

Cotswold Way (13 miles: Strenuous)

Allow 6–8 hours. Several moderate climbs; mud in places.

Follow steps **1–9** of the [Foston's Ash & Cranham](#) walk, overleaf, to reach the B4070 near Foston's Ash.

10 Turn right down the road, then at Foston's Ash cross over and walk to the right of the pub, passing the swings to reach the end of the car park. **11** Follow the footpath beyond, along a field edge. **12** At the end of the field, go through a gap in the hedge and follow a path half-right across the next field and into the wood beyond. **13** Walk quite steeply down the wooded side-valley to a footbridge over the stream. **14** On meeting the main path beyond, turn left up the valley. **15** After ¼ mile, pass a pond on the left and shortly afterwards leave the trees to meet a road. **16** Go through the gate opposite and follow the edge of the wood, with a farm up to your left. **17** Ignore a footpath off to the right, instead passing through a gateway and continuing up the shallow grassland valley. **18** Go through a metal gate back into woodland. **19** Ignoring any turnings to left or right and sticking to the valley bottom, you eventually emerge into open fields. **20** Follow the field edge ahead to a metal gate, beyond which (ignoring a track to the right) bear left across the corner of a field to a gate into more woodland. **21** Turn right and follow the path along the edge of the wood, ignoring paths off to the left. **22** Keep to the right of a property and follow a hedged bridleway (which may be muddy) until it emerges past a house and into a road. **23** Turn left along the road, passing two houses on the right. **24** At a T-junction, turn left and follow the road into Birdlip. **25** Beyond the church, bear left at a T-junction and walk out to the B4070. **26** Keeping to the raised left-hand pavement, pass the Royal George and keep left at the junction at the top of Birdlip Hill. **27** Cross the road and follow the driveway opposite, to the right of the lodge house. **28** This lane descends and becomes a stony track, before the Cotswold Way joins from the right. **29** Keep left along the descending track until you meet a crossroads, with a quarry on your left. **30** Here keep straight on, following the Cotswold Way. **31** A track joins from the left then, at a fork, take the left-hand turning, uphill, with the remains of a wall on the right. **32** The track levels off then leaves the wall, bearing right at a clearing, with views opening

up over the Witcombe Reservoirs to your right. **33** Always keeping to the track closest to the woodland edge, the Cotswold Way descends to curve right above a spring (the Tile Well). **34** At a fork just afterwards, take the left-hand (upper) track to continue on the Cotswold Way. **35** The Way continues in similar fashion before passing a cottage and joining its driveway, which eventually meets the road at Cooper's Hill. **36** Follow the road between dwellings, ignoring footpaths to left and right until you reach a postbox. **37** Here turn left towards the car park, then immediately right below the steep open slope of the cheese-rolling course. **38** Beyond this, go through a gate into the wood and follow the uphill path beyond; various paths lead up to the top of Cooper's Hill to your left, but our route continues ahead, climbing gradually and bearing left until you join a track coming up from the right. **39** When this track bends left, take the right-hand fork on a descending track, still following the Cotswold Way. **40** When this emerges into fields, bear right to a gate. **41** Turn left after the gate, still on the Cotswold Way, following the waymark posts when other paths and tracks cross. **42** The Way climbs to a junction, where it turns right and follows a wall to a Natural England board for Buckholt Wood. **43** Shortly afterwards, turn right at a junction and descend to a road, with a wall to your right. **44** Turn right and walk out to the main A46 road. **45** Cross carefully, take a few steps to the left, then turn right into the trees on a footpath. **46** At a gap in the wall on your right, turn left and walk out to another road. **47** Cross over and pick up the Cotswold Way opposite (the left-hand fork beyond the interpretation panel). **48** This path meets another road, which you follow to its end by a parking area. **49** Take the right-hand track, below a height-restriction barrier, and follow it to the right of the golf course (ignoring Cotswold Way signs off to the left) until you approach the hillfort at Painswick Beacon. **50** Leave the track to climb to the trig point and topograph at the highest point then, having admired the view, descend the ramparts beyond to rejoin the route of the Cotswold Way. **51** Turn right and walk out to a road. **52** Turn left to a triangle at the entrance to a quarry, and take a descending path on the right into the trees, signposted "Wysis Way", which leads to the main road.

