

the field and descend to another stream. **7** Follow the path beyond, which emerges between buildings onto Pincot Lane. **8** Turn left and walk down the lane, which descends a hollow way to Smalls Mill. **9** Beyond the mill, continue up the lane to the A46. **10** Cross carefully into Wragg Castle Lane, opposite. **11** Walk up the lane until you reach Wragg Castle Farm. **12** After the last building on the right, turn right along a track. **13** Pass to the left of a modern house with dormer windows and go through the field gate at the end of the grassed area. **14** Follow the fence to a further field gate, and cross the next field to a wooden stile. **15** Walk along the top edge of the next field and join a farm track that leads to a narrow metalled lane (Jenkin's Lane). **16** Turn left and walk uphill until the lane meets the A4173. **17** Turn right to the Edgemoor Arms, then cross the main road, up a few steps and through a gate on the signposted Cotswold Way. **18** The Way winds upwards through an area of scrub and flowery grassland, obliquely crossing a series of contouring tracks and paths. **19** Near the top of the hill, bear left to pass just to the right of a quarried outcrop of rock, where you descend some steps and go through a gate to a road. **20** Cross straight over (past the National Trust sign for Maitland Wood) and follow the Cotswold Way as it bends left and descends through the trees. **21** When you reach a track at the bottom, turn left. **22** Follow the track past a house, and past a turning (on your right) to a farm. **23** Pass a barrier and an NT sign for Stockend Wood. **24** Continue along the Cotswold Way for half a mile as it winds up and down through the trees until you emerge onto a road at a layby. **25** Turn right and walk downhill to Cliffwell Cottages. **26** Turn left off the road and take the path left of the driveway, passing the stone well-house on your left. **27** Climb through the trees to the Cromwell Stone, where the path bears left and levels off to follow the contour until another road, by a farm. **28** Take a few steps to the left, and then turn right through a metal gate, followed by a kissing gate. **29** Climb the slope obliquely, then follow the path above the steeply wooded bank to a wooden kissing gate on your left. **30** Beyond the gate turn right and follow the grassy path to the trig point at Haresfield Beacon. **31** Having admired the view, turn left and follow the path along the earthworks of the Ring Hill hillfort. **32** After a gate, pass to the right of an obvious earthwork, go through a gap in a stone wall and follow the path to

a small car park. **33** Turn right past a stone donations box and go down steps to a T-junction of paths, where you turn left. **34** Follow this path below the wood to a wooden kissing gate, beyond which the path climbs through trees to emerge again into open fields. **35** A shortcut continues straight on to Shortwood car park, but our main route follows the Cotswold Way to the right and heads out to a topograph with views back to Haresfield Beacon. **36** From the topograph, turn left and follow the path across open land with scattered trees to the car park. **37** Just before the road, turn right through a gap in the wall. **38** At a three-way fork, take the leftmost (and highest) path. **39** This proceeds through the trees and comes close to the top of the wood, before a gap in the trees on the right offers fine views over the Severn Vale. **40** The Cotswold Way continues to a five-way junction, where it bears right. **41** Other paths cross or lead off from the main route, but the Cotswold Way is well-waymarked and generally obvious – a right turn by an old gatepost and a recumbent boulder serves as a useful reassurance that you are on the right track; shortly afterwards, a gap in the trees to the right gives good views to Haresfield Beacon. **42** Continue straight on along the main path at a waymarked junction where three footpaths meet the Way. **43** The path descends past some old quarries to a further junction marked by a line of boulders; walk past these then, before a bench, turn left onto an inconspicuous footpath that drops down to a stile into the corner of a field. **44** Walk along the woodland edge to a kissing gate in the field corner. **45** Beyond the gate, zig-zag right and left down a steep slope to emerge opposite the church in Randwick. **46** Go through the church gates and follow a footpath to the right of the building, which leads out of the churchyard and through a school play area and past the school. **47** Climb steps to the road and turn right. **48** Pass the top of The Lagger then turn left onto a metalled path by a telephone kiosk. **49** At a junction of paths, turn right, and pass between houses to emerge on a lane. **50** Turn left then immediately right through a metal kissing gate onto a footpath along a fence and broken wall. **51** After a wooden stile, follow the narrow path along the top of a wood for a short distance, then turn right down a steep path through the trees. **52** On meeting a concrete-slabbed driveway, turn right and drop down to the road. **53** Turn right to a bus stop before a road junction, where you turn sharp left into Ruscombe Farm. **54** Beyond the farm buildings, go through two gates and walk down a track to a pond. **55** When the track turns right, take a hedged track on the left that climbs the hillside and emerges in the corner of a football field. **56** Walk to the left of the pitch to the end of the car park; turn right and walk out to the main village street in White's Hill. **57** Turn right to the Star Inn and the church.

