (**not** along the Monarch’s Way which goes straight on at this point). The path goes diagonally across this field to the right of the derelict barn. At the waymark bear right along the well defined path. Do not go through the field gate. Keep on until you reach a small wooden gate leading into a group of trees.

Pass through the gate [5] and bear left as the path weaves between impressive beech trees keeping the fence line on your left.



The path then runs downhill to a four-way junction. Turn right and immediately left where the path forks (**not** straight down to the five bar gate visible at this point, which is where the Cotswold Way used to go and is still shown as such on older maps). Go through the kissing gate with a Cotswold Way waymark on it and follow the well-defined path across the field. Horton Court and Church of St James the Elder can be seen below you on the right.

Bear right at the edge of the field before the trees as the path heads downhill across the field (ignore the path through the kissing gate on left that leads up through the trees), keeping the fence line on the left to reach the five bar gate & stile leading to the road (Horton Lane). Turn right [6] along the winding



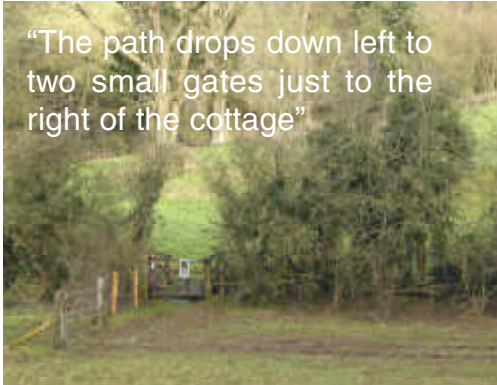
road past Horton Court and Church and then follow it for another 1/2 mile (0.8 km) until you come to Upper Chalkley Farm on the left.



Just past the farm and on the right you will see a large double metal gate [7] and a footpath sign high up on a telegraph post. Go through these gates (or over the wooden fence) and contour diagonally left across this field then bear right when a cottage comes into view.

The path drops down left to two small gates just to the right of the cottage. You are now entering a 'right to roam' area.

“The path drops down left to two small gates just to the right of the cottage”



Either ascend the hill by going up the gully or follow the edge of the hill up just to the right of the gully and join it near the top.

At the top of the gully there is a stile and a gate (with sign indicating that you are leaving Open Access land). Then there is a metal gate straight ahead with a waymark sign on it. Pass through this gate and head up the middle of the field to a small wooden gate visible on the skyline, to the left of a tree.

Go through this wooden gate [8] and pass up the right hand edge of the field to the kissing gate at the top, which leads you back onto the made-up track of the Cotswold Way. Retrace your steps back to the start by turning left and walking along the track for about 500 yds (450 m), before turning right along the clearly signed footpath just after you see the pumping station mound and mast on your right. This leads you back to High Street.

Horton Court includes a rare 12th Century Norman Hall and the hall in the main house has been dated to between 1482 and 1519 by analysing tree rings in the timbers.

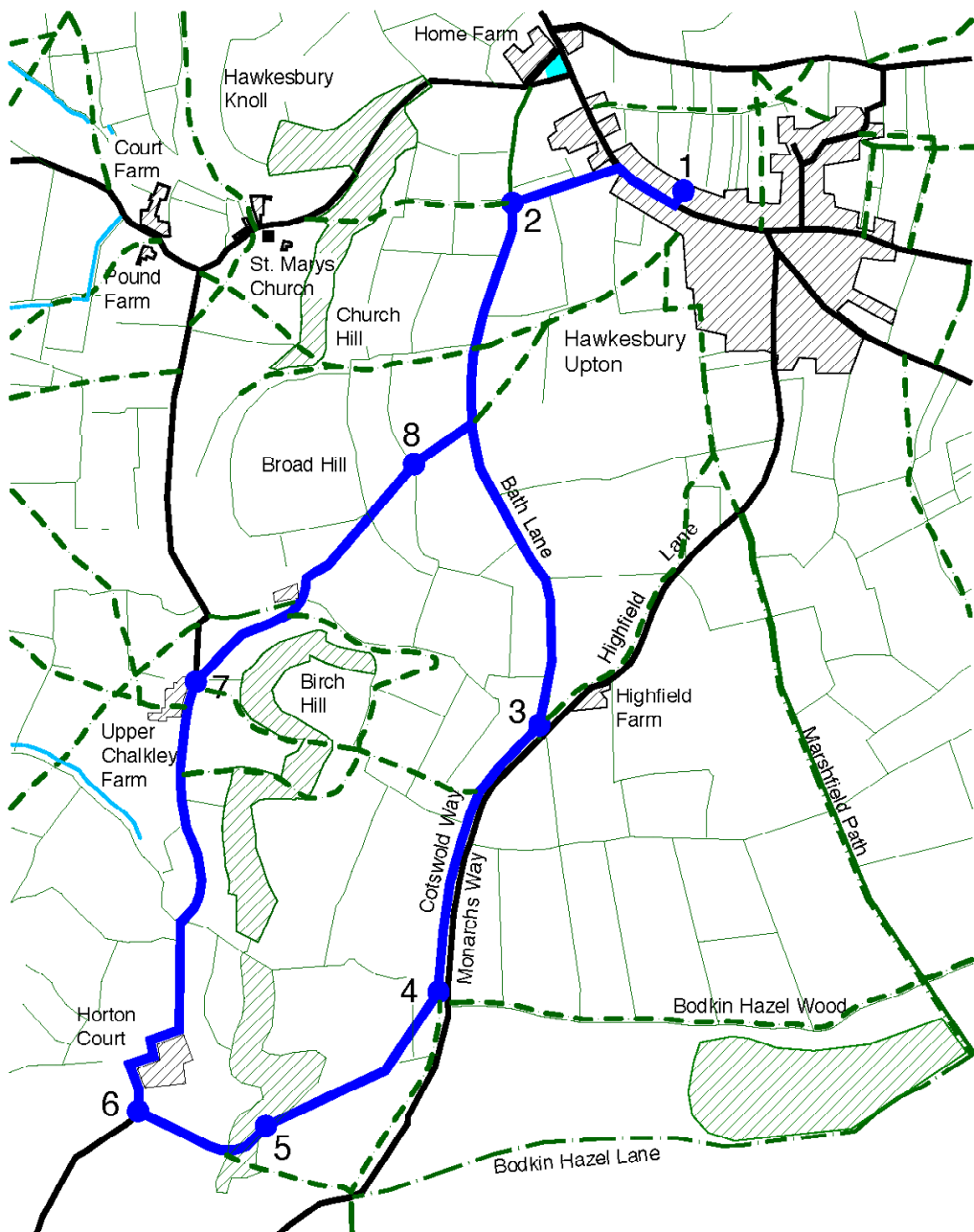
The house was built by Rev. William Knight in about 1521 and still contains a 1520s fireplace, a survivor from the period when the house underwent significant development.

Between 1519 and 1521 Rev. Knight expanded the house, adding a new well-glazed east façade, but also incorporating much of the original historic buildings, which have left Horton Court with a mix of styles and periods.

The final development of the house came in the early 1920s when the owner - restoring the house which had lain empty during World War I - built inward into the courtyard, making some parts of the house quite dark.

Horton Court was bought in 1937 by Hilda Wills, a daughter of the Bristol tobacco family, who donated it to the National Trust in 1946. It will be open to the public again when it is fully restored.

