

# Little Cotswold Walks



The Oak, Painswick

RR Gordon

A series of stunning walks from The Oak in Painswick  
Covering Painswick Beacon, Slad Valley, Edge, Whiteshill, Holcombe and more ...

You can also download other booklets in the series from [www.rrgordon.com](http://www.rrgordon.com)  
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10. The Daisy Way, 11. Lockdown Allsorts, 12. Holy Brook Valley, 13. Cherry Tree Glamping

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Little Cotswold Walks  
Book 5. The Oak, Painswick 2023 Edition  
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# Introduction

You might have thought it would be difficult to find five completely different walks from one Cotswold village, but this is Painswick. It sits on the saddle between two valleys which merge and then meander down to Stroud; a little way north there is Painswick Beacon with views across the Severn plain stretching across to the Black Mountains in Wales and just to the east you can find Cider With Rosie country: the beautiful Slad Valley which was so lovingly brought to the nation's attention by the writer Laurie Lee.

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

- **In and around the village:** each of the walks includes some of the lanes and footpaths which are hidden away in this classic Cotswold village
- **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.
- **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 – and she pronounced herself happy with every walk included in this book!
- **A good pub:** and is there any pub finer than The Oak in Painswick? We've been drinking and eating there for nearly twenty years and its friendly staff and great atmosphere make it one of the finest inns in the Cotswolds – and perfectly situated for some great walks.

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!

The map to the right provides an overview of the stunning walks in this booklet:

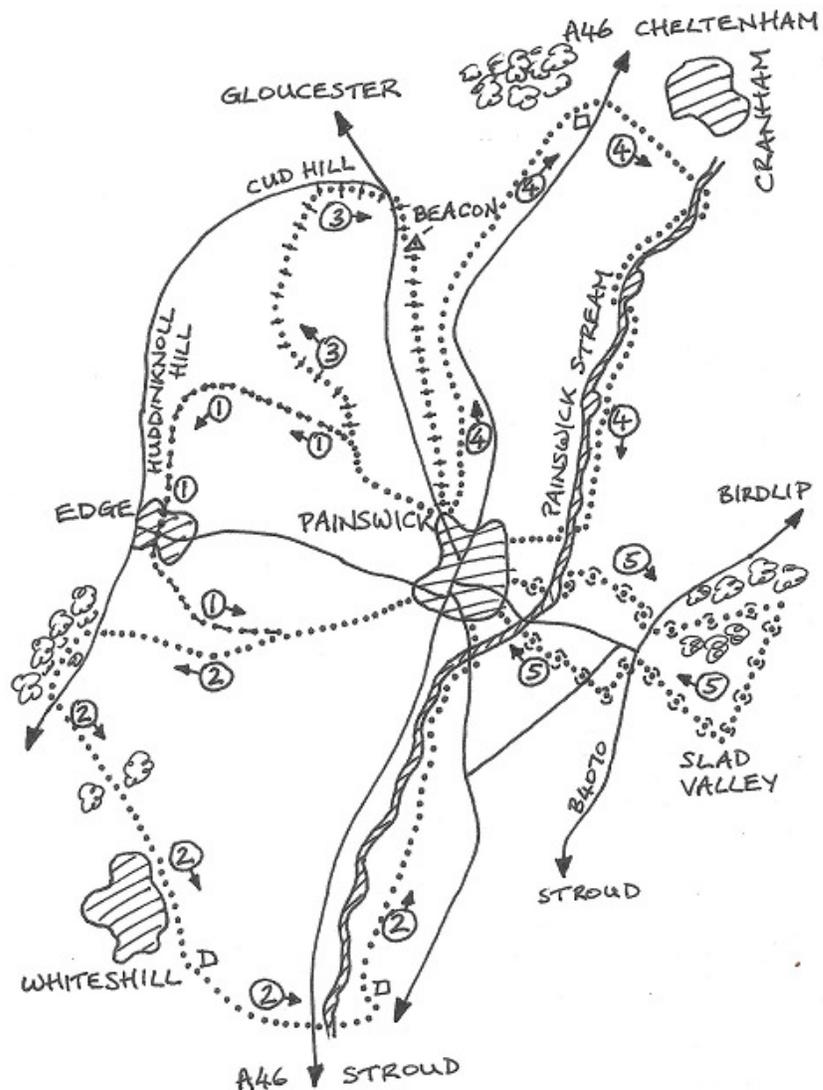
1. Huddinknoll Hill (to the west)
2. Painswick Valley – South
3. Painswick Beacon (the less travelled route)
4. Painswick Valley – North
5. Slad Valley (to the east)