Now follow the **Pitchcombe & White's Hill** walk from step **19** to return to Hammonds Farm.



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Haresfield Beacon is a fine viewpoint on the Cotswold Way. It's also an important geological and archaeological site, with a significant fossil record, a rare and early hillfort type (known as a "slight univallate hillfort") as well as signs of Romano-British settlement.



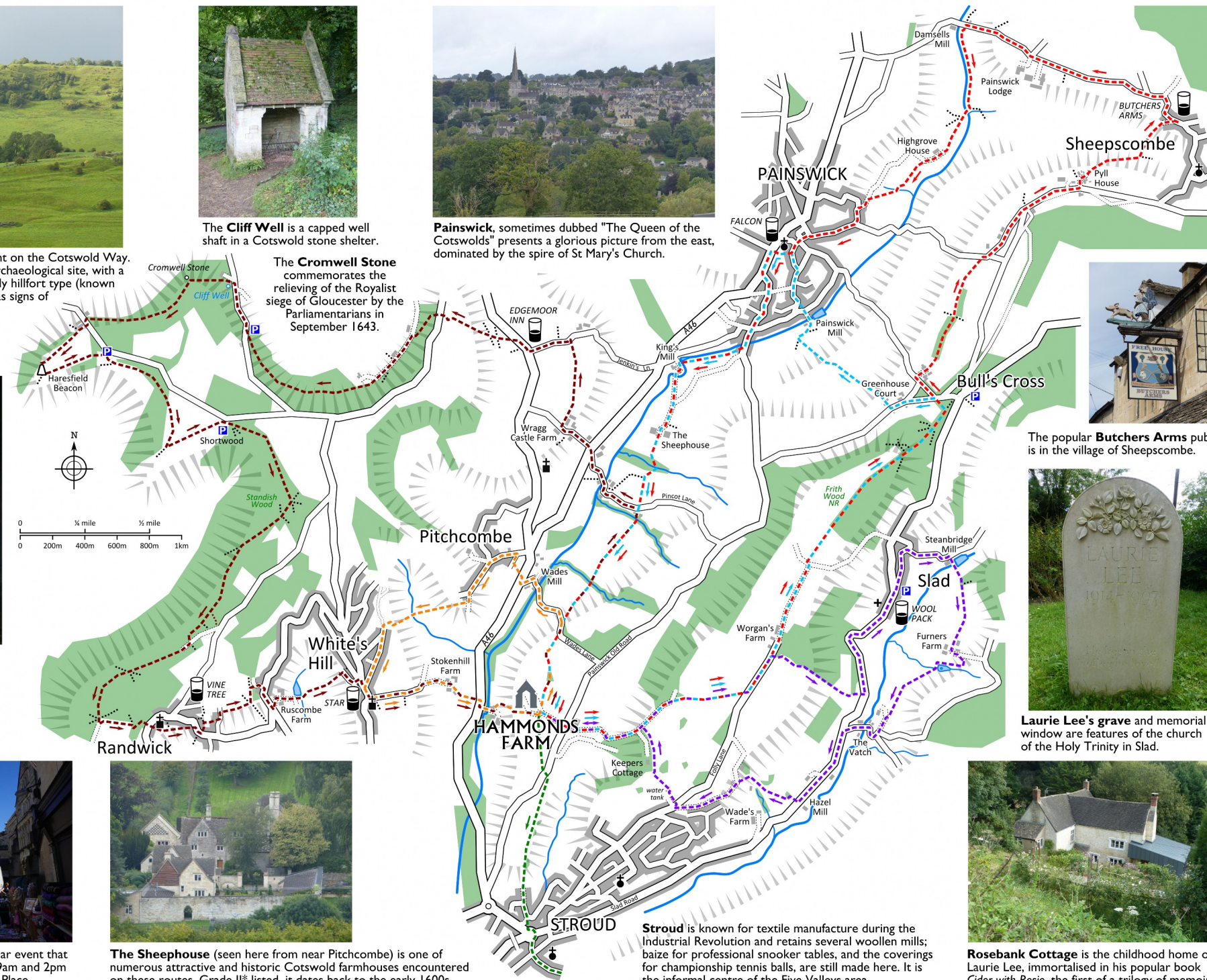
The **Cliff Well** is a capped well shaft in a Cotswold stone shelter.