WALK 3: Broad Hill and Horton



Walk 4: The Roman Arches, Lower Woods Nature Reserve, Cotswold Views

Grid ref: ST 745 880 **Distance:** 4 miles (6.5 km)

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours **Difficulty:** Moderate

Start: Lower Woods Nature Reserve car park

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 with green and yellow waymarks and the number 21 leading to a wide grassy track.[1] Follow this wide grassy track (Plumbers Trench) for about 850 yds (800 m or 15 minutes) to the end and ignoring all tracks coming in from right and left.

At the end of the track, just before the gate at the edge of the wood, turn right at the yellow waymark sign and follow a narrower track for about 300 yds (275 m 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 at the edge of

the wood. Go through the gate into the field. [2]

Walk diagonally across the field towards the hedge on your left (there are good views from here to Wickwar Church, far hills and the Tyndale Monument above North Nibley) and about $\frac{2}{3}$ rds 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. When you get to the metal 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 ahead. Follow the direction of the yellow waymark sign along the left hand edge of the field.

At the next field boundary, cross the gated footbridge over a small stream into the next field. Continue along the left hand edge of the field, then cross a stile/small gate (to the right of a larger one) 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.

Go through this metal gate into the next field (ignore the track into the wood) 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 a 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 yds (300 m), 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. At the oak tree in the **middle of the track** (with damaged blue waymark sign), [6] **Look carefully for the ride on the left and re-enter the woods.**

Follow this ride to its end (about 400 yds / 380 m), 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 just right of Hawkesbury Church to guide you, and go through the wooden gate on the other side.

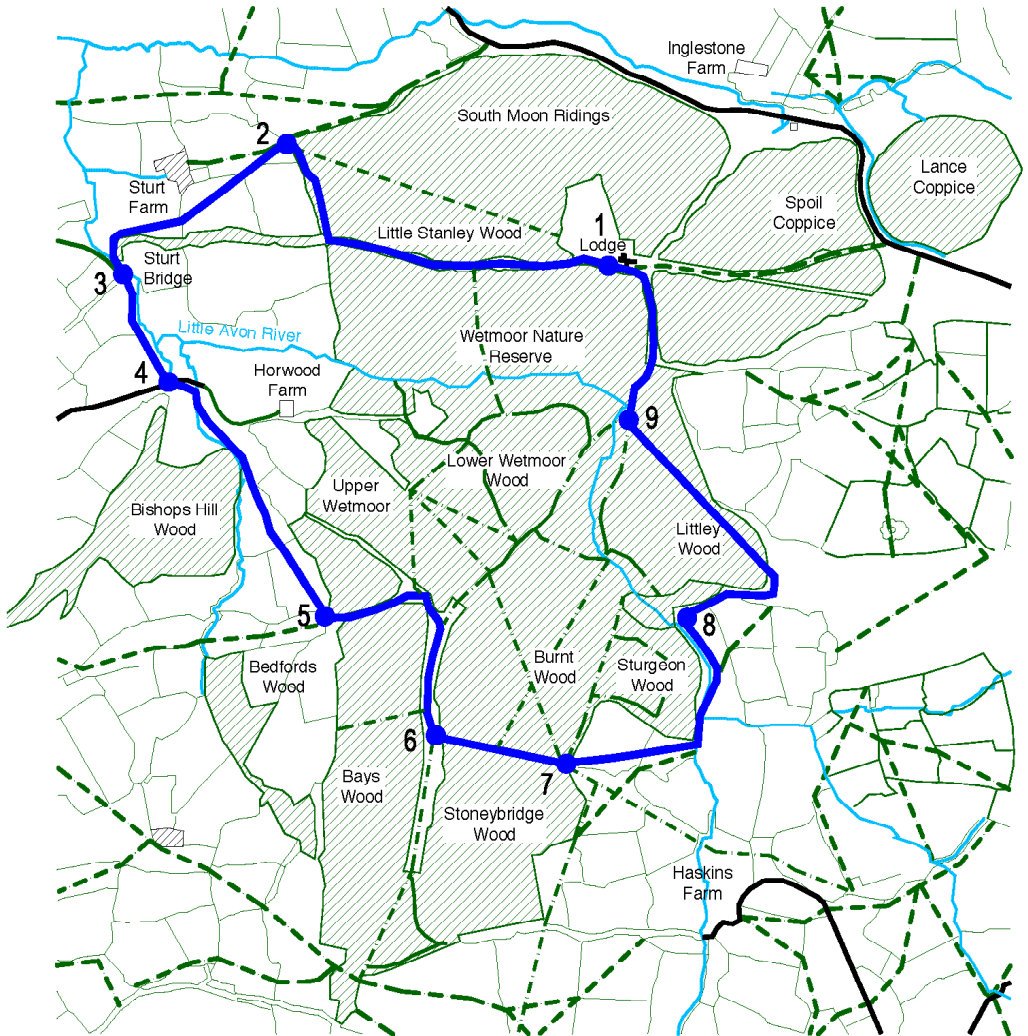
Go across this second field, heading towards the Monument to guide you, and drop down into a thicket. **Go right into the thicket** to find a small wooden gate. Go through this gate and keep left following the field edge. Go through the small metal gate and post and rail fenced track leading down to ford the stream and through the metal kissing 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 yds (14 m) to the left of the large oak tree in the field.

Once through the gate turn immediately right and follow a less

distinct path which leads gently uphill, keeping the fence to your right. Stay on this path, which bears right at the top. When you see another fence on your left, follow this (ignoring the 5 bar gate) and walk close to the fence on the left. When the fence turns sharp left, take care following it through an overgrown area to reach 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 yds / 600 m) and bearing right at the end to reach a gate before the Little Avon River (Kilvers Pill). Go through the 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.

Walk 4: The Roman Arches, Lower Woods Nature Reserve, Cotswold Views



Walk 5: Hawkesbury Commons and Hillesley Circular

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

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 many 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 the path in the right hand corner of car park. Take the gate on the right and then the path on the left and into the cricket 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 the track, through two fields to meet Bath Lane (Cotswold Way). Turn left for about 50 yds (46 m) and then right through a gate. [2]

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

Cross over and go through the 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 a small gate) and then through two further fields with a gate between. Follow the same line down towards two oak trees in the far hedge. At the bottom of the field take the left hand stile. Cross this stile and a small bridge into a third field. Look for a gate in the far hedge and pass through onto Hawkesbury Common over a double stile by a gate. [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 **another gate in the hedge to your right**. Go through this 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]

Turn to your right to a stile without any hedge to right or left. Follow the yellow waymark on this stile, crossing a stream to a stile in the top 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. Go across the middle of the next field and cross 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 through a gate into a field. Follow through this field and through a small gate at the far end. 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 the hedge on left.

Pass into this field over the stile 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]



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.



