

The Little Book of Short Walks Around Little Villages In The Cotswolds



2. Painswick Valley

RR Gordon

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

You can also download this book from www.rrgordon.com in a number of formats including pdf and kindle – and the e-book version also contains photos

The Little Book Of Short Walks Around Little Villages In The Cotswolds
Book 2. Painswick Valley Edition 02
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RR Gordon is the author of the best-selling *Gull Rock*
No 1 on the Mystery Series bestseller list on Amazon



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Introduction.

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

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

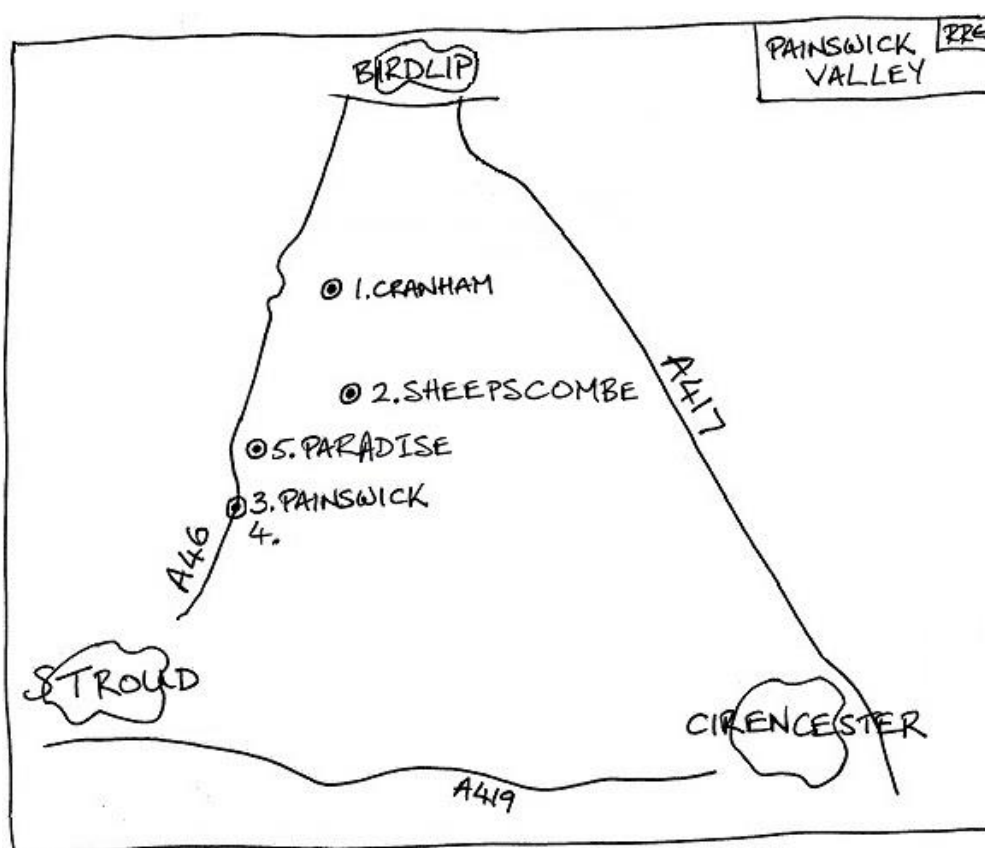
Each walk has been hand-crafted by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy. Our combined objectives were:

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

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

Rod Gordon

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1. Cranham.

A nice up-and-down around Cranham Common, taking in a trout farm and then back through the village.

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

WHERE TO PARK:

The Black Horse Inn, Cranham – address as above.



QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

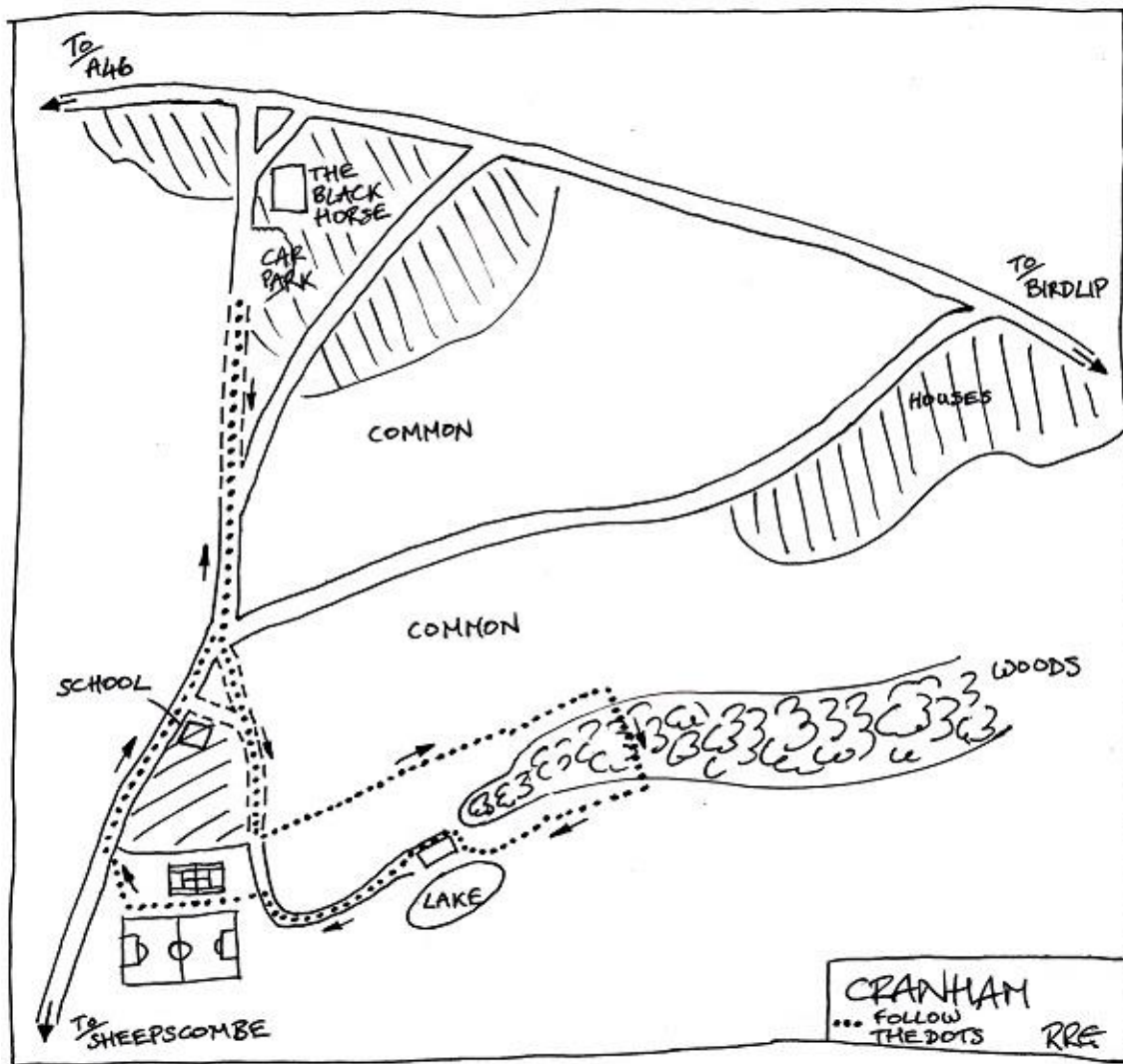
(From the Cross Hands, Brockworth, on the A46)