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](http://www.rrgordon.com)

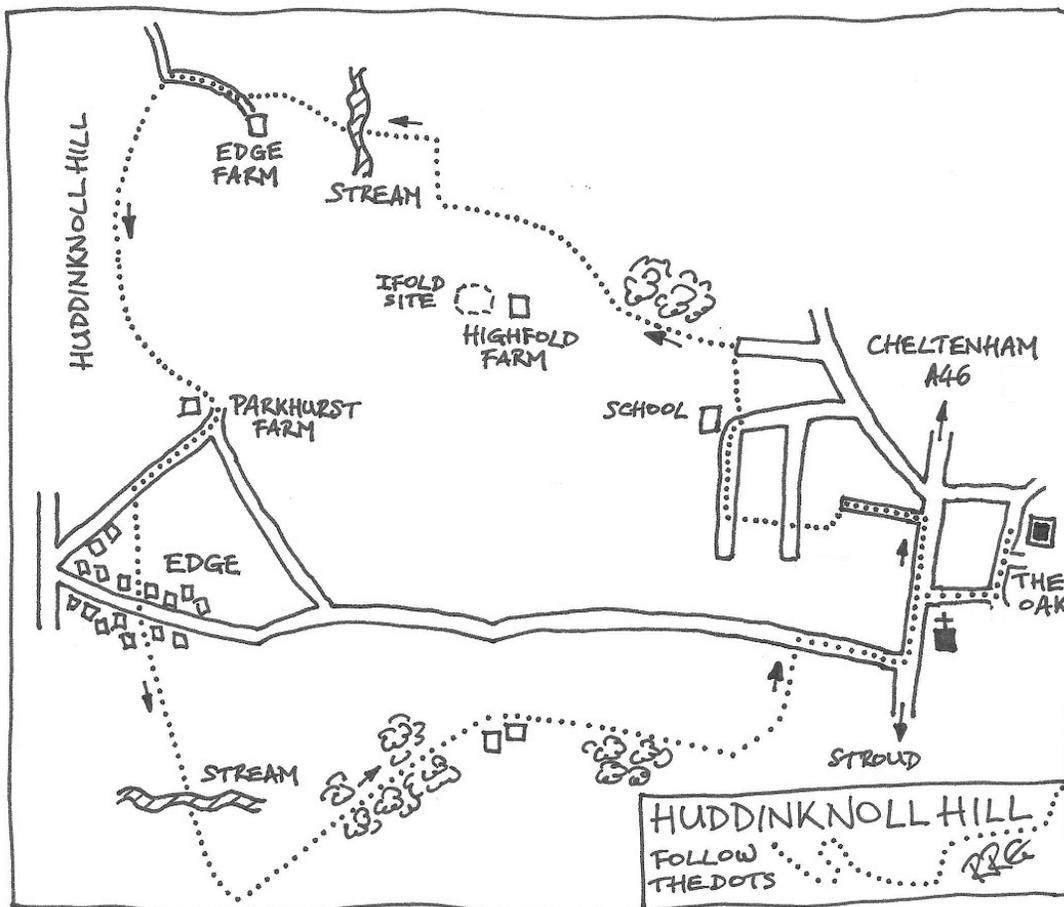
Rod Gordon

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# 1. Huddinknoll Hill

Rod's Rating	 Picture postcard rolling countryside to the west, with stunning views down the Holcombe spur of the Painswick valley.
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 No such thing as a bad walk, Daisy says. She enjoyed roaming up and down the fields – and there were plenty of streams to grab a quick drink. Mostly gates but a couple of tricky stiles towards the end of the walk
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
Parking	Limited on-road free parking in Painswick but Stamages Lane carpark, Painswick GL6 6UZ is currently free
How long did it take?	2 – 2 ½ hours    6km (3¾ miles)    200m up/down



## The walk in summary:

Head north-west into the Holcombe valley and up the other side, then south along the ridge of Huddinknoll Hill and back down into the valley, then east/north-east back to Painswick.

## THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of The Oak, and follow the road (St Mary's St) as it bends to the right just before the churchyard entrance. At the main road (A46) **turn right** and head slightly uphill through Painswick (New Street)
- > Just after the traffic lights, immediately after Bank House, **turn left** up a tarmac drive (Hollyhock Lane)
- > **Turn to left** at top of driveway and then to **right** by a large tree, the drive narrows to a pedestrian footpath here

- > Go straight across the residential road (Hyett Close) and along another footpath through houses
- > **Turn right** at the next road (Churchill Way) and walk past school on your left
- > Immediately after the school **turn left** up a footpath (school field on your left, houses on right)
- > Follow the Public Footpath sign to the left (the path goes through the trees to the left of the track)
- > After 25 yards go through metal kissing gate ahead (large white sign to the side); ignore tracks to left & right
- > **Turn right** and go down the right side of the field, slightly downhill, heading for the valley
- > Go through green metal kissing gate & continue straight ahead down the valley (fence on left, trees on right)
- > Go through wooden kissing gate & bear right to head up the right side of the field, trees on your right
- > Go through a second wooden kissing gate and head uphill, up the right side of the field

*Highfold Farm is to your left, the view is down the Holcombe spur to the main Painswick Valley*

- > At the top of the rise, go straight across the farm drive via wooden kissing gate

***NB. The farm drive leads to Highfold Farm and in the field next to the farmhouse a Roman villa was discovered at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. See "Something Interesting" section below for details. If you take a short detour (about 25 yards) down the farm drive there is a sign explaining a little more about the site.***

- > Go through a small wooden gate and continue across field, slightly to left, heading for large house in distance
- > Go through small wooden gate and **turn right**, following the hedge on the right
- > Go through another wooden gate and **turn left** to walk downhill between two hedges (NB. The footpath becomes a stream here if it's been raining!)
- > Cross over the stream (Wash Brook) at the bottom of the valley using the wooden footbridge
- > **Bear right** over stream (not left), following yellow Public Footpath, go through trees for 50 yards, then over a stile and into a field; head uphill on the left side of the field
- > Head for fenced area at the top and go through the kissing gate; do not go left towards Edge Farm, but go straight ahead five yards then **turn right** onto tarmac farm drive (which leads away from Edge Farm)
- > Head up to the top and **turn left** at the metal Public Footpath sign, heading up a track between two hedges which lead around the back of (and above) Edge Farm; Painswick is in the valley to the left;

***You are now at Huddinknoll Hill which is around the halfway point of the walk, but you might prefer to continue to the bench below before stopping for a rest ...***

- > At the end of the flat section of track, ignore stile to right & continue along farm track, slightly downhill
- > When you reach some houses, ignore the two public footpaths to left and **bear right** along tarmac road (Packhurst House on right)
- > **Turn right** at the fork in the road (at the triangle of grass)
- > Follow road uphill, going past the turning for Packhurst Farm
- > **Turn left** at a well-hidden public footpath sign in the hedge (if you get to the next house on the right, Kenidjack, you have gone too far) and climb over the stile (**DD**) into the field
- > Head straight across the field, heading for large tree to left of telegraph pole; Painswick valley to your left
- > Climb over a metal stile (**DD**) and go straight ahead through trees, a garden on your right
- > Walk between two Cotswold stone walls to emerge at Edge village green
- > Go straight across the village green, heading downhill past a **BENCH** under a tree
- > **Turn right** along tarmac lane past Edge Village Hall
- > **Go left** over a stile (**DD**) in farmyard, opposite barns; head down the grass diagonally left