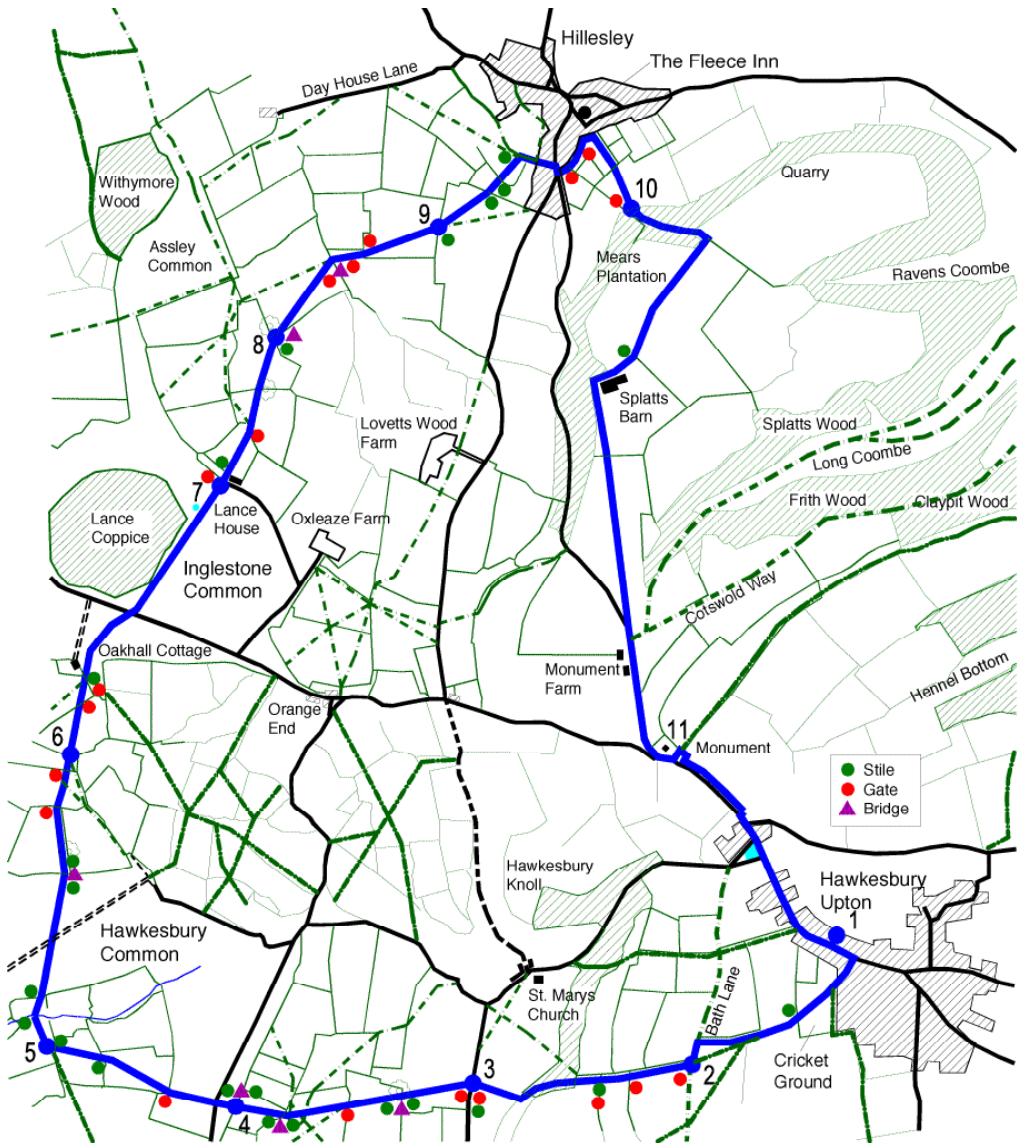
Cross over this stile and turn right into the bridleway lane with the tennis court and playing field on your left. This is Hillesley. Continue up to High Street and turn right and almost immediately left into a gravel track. Follow this track which bears left and through a small wicket gate to the left of a new

garage, then through a metal gate and into a field. Follow this field along its left hand edge to a gate in the far corner. (The Fleece Inn is just a few yards down the road from here). Turn right up the field to a metal field gate which leads onto 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 just beyond the point where the main 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 metal 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 it is advisable to carefully 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.

Walk 5: Hawkesbury Commons and Hillesley Circular



Walk 6: Short Walk to Hawkesbury Church

Grid ref: ST 777 870

Distance: 3.75 miles (6 km) **Time:** 1.5 - 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate (one steep climb and 5 stiles)

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

The high spot and focus of this short walk is the beautifully located Church of St Mary the Virgin and its peaceful setting below the steep sided and historic Knoll.



Turn right out of the car park [1] following the road out of the village, past Pool Farm towards Hawkesbury Monument. If wished, after crossing Starveall Lane, you can take the permissive path to the Monument through the kissing gate in the right hand hedge.

On reaching the lane by the monument, [2] turn right along the track (Cotswold Way) for about 1/2 mile (0.8 km) (there is one gateway to go through half way along). At the Cotswold Way sign turn left and walk downhill a short distance

through two fields to reach a wooden kissing gate. [3]

This is the joining point from walk 2



Go through this and turn left following the blue public bridleway sign keeping the fence on your left (If overgrown use field edge). Continue through the next gate, again following the blue way marked signs, across the fields towards the barn in the distance. Go through gate to rejoin road. [4]

Turn right along road keeping on the right hand side and crossing over with care to the left hand side just before the sharp right hand bend to reach the clearly visible public footpath signpost. [5] Go through the gate. From here you

have superb views across to the River Severn and the two bridges with the Welsh mountains in the distance.

Follow the left hand hedge for a few yards (**ignoring the first small gate**) and go through a gate hidden in the undergrowth. Bear right following the right hand hedge downhill for 325 yds (300 m) and go through a kissing gate, down the steps of a short steep bank and through a second kissing gate following the yellow waymark sign across the field to a stile in the far hedge on the Hillesley Road. [6]

Turn left along the road to the junction. Cross over and through the gate onto a possibly muddy track. You have now entered the area known as “The Sands”. To your left you will see the terraced ‘lynchets’ and above them Hawkesbury Knoll. This track takes you to Hawkesbury Church. At the end, go through the gate with a yellow waymark and onto the road by the church. [7]

(NB: The energetic may like to climb to the top the the Knoll by way of the permissive path just before the gate at the end of the track, returning by the same route.)

Turn left up the road, past the church and entrance to the old vicarage. At the end of the laurel



hedge take the waymarked path up the grassy bank on the right side of the road. This takes you uphill (steeply) through the woods to a stile and gate at the top. [8]



Go through the gate following the direction on the yellow waymark diagonally left across the field to a stile in the right hand hedge.

Go over this stile and follow the left hand hedge through two fields separated by another stile.

At the top of the hill, go over another stile to reach Bath Lane (Cotswold Way). [9] At Bath Lane cross straight over taking the path with the hedge on the left to reach Hawkesbury High Street. Turn right back to the car park.