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



THE WALK - In summary:

Up across the common, almost to the top of the hill, right and down through the woods to a trout farm in the valley. Back up again almost to where you were on the common, but turn left to go past the village football pitch & tennis courts before coming back along the road to the pub.



In detail:

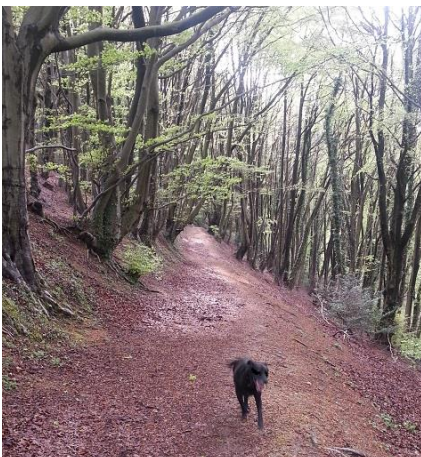
- Exit through a wooden gate at the far end of the pub car park (do not go back past the pub)
- Walk diagonally up across the common (staying on the wide, crushed Cotswold stone path – do not veer off to the right)



- Turn right onto the road
- After 50 yards you come to another road: **go straight across** onto the wide, crushed Cotswold stone track, still walking diagonally upwards
- Head for the uppermost house (named Picardy) which is above the village school
- **Keep to the left of Picardy**, still following crushed Cotswold stone track as it goes past the houses
- At the last of the 4 or 5 houses on your right, before the tarmac starts, at a small parking area, **turn left, doubling back** on yourself a little, and walk up the hill along a grass footpath
(NB. Remember this small parking area for later!)
- Halfway up the hill stop and look at the view on all sides and then ...
- **Turn right** (no landmarks here really – just look for two metal gatepost bases in the ground)



- The footpath goes slightly downhill and into some woods
(across the valley, at the top of the hill behind the woods is a house owned by Lily Allen, the pop star daughter of actor Keith Allen; the greenhouse always stands out for me at the bottom of her garden)
- Go **through a wooden gate**, marked "Cranham Common", and into the woods
- The path cuts across a very steep hill and you wonder how trees could grow here



- At end of woods there is a wooden 5-bar gate; **walk through gate into field** and after 10 yards **turn right**
- Go through a gateway into **another field**, bearing right still
- **Walk along the bottom of the field**, the hill slopes down from your left
- Head towards the house in front of you, at the end of the field (*this is the trout farm overlooking a lake*)
- Go **through a wooden kissing gate**, over a stile and **turn right**
- Go **up and left**, around the back of the barn and trout farm
- Go through a gateway with no gate (!) and **turn right onto the tarmac drive**
- Follow drive up steep hill, looking across lakes on your left that run down valley towards Painswick
- When you're nearly at the top, the drive bends round to the right
- 20 yards before the small parking area, which was mentioned earlier, where the tarmac ends, **turn left** through double wooden gate in bushes (*NB. Gate marked with manufacturer, GLC & R Williams of Tetbury*)



- 20 yards later go **through another wooden gate**
- Walk down between the village tennis courts on your right and the village football pitch on your left, going through a metal kissing gate
- Go through a wooden gate at the end of the field and go **diagonally left** across the road
- Walk along a grass path between the houses which leads to the church
- Go through a kissing gate and skirt around the right hand edge of the churchyard
- Exit the churchyard through the lych gate (note inscriptions on the walls) and **turn right** onto the road
- At the school, **fork left onto the grass footpath** (by the dog poo bin!)
- Follow the hedge all the way back to the pub car park
- Go into the pub for a well-earned pint and a bite to eat!!

The End. Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

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

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

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

2. Sheepscombe.

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

WHERE TO PARK:

The Butchers Arms GL6 7RH; you can park in the car park or just opposite on the road.