Painswick, sometimes dubbed "The Queen of the Cotswolds" presents a glorious picture from the east, dominated by the spire of St Mary's Church.



The **Cotswold Way** runs for about 100 miles from Chipping Campden to Bath. Devised in 1970, it achieved official National Trail status in 2007.



Stroud Farmer's Market is a popular event that takes place every Saturday between 9am and 2pm in the streets around Cornhill Market Place.



The Sheephouse (seen here from near Pitchcombe) is one of numerous attractive and historic Cotswold farmhouses encountered on these routes. Grade II* listed, it dates back to the early 1600s.



The popular **Butchers Arms** pub is in the village of Sheepscombe.



Laurie Lee's grave and memorial window are features of the church of the Holy Trinity in Slad.

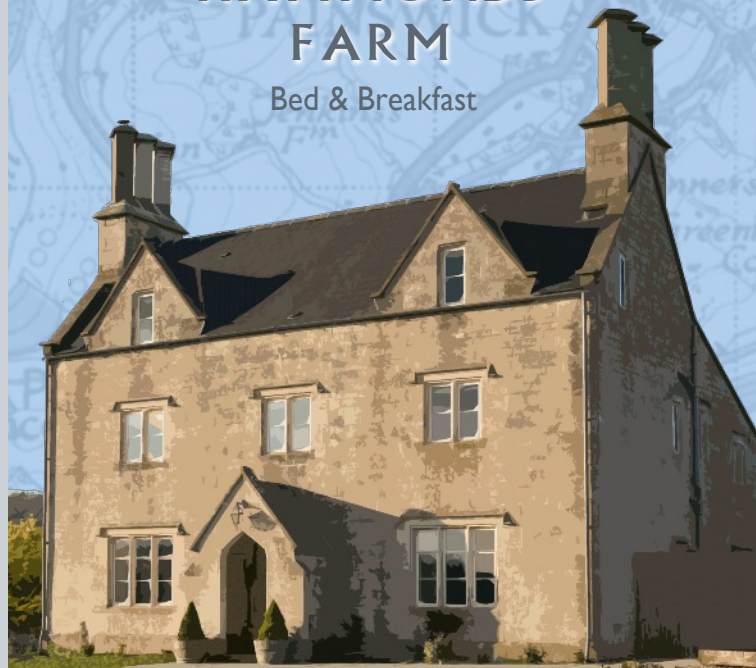


Rosebank Cottage is the childhood home of Laurie Lee, immortalised in his popular book *Cider with Rosie*, the first of a trilogy of memoirs.

six country walks from

HAMMONDS FARM

Bed & Breakfast



nr Stroud, Gloucestershire

To Stroud (1 mile)

Wickridge & Painswick (5½ miles)

Pitchcombe & White's Hill (2½ miles)

Sheepscombe & Painswick (8½ miles)

Slad & the Woolpack (5 miles)

Cotswold Way (9¼ miles)

To Stroud (1 mile: Easy)

A short, one-way stroll down into Stroud for sightseeing, shopping or to visit the Farmer’s Market. Return the same way, or by car or taxi.

Allow 45 minutes. Wet grass and mud after rain.

1 Walk out to the entrance drive, and turn right past Hammonds Barn. **2** When the lane turns right, keep straight on down the grassy track ahead. **3** Cross the stile at the end and cross the field diagonally, aiming just left of Rodborough Common, the prominent hill on the skyline. **4** Cross the lane and go through the gateway opposite. **5** Turn right and cross the field, following any signs on site. **6** The path leads eventually to and along the lip of a valley on your left, to a metal stile in the far corner. **7** Continue in similar vein to a second stile. **8** Descend the hillside to a gate into a track. **9** Follow the track past some houses on the left into a road (Lovedays Mead). **10** When the road bends left, follow a path ahead, to the left of the bollards, which curves down to meet the main road. **11** Turn left past the roundabout and cross at the lights at the bottom of Slad Road. **12** Walk up Gloucester Street past the Old Painswick Inn and the Queen Vic pubs. **13** At the top of the road, carry straight on along the (pedestrianised) High Street. If you’re headed for the Farmer’s Market, you’ll find it in the Cornhill Market (at the top of the High Street) and the surrounding streets.