A FASCINATING AND BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

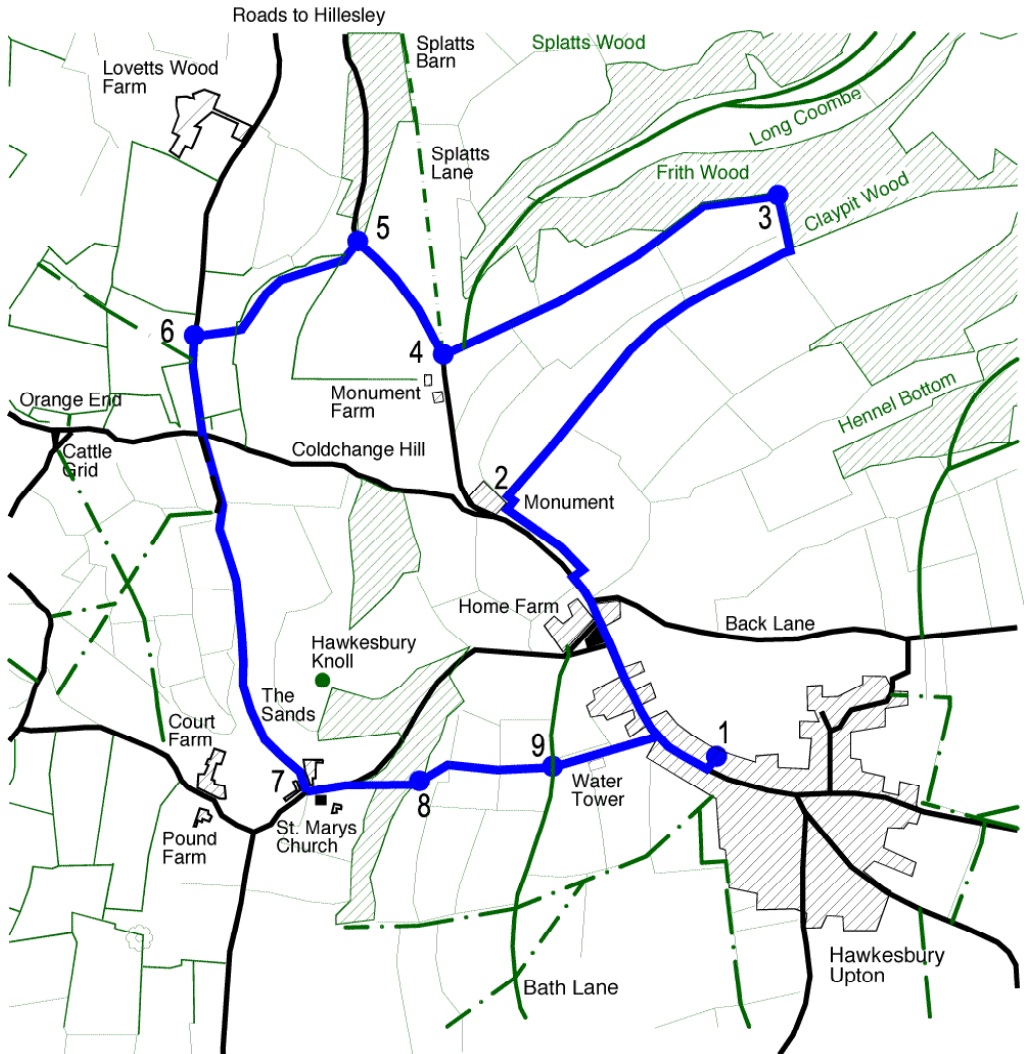
The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is tranquilly located beneath the historic Knoll and was first built at Hawkesbury around 700AD on the site of a Saxon minster church with possible Roman origins. When originally built it would have probably had a thatched roof and consisted of a single stone built hall with outbuildings to house the clergy. One of its illustrious incumbents was Wulfstan who was born around 1008 and who eventually became prior of Worcester Cathedral. He was canonized in 1203 and his remains were reinterred in Worcester Cathedral in the presence of King Henry III. He allegedly became a vegetarian after over indulging on a well fattened goose and is noted for his attempts to stop the slave trade between Britain and Ireland. Most of the more elaborate memorial tablets in the church are to members of the Jenkinson family who are Lords Of the Manor to this day.

The present church consists of a chancel with a south chapel, a nave with south aisle, a tower to the west, north and south porches with chambers over both porches. From east to west the length is 120 feet (36.5m) with a width of 70 feet (21.3m) including the two porches.

It was described by Arthur Mee in his book on Gloucestershire as "The churchyard filled with hoary altar tombs, the fine topiary hedge of clipped yews, which encompassed them on three sides and is shaped into 34 arches, the old vicarage with its many gables, and the farm buildings about it, make a memorable group".

After visiting the church an interesting diversion for the energetic is to climb the steep sided Knoll which has been used since pre-historic times for ritual and celebratory occasions. Retrace your steps to the permissive path leading up to the Knoll marked by a signpost just inside the gate on "The Sands". After seeing the extensive views from the top, descend and return to the road by the church.

Walk 6: Short Walk to Hawkesbury Church



Walk 7: Church Wood & Lizens Wood

Grid ref: ST 777 870 **Distance:** 3.75 miles (6 km)

Time: 1.5 - 2 hours **Difficulty:** Moderate

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

This is a moderate walk, but with some difficult downward paths in Lizens Wood. Care needs to be taken on these, especially in wet weather.

Leaving the Village Hall car park turn left onto the main pavement until you come to The Fox public house. [2] Turn left along the public footpath which runs through the pub grounds. Keep going, crossing 3 stiles, until you come to Back Lane.

Turn right up the lane until you come to a steep, narrow track (“stony alley”) on your left. [3] Follow this track down to a metal kissing gate. Go through and turn right onto a grassy footpath. Follow this downward path, passing through 3 gateways. Once through the third gateway bear left downwards towards a small bridge over the stream. Turn right and follow the path straight down, passing a large willow tree until you come to another gate/stile. Go through and follow the path beside the stream and into Small Coombe. [4] Keep on through Small Coombe until you come to the Starveal to Kilcote road. [5]

Turn left along the road until you come to the next road. [6] Turn right up the road, passing Curtis Mill and the mill pond on your left. Keep on this road until you reach a track on your left [7] leading down through the woods.

Follow this track, crossing a bridge over the stream, up through the woods, through a gate and into a field. Follow the fence on your left, passing a small reservoir on your left and keep on to the gate/stile at the end of this field. Keeping the hedge on your right, head for a small gate – not yet visible - in the far right corner of this field. [8] Once there stop and look back for a fabulous view over Kilcote and the far distance.

Go through the gate into Lizens Wood and follow the footpath



straight ahead which leads, after a short while, very steeply down through the woods to end at a stile on your left. Go over the stile into a conifer wood and after about 25 yds (20 m) bear left at a pine tree with wire fencing embedded into it. Follow this path, which contains steep steps (both up and down!) in some places, until you reach another stile at the edge of the woods.

Once you come out of the woods and over the stile you will be on private land. Follow the hedge / fence which turns right after a short while. The path is steep here so please take care. At the bottom of the hill go through a gate, across a small bridge, pass a greenhouse and go up to a set of double wicket gates which lead to the road. [9]



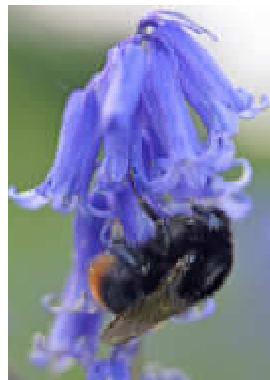
Turn left into the road and walk back to [6] then [5] and back through Small Coombe to point [4]. Turn right here and follow the path through the woods until you come to the pheasant enclosure. Bear left through the third set of gates in

the enclosure fence and go up through Church Woods. In the Spring this wood is full of bluebells and garlic. Note! Look out for the low level wires running across the gateways!

