

Little Cotswold Walks



4. Frome Valley



RR Gordon

A series of short, circular walks around Cotswold villages – ending at pubs!
Covering Caudle Green, Edgeworth, Sapperton, The Daneway, Duntisbourne

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Introduction.

When I put these walks together, I'm looking for a good part of the walk to go through the pathways and lanes of a village, but also for part to be through the countryside with a bit of up and down. I aim for an hour or so – which justifies having a pudding at the pub!

This book, *Frome Valley*, contains walks in Caudle Green, Edgeworth, Sapperton and The Daneway pub which are in the valley of the River Frome - as well as Duntisbourne Abbots in a valley running parallel to it.

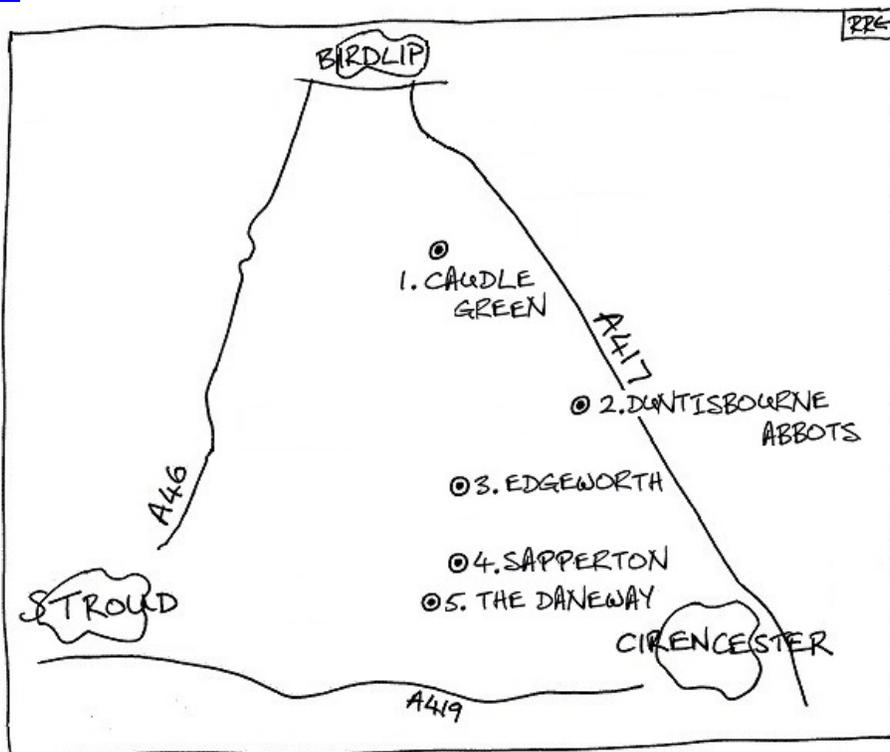
Each walk has been hand-crafted by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy. Our combined objectives were:

- **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!).
- **Please note our NEW 'Difficult for Dogs' (DD) symbol** – where stiles are not easily managed. Daisy says she's not getting older, the stiles are just getting higher!

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

Rod Gordon

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1. Caudle Green.

Rod's Rating	 <p>Caudle Green is tucked away in a fold of the Cotswold countryside which is not on the way to or from anywhere. A quiet little village where the houses cling on to the sides of the lane which climbs from the secluded valley to the rough, un-manicured village green.</p> <p>You will have to jump in your car to drive to the pub after finishing the walk, but it's worth it. I really like the start: clambering over steps in two dry stone walls, down and up a tiny field and into the outer woodland of Miserden Park.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy was pleased to be off the lead in the woods and is always grateful for a drink from the stream halfway round but there are a few stiles which are difficult</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
Pub	A short drive (1-2m) to The Fostons Ash Inn, on the road from Birdlip to Stroud http://www.food-club.com/fostons-ash.htm
How long did it take?	30-40 minutes 2.5 km (1.5 miles) 95m up/down

WHERE TO PARK:

The village green, Caudle Green. GL53 9PR

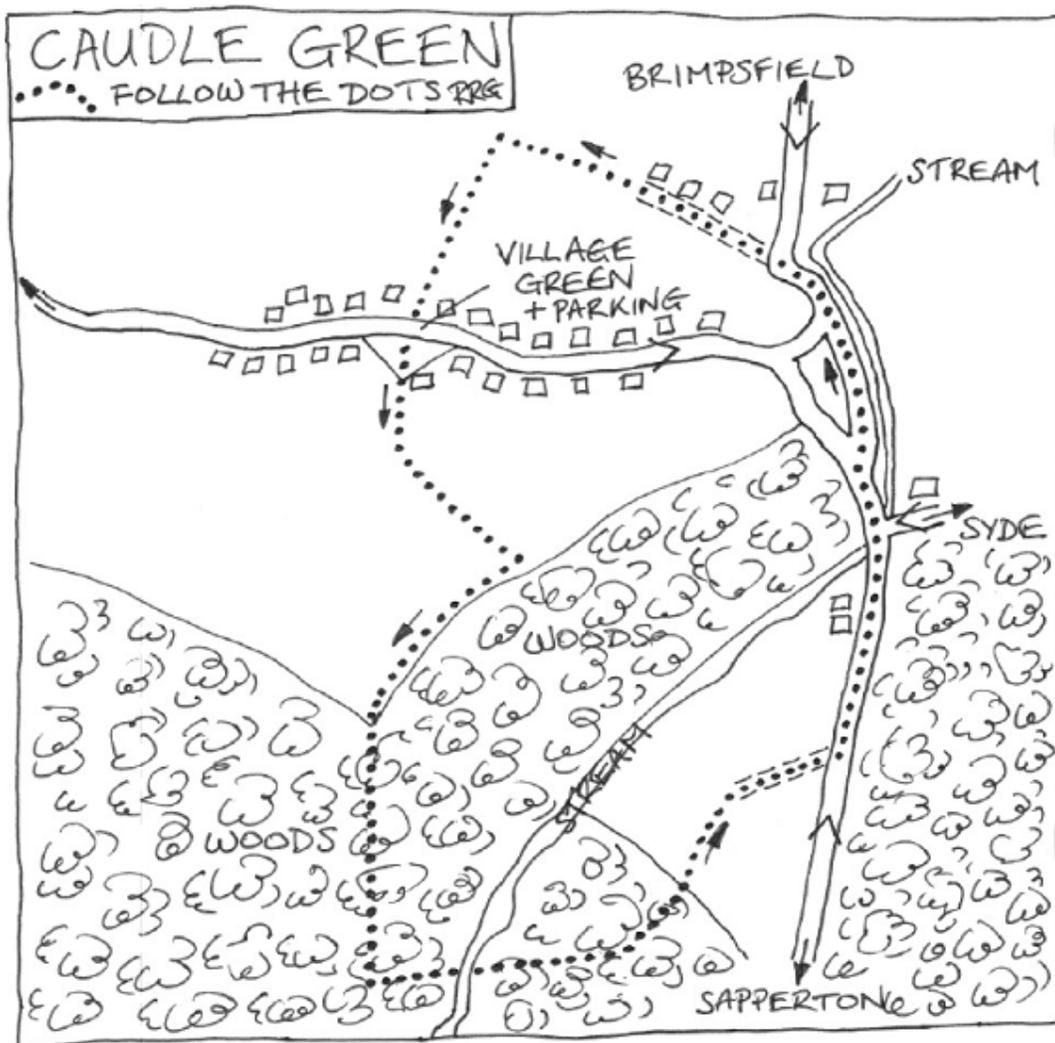
QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