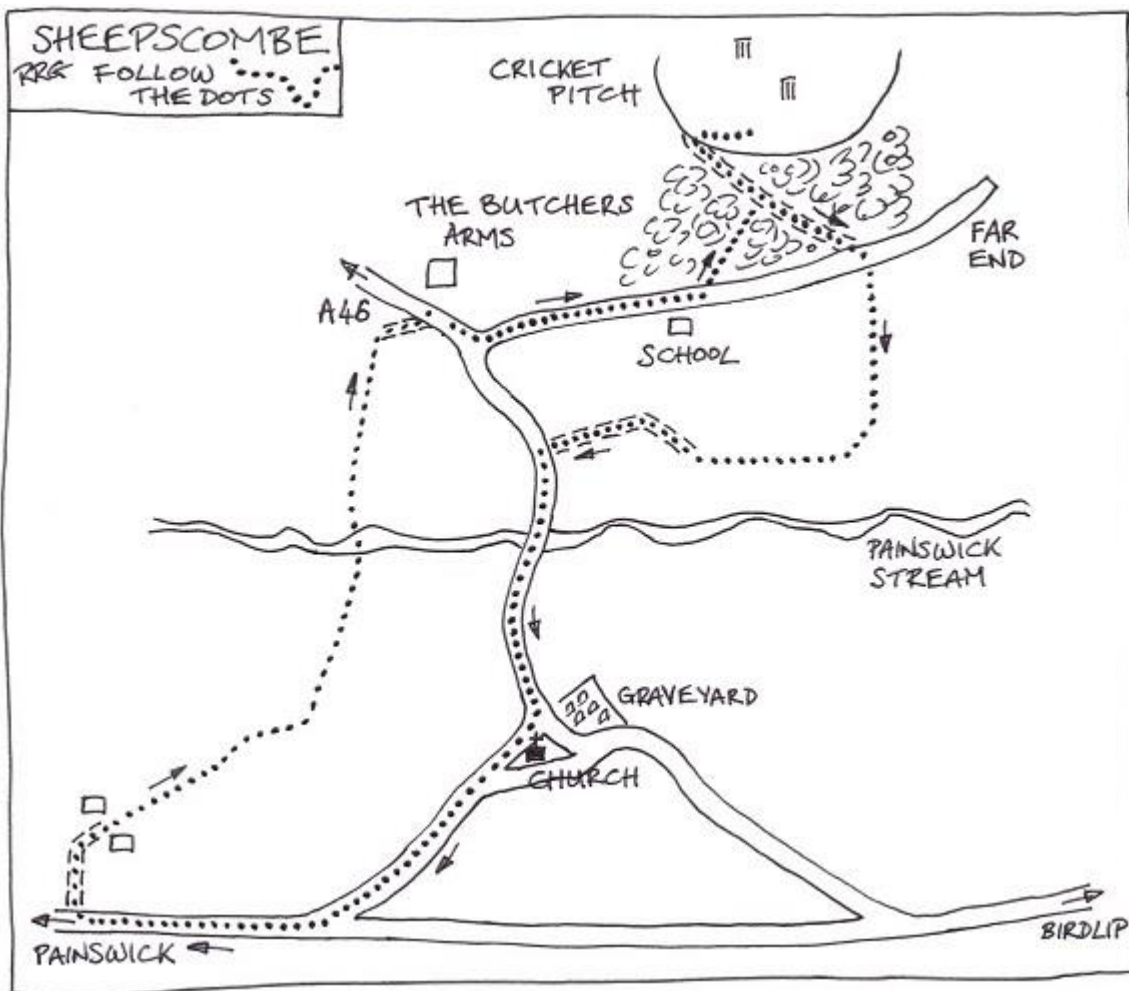
QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

(From the A46)

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

THE WALK - In summary:

Left out of the pub, along to Far End and the cricket pitch, down to bottom of the valley and follow the stream back towards the village, but then go up onto the opposite side of the valley before turning right to circle back to the pub.



In detail:

- Turn left out of the pub car park and immediately left again into the road to Far End



- Continue up the road past the village school on your right and then after another 20 yds ...

- **Fork left** up a Public Footpath, this is just after a Cotswold stone house on the left, you need to walk a few steps up the driveway; the footpath goes steeply uphill through some woods

- When you emerge from woods, **turn left** onto a crushed Cotswold stone track (wide enough for cars)

- Follow this track up to a cricket pitch, the track curves to the right at the top; if the gate is locked there is a step-through in the stone wall just to the right; the footpath runs along the track at the bottom of pitch

I've brought you up here because Sheepscombe cricket pitch was once described by Laurie Lee as probably the most picturesque pitch in the whole of England; playing cricket here is like playing on the roof of Gloucestershire; go up to the pitch (to the pavilion if you have the energy!) and look at the view. See "Something Interesting" below for further details. Sorry it was a bit of a climb! And now ...