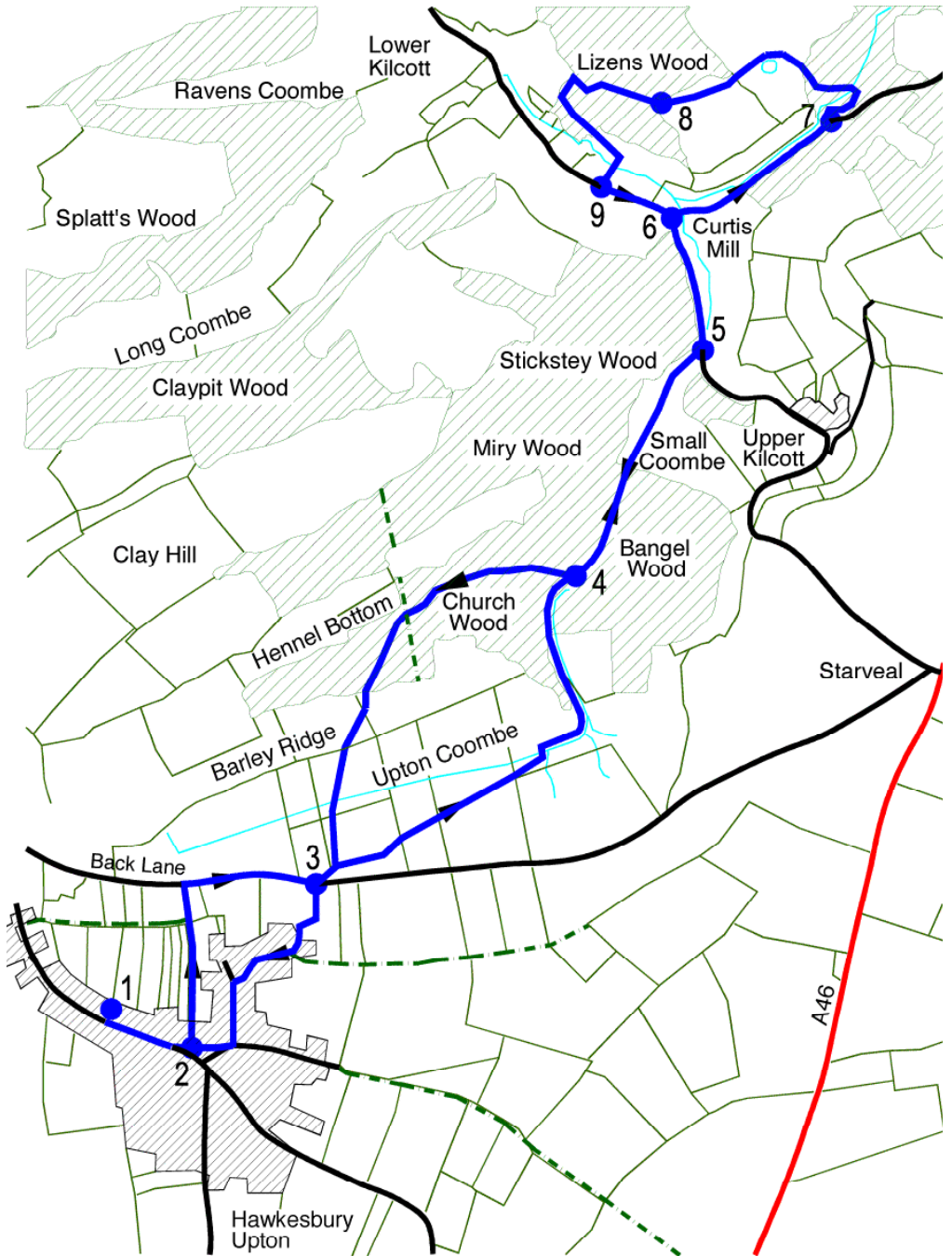
At the top of the hill go through an enclosure gate and then another gate onto Barley Ridge. Go through a gate on your right and bear left over the ridge towards a stile in the far hedge. Go over the stile and down the steep north side of Upton Coombe, cross the stream, through the hedge and up the hill until you reach the metal kissing gate.

Go through the kissing gate and up "stony alley" to Back Lane. Go straight across the road and follow Back Street until you reach The Plain and High Street.

The common or English bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta)



Walk 7: Church Wood & Lizens Wood



Walk 8: The Little Avon River and Beyond

Grid ref: ST 745 880 **Distance:** 3.5 miles (5.6 km)

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours **Difficulty:** Moderate

Start: Lower Woods Nature Reserve car park

Lower Woods has a reputation for being muddy, so appropriate footwear is strongly recommended for this and a couple of stream crossings.

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.

The walk starts from the parking area by The Lodge. [1] Go through the gate to the left of The Lodge with green and yellow waymarks and number 21 on the post into the grassy track.

After about 200 yds (185 m) the track bears to the left. **Turn left opposite the oak tree with a log bench beneath and take the small track into the wood.** [2]

When you reach the junction turn left. Shortly this track forks and you take the right fork and keep on until you reach a kissing gate/large gate to arrive on a grassy slope (Shepherds Knap).

Turn right down this slope and

shortly bear right again at the wide clearing [3] to reach a kissing gate on the left of a large gate ahead. Go through the kissing gate and down the slope towards the Little Avon River. Keep the river on your left and follow this for about 500 yds (460 m) until you arrive at a wooden footbridge over the river. Cross over the bridge and **immediately turn right** roughly parallel to the river bank.

The path is not that obvious at first but very soon you will see a flight of steps. Climb the steps and follow this path (with further steps and bridges) which provides glimpses of the river to your right and over three small gullies until you reach the junction with a path that is heading steeply down to the river.

Turn left up the path [4] to the top. You will now see four possible routes. **Take the second track from the right**, bear right when you reach the small meadow and then immediately left along an oak tree lined track (ignoring track off to the right) keeping the meadow on your left until you reach a grassy

meeting point of six rides which is known as The Hub.



Take the ride **straight ahead of you** (i.e. ignoring the first ride/opening on the right).

Turn left at the next junction and follow on until you come to a very wide grassy bridleway (Horton Great Trench). [5] Turn right to follow the bridleway for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1 km).

At the Y-junction leave the bridleway and follow the left fork to a T-junction where you turn left. [6] Follow this track until you arrive at the edge of the woods with a double set of field gates (Wood Lane). [7] Go ahead through the gates and take the stile immediately on the left over possibly slippery wooden planks into the field.

There are beautiful Cotswold views from this point with Hawkesbury monument clearly visible and Hawkesbury and Horton churches coming more into view as you walk.