As I said above, it's a little tucked away, but this is how you might get there from Birdlip:

Leave Birdlip in the direction of Stroud (B4070). Half a mile before the Fostons Ash Inn there is a turning on the left signposted to Brimpsfield (opposite the turning to Cranham). Turn left here, go down through the dip in Climperwell woods and halfway up the other side, fork right towards Caudle Green. Follow this road for a mile or two until you arrive at the village. The green is in the centre of the village before you go down into the valley (there are a postbox and a telephone box on the sides of the green).

THE WALK - In summary:

Start at the green in the high part of the village, walk down through some woods on the edge of Misarden Park into the valley, turn left and walk along a road following the stream along the valley back to the village, and then climb back up to the green.



In detail:

> Head for the Public Footpath sign at the high side of the village green next to a barn and a wooden five-bar gate

To be more specific: the post box is in the high part of a dry stone wall just outside a house called Caudle Farm; if you stand with your back to the postbox (looking out across the grit container, with the phone box to your left) at the top of the village green you will see a low barn & a public footpath sign to the right of it.

> Climb over the dry stone wall (**DD**) next to the Public Footpath sign and walk across the small patch of grass

> Climb over the next dry stone wall, (**DD**) the ground drops away the other side into a small field.

> Go straight across and over the wooden stile (**DD**) into a large field

> The footpath goes diagonally left towards some woodland

> On reaching the trees, **turn right** and walk along the side of the field, keeping the trees on your left

> At the corner of the field climb over a large stone stile next to a trough and join a track through the woods which is heading straight ahead (downhill) – **do not turn right** along the side of the field

> After a few hundred yards of walking downhill, the track splits in two (ignore unmarked turning to left just before). Follow track to the left. You will reach a T-junction with a crumbling tarmac road; there are three public footpath arrows on a signpost ahead of you; **turn left**, continuing downhill

> Emerge from woods into a small area of grassland at the bottom of the valley, cross a stream (the Frome) and then ...

> **Turn left** onto a track that runs uphill (this is another crumbling tarmac track that is part of Miserden Park)

> Ignore unmarked fork to the left and follow the track for a few hundred yards uphill and round to the right until you reach a road; go through the wooden gate and ...

> **Turn left** to walk down the road back towards Caudle Green

> You will go past a house on your left with chickens in the garden, continue straight ahead along the road for a few hundred yards, past a turning to the right (that climbs up towards Syde), past a turning to the left (up to Caudle Green – we're going a different way back up to the village!), the road follows a stream (the river Frome) at the bottom of the valley; ignore another turning to your left (very sharp, going back & up)

> Then, finally, when the road turns 90° to the right to climb uphill, go over a stone stile (footpath sign) on the left along a wide crushed

Cotswold stone track past some houses (Spring Cottage and Keepers Cottage)

> Follow the track as it bears right over a stream and then heads up hill. At the top of the track where it bears to the right **turn left** along a grass track.

> Just before a metal kissing gate, **turn left**, go a few yards down to the stream and cross over...

> Go through another metal kissing gate

> **Bear left** and walk up a stone footpath

> The path winds to the right and then to the left, before running alongside a garden and then emerging back at the village green in Caudle Green

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

OK, HOW DO I GET TO THE PUB?

I would recommend going to The Fostons Ash from here – which is the reverse of the above directions, ie Leave the village green following the road uphill, drive approximately 1 mile, ignoring a turning to the right (towards Brimpsfield); when you enter the woods turn left, to join a road that runs down into a dip in the middle of the woods (this is Climperwell Woods), go up the other side and then turn left at the top (this is the B4070). The Fostons Ash is on your left after 400 yards.

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The stream which you walked alongside is the River Frome (the *Stroud* Frome as distinct from the *Bristol /Bath* Frome!). It has two sources: some springs in Nettleton Bottom (near the Golden Heart near Birdlip) and also at Climperwell Woods (just near the dip mentioned in the pub directions above). The two branches merge just south of Caudle Green (on the middle section of this walk) before continuing to Sapperton and then Stroud before joining the Severn at Upper Framilode.