Pitchcombe & White’s Hill

2½ miles: Fairly easy

A circular walk on either side of the Painswick Valley, visiting the villages of Pitchcombe and White’s Hill.

Allow 1½ hours. A couple of climbs and descents, with several stiles, and mud in places after rain. Refreshments at the Star Inn in White’s Hill (after 1½ miles).

1 From the end of the car park, turn left along the footpath that runs above the farm along the backs of the barns. **2** In the far left-hand corner of the field, pass through a small wooded area between two stiles (with an owl carved atop the post on the second). **3** Follow the left-hand edge of the next field to another owl-topped stile into Wades Lane. **4** Turn left and walk down the tree-lined lane for 400 yards and cross the Painswick Stream at Wades Mill. **5** Continue up the lane to the main A46 road. **6** Take a few steps to the right then cross carefully and go through a metal kissing gate opposite. **7** Bear slightly right, up the hill, towards the middle of three houses beyond a couple of fields. **8** When you reach the houses, turn right and walk out to the lane. **9** Turn left and walk uphill to the junction in the village. **10** To explore the old part of Pitchcombe, turn right; otherwise, to continue the walk, turn left along Lurks Lane. **11** When the lane bends right towards the end of the houses, take the path on the left. **12** After a short distance, beyond the last garden, turn right over a stile into a field. **13** Follow the right-hand side of the field initially, then bear half-left down the hill to a farm bridge by a gate. **14** Once over the stream, walk up the

opposite slope and pass just to the left of a sycamore tree with a large stone below it. **15** Go right, through a gap in the line of trees, and then turn left, keeping on up the hill to the top left-hand corner. **16** Over a stile, climb up to a gate and follow the lane to the left. **17** Take the lower, left-hand, of the two roads and follow it out to the main village street and the Star Inn. **18** Turn left and walk down to the church. **19** Turn left into the lane before the church (Stokenhill). **20** Ignore a couple of footpaths off to the right, then take the right fork when the lane divides. **21** Walk between the buildings of Stokenhill Farm, bearing right beyond the farmhouse. **22** Squeeze to the right of a gate into a field, and follow the right-hand edge down to the main road (take care descending the steep slope at the bottom). **23** Cross a stile and cross the road carefully. **24** Take a few steps to the right, past a bus stop, then turn left to cross the Painswick Stream at Rock Mill. **25** Turn left after a row of houses on the left, then right through a gap in the laurel hedge. **26** Bear left across a lawn to a stile at the far end, then turn right up some steps and over another stile. **27** Walk straight up the hill towards Hammonds Cottage, with Hammonds Farm away to your left. **28** A final stile gives access to the lane below the farm; turn right and follow the lane round to the left past Hammonds Barn to return to Hammonds Farm.

Slad & the Woolpack (5 miles: Moderate)

A walk over the ridge to and along the Slad valley, with its fine pub and Cider With Rosie associations.

Allow 2–3 hours. One significant climb and descent, with mud in places after rain. Refreshments at the Woolpack in Slad (after 1¼ miles) or the café at Steanbridge Mill (2 miles). Alternatively, drive to Slad and start at the Woolpack (step 15), which reduces the distance to 2¼ miles and omits much of the climbing.

1 Walk up the entrance drive, to Painswick Old Road. **2** Cross over and follow the track opposite (with a sign for Keepers Cottage). **3** When the drive to the cottage turns right, keep straight on up the stony track. **4** Pass a stile on the right (our return route) and continue uphill. **5** At the top of the wood when the track turns left through a padlocked gate, take the footpath through a second gate on the right. **6** Follow the woodland edge on your left to the top of the hill, then follow the hedge downhill to join a track that leads shortly to Folly Lane. **7** Turn left and follow the narrow lane for 300 yards. **8** Before Worgan’s Farm, and just beyond a green painted gate (with a sign for Folly Acres) on the right, take a footpath beside the trees on your right. **9** Descend steeply along the woodland edge, then enter a field below an old quarry. **10** Join a track beyond a gate in the bottom left-hand corner. **11** When the track swings left into a private garden, take the steep metalled path on your right (with a handrail) and follow it down to the Slad road. **12** Cross over and turn left. **13** Beyond an old farm, follow the road round a bend into Slad village. **14** Pass the old schoolhouse on your left to reach the Woolpack (both feature in *Cider With Rosie*). **15** Cross the road and walk up to the church; Laurie Lee’s grave is just to the right of and beyond the west door (don’t miss the poetry extract on the rear, and it’s also worth entering the church to see the memorial window and to view a small exhibition relating to