- Descend back down crushed Cotswold stone path all way to road (do *not* go back onto path in woods)
- **Go straight over the road** onto a Public Footpath, 20 yds down to a wooden gate into a field
- **Go downhill**, following the barbed wire fence on your right
- **Go over an unobtrusive stile**, or through a wide new wooden 5-bar gate into the next field
- **Walk diagonally down and to the right**, aiming for the corner of the field, do not cross the stream
NB. You are now about to follow the stream back towards the centre of the village
- **Go over a stile**, this leads to the bottom section of a large garden – containing 2 alpacas!!!
NB. They are fairly timid creatures and will back away from you. Although they do look at you weirdly!
- **Go through a kissing gate**, and into the next garden (fortunately separated by a low-ish hedge)
- **Go through an open gateway** and along the bottom of a third garden
- **Go over a stile** into a field, keep going straight ahead, staying parallel with the stream 30 yds to your left
- **Go over a stile** by a large tree and follow a path running between two gardens, a metal fence on right
- head for the large house in front with some impressive inter-woven trees (*espalier*) around the grounds



- **Turn right**, keeping the espalier on your left, go past some stone mounting steps on your right and ...
- **Go out through two large stone gateposts**, the driveway leading away from the house, slightly uphill
- **Turn left at the top** (do not be tempted to turn right up a footpath, stay on the driveway back to road)
- **Turn left onto the road**, walking past Briar Cottage and follow the road down into the dip
- Go past phone box and village hall on your left and then **start walking uphill again**, staying on road
- **Ignore the Public Footpaths on the left and right** (the one on the right takes you through the middle of somebody's garden and then out onto the road by the church; very strange)
- **Follow the road round to the right**, opposite the war memorial at the foot of the graveyard
- Go past St John's church on the left, lovely huge millstone in the next garden on the left and keep going up, up, up until you reach the next road (600 yds?)
- **Turn right** onto the road (there is a house on the right with two huge yew trees either side of the gate)

- **Walk approx half a mile along the road** here are a few landmarks to look out for: a Methodist church, Laburnum Cottage (written up near the roof!), postbox on your left just before Woodside house
 - **Turn right** down a Public Bridleway which leads down a driveway to Pyll House (stone on the right), the Public Bridleway sign might be obscured in the hedge, but there is a bus stop sign on the other side of the driveway (NB. This is just after the last few houses of the village on the left, eg The Nook)
 - Follow the tarmac driveway down (metal fence on the right) for around 25yds
 - Do not follow the blue Public Bridleway sign which goes straight ahead, but **turn right**, following the yellow Public Footpath sign; the path goes between Pyll Barn and Pyll House leading to two gates
- NB. If you were to follow the Public Bridleway sign which goes straight ahead, you would walk 400 yds and join the Paradise walk that is also in this booklet*
- **Go through the gate on the left**, the gate opens electronically by pressing a button (nice!)
 - Walk across the gravel and **through the wooden gate**
 - **Follow the hedge on your right**, the field slopes away on your left to the valley below
 - **Go through a wide wooden 5-bar gate** with a yellow Public Footpath sign on it
- NB. The field on your right sometimes contains around 20 alpacas!*



- Walk down between a barbed wire fence on your right and hedges/trees on your left
- **Go over a stile and turn left**, walk down the undulating field staying to the left
- **Cross the stream and go over a stile** (there is a sword-shaped piece of wood which acts as a dog gate)
- **Walk up the steep hill**, staying left initially and then at a thick telegraph pole veer right, heading towards a double wooden 5-bar gate
- **Go through the gate** (no public footpath sign) – **and then the next one**
- **Turn right** and walk up the gravel drive towards the road
- **Turn right onto the road** and walk down to the pub for a drink!

***The End.** Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)*

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

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

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

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

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

Sheepscombe is the childhood home of actor William Moseley, currently best known for appearing as Peter Pevensie in the film series The Chronicles of Narnia (2005-2010). Previously, he had a small role as Forrester in a 2002 adaptation of the novel Goodbye Mr. Chips, and appeared as an extra in Cider with Rosie (1998).

3. Painswick (The Rec).

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

Rod's Rating	 A fascinating hike around some beautiful cottages and old millhouses in the back lanes of Painswick – quite strenuous but worth it.
Daisy's Rating	 The longer the better, Daisy says, and there are a couple of stretches where she can go off the lead – and she does like going for a swim in the stream. However there are quite a lot of stiles.
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, most definitely
Pub	The Falcon, New Street, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6UN http://www.falconpainswick.co.uk <i>Alternative: The Royal Oak Inn</i> http://www.royaloakpainswick.co.uk There are two pubs in Painswick and over the years they have jockeyed for top spot in the pecking order. My current favourite is The Falcon and, as a member of Painswick tennis club, I regularly pop in here after club night on Tuesdays and Thursdays – just look out for bunch of people in tennis kit!
How long did it take?	1 hour 15 minutes
What shoes should I wear?	Walking boots – and maybe even wellies in the winter. The path along the stream can be quite muddy even in summer.

WHERE TO PARK:

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

Parking Spot A: patch of gravel-covered ground by entrance to Rugby Club (or on Cotswold Mead residential street opposite); Painswick RFC, Broadham Fields, Stroud Road, Painswick GL6 6RS

Parking Spot B: The Falcon (postcode as above)