Now follow steps **36–50** of the [Painswick](#) walk (overleaf) to return to Sheepscombe and the Butchers Arms.

bar open
 Mon–Fri (Sept–June) 11.30am–3pm, 6.30pm–11pm
 Mon–Fri (July/August) 11.30am–11pm
 Sat 11.30am–11pm
 Sun 12 noon–10.30pm

food served
 Mon–Fri 12 noon–2.30pm, 6.30pm–9.30pm
 Sat 12 noon–9.30pm
 Sun 12 noon–6pm

The Butchers Arms

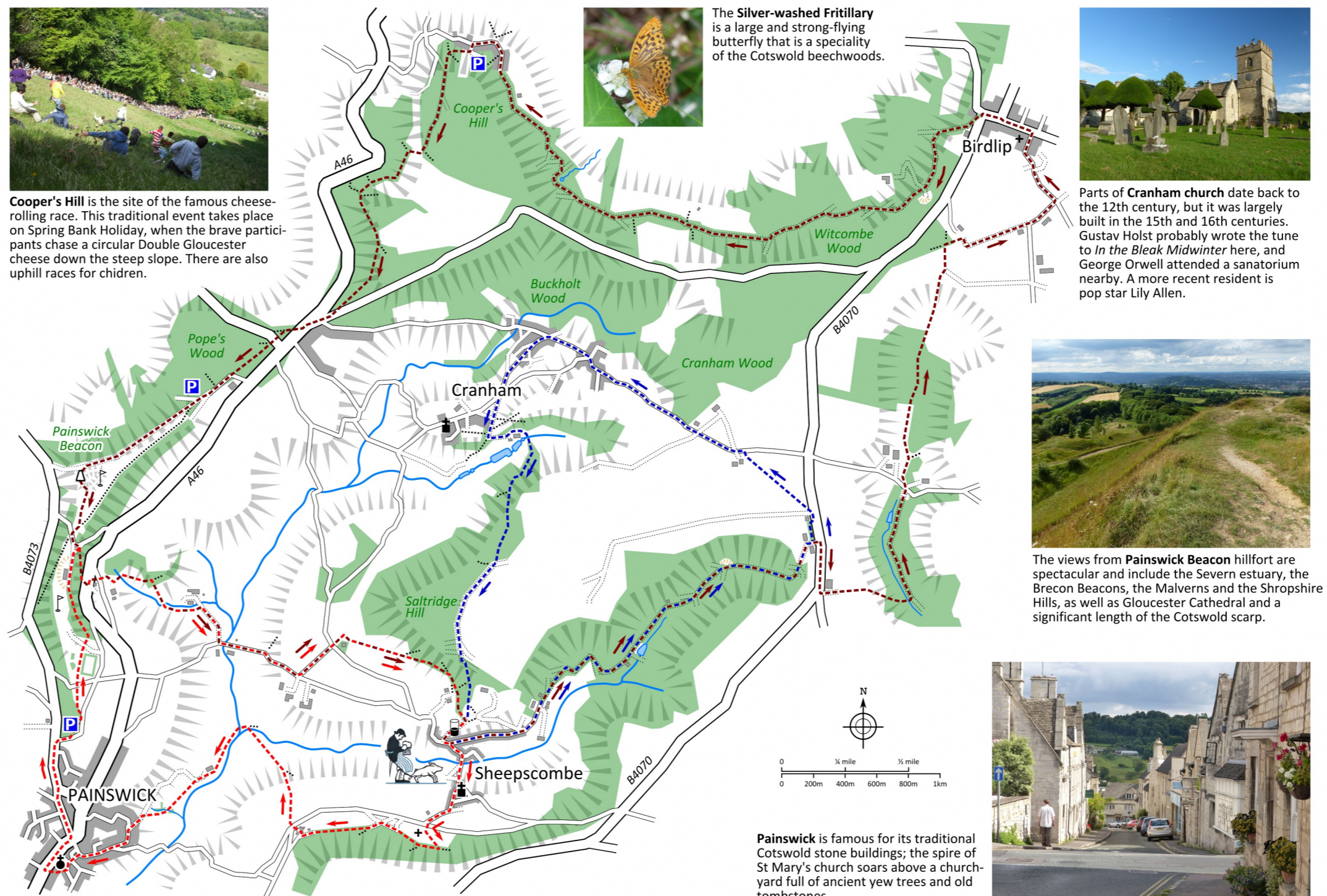
Sheepscombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 7RH
 tel 01452 812113
 website www.butchers-arms.co.uk
 email info@butchers-arms.co.uk