Laurie Lee and the wider history of the village). **16** Once you’ve had your fill, leave the churchyard by the path next to the grave and resume walking up the village street. **17** Just before a sign reading “No footway for 200 yards” look down to your right to view Laurie Lee’s childhood home, Rosebank Cottage, at the bottom of the valley. **18** Take the next right (marked “Unsuitable for long vehicles”) and pass a parking area and the village noticeboard. **19** Follow the road round to the left of The Old House, then turn right (downhill) at the rear. **20** Walk down to the bottom of the valley and bear left at Steanbridge Mill. **21** Turn right at the Restricted Byway sign and walk below the millpond (where the disturbed Miss Flynn drowned herself, as recounted in *Cider With Rosie*). **22** Climb the stile by the gate beyond the pond, and walk up the hill to the top right-hand corner of the field. **23** Beyond a gate and a few steps, bear right below a wood and enter a field. **24** Follow the top edge of a series of fields with views over the Slad valley, before a couple of gates lead into a track at Furners Farm. **25** Walk past the farmhouse and follow the metalled drive round to the left. **26** By a building on the left, turn right onto a footpath leading down into woodland. **27** At the bottom of the wood, bear right and descend the hillside to a pond in the side-valley below. **28** Pass the Laurie Lee post (quoting his poem “Apples”) and follow the path below the pond, which may be a little muddy. **29** Cross the next field on the contour, to a stile. **30** Descend gradually across the next field, below a brambly bank, to a stile next to a gate leading into a driveway. **31** Turn left and walk out to the road. **32** Turn right down the hill, keeping right at the junction (note the costumed badgers painted on the fenceposts!), and walk down past the Vatch House. **33** If you have started from Slad, turn right up a short-cut footpath just beyond a Gothick-fronted building to the main village road and turn right; otherwise, to return to Hammonds Farm on foot, keep on up the lane to the B4070 and turn left. **34** Follow the pavement along the road for a third of a mile, passing anonymous entrances to left and right. **35** Just before the signs for Stroud, and opposite the entrance to Hazel Mill, cross and take a footpath over a stile on the right. **36** The next stretch may be a little overgrown: make your way up the right-hand side of the field to a stile in the corner then, beyond the stile, turn left along the fence. **37** When you emerge from the undergrowth, turn right and walk up the field (with views over the buildings of Wade’s Farm towards Stroud to your left), aiming to the left of a curving woodland at the top of the field. **38** Go through a metal field gate and wind your way between clumps of brambles, with a small valley on your left. **39** When you emerge into a more open field, follow the fence up the bottom of the valley to the end of a garden, where you turn left through a waymarked gateway. **41** Climb to the far corner of the field and go through another gateway into a farm drive. **42** Turn left and follow the metalled drive past some stables and out to the triangular junction with Folly Lane. **43** Take a few steps to the right, then take a footpath on the left that winds up between trees to a stile by the Peghouse water storage tank, which the path skirts to the right. **44** When you emerge into open fields, follow the top hedge (with fine views over Stroud) to a gap in the far corner. **45** Turn right through the hedge to the other side and walk left, above the woods surrounding Keepers Cottage, to a stile. **46** Turn left along the track beyond and walk back down past Keepers Cottage to emerge opposite the entrance to Hammonds Farm.

Wickridge & Painswick (5¾ miles: Moderate)

A climb to Wickridge for views of Stroud, followed by a level section and then descent with further fine views to Painswick. After climbing to the town, the return is along the stream and then on a mostly level path along the valley. The walk can be extended to Painswick House and gardens.

Allow 3 hours. One or two moderate climbs. Some paths may be muddy and uneven in places. Refreshments in Painswick (3½ miles).