Keeping the trees on your left, head across the field to the wooden field gate/opening in the corner ahead of you. Pass through this gate and head diagonally across the next field towards the far corner. As you reach the highest point of the field (ignoring the first gate on the right) you will see another wooden gate in the right hand hedge before the corner of the field. Go through the gate and head down the middle of this field keeping Hawkesbury Monument



directly ahead of you to drop down into a thicket. [8]

Go right into the thicket to find a small wooden gate. Go through this gate and keep left following the field edge. Go through the small metal gate and post and rail fenced track leading down to ford the stream and through the metal kissing 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 which is about 15 yds (14 m) to the left of the large oak tree in the field. [9]

Go through this gate and straight ahead of you will see a wooden

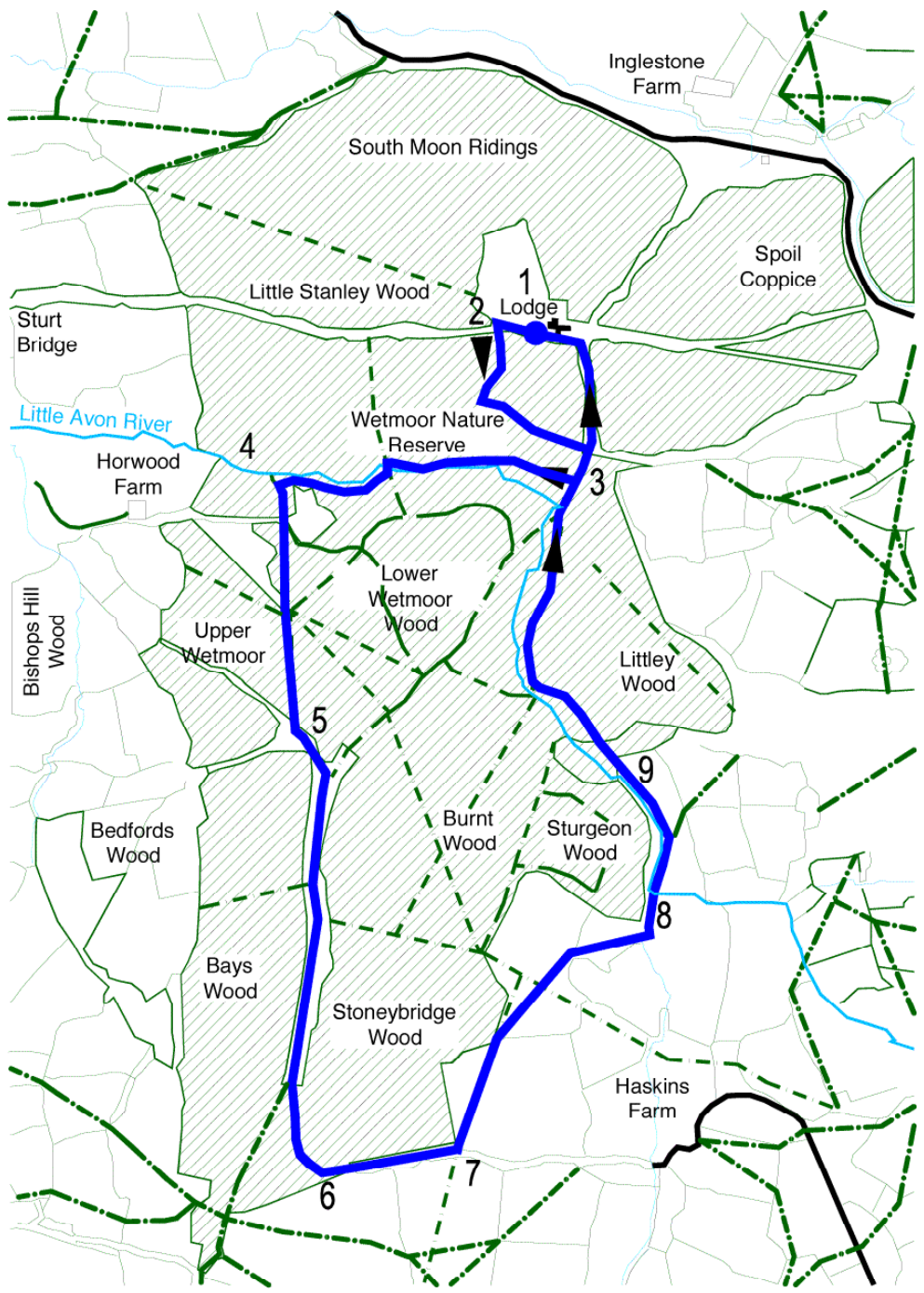
kissing gate and large gate. This leads back into Lower Woods and into an ancient 'ride' which was restored from a derelict state in 2010 (Littlely Lower Trench).

Follow this ride (or the parallel path through the woods) with glimpses of the Little Avon River on the left. Continue until the path's end (yellow waymark 60) down a muddy track to a wooden kissing gate (yellow waymark 61) next to a large gate by the river.

Cross the tiny stream that feeds into the river (**but do not cross the metal footbridge**) and head right up the often muddy slope. This is Shepherds Knap again and this time you go up it to the top where it meets a gravel track where you turn left to arrive back at the car park.



Walk 8: The Little Avon River and Beyond



Walk 9: 'Beating the Bounds' around the village of Hawkesbury

Grid ref: ST 778 869 **Distance:** 3¹/₄ miles (5¹/₄ km)

Time: 1 - 2 hours **Difficulty:** Moderate

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

The walk around the village is just under 2 miles. This can be extended to just over 3 miles to take in Hawkesbury Church. The walk provides views of the village from all sides plus stunning views towards the Wiltshire Downs and over the River Severn towards Wales.

From the village hall car park [1], cross the road to the Beaufort Arms. Take the footpath in the far right hand corner of the pub car park and go straight ahead with the fence on your left alongside the gardens. This path bears left, then right. After about 40 yds (37m) past the last left turn, look for an opening on the left that takes you between two of the houses and into Birgage Road [2].

About 50yds (46m) along Birgage Road, there is a footpath on the left between Nos. 10 and 8. Follow this into Highfields, going straight ahead and bearing right at the T junction. Take the fenced footpath

straight ahead, to the right of No. 18 Highfields, to the road (Sandpits Lane), turning left to meet the junction at France Lane.

Turn right down France Lane and walk out of the main village along the road for about ¹/₄ mile Just before 'Six Cottages' there is a footpath sign on the right [3]. Cross the road and take this path over a stile through a field until you come to a track. Turn left along the track into the end of Park Street [4].

Just before the track joins the road, take a signposted path on the right by the stables. Go over a stile alongside the fields, over two more stiles and into 'the ruts'. Turn left along the track and into Back Street. Keep straight on along the road. About 100yds (92m) past Warren Farm take the signposted path on the right alongside Southview Cottage [5] and into the farm yard. Bear left and through a gate into a field.

With the high wall on your left, walk

diagonally across to the corner of the wall. Keeping the wall and then field edges on your left follow the path through 4 fields and over 4 stiles with views of Hawkesbury monument and the Coombes.



After the last stile, bear diagonally left across the field towards the corner of the woods [8]. Go over the stile (by a small padlocked gate) and into the woods where the path goes down very steeply to Hawkesbury Church. This can be muddy at times. Turn left along the road towards the church walking between the church and the barn to a footpath sign and a stile and into a field alongside the cemetery.



At the end of the last field go through two gates into a hedged path alongside two houses and come, through another small gate, into High Street [6]. Turn left along the road back towards the Beaufort Arms.