Cooper's Hill is the site of the famous cheese-rolling race. This traditional event takes place on Spring Bank Holiday, when the brave participants chase a circular Double Gloucester cheese down the steep slope. There are also uphill races for children.



The Silver-washed Fritillary is a large and strong-flying butterfly that is a speciality of the Cotswold beechwoods.



Painswick is famous for its traditional Cotswold stone buildings; the spire of St Mary's church soars above a churchyard full of ancient yew trees and old tombstones.



Parts of Cranham church date back to the 12th century, but it was largely built in the 15th and 16th centuries. Gustav Holst probably wrote the tune to *In the Bleak Midwinter* here, and George Orwell attended a sanatorium nearby. A more recent resident is pop star Lily Allen.



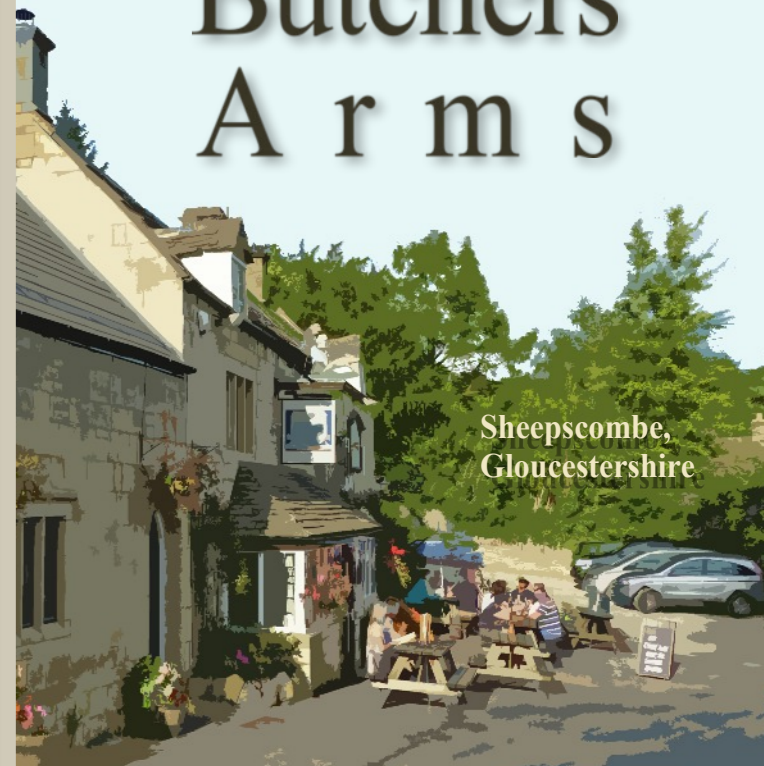
The views from Painswick Beacon hillfort are spectacular and include the Severn estuary, the Brecon Beacons, the Malverns and the Shropshire Hills, as well as Gloucester Cathedral and a significant length of the Cotswold scarp.