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Email nicky@rrgordon.com to ask about rates. Price is for inclusion in all editions of this booklet for a calendar year. This booklet is delivered to homes, hotels, pubs and businesses in the areas covered by the walks. Booklets will be delivered throughout the spring with new editions available for free – download from www.rrgordon.com

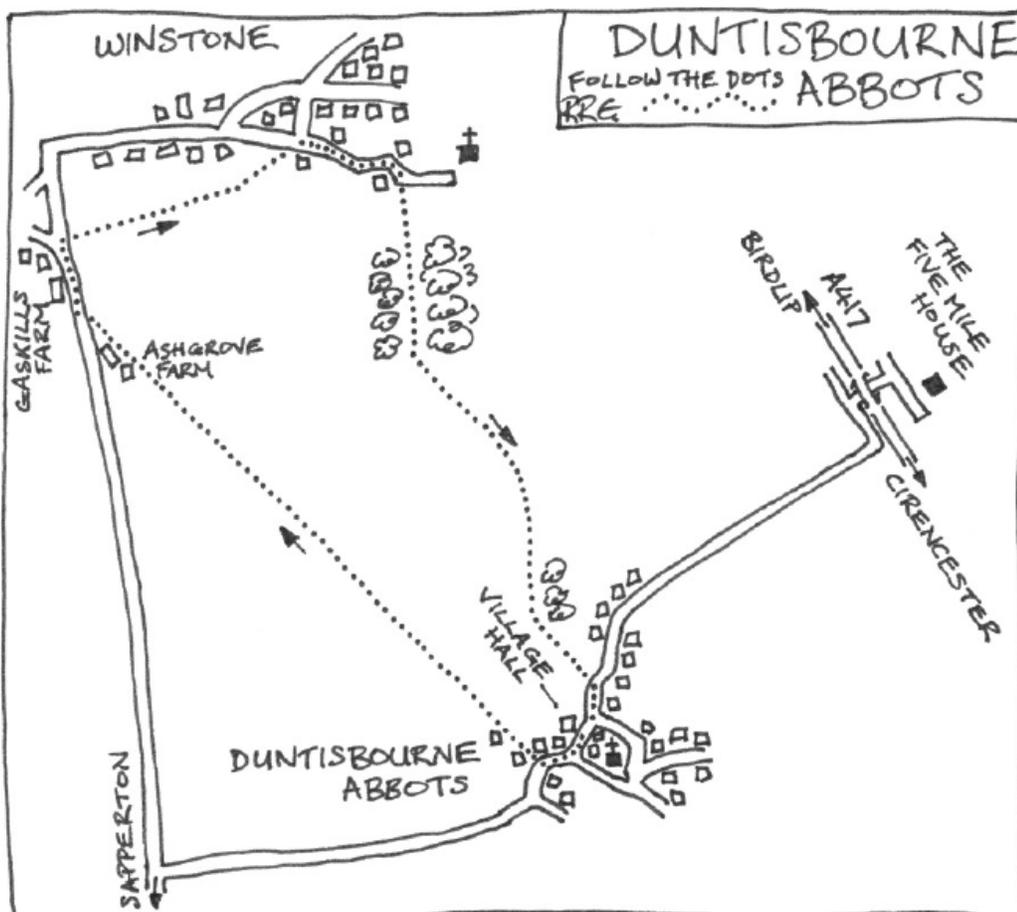
2. Duntisbourne Abbots – with a bit of Winstone.

Rod's Rating	 <p>My father once said that he thought Duntisbourne Abbots was the nicest village in our area of the Cotswolds – and I do like the way the houses are sprinkled up and down a shallow valley. A great flat-ish walk.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Top notch, said Daisy. She was able to be off the lead most of the way, roaming around the wide, flat-bottomed valley. One difficult stile on entering Winstone village</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes.
Pub	The Highwayman, 5 minutes drive from the end of the walk Beech Pike, Elkstone, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9PH http://www.the-highwayman-inn.co.uk
How long did it take?	1 hour 20 minutes 4.75km (3 miles) 80m up/down

WHERE TO PARK:

Village Hall, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7JN (<http://e-voice.org.uk/davh>)

The village is happy for people to park behind the village hall – there is even a sign saying “Car Parking”
Duntisbourne Abbots is just half a mile from the A417 dual carriageway. The village hall is on the right as you go through the village (about a hundred yards from the church).



The walk in summary:

Start at Duntisbourne Abbots village hall, head north-east along a farm track to Winstone and then return along a shallow valley.

In detail:

- > **Turn right** out of village hall car park
- > Ignore the turning to the left at a triangle of grass continuing straight ahead
- > **Turn right** at the next triangle of grass following a sign marked "Unsuitable for Motor Vehicles" – *this is a farm track that is marked "Other routes with public access" continuing for over a mile towards Winstone*
- > Follow the tarmac track to the right, ignoring the track to the left; go past Holts Hill house on the right & two other houses on the left (the second house has a tennis court); the tarmac gives way to a farm track
- > After a while the track dips down where there is a barn conversion on the left; continue straight on between hedges
- > A little further you come to a cream house on left; this is a farm; continue out along their drive
- > **Turn right** onto the road and walk for about 200 yards (or walk along the wide grass verge)
- > Just past Gaskills Farm (on left), go over a stile on the right into a field at a Public Footpath sign
- > Head to the diagonally opposite corner (intersection of two cotswold stone walls) in direction of Winstone
- > **Climb over a stile (DD)** and head for a pair of tall trees opposite (to left of house with greenhouse)
- > **Go over stile** and up to the road; **turn right** on the road, heading slightly uphill
- > **Bear right**, following road signposted as dead end which leads to the village church; a few hundred yards

- > Just after Croft Farm on the right (when 200 yards from church), go over a large stone stile on the right (**DD**) (there is a large gate further along the road)
- > A shallow valley stretches ahead of you with trees either side; *follow valley back to Duntisbourne Abbots*
- > After the trees, the valley bends to left; continue through the wooden gate (with horse jump alongside)
- > There is a field stretching up on your left, a hedge on your right; go through open gate at end of field
- > After 20 yards go through another wooden gate
- > Ignore the concrete farm track going left and right, but continue straight ahead through a gate into the valley
- > After another few hundred yards, go over a stile (or through wide wooden five-bar gate)
- > After another few hundred yards, you see houses at edge of Duntisbourne Abbots
- > Climb over the stile onto the road and **turn right**; the road leads uphill
- > At the top either turn left to look round the church (road loops around the other side) or bear right to return to the village hall which will be on your right

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

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The name is taken from the river Dunt (Dunt was a Saxon Chief), which rises in the village, and from connections with monks from the Abbey of Gloucester who controlled the area in the 13th Century.