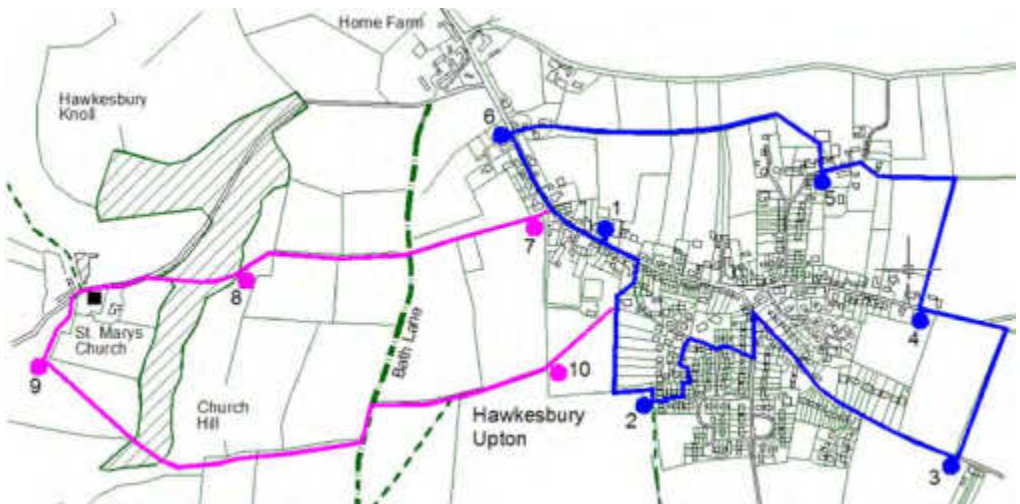
For those who would like to walk further, take the footpath on the right just before Beaufort House [7], keeping the hedge on your right. Cross over Bath Lane and over a stile keeping the hedge on your right through two fields and over two stiles.

Go diagonally right to the corner of the wall, following the wall to the next corner [9] and then continuing uphill to a small gate in the far right-hand corner of the field. Enter the woods, bearing right then left and uphill to a small gate. Keeping the fence, then hedge on your left continue uphill on a well defined track through two metal gates (which may be open for vehicular access) until you join Bath Lane at a wooden kissing gate.



Aim for the corner diagonally opposite (avoiding the cricket area if possible) to a path through some high bushes, bearing left at the 'gateway' and back into the pub car park. Go diagonally right over the car park to the public footpath and turn left to High Street. Turn left on High Street for about 110yds (100m) to return to the village Hall car park.

Turn left along Bath Lane for about 150yds (138m) to a hedge on your right. Turn right at this point, keeping the hedge on your left and walk back towards the village. Keep straight on to an opening in the far hedge into the cricket field [10].



Walk 10: Hawkesbury Upton, Hawkesbury, Chalkley and Horton

Grid ref: ST 778 869 **Distance:** 5 miles (8 km)

Time: approx 2½ hours

Difficulty: Moderate with 2 steepish inclines

Start: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park

Turn right out of the Village Hall car park onto High Street, cross over the road and along the pavement. Just past Beaufort House Residential Home turn left onto the track and keep straight on with hedge on your right, go into the narrow lane to pass the water pumping station on your left and walk along the right hand edge of the next field to the intersection with the made-up track (Bath Lane - part of Cotswold Way). [2]

Cross over the track to a stile and keeping the hedge on your right, follow the path down to another stile. Go over this stile and head down to the next stile that is in the corner of the field. Once in the next field follow the path to the left and down towards the woods. At the entrance to the woods is a stile.

Go over the stile and follow the narrow path all the way down to the road. [3]

Turn left onto this road towards the

church and follow the road up the rise. Ignore the lane to Horton at the top of the rise and continue on until you come to Pound Farm on your left. Go through the gate on the left immediately after Pound Farm [4] and ignoring the gate ahead of you, head for the next gate which is in the far right corner of this field.

Go through the gate and with the hedge on your right go down to the next gate. Bear diagonally left across the field towards the gates in the far hedge, keeping the large oak tree on your right. Cross the next field to the far right corner and go through 2 gates in the hedge. Then bear left, keeping the hedge on your left until you come to a stile-bridge-stile through the hedge. [5]

Head straight across the next field to a stile in the middle of the far hedge. Then straight across the next field to a stile between 2 gates. This stile is usually

impassable so use one of the gates. Keeping on the line of the stile cross the next field to a stile-bridge-stile (not yet visible) in the far line of trees. Cross into the next field and, keeping the hedge on your left, go to the next stile/gap and on to a bridge through the next hedge. Once through head diagonally right to the corner of this field and cross a bridge. [6]

Turn left after the bridge for about 20yds (18m) until you see a gate into the wooded margin. Go through, cross another bridge, and enter the next field. Follow the hedge on your right and then walk to the gates that are in the far hedge. Then head across this next field towards 2 large barns. In the corner of this field is a stile that takes you out onto King Lane.

Turn left along King Lane and past Horton Farm. About 100yds (90m) along there is a footpath signpost on the left. Cross the bridge and stile into the field and head diagonally right towards a gate located between a small clump of trees and telephone pole.

In the next field keep the hedge closely on your left and head up to a gate in the far hedge. Half way up this hedge go through a gate into the next field. Go straight ahead

towards the gate in the far corner of this field, then straight ahead again to a gate in the middle of the far hedge. [7] Now go through the gap in the next hedge and bear right to the final gate that leads out onto Horton Lane.

Go through this gate and turn left to follow the road for 870yds (800m) until you come to Upper Chalkley Farm on the left. Just past the farm and on the right you will see a large double metal gate [8] and a footpath sign high up on a telegraph post. Go through these gates (or over the wooden fence) and contour diagonally left across this field then bear right when a cottage comes into view.

The path drops down left to two small gates just to the right of the cottage. This gate has a waymark sign on it. You are now entering a 'right to roam' area. Either ascend the hill by going up the gully or follow the edge of the hill up just to the right of the gully and join it near the top.

At the top of the gully there is a stile and a gate (with sign indicating that you are leaving Open Access land). [9] Then there is a metal gate straight ahead with a waymark sign on it. Pass through this gate and head up the middle of the field to a

small wooden gate visible on the skyline, to the left of a tree. Go through this wooden gate and pass up the right hand edge of the field to the kissing gate at the top, which leads you back onto the made-up track of the Cotswold Way. [10]

Turn left on the Cotswold Way/Bath Lane and after about 215yds (200m) turn right at a hedge and follow the track straight on until you come to the cricket ground.

In the cricket ground head towards a gap in the tree line to the right of the pavilion and the scoreboard.