- > Climb over a stile and head down again; cross stream at the bottom via wooden footbridge (**DD**)
  - > Continue up straight ahead towards a tree with stile (**DD**) to the left. Climb over stile; officially the footpath then follows the right edge of the field, but the direct route is to cut across the field aiming for the house straight ahead
  - > You come to the Cotswold Way running left to right in front of you; **turn left** and head down to large stone Cotswold Way marker post (church steeple in distance); follow the Cotswold Way back to the village
  - > At the trees, go through a small wooden gate into the woods; cross a wooden footbridge in the woods
  - > Emerge into a clearing through kissing gate (**BENCH**) and then go through another kissing gate on the left side
  - > **Turn right** and walk down a track
  - > When you reach some houses **turn right** just after them to walk along side of house and across a stream
  - > Go through a wooden kissing gate and a little further walk diagonally across the field, heading for opposite side; then walk up to top-right corner of field (tennis courts on your right behind hedge)
  - > **Bear right** to 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**
- At the end of the field you will see a sculpture dedicated to Tony Drake, principal creator of Cotswold Way.*  
(**BENCH**)
- > **Go through kissing gate** onto tarmac road and **turn right** (this is Edge Road)
  - > At the end of the road you reach the church again. Cross the road and go into the churchyard through the lychgate.
  - > Follow the path to the right of the church and exit onto St Marys St. Continue straight ahead and The Oak is on your right
- Any problems with these directions? Please email me at [rod@rrgordon.com](mailto:rod@rrgordon.com) (also if you liked the walk!)*

### **SOMETHING INTERESTING:**

Near Highfold Farm, around half a mile from the edge of Painswick, was once a roman villa called Ifold (hence the name Highfold for the farm today). The evidence of this villa is at the bottom (southern) end of one of the neighbouring fields to the farmhouse, ie the villa was situated just a few yards from where the farmhouse is today – and in fact some of the farm buildings re-used some of the stone from the villa.

The villa was built some time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and was unused after the 5<sup>th</sup> century (the Romans left Britain in AD410). There is some evidence that the villa was burned and it is commonly held that the Saxons set fire to every Romano-British town and villa they met with.

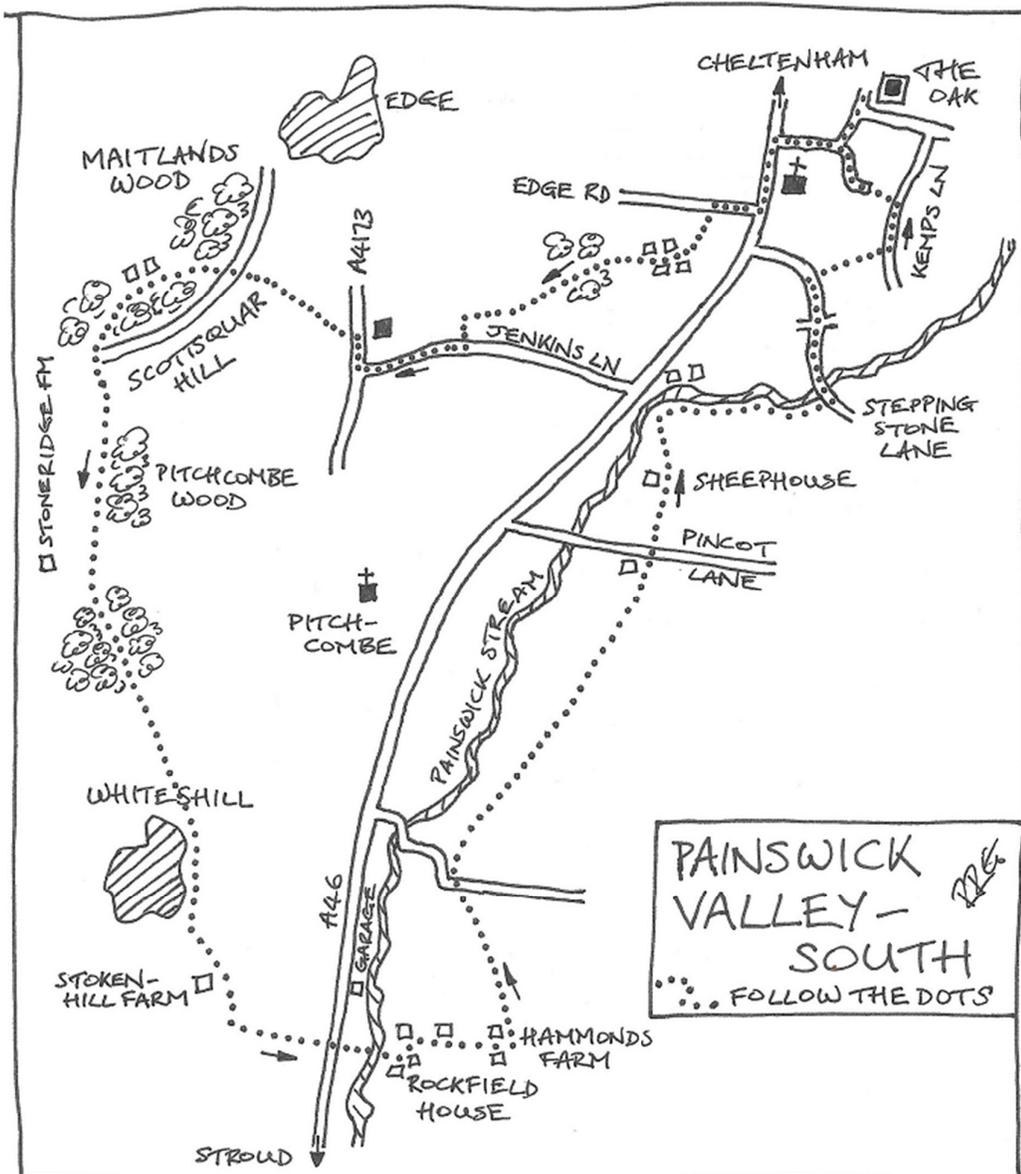
The only formal excavation seems to have been made by W. St. CLAIR BADDELEY in 1904 but he was an extremely thorough archaeologist and his very detailed notes have been preserved and can be found at