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

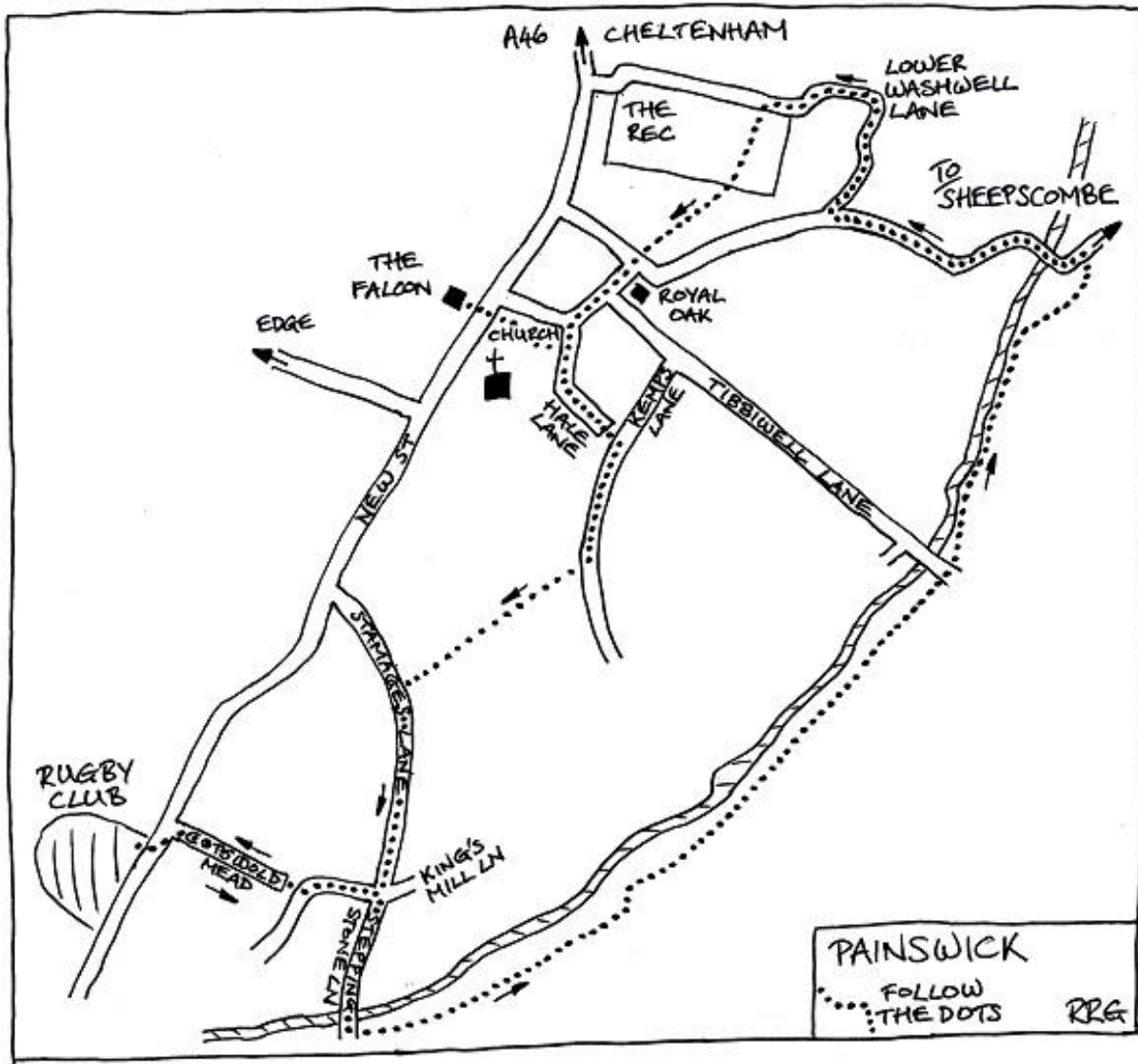
DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

(From Cheltenham/Brockworth on A46)

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

THE WALK - In summary:

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



In detail:

From Parking Spot A

- Walk to the bottom of Cotswold Mead (this is a residential street opposite the rugby club entrance)
- Go through pedestrian gateway in Cotswold stone wall at the end of Cotswold Mead (to Kingsmill Lane)
- Turn left (my son Cal actually considers this to be straight); in any case head towards Painswick (ie north)
- Turn right after 50 yds at cross-roads onto Stepping Stone Lane; follow the road downhill

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

- Turn left at a Public Footpath sign about 20 yds after crossing stream in the dip at bottom of valley, just after last house (Swallows Nest); you are now on a farm track & about to follow the stream up the valley
- Go through V-shaped step-through stile on your right; this is shortly before the barns; go into field

- **Turn left** to follow the fence on your left, when the fence ends keep going straight across the field, maybe a hair to the right/uphill, aiming for midway point on opposite side of the field; hidden in the hedge is a strange 3-piece chicane of gates

- **Turn left** after going through the gate, you are now walking between two hedges; after 50 yards the hedges disappear and you merge into another footpath that joins from the right; continue straight on; at the bottom of the field the path bends to the right and you are then walking between two fences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Turn left onto the road, go 5 yds, then go right** up a driveway

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Turn left on the road**

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

BACK UP TO THE VILLAGE

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

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



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

- **Follow the road uphill for quite a way** (half a mile?); this is Lower Washwell Lane, go past some houses: Verlands (large, studded, wooden gates), Magpie House, Whispering Trees, Woody Steeps, are you tired yet?, follow road around to the left and then it finally flattens out
- Straight ahead is a recreation ground (known as "The Rec"), wide metal gate with No Vehicles By Order Of Parish Council written on it;
- **Go into The Rec** via the pedestrian wooden gate next to the metal gate
- **Head straight across** in the direction of the tennis courts and the church steeple
- **Go straight down the lane** between the tennis courts on your right and the youth club on your left
- **Follow the footpath until it comes out at a road**, with a Hamptons estate agents on your left; pause to look at the prices!
- **Go straight ahead** between the village shop and The Royal Oak pub, keep going straight ahead, past Friday Street on your right (although there's a nice deli up there), past Tibbiwell Lane on your left (although Cardynham House is a nice place to eat), past public toilets on your left; you are now on Victoria Street which bends round to the right, but you should ...
- **Go straight ahead** into St Mary's Street

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

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



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

DRINK AND BITE TO EAT AT THE FALCON

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

- Cross the road and enter the churchyard
- Walk down footpath on left side of church yard, walking parallel to Victoria Street (with St Michaels café)
- Exit the churchyard by the same entrance you entered earlier, **turn right** onto St Mary's Street
- **Walk along to the village stocks**, which are on the right against the churchyard wall