six circular walks from



The Butchers Arms



Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire

Far End (1 mile)

Foston's Ash & Cranham (6 miles)

Saltridge Wood (2¼ miles)

Painswick (7 miles)

Cranham (4 miles)

Cotswold Way (13 miles)

Far End (1 mile: Fairly easy)

Allow 45 minutes. One climb and a steep descent.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left and follow the no-through road signposted to Far End. **2** Pass the primary school on your right. **3** At the brow of a slight hill, turn sharp left, following the Sheepscombe Cricket Club sign for Laurie Lee Field. **4** Climb the limestone-surfaced lane, past the entrance to a large house on the right and across the flowery common until the track curves right into the cricket club. **5** Leave the track here, turning left between squat wooden posts to descend the grassy slopes of Sheepscombe Common. **6** Join a narrow downhill track into the trees. **7** Beyond a gate, descend steeply to a metalled lane. **8** Continue down the lane to emerge just above the Butchers Arms.

Saltridge Wood (2¼ miles: Fairly easy)

Allow 1½ hours. One or two climbs and descents. Mud in places.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn right and then immediately right again opposite the Old Vicarage. **2** Walk up the steep lane, bearing left up a bridleway. **3** Beyond a gate, when you reach Sheepscombe Common, take the left-hand path up the slope. **4** At the top of the common, turn left into the wood. **5** Stay on the blue-arrowed bridleway when a footpath joins from the left. **6** Ignore a second left turn, climbing to meet a track at a T-junction at the top of the wood. **7** Turn left to an interpretation board, where you turn right along a bridleway along the woodland edge. **8** Ignore any tracks and rides into the wood on your left until the track descends to a junction with a waymark post indicating bridleways in 3 directions. **9** Turn left, down the hill. **10** At the bottom of the wood, turn left onto a path just within the woodland edge, with glorious views to Painswick and, later, Sheepscombe. **11** Climb to a crossways, then bear right, initially still along the bottom of the wood, then with woodland on both sides. **12** Cross a ride cut for power lines, then take the lower (right-hand) path at a fork. **13** Follow the most obvious path, ignoring crossing paths, to return to the foot of Sheepscombe Common. **14** Join the path along the bottom fence, to your right, then swing right into the trees and descend the track to the Butchers Arms.

Cranham (4 miles: Moderate)

Allow 2 hours. A couple of moderate ascents and descents. Woodland paths may be muddy in places.

Follow steps **1–8** of the [Saltridge Wood](#) walk, above.

9 Take the bridleway straight ahead, which leads downhill through woodland. **10** Ignore a path on the right, keeping straight ahead and continuing to descend. **11** At a junction of paths, turn right. **12** Bear left on a path that descends in a curve round a slight dip. **13** Beyond a waymark, the bridleway meets the woodland edge and descends with views over the fields towards Brook Farm. **14** At the bottom of

the hill, cross the stream above the fishing lakes and follow the grassy path round to the left, behind and above the farm buildings. **15** When the path drops to meet the farm drive, turn right, uphill and away from the farm. **16** Follow the drive round a right-hand bend (ignoring a bridleway to the left) and follow it past some houses on the left, with the open land of Cranham Common rising to your right. **17** When you reach the road, turn right past a bench within a circular wall and follow the upper road across the Common. **18** Keep along the road past a triangle of driveways on the right and walk past some houses to a road junction. **19** Turn left, down the hill. **20** At the next junction, by the village hall, turn left (signposted to “Sheepscombe” and “Church”). **21** Follow the road across the common, back to the bench you passed before. **22** Take the track opposite, retracing your earlier steps. **23** Beyond the houses, keep on along the metalled drive, swinging left to descend to Brook Farm. **24** Just before the farm, turn left onto the footpath you followed before that skirts the buildings and drops to cross the stream. **25** Climb the path beyond and continue uphill through the woods, keeping left at a waymarked junction. **26** At a crossroads of bridleways at the top of the wood, turn right (downhill into the wood).