[https://archive.org/stream/transactionsofbr27bris/transactionsofbr27bris\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/transactionsofbr27bris/transactionsofbr27bris_djvu.txt)

The villa was approximately 100 feet long x 60 feet and the excavation found a mosaic (“of combined geometric and scroll type, having a broad chequer border at the east end in small red and white squares”), a bath, underground heating, vase, pewter pot, comb, decanter, coins, tiles, grindstones, window glass, horse-shoe, gold ring. One of the two coins showed Helmeted Roma; reverse, the wolf and twins.

## 2. Painswick Valley - South (or Postcards from the Edge)

Rod's Rating	 <p>Stunning views across Painswick Valley – and then also, briefly, the Severn Valley. Walking back across wide open fields along the bottom of Painswick valley with plenty to see on both sides. But tiring - you'll need a drink at the pub when you get back from this one!</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy thinks that every walk should be as long as this one. Or perhaps a little longer. Plenty of streams for her to jump in, rolling grassland for her to roam around and woods for her to hunt in. Just one stile which might prove tricky</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes ( <i>south-west, then south, then west and finally north along the valley floor</i> )
Parking	Limited on-road free parking in Painswick but Stamages Lane carpark, Painswick GL6 6UZ is currently free
How long did it take?	3-4 hours 10 km (6 miles) 400m up/down



### The walk in summary:

Follow the Cotswold Way for the first couple of miles up to Scottsquar Hill.

Follow the ridge southward and then head down the Whiteshill valley spur.

Finally head north back to Painswick along the valley floor, following the stream.

## THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of The Oak and continue straight ahead at small crossroads to enter churchyard
- > Continue straight ahead taking path to left of church. Go through lychgate and at main road (A46) cross the road into Edge Road
- > Continue along the road for approx. 200-300 yards and **turn left** at Cotswold Way sign (*you will follow the Cotswold Way for the first couple of miles until Maitlands Wood at the top of Scottsquar Hill above Edge*)
  - > Go through kissing gate into a small triangular field; walk along left 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 a kissing gate and follow a path leading between some houses, go across a drive leading to a house called The Lantern and **turn left** to follow another path between some houses
  - > Go through a kissing gate, emerging at the top of a hill; walk downhill with the fence on your right
  - > Go through a kissing gate and continue straight ahead following the left edge of the field (Painswick tennis courts are on your left behind the trees/hedge)
  - > The path then veers across the field to far right corner then **bears right** to continue downhill thru woods
  - > Go through a kissing gate, then down past a couple of houses and a stream
  - > **Turn left** after the second house to follow a track slightly uphill (still following Cotswold Way)
  - > After 200 yds there is a gate on left; go thru this and **bear right** across field & into woods thru kissing gate
  - > Cross a wooden footbridge in the woods
  - > **Turn left** as you exit the woods at a gate and walk uphill on the left edge of the field, go past a large stone Cotswold Way marker
  - > Go through a wooden gate, **turn left** and walk along the left edge of field, still uphill
  - > Go through a metal kissing gate and **turn right** onto road (Jenkin's Lane)
  - > Walk up the road to a main road (A4173 Stroud-Gloucester) and **turn right** towards the Edgemoor Inn (do **not** go immediately across the road where there is a footpath sign to Scottsquar Hill)
  - > Opposite the pub there is a layby, cross the road and follow the Cotswold Way sign (on the side of the layby) through a wooden gate into Rudge Hill Nature Reserve
  - > **Turn right** to follow path leading uphill
  - > Continue to top of hill, going straight across three cross-tracks, still following Cotswold Way signs
- At the top of the Rudge Hill (just before you go down past a silver birch on left), turn around to look back at the view of Painswick in the valley below. This is the main climbing done, but there are plenty of small climbs ahead! However it's certainly a good spot for a rest.*
- > Go a few yards downhill, **turn left** following Cotswold Way sign then right to go down some steps with a metal handrail
  - > Go through wooden gate and **straight across road**
  - > Head down and slightly left into the woods (*Maitland Wood*) still following Cotswold Way
  - > After a little way, you emerge from the woods at some houses, with a view over the Severn valley
  - > **Turn left** to go slightly uphill along a wide crushed Cotswold stone track along the edge of the woods