- Turn left at Stocks Cottage to head down Hale Lane, walking away from the church
 - Continue straight on at bottom of Hale Lane where it narrows to a footpath between two cottages
 - Turn right onto road (Kemps Lane) & continue for 75 yds past houses, eg Fig Tree Cottage, Wyck House
 - Turn right at a Public Footpath sign into the driveway for Knapp End and Halebourne houses (do not go down Knapp Lane)
 - Go through gate and follow the grass footpath and out of the gate at the other end
 - Turn left and walk down the road (Stamages Lane) for around 200 yds
 - Turn right at Cross Hands House (with postbox in wall) onto Kingsmill Lane
- NB. If you started the walk at The Falcon (Parking Spot B) then do not turn right at Crossroads House, but continue straight on & follow instructions from near the beginning: from Follow The Stream Up The Valley*
- Turn right after 50 yds through the pedestrian gateway into the bottom of Cotswold Mead
 - Continue up Cotswold Mead and cross the road back to the parking area by the rugby club

WHAT ABOUT A CUP OF TEA?

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

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Known as the Queen Of The Cotswolds, Painswick grew up around the wool and cloth trade in the 14th Century. Many of the houses along the stream at the bottom of the valley have waterwheels and two of the houses in Bisley Street contain "donkey doors" which were doorways wide enough for donkeys to pass through with wide paniers containing wool from local farmers.

St Mary's church is famous throughout Gloucestershire for its 99 yew trees and legend has it that every time a 100th tree is planted the devil comes along to pull it out. A bell ringers' society was formed in 1686 and the ringers are still known as the "Ancient Society of Painswick Youths".

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

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

4. Painswick (Broadham).

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

WHERE TO PARK:

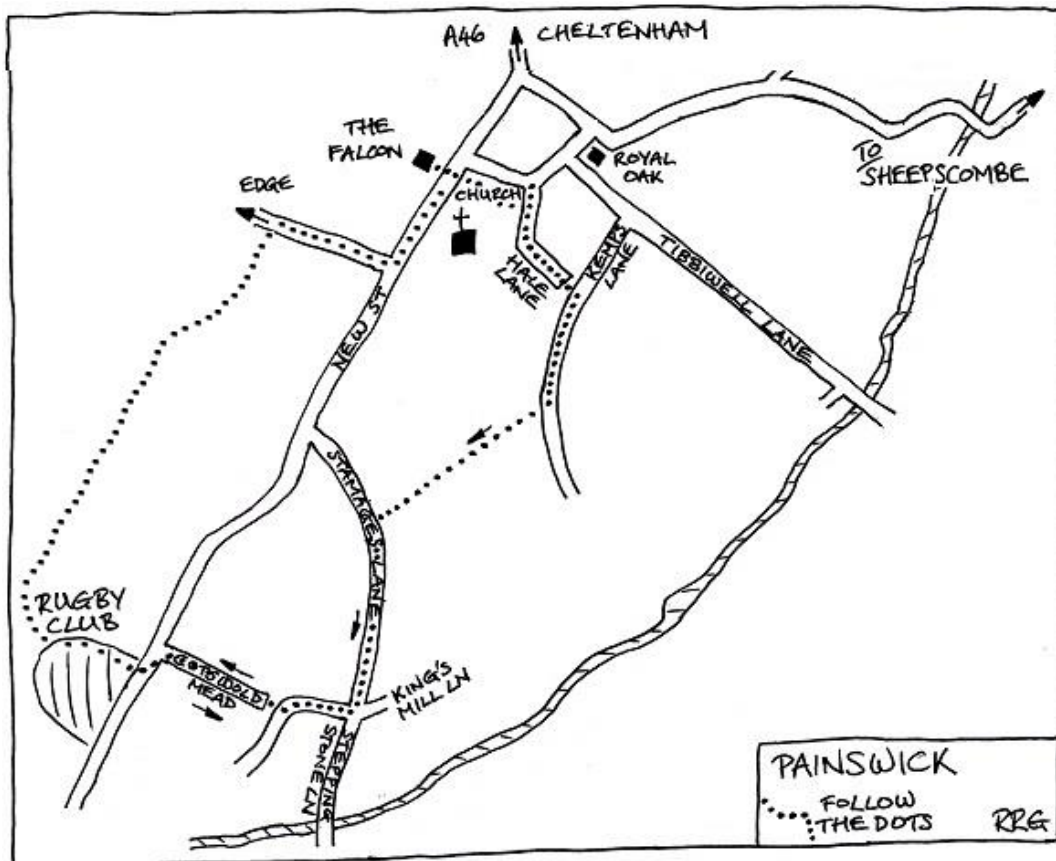
The Falcon has a compact car park at the back (approach via narrow lane to the left of the pub) or alternatively you can use Stamages Lane public car park a little bit further down the road.