Now follow from step **10** onward of the [Saltridge Wood](#) walk to return to Sheepscombe and the Butchers Arms.

Foston's Ash & Cranham (6 miles: Moderate)

Allow 3 hours. One or two climbs and steep descents. Woodland paths may be muddy and uneven in places. Mapped overleaf.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left and follow the no-through road signposted to Sheepscombe Far End. **2** After ½ mile, continue between the gateposts into Workman's Wood. **3** When the track forks, take the lower (right-hand) branch. **4** Bear right when the other track rejoins from the left, then swing right with views down the valley. **5** Bear left to a building and a pond beyond. **6** Continue along the main track to the left of the pond. **7** Beyond a shelter (on your left) continue up the valley, ignoring any turnings and passing a small quarry face on your left. **8** Eventually, leave the wood through a gate and follow a track across the field ahead. **9** Bear right through the gate between two houses. (For the [Cotswold Way](#) walk, jump to step **10**, overleaf.) **10** Otherwise, to continue, turn left just before the road along a path within a narrow belt of roadside woodland. **11** When the path ends, continue along the road past a house on the left. **12** Beyond the Ebworth Centre entrance, turn left through a gate onto a signposted bridleway. **13** Follow the diagonal path across the field, parallel to power lines, aiming just to the right of the buildings on the far side. **14** Two gates give access to a lane. Turn left and walk past Overtown Farm. **15** Follow the road for a little over half a mile to Cranham village, ignoring the turnings at Noitaly House. **16** Ignore the first turning to Sheepscombe, instead continuing downhill as far as the village hall. **17** Turn left (signposted to Sheepscombe and the Church). **18** Follow the road across the common, to meet another road by a walled bench. **19** Follow the track opposite.

20 Beyond the houses, keep on along the metalled drive, swinging left to descend to Brook Farm. **21** Just before the farm, turn left onto a footpath that skirts the buildings and then drops to cross a stream above a series of fishing lakes. **22** Climb the wooded path beyond and continue uphill through the woods, keeping left at a waymarked junction. **23** At a crossroads of bridleways at the top of the wood, keep straight on. **24** Follow this bridleway, with fields to your left and woodland to your right, until you reach an information board for Lord's and Lady's Wood. Here follow a track round to the left for a short distance, then take a path on your right into the trees. **25** Descend through the wood, ignoring any side paths, to emerge at the top of Sheepscombe Common. **26** Follow a narrow path on your right that descends across the grassy slope. **27** At the bottom, follow a track downhill into the trees. **28** Beyond a gate, descend steeply to a metalled lane; continue downhill to emerge just above the Butchers Arms.

Painswick (7 miles: Moderate)