St Peter's Church was built in the 12th century, on the site of an earlier Saxon church. Its tower dates from Norman times.

It is worth taking a look at Wet Lane which is the "road" which connects Duntisbourne Abbots with Duntisbourne Leer. Drive downhill from the church and you will see a sign saying "Ford". This is a lane which actually runs along the stream bed for a hundred yards – however I wouldn't suggest that you drive your car through it unless it's four-wheel drive!

3. Edgeworth.

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	 <p>I struck gold when I did this walk for the first time: it was a February morning which started crisp and frosty but by lunchtime was sunny and warm. And I found the perfect route for this walk first time – whereas it normally seems to take five or six visits to work things out. The search goes on for the perfect walk, but this one was close ... if only there was a pub in Edgeworth then perfection would have been achieved. The most picturesque, unspoilt valley carved out by the meandering River Frome ...</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?</p>	 <p>Daisy isn't shy about giving out five stars. Wide, open grassland on the valley floor, a good-sized stream to jump into and woodlands for some enthusiastic hunting. She saw rabbits, pheasant and deer, but they all evaded capture.</p>
<p>Is it a circular walk?</p>	<p>Yes, along a valley and back</p>
<p>Pub</p>	<p>To the south, The Bell at Sapperton (http://bellsapperton.co.uk) or The Daneway (http://www.thedaneway.pub) - see other walks in this booklet. To the north-east: The Carpenters Arms at Miserden http://www.thecarps-miserden.co.uk/</p>
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>1 hour 45 minutes 4.75km (3 miles) 195m up/down</p>

PARKING:

The only trouble is that parking isn't great in Edgeworth. There is space for one or two cars in a couple of places but I've had a few emails from Edgeworth residents complaining about people parking across the fronts of their drives – so please don't do that!! I have started the walk at the church but you can join in a number of places, particularly where the walk crosses the road.



The walk in summary:

Round the back of Edgeworth Manor and down into the valley. Head north along the right-hand side of the valley through the woods – and then back along the valley floor, following the River Frome.

THE WALK:

- > Keeping the church on your left, walk towards Edgeworth Manor (30 yards)
- > Just before the gates, **turn right** along a bridleway
- > The path curves down and to the left to circle around the back of the manor
- > When the manor is just behind you, another track forks right, but you should continue straight ahead
- > Continue through woods, heading downhill towards the bottom of the valley
- > At the bottom bear left, cross the stream via a stone bridge/gateway and continue straight ahead
- > Follow the track uphill, the stream and manor on your left
- > **Turn left** onto a road and follow it downhill back to the bottom of the valley
- > Follow the road over the stream and after about 40yards there is a driveway ahead
- > Enter through the bridleway gate to the right of the main gate and follow the driveway towards the house
- > Shortly before the house (Edgeworth Mill Farm), **bear right** to follow the stream
- > Cross a wooden bridge and head uphill

> There is a small field at the top; **turn left** to follow fence towards a greenhouse; path returns to stream

Remember: you are on a bridleway so look for hoofprints! you are following the river upstream for the next mile or so

- > Head for a post at an entrance to some woods (bridleway sign on the post); head uphill
- > At the top of a rise in the woods, fork left at a footpath signpost to continue following stream
- > Continue for approx. half a mile through woods (the imaginatively named Thick Wood), stream to your left
- > Look out for a big house on the other side of the valley (Valley Farm)
- > When this house is behind you, there will be a footpath post on track in front of you (near an old tree), **turn sharp left**, almost back on yourself (you can look at other side of footpath post if you are unsure)
- > Head downhill towards the stream (and towards the house on other side of valley) and cross via footbridge
- > **Bear slightly right** and go left through an old wooden 5-bar gate (bridleway sign on gatepost)
- > Follow stream (heading downstream) for approx. 1 mile along the wide, open valley floor (gate halfway)



Please keep to the right; the public footpath is approximately two paces up the bank in the photo shown here and continues at around this level along much of the valley; just around the corner from this photo, keep to the right of a small group of trees to go through a wooden gate (with Public Footpath sign on it).

- > When you come to some small trees in the middle of the valley, you should **fork right** up a bank
- > Go through a metal gate and **turn left** onto driveway still following stream to your left (away from Valley Farm)
- > Follow the driveway to the road and **turn left**
- > Follow the road downhill, past the driveway to Edgeworth Mill Farm that you walked up earlier
- > Just after the road crosses the stream at the bottom of the valley, **turn right** to follow a public footpath (through a wooden 5-bar gate) to follow the stream along the valley floor
- > Cross the footbridge over the stream and bear to the right hand side of the valley

- > Go past a tall wooden footpath signpost and start to climb the hill up a field; head for the next wooden post at the edge of a wood ahead of you
 - > Climb straight up through the trees, bearing slightly right near the top to emerge from the woods
 - > Climb over a stile and bear right towards the church. Sit on the stile for a while - enjoy the view!
 - > Enter the churchyard through the lych gate; go through the churchyard to the parking area
- Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)*

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Edgeworth church has occupied this site for at least a thousand years, but the building has changed a great deal over that time. The oldest surviving fragment of stained glass is of particular interest. It depicts an archbishop, with right hand raised in blessing, his left hand gloved and holding a cross staff. The figure wears a brown robe under a chasuble, which is white and decorated with golden flowers. It is believed to be a rare survival of an image of St Thomas a Becket. Edgeworth has a strong association with St Thomas a Becket through the "Edgeworth Miracle". The miracle was recorded by the contemporary chronicler, Benedict of Canterbury and is one of thirteen Gloucestershire miracles attributed to the healing powers of St Thomas . The miracle is also commemorated in one panel, known as the Edgeworth panel, within a window recording miracles attributed to St Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral.