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

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

THE WALK - In summary:

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



In detail:

- From The Falcon, go across the road and left to enter the churchyard at the top by Victoria Square
- Walk down footpath on left side of church yard, walking parallel to Victoria Street (with St Michaels café)
- Exit the churchyard at the far side and **turn right** onto St Mary's Street
- **Walk along to the village stocks**, which are on right against the churchyard wall obscured by parked cars



- **Turn left** at Stocks Cottage to head down Hale Lane, walking away from the church
- **Continue straight on at bottom of Hale Lane** where it narrows to a footpath between two cottages
- **Turn right** onto road (Kemps Lane) & continue for 75 yds past houses, eg Fig Tree Cottage, Wyck House
- **Turn right** at a Public Footpath sign into the driveway for Knapp End and Halebourne houses (do not go down Knapp Lane)
- **Go through gate** and follow the grass footpath and out of the gate at the other end
- **Turn left** and walk down the road (Stamages Lane) for around 200 yds
- **Turn right** at Cross Hands House (with postbox in wall) onto Kingsmill Lane
- **Turn right** after 50 yds where road bends to left & go through gap in dry stone wall into the bottom end of a residential road (Cotswold Mead)
- Continue up Cotswold Mead and **cross the road to the parking area by the rugby club**
- **Walk up the narrow tarmac road leading to the rugby club house**
- Go to the left of the club house and **walk along the edge of the field**
- Walk past a large oak tree and **beside the bottom of tennis courts**, heading towards the hedge
- At the far corner of the lower tennis courts there is a **kissing gate; go through and turn right**

You are now on a short stretch of the Cotswold Way

- **Head uphill** with the tennis courts on your right (behind the trees/hedge)
- **Go through a kissing gate** and walk steeply uphill with barbed wire fence on your left; aim for tree at top
- At the top of the hill, **go through a kissing gate**, which leads to a path running between some gardens
- **Turn right at the end of the path**, across the drive leading to a house called The Lantern and follow another path between some gardens (follow Cotswold Way sign)
- **Go through a kissing gate** into a small triangular field; **walk along the right hand side**

NB. Halfway along the field you will see a lovely sculpture dedicated to Tony Drake, the principal creator of the Cotswold Way.



- Go through gate onto tarmac road and turn right (this is Edge Road)
 - At the end of the road you reach the church again – turn left and you will find The Falcon on your left
- The End. Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)*

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

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

In the process of doing so, they looked at long distance routes and came up with the idea of the Cotswold Way, a trek along the top of the Cotswold escarpment with occasional forays down to nice villages.

The original plans were submitted by Tony to Gloucestershire County Council in 1950 but they sat in a pigeonhole for two decades until the council launched it during Footpath Week in 1970. However it wasn't until May 2007 that the Cotswold Way was designated a National Trail, which at last meant that grants were available for its upkeep. In 2001 Tony was awarded an MBE for Services to Public Rights of Way.

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5. Paradise.

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

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

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

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



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

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

WHERE TO PARK:

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

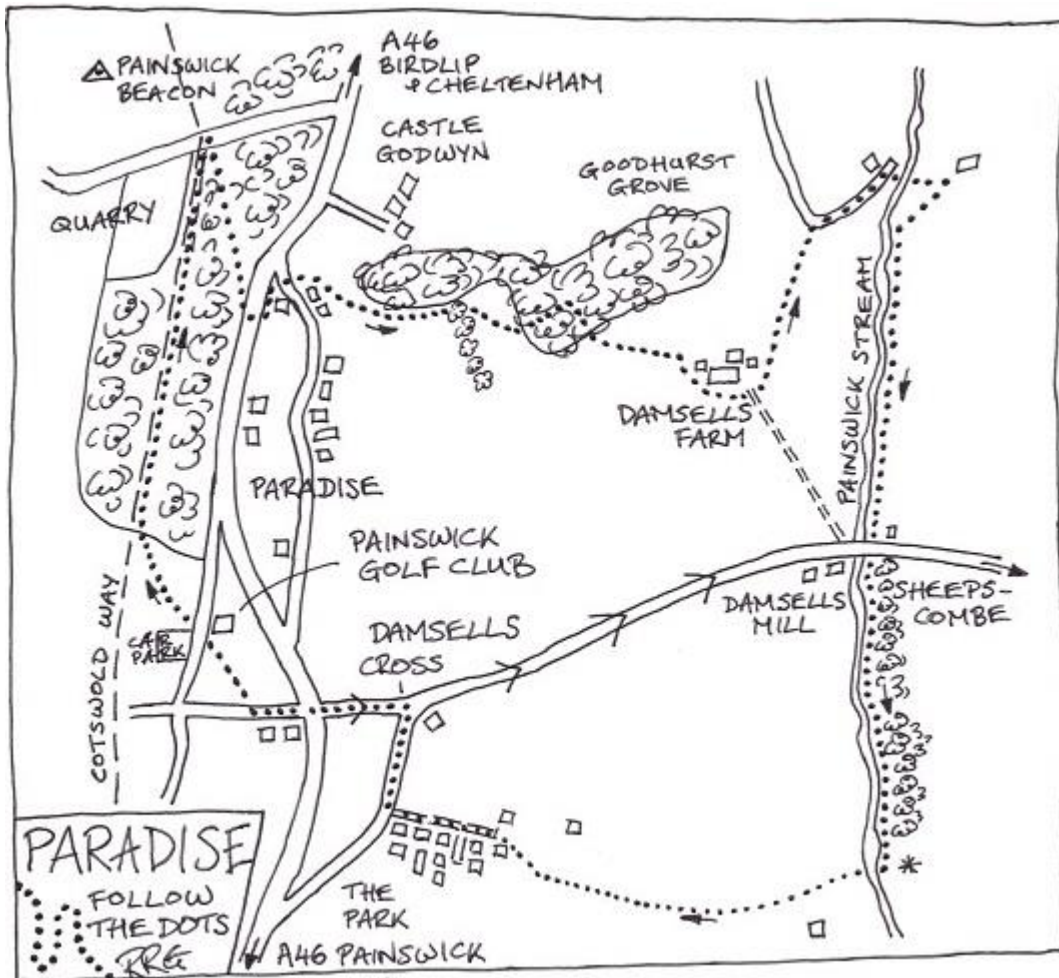
DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

(From Cheltenham/Brockworth on A46)

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

THE WALK - In summary:

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



In detail:

- From the Walkers Car Park **head up the first fairway of the golf course**, steeply uphill and away from the golf clubhouse; follow the track that runs diagonally uphill and across to the right side of the fairway
- Two thirds of the way up the hill on the right, there is a signpost advertising Hortons (the golf club café) in front of the trees – there is a Cotswold Way footpath next to the sign; follow the path into the trees
- The footpath runs up through the woods for a few hundred yards before emerging at Catbrain Quarry

- Continue along the footpath, keeping the quarry buildings on your left
- Walk around the quarry gate and along the quarry driveway which leads to the tarmac road

NB. You can extend this walk by climbing up to Painswick Beacon at this point (see top left corner of above map); simply cross the road and bear left up the hill, heading for trig point at the top; great views of Severn valley; return to this point to continue ...