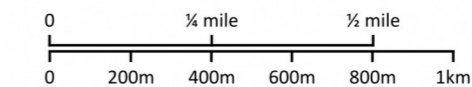
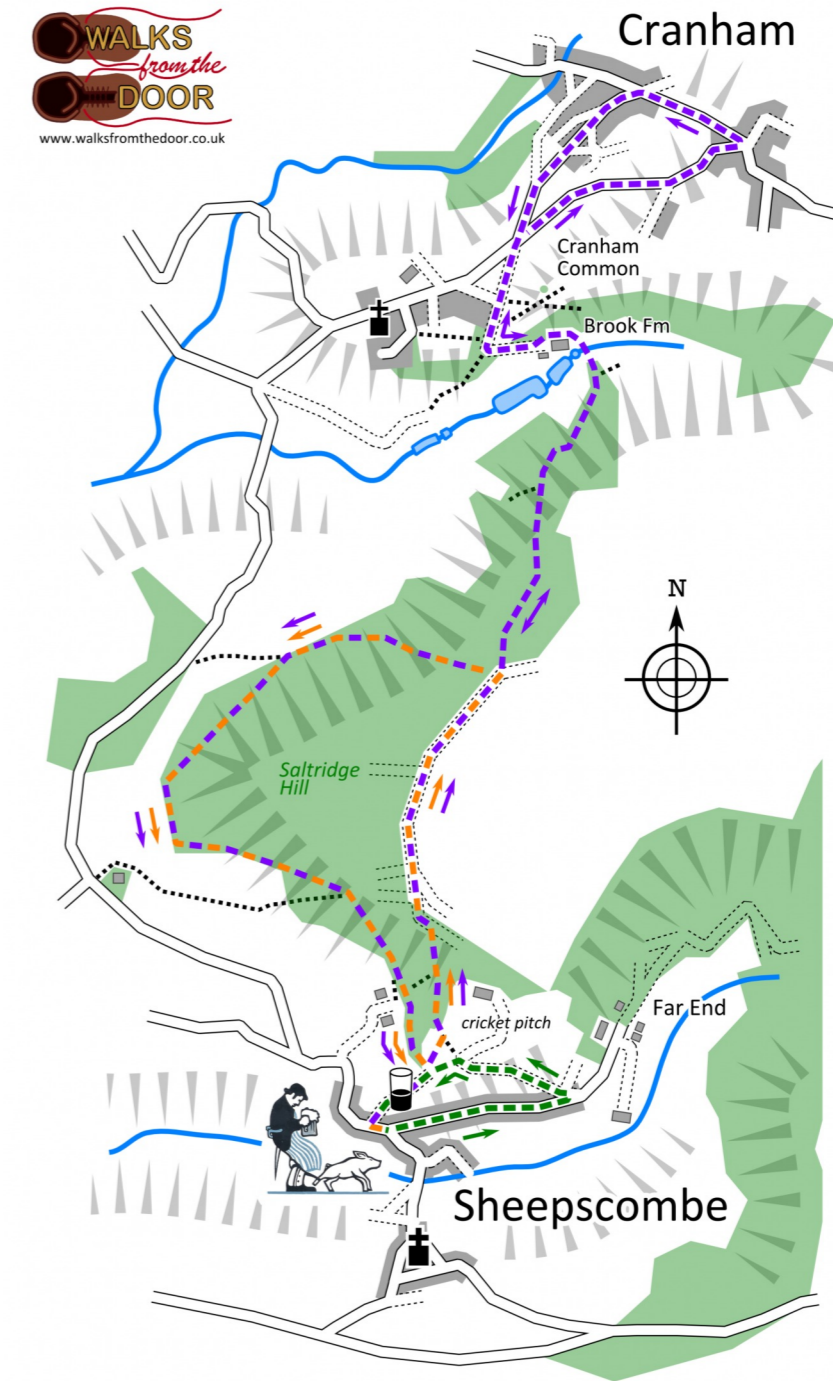
Allow 3 hours. One or two climbs and steep descents. Woodland paths may be muddy and uneven in places. Mapped overleaf.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left and walk downhill into the village, ignoring the left turning to Far End. **2** Pass the village hall and phone-box at the bottom of the valley and climb to the war memorial beyond. **3** Here bear right, past the church. **4** Keep right along the road until you pass Yew Tree Cottage and reach a road junction opposite the Methodist Chapel. **5** Follow a footpath just to the right of a bus shelter, which leads through trees to a stile. **6** Follow the ascending tree-lined path beyond to a second stile. **7** Turn right and follow the track along the woodland edge, with views over the Sheepscombe valley. **8** At a junction, keep left, shortly afterwards emerging from the woodland at a junction of tracks with houses in view. **9** Keep left again, passing a house on your right, and at a gate swing left back into the woods. **10** Keep right at a waymarked junction of paths by a National Trust sign for Blackstable Wood, and resume along a similar path as before, within the woodland edge. **11** Beyond an interpretation board for Blackstable Wood, join the drive past Cockshoot House and walk out to a narrow lane. **12** Turn right and swing left past houses to the road. **13** Take the footpath opposite over a stile and bear right down the hillside, crossing a shallow valley to another stile and then another. **14** Walk half-left, crossing a track to a field gate with a blue bridleway waymark. **15** Walk down the hill between two isolated trees to a gate in the far corner. **16** Swing round to the left and cross the stream after a stile beside a gate. **17** Turn left and walk down the field at the bottom of the slope with the stream on your left. **18** Pass Highgrove House and join the drive beyond, passing a cattle grid. **19** When the drive swings right, uphill, take the footpath straight ahead. **20** 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. **21** Turn left along the drive and join the road in Painswick. **22** 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. **23** Walk up the street, passing Yew Tree House (1668) to emerge by the former Ebenezer chapel. **24** Follow St Mary's Street, opposite, past the Royal Oak, Cardynham House and the old bath-house with its 1924 Eric Gill inscription above the door. **25** At the bottom of Victoria Street carry straight on, passing through the gates into the churchyard. **26** Walk to the left of the church and exit the churchyard through the half-timbered lych gate. **27** Turn right up New Street, passing the Falcon, the end of Victoria Square, and the Painswick Pharmacy. **28** At a crossroads, turn left up Gloucester Street. **29** Keep right at the top, at the junction with Butt Green, and