1 Walk up the entrance drive, to Painswick Old Road. **2** Cross over and follow the track opposite (with a sign for Keepers Cottage). **3** When the drive turns right, keep straight on up the stony track. **4** Pass a stile on the right and continue uphill. **5** At the top of the wood when the track turns left through a padlocked gate, take the footpath through a second gate on the right. **6** Follow the woodland edge on your left to the top of the hill, then follow the hedge downhill to join a track that leads shortly to Folly Lane. **7** Turn left and follow the lane to Worgan’s Farm. **8** Beyond the farm, continue along the track, now unmetalled. **9** At a crossing track, turn left for a couple of steps and then take a path on the right, continuing in the same direction as before. **10** Enter Frith Wood and follow the obvious path along the top of the woodland. **11** Beyond a bench on the left, continue as the path starts to descend. **12** Ignore various turn-offs to left and right, including the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way, which joins from the right, marked by a special post at the junction. **13** As you approach the road at Bulls Cross, between two gates, turn left down a hollow way that descends through the trees to a junction of lanes. *For the **Sheepscombe and Painswick** route, jump to step 14, below.* **14** Turn left down the lane and follow it to the folly-like Red Stable opposite Greenhouse Court. **15** Continue past the Stable until the last of the buildings on the right, where you turn right down a rough track before the “Single Track Road” sign (between a driveway on the right and a gated entrance to the left). **16** Cross a stile and continue downhill along a paddock fence with views ahead to Painswick. **17** The path narrows to a metal squeeze stile and continues beyond between hedges. **18** When you meet a wider path at a T-junction, turn right. **19** At a junction by a metal field gate (to your right), turn left, downhill, down a track to Painswick Mill. **20** Turn left and pass the mill and millpond. **21** At a T-junction, cross the road and follow the footpath opposite that cuts the corner to meet Knapp Lane on a bend. **22** Follow the lane uphill past Knapp Cottage (on the right). **23** Keep straight on (Kemps Lane) at the junction with Orchard Mead. **24** Pass The Painswick hotel, spa and restaurant on the left as you approach the town centre. **25** Follow Kemps Lane round to the right to meet Tibbiwell Lane, where you turn left. **26** By Cardynham House turn left into St Mary’s Street (the lettering over the door on the Old Bath House, on the corner, is by the sculptor and typographer Eric Gill, the originator of the Gill Sans typeface in which these route directions are printed). *If you wish to visit Painswick House, turn right here then left and left again to the main road (Friday and Bisley Streets); then follow Gloucester Road opposite for half a mile to the entrance.* **27** Go straight on (no-through road) at the end of Victoria Street, then through the gateposts into the churchyard. **28** Walk to the left of the church, then bear right to exit via the

half-timbered lychgate. **29** To visit The Falcon, turn right, otherwise turn left along Stroud Road. **30** After a car park on the left, turn left into Stamage’s Lane, continuing straight on down the hill beyond the car park entrance. **31** The lane winds its way downhill and crosses Kingsmill Lane by a Victorian postbox to become Stepping Stone Lane. **32** At the bottom of the valley, immediately after the bridge, turn right into a narrow streamside path that initially passes through gardens. **33** On emerging into a field, follow the stream to a stile in the far corner, which leads to a footbridge over a sluice and weir. **34** Turn left and follow the driveway behind King’s Mill. **35** Recross the stream and follow the fenced driveway uphill to a metalled drive. **36** Turn right and follow it to The Sheephouse. **37** Continue straight ahead between the buildings and go through a gate into a field. **38** At the end of this field bear slightly left, descending to cross a stream via a wooden footbridge. **39** Head right up the back and walk up the field to a stile in the corner. **40** Cross the next field, aiming for the stone cottages in Pincot Lane. **41** Cross the lane and head down the track opposite, between the buildings. **42** This leads shortly to a bridge over another stream. **43** Cross the next field, eventually meeting the hedge that approaches from the left. **44** Beyond a metal kissing gate you continue in similar vein along the top of the next field to meet Wades Lane. **45** Turn left for a short distance to a pull-off, where you take the path on the right over a stile with a carved owl. **46** Follow the right-hand edge of the next field to another owl-adorned stile and pass through a small triangle of trees. **47** Exit over another stile and follow the field edge ahead back to Hammonds Farm.