The legend of the miracle goes as follows: "Richard Sunieve, son of a poor woman, but herdsman of a well to do knight of Edgeworth, Sir Henry Fitzherbert, suffered like many others from sleeping out of doors. He awoke with his face swelled and spotted, and for eight years the leprosy spread through his body, until at last he was forced to leave not only the knight's house, but even the village. His mother alone 'followed him lest he should perish'. From head to foot he was a mass of ulcers. There was not 'the space of an arrow's point' sound. So foul was his state that even his mother could only give him his food at the end of a long stick, or place it where he could find it. Now the boy heard of the Martyr's fame, and wept that he had no strength to travel to him. His tears were useless till he invoked the Saint and rose from his bed and turned towards Canterbury. When admitted to the Sepulchre (of St. Thomas) he kissed it, and a great swelling like a small apple, which had projected between his nose and lip, suddenly disappeared. He thought it must have fallen, and felt for it, but could not find it. On tasting of the Water taken from the spring waters in the Well in the Crypt, near to the Saint's tomb, and mixed with a spot of the Saint's blood, he was affected like one intoxicated. His feet tottered and he could scarcely make his way out of the Church. Then he fell into an ecstasy. Presently, arising from the ground, he felt a new nimbleness in his body, and the skin, which, at the moment of his fall, had been distended by leprosy was now, to his great astonishment, quite thin and wrinkled. To put off his return was not to be borne. So, in order to present himself to his friends whole, he gladdened them before us by going home at once."

4. Sapperton.

Rod's Rating	 <p>A great walk out and back along a beautiful stretch of the Frome Valley, ending at one of the finest country inns in the Cotwolds, The Bell. NB Part of this walk crosses the Bathurst Estate which is officially only open 8am-5pm.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy can be off the lead for much of the walk and loves diving into the River Frome and chasing around the woods.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes.
Pub	The Bell at Sapperton, Nr Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 6LE http://bellsapperton.co.uk 01285 760298
How long did it take?	Short walk: 1 hour 15 mins 4km (2½ miles) 165m up/down Long walk: 2 hours 7km (4½ miles) 300m up/down

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT (The Bell Pub):

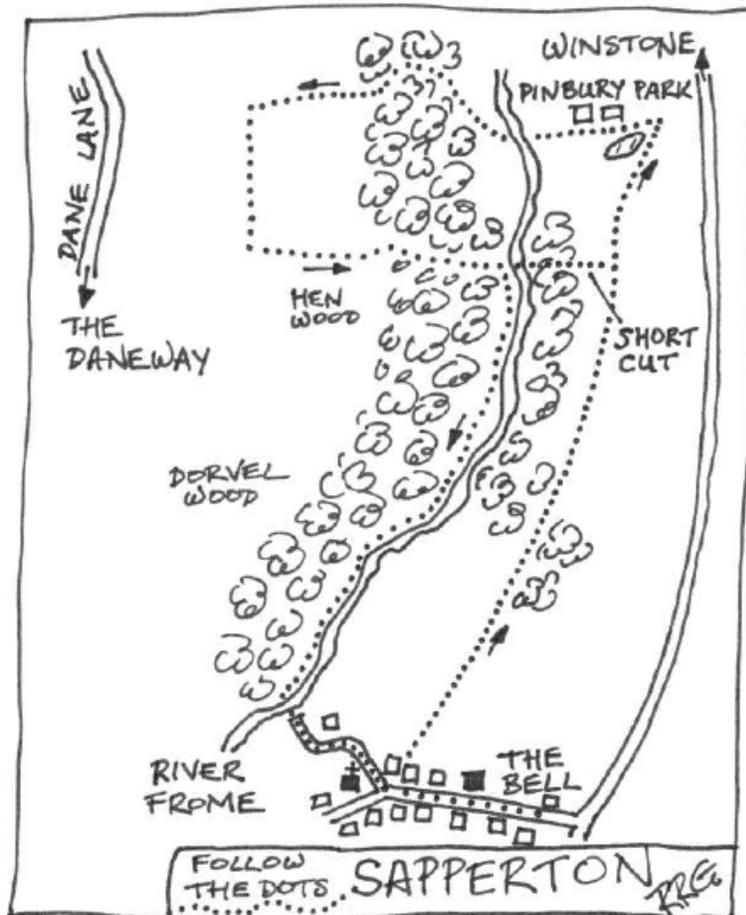
From Birdlip: Travel along A417 dual carriageway in direction of Cirencester, exit near Winstone (Highwayman Inn) and head directly south for around 5 miles.

From Stroud/Cirencester: Sapperton is half a mile north of the A419, the main Stroud/Cirencester road, approx. 5 miles from Cirencester. The pub is in the centre of the village and has a large carpark

The walk in summary:

Out along the ridge above the valley, heading north along the Macmillan Way (see below) – and then returning along the bottom of the valley alongside the River Frome through the Bathurst Estate (see below).

We have actually created 2 walks: a shorter version and a longer version. Why not try the short one first?



THE WALK - In detail:

- > Turn right out of the pub and walk down the road, slightly downhill
- > At the end of the road, opposite the churchyard, turn sharp right beside the phone box and follow a Public Bridleway sign (also Macmillan Way); the footpath continues between two wooden fences towards a hedge;
- NB. halfway across to the hedge, a farm gate is sometimes left open and it looks like there is a footpath available through that gate; however that is not an official footpath; if in doubt look for hoofprints on the ground to follow the bridleway**
- > The footpath leads through the hedge and then bears slightly left to run between a hedge and a fence for half a mile or so (valley on your left over the hedge, field on your right over the fence)
- > After a while the bridleway turns to the left slightly and goes gently downhill through some trees for 50 yards (metal fence and a couple of buildings to the left, trees to the right)
- > Go straight on through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden five-bar farm gate (still following Macmillan Way)...instructions continue at top of page...



LONG WALK – Approx two hours (ie an additional one hour loop but well worth it!)

- > Go through the wooden gate & follow the path across a field heading for large house in distance (above)
- > Path bends to right, the large house (Pinbury Park) is now on your left across a small valley
- > Walk around a small lake and turn left onto a tarmac road heading down towards Pinbury Park
- > Walk to the left of the main farm gate for 20 yards then go through a narrow side gate back onto road

- > Path opens out into a grassy area, which widens into a field; continue straight ahead (valley on left)
- > Just before the end of the field head left and down following a farm track; you now have a choice ...