then turn left by a phone-box opposite the old pound. **30** Pass an old milestone and the Gyde Almshouses gazebo, with another Gill inscription. Beyond Gyde Road and Hillfoot Cottage, turn right into Golf Course Road. **31** Turn left through a parking area, then rejoin the road briefly before turning left, following the Cotswold Way. **32** By some gateposts in the wall, turn right and cross part of the golf course to an unfenced lane. **33** Follow the path opposite, along the rear wall of the cemetery, before crossing another fairway and entering woodland. **34** You emerge by a quarry, which you walk past to reach the road below Painswick Beacon. **35** Take a path sharp right with a Wysis Way signpost and walk down through the trees to the main road. **36** Ignoring the driveway opposite, cross and turn left along the pavement past a house, before dropping right down a flight of steps. **37** Cross the lane and take the path opposite, bearing right to skirt a wood then left (downhill) before you reach a house ahead of you. **38** Ford a small stream that issues from the bottom of the wood, then bear right to a gate into the trees opposite. **39** Follow the fenced path within the wood for a few yards, then turn right over a stile. **40** Emerging into fields, take a permitted path that leads down the slope to a footbridge. **41** Beyond the stream turn left though a series of fields to pass handsome Damsell's Farm and join the drive beyond. **42** At Damsell's Mill, turn left and follow the sunken road up the hill. Ignore a footpath on the left at the top. **43** Opposite the entrance to Painswick Lodge, turn left up a narrow lane with a grassy centre. **44** At a T-junction, take a permitted path opposite, over a stile, and walk up the field edge. **45** Beyond the property on the right, turn right through a series of gates to pass an outbuilding and join a hedged path beyond. **46** Follow this path to reach woodland, where you turn right to a gate. **47** The narrow path beyond winds along the woodland edge until it meets a larger path joining from the left. **48** Ignore a path off to the right, emerging eventually at the bottom of the grassy slopes of Sheepscombe Common. **49** Turn right into the trees on a track that descends to a gate. **50** Beyond the gate, continue downhill to meet a metalled lane; walk on down the lane to emerge opposite the Old Vicarage, just above the Butchers Arms.



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www.walksfromthedoor.co.uk



Sheepscombe Common is nationally important for its flora and fauna, which include rare orchids and butterflies. It is part of the Cotswolds Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve.



Brook Farm near Cranham stands attractively overlooking a series of crystal-clear fishing lakes, fed by a Cotswold stream.



The paths on and around **Saltridge Hill** afford great views of Painswick and the Sheepscombe valley.