- > Just after a new-ish house on your right (with parking on your left), after about 50 yards, you finally leave the Cotswold Way at a footpath which **forks left and uphill** through the trees at a small wooden post with yellow footpath sign. (If you get to a conical-shaped roofed house you've missed it!) Keep to left hand path as you go up
- > At a cross-track as you near the road at the top turn right then immediately left up along a footpath
- > **Go straight across the road** (right then left) to go through a gap in a Cotswold stone wall and over a stile *This is a good stile for sitting down to take a rest and look at the view. Stoneridge Farm is to your right, Pitchcombe Woods are ahead of you, Whiteshill valley through the gap inbetween, Painswick is sharp left almost along the line of the road. After resting, start the long trek back down into the valley ...*
- > Continue straight ahead to cross to woods on the left side of the field, walk along edge of field and climb over stone stile (**DD**) just after the fourth telegraph pole
- > **Head right and down** into another field
- > Walk across the right (top) edge of the field to the other side
- > There are two stiles close together at the far corner of the field, take the left hand stile between two stones (**not** the right hand stile that leads up to Stoneridge Farm)
- > A bridleway (unmarked) goes sharp left on the near side of the wood, but you should follow the footpath ahead which goes down the far side of the woods which widen as they go down; follow right edge of woods downhill, right beside a mossy Cotswold stone wall
- > A short way after the mossy Cotswold stone wall has ended, the path veers **slightly left** away from the right edge of the woods to follow a line of telegraph poles
- > Climb over a stile and **turn left** on tarmac lane (this is Upper Kitesnest Lane in Whiteshill)

#### TAKE CARE ON THIS NEXT INSTRUCTION!

- > The lane leads down to a house, take path to left of driveway & round back of the house, **turning sharp right** to walk down a footpath on the lower edge of the garden (do **not** go straight ahead back into woods)
- > Just after some farm buildings on your left (Kite's Nest Farm) **fork left** down to a narrow wooden gate next to a metal 7-bar gate; the valley can be seen ahead of you
- > **Turn right** onto tarmac farm drive and walk along the top edge of a field overlooking Painswick valley
- > Go thru a metal 7-bar gate & immediately **fork left** after a red poo bin to go to left of an old garage *NB. This is approximately the halfway stage of the walk. Before forking left, you could continue down the lane (Field Road) to pop into Whiteshill where there is a pub (The Star Inn) and a shop.*
- > Walk downhill between 2 hedges – and then past a field on your right
- > At the end of the field go over a stile; a footpath leads you between a house & its garage (relatively separate); walk out along the drive (ignore footpath on your left as you leave house)
- > After a hundred yards **turn sharp left** to follow a driveway down to Stokenhill Farm
- > Go between farm buildings & then **turn right** to follow footpath (to right of metal gate) down to the road
- > Climb over a stile and cross the road (A46); **turn right** and walk along pavement on other side
- > After 25 yards **turn left** by a bus stop and public footpath sign to walk up a driveway to a few houses
- > Go past Rockmill House towards the last house on your left, then **turn left** just before a tall laurel hedge turn left, walk five paces, then **turn right** to walk through a gap in the hedge, then **turn left** to skirt round the edge of the garden to a stile next to a metal 6-bar gate
- > Climb over the stile and **turn right**
- > Climb over next stile after a few yards & walk straight uphill across a field heading for Hammonds Farm
- > At the top of the rise, climb over stile, **turn right** and walk up through farm (Hammonds Barn on left)
- > **Turn left** as you exit the farm buildings, then **left again**