Sheepscombe & Painswick

8½ miles: Moderate

An extension of the above walk visiting the well-regarded Butchers Arms in the pretty village of Sheepscombe.

Allow 4–5 hours. Some moderate ascents and descents, and some road walking. Wet grass, mud and some slightly overgrown stretches may be encountered in season. Refreshments at the Butchers Arms, Sheepscombe (4 miles) and in Painswick (6¼ miles).

Follow steps **1** to **13** of the **Wickridge & Painswick** walk, above.

14 At the junction at the bottom of the hollow way from Bulls Cross, go straight on down the lane signposted “1:7 Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles” and “Painswick Light veh. only”. **15** A lane joins from the left and beyond Old Greenhouse Farm (on the right) turn right through a gate into a driveway. **16** Beyond an ornate converted barn go through a gate and across an area of grass to a stile. **17** The path leads pleasantly along a belt of trees to a crossing track. **18** Rather than taking the obvious path ahead, turn left here, then immediately right over a stile by a field gate. **19** Follow the top of the field, below the belt of trees, with fine views to Painswick. **20** After another stile, cross the field ahead to a stile leading to steps down into a metalled lane. **21** Turn right then follow the road round to the left at a junction, passing a house and farm. **22** When this lane meets another by a house with a castellated extension, turn left (signposted Sheepscombe). **23** Follow the road for 400 yards then, not long after a broad layby

on your right and a set of 30 mph signs, turn left opposite a house into the drive to Pyll House. **24** Turn right between the buildings and continue past a parking area to a gate. **25** Follow the descending path ahead to a wooden gate and continue downhill. **26** A stile leads into a field; turn left here and walk down the side of the field to a bridge and stile at the bottom of the valley. **27** Climb the next field to a double gate into a driveway, which you follow out to the road. **28** Turn right to visit Sheepscombe village and the Butchers Arms, otherwise turn left and then follow the road out of the village. **29** Descend to pass the entrance to a drive up a grassy combe on the right, continuing along the narrow lane as it climbs and passes a turning on the right. **30** After a further dip and climb, the road levels off as it approaches Painswick Lodge. **31** Pass several entrances and driveways to the various buildings and ignore a narrow, grass-centred lane off to the right. **32** Eventually the lane winds between trees down to Damsells Mill. **33** Just before the millhouse, opposite a shelter, turn left over a footbridge onto a footpath. **34** Cross a stile and follow the path as it leads down the valley with the stream to your right, via occasional steps and revetments. **35** A short while after an iron hand-gate you reach a bridge, where you cross the stream. **36** Turn left and walk down the field at the bottom of the slope with the stream now on your left. **37** Pass Highgrove House and join the drive beyond, passing a cattle grid. **38** When the drive swings right, uphill, take the footpath straight ahead. **39** Beyond a small wooded stream this path turns right, uphill, initially alongside the trees to your right before striking out across the field to a stile. **40** Turn left along the drive and join the road in Painswick. **41** Follow the road ahead and left past a large house called Verlands and then right past the end of a lane that joins obliquely from the left. **42** Walk up the street, passing Yew Tree House (1668) to emerge by the former Ebenezer chapel. **43** Turn left into St Mary’s Street and follow it to Cardynham House and the Old Bath House.

Rejoin the **Wickridge & Painswick** route, above, at step **27**.

Cotswold Way (9¼ miles: Fairly strenuous)

After a level stroll above the Painswick Valley, this route drops to cross the stream then climbs to the popular Edgemoor Arms. It then joins the Cotswold Way for an extended promenade along the wooded escarpment, including a visit to the fine viewpoint of Haresfield Beacon.

Allow 5–6 hours. Several significant ascents and descents. Wet grass and mud after rain. Refreshments at the Edgemoor Arms (2 miles), the Vine Tree at Randwick (7½ miles) or the Star at White’s Hill (8¼ miles).

1 From the end of the car park, turn left along the footpath that runs above the farm along the backs of the barns. **2** In the far left-hand corner of the field, pass through a small wooded area between two stiles (with an owl carved atop the post on the second). **3** Follow the left-hand edge of the next field to another owl-topped stile into Wades Lane. **4** Turn left for a short distance, then take the footpath through a kissing gate on the right. **5** Walk along the top of the first field then descend to a kissing gate and a stream crossing. **6** In the next field the path starts out along the hedge on the right, then leaves it to cross