SHORT WALK – Approx 1 hour (for long version see below)

- > Turn sharp left about ten yards before a wooden gate to follow a stony earth farm track down thru woods
- > After 200 yards, the follow the right hand fork; the track continues downhill more steeply
- > After 100 yards, the track bends to the left and continues to the bottom of the valley
- > Go through a wooden five-bar farm gate (next to a blue sign for Bathurst Estate)
- > Cross wooden footbridge over the stream (this is the adolescent River Frome)
- > Continue straight ahead up the track for 20 yards and then turn left along a footpath indicated by a yellow Bathurst Estate sign

CONTINUE BELOW FROM "FINAL LEG OF THE WALK"

- > Walk past a large Cotswold stone barn on right then fork left down gravel track (Frome valley on left)
- > At the end of the house (ie Cotswold stone wall) continue straight down towards bottom of valley
- > Fork right near the bottom and continue down to River Frome (more of a stream!)
- > Walk along near river bank (to the right) for ten yards and then cross at a wooden footbridge
- > Walk up the farm track to a farm gate at the edge of the trees
- > Follow the wide, sunken track up through the trees; up, up, up

- > At the top, the track bends gently to the left and then narrows; **fork right** at a small plateau in the trees – the track leads uphill to the top edge of the woods
- > Go through a metal six-bar gate, marked with a blue arrow and into a field
- > Walk along the right hand edge of the field, very slightly uphill, alongside a metal wire fence
- > Continue through a gate into the next field (polo field on your right now), the land has flattened out now
- > Go through a metal six-bar gate and immediately **turn left** and walk along the left edge of the field
- > Go through a wooden gate into the next field, still flat, and walk alongside a high-fenced compound
- > Go through a wooden gate and **turn left**, then almost immediately go through a metal gate
- > Follow the hedge on your left back towards the valley and the woods
- > Enter woods via a metal six-bar gate with blue arrow and sign, continue **straight on**, heading downhill
- > Follow blue arrow downhill, almost to the bottom of the valley
- > 20 yards before River Frome at the bottom of the valley, **turn right** to follow footpath marked by yellow sign

FINAL LEG OF THE WALK

You are now following the River Frome along the bottom of the valley until you get back to just

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The Macmillan Ways are a network of footpaths created to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The main Macmillan Way follows the oolitic limestone belt (Cotswold stone) from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset – a total of 290 miles.

The Bathurst Estate and Cirencester Park (www.cirencesterpark.co.uk) are owned by the 9th Earl and Countess Bathurst and cover a total of 14,500 acres. The Bathurst family originate from the county of Sussex where they owned extensive lands and a castle. The owner, Laurence Bathurst, having sided with the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses, was dispossessed of his estates and executed in 1463 by Edward IV, after the defeat of Henry VI at Hexham.

In 1695 Sir Benjamin Bathurst had become a highly regarded statesman, politician & courtier. He was Treasurer & Receiver General to James II before his accession to the throne, a Governor of The East India Company, Treasurer to Princess Anne of Denmark, & Cofferer to Queen Anne. He purchased Bathurst Estate & Cirencester Park for his eldest son Allen, who was to become the 1st Earl Bathurst. The 2nd son, Peter was given Clarendon Park in Wilts, the 3rd son Benjamin settled at Lydney Park.

Many of the family have held significant posts within government, most notably the 3rd Earl Bathurst was Secretary of State for War and the Colonies from 1812 to 1827 and was the Duke of Wellington's chief supporter within the government ultimately overseeing Napoleon's final banishment to St Helena.

below Sapperton village. The woods are known as Hen Wood which then merges into Dorval Wood.

- > Follow the footpath through the trees as it meanders away from the stream and then back towards it
- > At one point you need to duck under a huge fallen tree; shortly thereafter bear left at an intersection with another footpath marked by a yellow sign; continue in the same direction along the bottom of the valley
- > Cross the stream at a bridge known as Dorval Bridge (see large stone with inscription) and follow the footpath back up to Sapperton (the footpath goes past a house/garden on the left with a hedge and field on the right – at one point you can look over the hedge to see the view down the next section of the valley)
- > **Turn right** onto the tarmac road which leads away from the house and continue steeply uphill; up, up, up
- > As you near the village, the road bends to left and there is a rusty six-bar gate on your right, go over the stile here and **head left and up** towards the village
- > Go through a wooden gate to walk alongside the churchyard (St Kenelm's Church)
- > Stay left alongside the churchyard until you emerge at a road (the junction with the phone box), continue straight ahead up the road and the pub will be on your left