> Before barns go over stone stile on your right and walk along left edge of field

***You will now walk across a dozen fields up valley back to Painswick, the stream to your left in valley floor***

> At end of field go left over a stile to walk between two hedges towards next field; then over another stile into field

> Continue on left side of field; Pitchcombe village is to your left

> Go through kissing gate and **turn** left onto road

> After 25 yards **bear right** to go through metal kissing gate and then almost immediately go through another metal kissing gate

> Continue straight ahead following right (top) edge of field

Pitchcombe church is up and to your left on the opposite hillside

> Go through a metal kissing gate in the trees, across a stream, continue straight ahead

> After 50 yards the path veers diagonally left past a large tree then a tall cedar with Painswick steeple glimpsed in the distance

> Head into some trees in a dip and go through a gate (inside a gate)

> Head up a small (yet steep!) rise and walk out along the drive of a house (keep house on your left)

> Cross the road (Pincot Lane), go over a stile and continue straight across the next field

> Climb over a stile at the base of an ash tree, go down into a dip with some trees

> Cross a wooden footbridge (quite high!), continue straight on up a rise

> Go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a large house (Sheephouse)

> Go out along the driveway into parkland (ignore metal kissing gate on left as you leave the house)

> At a fork in the driveway **go left and down** (grass in the middle of the road), heading for the stream

> Cross over the stream, follow stream past house on left, stream on right

> **Turn right** and go through a gate to cross the stream at a weir

> Go through a kissing gate to follow the stream on your left

> Go through another kissing gate and go straight ahead between two fences and then two garden hedges

> Go through a gap in a Cotswold stone wall and **turn left** onto the road (Stepping Stones Lane, Painswick)

> Follow the road over the stream and up the hill, go straight on past the turning for King's Mill Lane

> Walk up the road until you get to a driveway on your right with a public footpath sign, walk to the end of the driveway and go down a narrow path to the left of the garage at the end

> Go into a small field and **head left and uphill**

> Climb over a stile at the top and **turn right** to follow a grass track to the gate at the end

> Go through the gate and out through the driveway between two houses

> **Turn left** onto Kemps Lane, heading uphill

> Go up past houses such as Fig Tree Cottage, Wyck House and then **turn left** at the end of a high Cotswold stone wall to go up a narrow alley way between two houses (metal handrail on the side)

> The alleyway opens out into a road (Hale Lane), walk up to the top and turn right