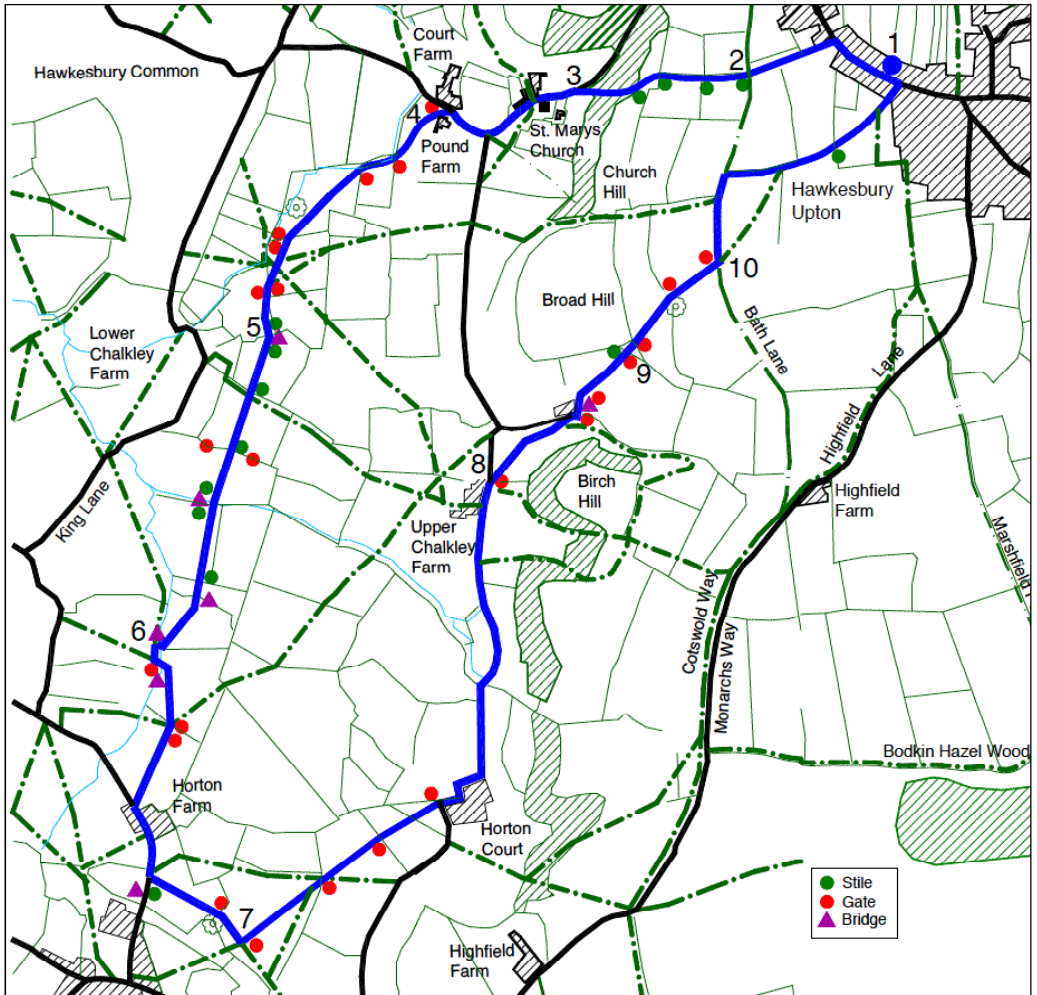
Go through this gap and follow the path until you come to another path by a house. Turn left and walk to the Beaufort Arms car park. Go diagonally right over the car park to the public footpath and turn left to High Street. Turn left on High Street for about 110yds (100m) to return to the village Hall car park.

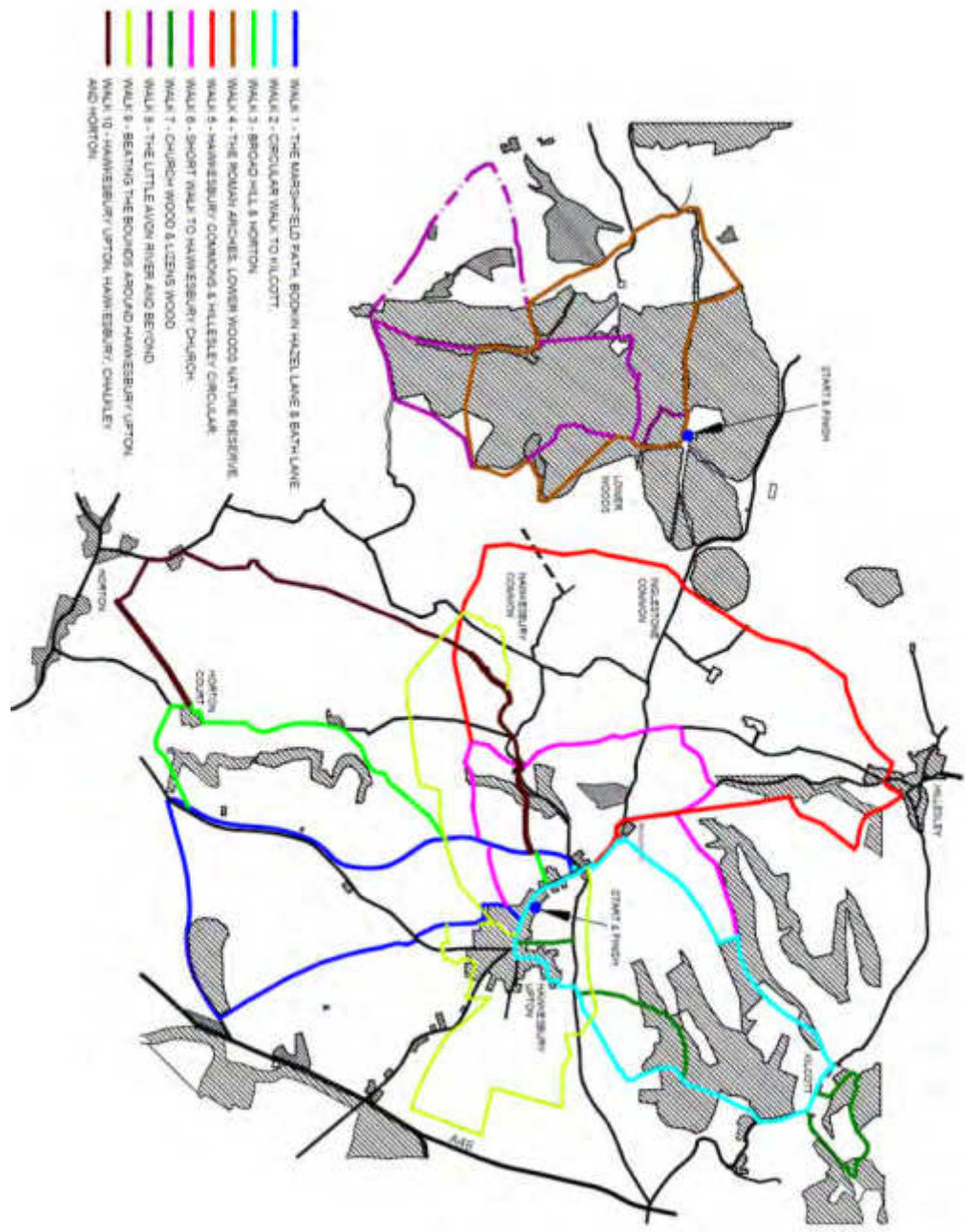


Horton Court (National Trust)



Walk 10: Hawkesbury Upton, Hawkesbury, Chalkley and Horton





- WALK 1 - THE WARD-FIELD PATH, BOORN HAZEL LANE & BATH LANE
- WALK 2 - CIRCULAR WALK TO HILCOTE
- WALK 3 - BROAD HILL & HORTON
- WALK 4 - THE POUAN ANCHER, LOWER WOODS NATURE RESERVE
- WALK 5 - HAMSEYBURY COMMONS & HILCOTE/CIRCLAK
- WALK 6 - SHORT WALK TO HAMSEYBURY CHURCH
- WALK 7 - CHURCH WOOD & LUDENS WOOD
- WALK 8 - THE LITTLE AVON RIVER AND BEYOND
- WALK 9 - BEATING THE BOUNDS AROUND HAMSEYBURY UPTON
- WALK 10 - HAMSEYBURY UPTON, HAMSEYBURY CHURCH AND HORTON