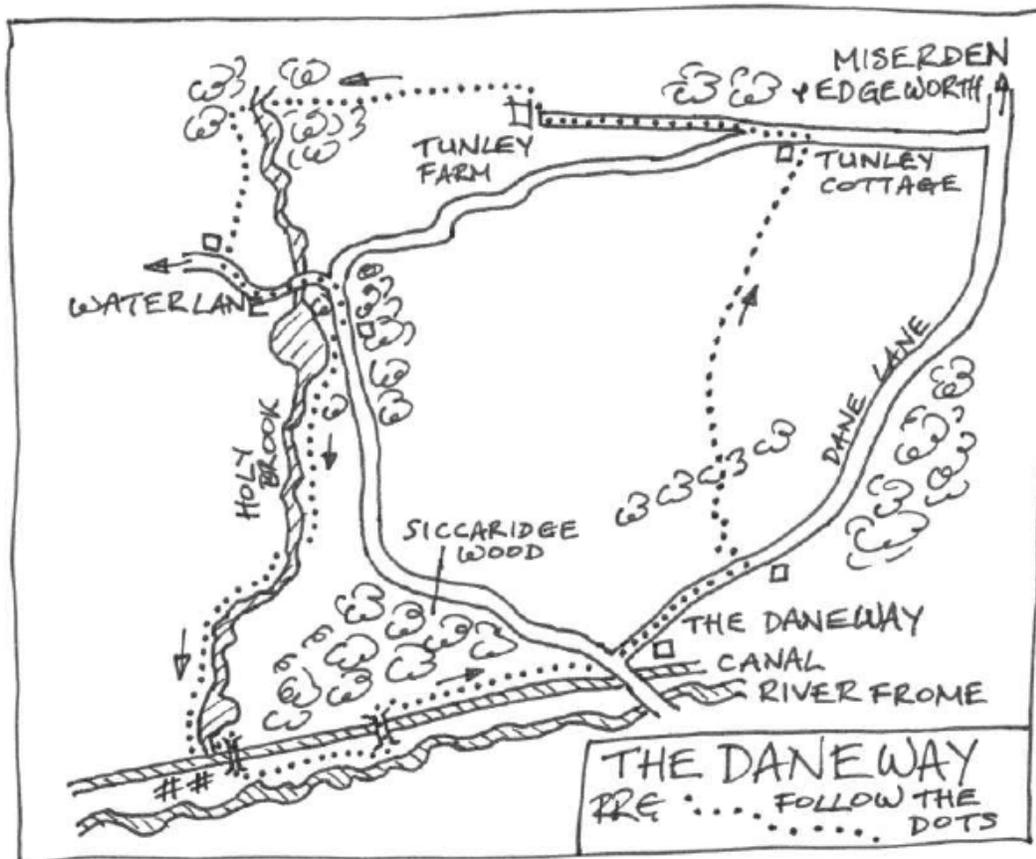
Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

5. The Daneway.

Rod's Rating	 <p>My friend Jonny reckons that The Daneway is the best pub in the Cotswolds but he says that about most pubs after a few pints. The Daneway is great for walks with the Thames & Severn Canal running across the bottom of its garden. This walk follows the canal towpath along one stretch and the route also takes in the unspoilt Holy Brook valley running down from lower Waterlane.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy loved this walk, but was slightly frustrated at being on the lead along the canal towpath section (I didn't want her leaping into the silt-filled disused locks)</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes; a wide rectangle actually
Pub	The Daneway Inn http://www.thedaneway.pub/ 01285 760297 Daneway Lane, Sapperton, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 6LN
How long did it take?	2 hours, 5.9 km (3 1/2 miles), 170m up and down

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT (The Daneway Inn):

Leave Birdlip heading past the Fostons Ash; you can go to Bisley, turn left and go through Waterlane but I would suggest turning left just after the Fostons Ash, go through Whiteway, past Miserden & straight on to The Daneway. From Stroud-Cirencester road, turn off at Sapperton & turn left to go down to The Daneway.



The walk in summary:

Round the back of the pub and up the (quiet) road a short way.

Heading north, climb up onto a high flat area of grassland, before turning east to head back down into a valley near Waterlane.

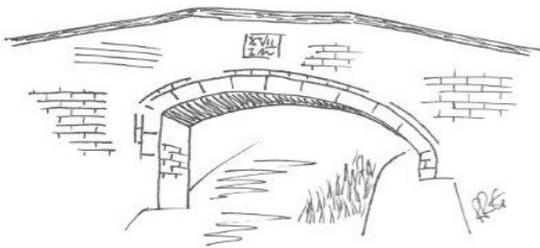
South along the Holy Brook valley and then east back along the River Frome (and Thames & Severn canal).

Four stiles.

THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn right** out of pub car park and walk up the road behind the pub signposted to Edgeworth & Miserden
- > After approx. 400 yards, opposite the second driveway on your right (with a triangular hedge in the middle of the entrance), there is a public footpath on your left; go through gate
- > Head to the right of the signpost for Daneway Banks Nature Reserve heading slightly uphill
- > Path bends around to the right at a wooden pathway marker post (with butterfly motif). Go through wooden gate and straight up to a second wooden pathway marker post (with ant); you are heading for the top of the ridge ahead
- > Path leads diagonally steeply uphill, climbing to top of ridge between trees/bushes; valley is on right; wooden pathway marker post (with leaf motif) at start of trees
- > At the top continue straight ahead across a flat field; wooden pathway marker post (with flower motif) indicates to the right but we will continue straight ahead
- > Climb over a stile under the overhanging branches of a hedge; walk to the right a few paces and you will emerge into huge grassy field; walk along the left side of the field, keeping the hedge to your left
- > After a while the hedge meanders away to the left but keep straight on, heading for far left corner of field
- > At the end of the field, there is a 3ft wooden gate which leads to a path through the garden of a house, Tunley Cottage, (public footpath sign on top of gatepost); don't worry, the owners are very friendly and the path does not lead through their main garden; go straight on and down steps to the right of the house
- > **Turn left onto road** walking downhill (*you are now heading down into Holy Brook Valley near Waterlane*)
- > After 50 yards, **fork right** along a level tarmac lane (Public Footpath sign by a green container)
- > Continue straight on at the signposts to Bywell and Tunley Barn House
- > At the end of the lane, continue through large wooden gate which leads into the farmyard of Tunley Farm (don't worry, the public footpath continues through the farmyard and the owners are quite used to walkers)
- > In the farmyard, **bear right**, following the curved Cotswold stone wall on your right and walk through the gap with the stable block on your left; at this point you will see another Public Footpath sign leading straight down along a grassy path which then bends round to the left; *you are heading down into the valley*
- > Go straight down through a gate (normally open, but stile is to right) and down the grass path
- > Go straight through another gate (also normally open but stile is ten yards to right) and continue down grass path
- > **Head slightly left**, still downhill, then bear right around a large overgrown bush
- > Cross a brook using a bridge made from railway sleepers
- > Once again, **head slightly left** then bear right around another large overgrown bush
- > Go over a stile next to a metal gate which leads into some tall trees
- > Cross a stream (Holy Brook) using a wooden footbridge
- > Cross another little brook using two railway sleepers and **turn left** to follow the brook
- > After a hundred yards go through a wooden gate; follow stream as it bends to the right
- > Where the stream bends to the left again, cut across the field heading slightly uphill towards a house
- > Go over a stile into a small parking area, then out of the double gate and **turn left** onto the road
- > Follow the road down to the floor of the valley and round to right (signed Sapperton and Cirencester)
- > Ignore the first Public Footpath on the right (just past a postbox), but **turn right** at the second Public Footpath opposite a driveway (with an impressively high Cotswold stone wall)