- **Turn sharp right** where the quarry driveway meets the road, following a signpost for the Wysis Way
- The footpath runs downhill through the woods to the A46; at the road **turn left**; it is best to walk on the other side of the road as there is a pavement; although you only need to walk 100 yds along the road
- **Turn right**, just past the house on the right, following Wysis Way signpost, and **go down the steps**
- **Go straight across road** (this is the Paradise road) at the bottom of the steps & onto a footpath opposite
- After a few yards through bushes and a small area of grass **climb over a low stile** into a field

NB. To the left, at the far end of this field is Castle Godwyn, the home of fashion designer Cath Kidston and her husband Hugh Padgham (producer for Genesis, The Police, The Human League, Sting, McFly) – but unfortunately you can't see the house from any of the public footpaths!

- **Walk downhill and to the right**, following a path which runs below a couple of houses
- After the houses, the path curves to the left as the field opens out
- Continue downhill and to the left, heading for a gateway at the bottom of the field where the trees begin (*the remnants of a public footpath sign can still be found on gatepost on the left, the gate is usually open*)
- After going through the gateway, stay on the left and after 20 yds go through a gap in the trees on the left, stepping across a small stream
- After walking under the trees, you emerge into another field, the valley dropping away to your right, woods to your left; **walk across the field, diagonally right** (a little downhill), aiming for a wide wooden 5-bar gate in the trees halfway along the far side
- **Go through the gate and into the woods**
- **After 20 yds, turn right, climbing over a stile**
- **After another 20 yds, climb over another stile (straight ahead)** & emerge into field which runs down into the valley, a farm straight ahead of you; *don't forget to raise your nose from the book to look at the view!*
- **Go straight ahead** following the footpath across the field, running downhill to the farm buildings
- When you crest the rise the path curves slightly to the left
- **Climb over a stile** and into the next field

NB. You now need to head into farmyard & circle around right of the farm buildings in order to turn to left:

- Walk a few yards and then **climb over a stile on your right** which leads into the farmyard (Damsells Farm)
- Straight across farmyard and then **over a stile** by some stables
- Straight across a short concrete section and **over a stile**, emerging into a field
- **Turn left and walk to far edge of field**, keeping farm buildings to your left & horse paddocks to the right
- **Climb over a stile** and into another field (you will now see the track that leads to the farmhouse)
- **Bear left**, cross the farm track and head for the gate which is near the corner of the farm garden next to a small, round, thatched outbuilding; **climb over stile that is to the left of wide 5-bar gate**



- Follow the track straight ahead, as it goes up a field, past the edge of a finger of trees from the right
- Head for 5-bar gate straight ahead, **go through the kissing gate** to its right & **turn right** onto stony track
- Go down the track for 200 yds to the bottom of the valley; the track curves to the left on the way down
- At the bottom there is a house on left & a weeping willow on the right; **turn right just before willow tree**
- Follow a path around the downstream end of a small lake (keep the lake on your left)
- Cross a wooden footbridge over the stream which leads out of the lake
- Climb over a wooden stile and head to the right to follow the stream

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

- Join a farm track at the end of a field and **go through gateway** (no gate!) – and continue into next field
- Go through the metal gate (or over stile) at the end of the field – and continue into the next field



- Go through the metal gate or over stile at the end of the field to find yourself on a road

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

- **Go straight across the road**, keeping the Cotswold stone house (Damsells Mill) on your right (and its garage on left), cross small bridge made from two sleepers and go down footpath signposted Wysis Way
- There is a stile after just 10 yds, a metal gate after about 600 yds and then another 400 yds to an intersection of half a dozen footpaths. At this intersection there is a stile on the left, a wooden 5-bar gate with a sign "Shut This Gate" on it.

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

- **Turn right** at this intersection to cross the stream and enter a field
- **Head diagonally left and upwards** aiming for a telegraph pole with a yellow warning sign on it (*the next few instructions actually get you to follow the telephone wires up to the village at the top of the hill*)
- After first telegraph pole, head for topmost of 4 large oak trees in top left corner of field; **up, up, up!**
- Bear left heading between the trees into a connected, offset field and head up to the next telegraph pole
- Keep to the right of this field and when you crest the rise you will see houses on the right ahead of you (this is the village called "The Park")
- Head for the houses and go over a stile to the right of a wooden 5-bar gate
- This takes you into the large garden of a house, joining the driveway halfway up
- Follow the driveway and exit through the gate

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

- After exiting the property, follow the gravel track and join tarmac road at a phone box; **turn left onto road**
- Continue up the road, keeping a series of wooden and Cotswold stone houses on the left
- After 100 yds **turn right at the T junction**
- After 200 yds, you will reach an intersection called Damsells Cross, turn left here & follow the road uphill



- After 400 yds, you will reach the A46 – **cross straight over**
- After 200 yds, you will see the golf course – **turn right** following the footpath sign across the 17th fairway and back to the golf club house

The End. Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

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

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