- > Walk down through the woods following a lake then a stream (Holy Brook still) along the valley; you will follow the stream & valley all the way to the canal, ie approx. 1.5 miles
- > Stay on left of stream for a few hundred yards, climb over a stile where the woods give way fields
- > After another few hundred yards, go through a gateway and the path meanders over to right of valley
- > Another footpath cuts across from left to right, but continue straight ahead along valley
- > Go over a stone stile (next to a metal seven-bar gate); **BENCH** on left
- > The valley curves to the left and you see a cream-coloured house high on the right
- > Below the house, go through a metal seven-bar gate, past a pond and through another metal seven-bar gate
- > Two other narrow footpaths join from the left, coming down from the woods, but ignore these and take half a dozen paces to the right in order to turn left onto a farm track
- > The track leads down to a brick humpback bridge over a canal (Whitehall Bridge)



NB At this point you can connect to the Oakridge Lynch and Frampton Mansell walks in booklet 3, but to continue with the Daneway walk you should...

- > Go over the bridge and turn immediately left to join the canal towpath; (canal on left, stream on right)
- > Follow the canal for a few hundred yards then cross over using a narrow wooden footbridge (ignore footpath going down to the right)
- > The canal will now be on your right; follow the footpath for a few hundred yards until you emerge onto a road; the Daneway Inn is just in front of you over the road

Any problem with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The Daneway Inn was originally built in 1784 as three cottages to house the navvies who constructed the now dis-used Thames & Severn canal. In 1807 the leftmost cottage became The Bricklayers Arms in honour of the men who lined the locks and the nearby 2¼ mile Sapperton tunnel. This cottage is now the Bar and the other cottages are the Lounge.

A wealthy Stroud bookmaker took over the pub in 1955 and he owned a successful racehorse called Daneway – and therefore renamed the pub. The pub has appeared in a number of TV productions including House of Elliott (BBC1), Between Two Rivers and Particular Pubs (both on ITV).

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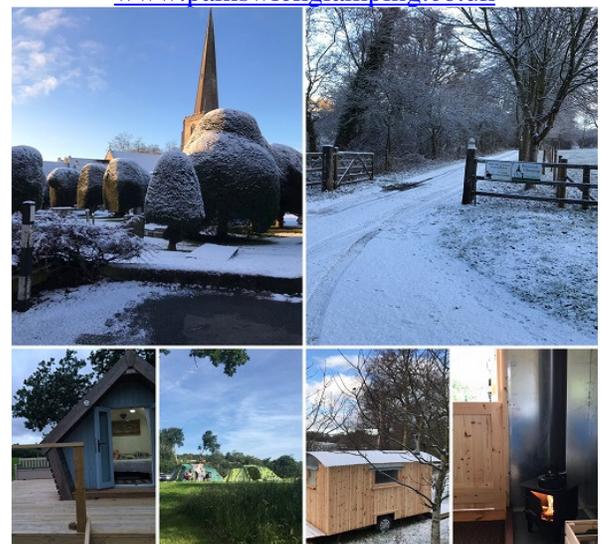
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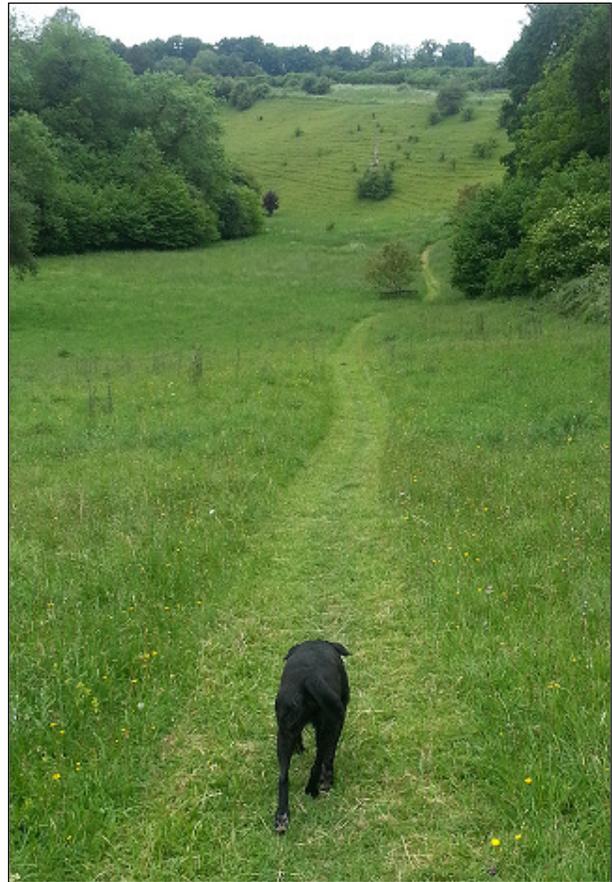
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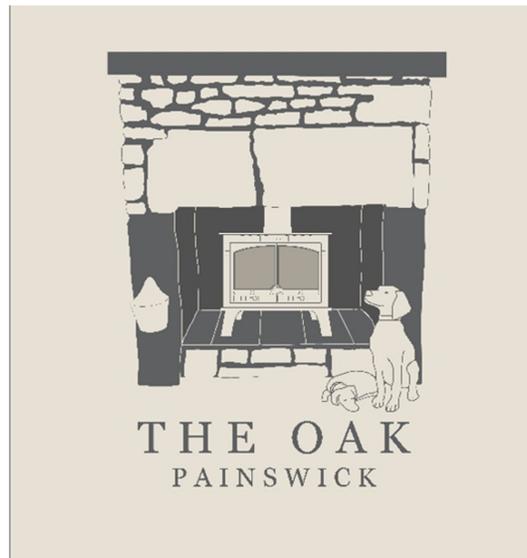
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