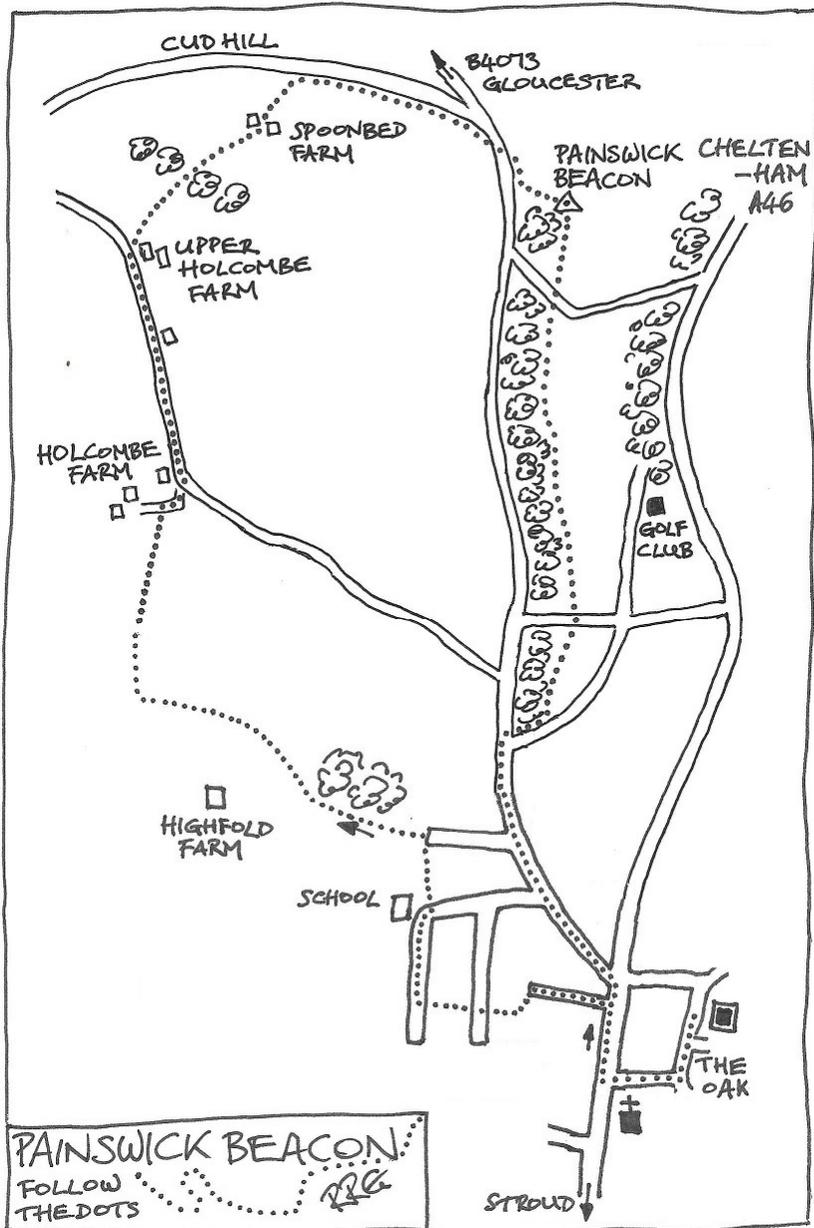
> Painswick church is in front of you. **Bear right** and go past the village stocks

> Continue along St Mary's Street, go over the crossroads and The Oak is on your right

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

### 3. Painswick Beacon – Through the back of the Wardrobe

Rod's Rating	 <p>Nobody goes to Painswick Beacon this way so keep it under your hat. Sneak out the back door of village into the Holcombe spur of the Painswick valley and climb up to Cud Hill – the only place where you see spectacular views of the Severn valley and the Painswick valley from the same vantage point. Stunning.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy particularly likes this walk on Sundays – when the golf course is not available for play and she can roam across the common land of the Beacon.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes – with a fair bit of climbing, but aren't they all
Parking	Limited on-road free parking in Painswick but Stamages Lane carpark, Painswick GL6 6UZ is currently free
How long did it take?	2 ½ - 2 ¾ hours 7km (4¼ miles) 250m up/down



#### The walk in summary:

Head west out of the village and then head north, climbing up the Holcombe spur of the Painswick valley.

Climb up to Painswick Beacon and then head south back to the village across the common land of the golf course, staying on the right hand side of the fairways.

## THE WALK - In detail:

> **Turn left** out of The Oak, and follow the road (St Mary's St) as it bends to the right just before the churchyard entrance. At the main road (A46) **turn right** and head slightly uphill through Painswick (New Street)

> Just after the traffic lights, immediately after Bank House, **turn left** up a tarmac drive (Hollyhock Lane)

> **Turn to left** at top of driveway and then to **right** by a large tree, the drive narrows to a pedestrian footpath here

> Go straight across the residential road (Hyett Close) and along another footpath through houses

> **Turn right** at the next road (Churchill Way) and walk past school on your left

> Immediately **after** the school **turn left** up a footpath (school field on your left, houses on right)

> Where track bends left, follow Public Footpath sign **to the left** (path goes thru trees to left of track)

> After 25 yds go through metal kissing gate on left (large white sign to the side); ignore tracks to left & right

> **Turn right** and go down the right side of the field, downhill, heading for the valley

> Go through green metal kissing gate & continue **straight ahead** down the valley (fence on left, trees on right)

> Go through wooden kissing gate & **bear right** to head up the right side of the field, trees on your right

> Go through kissing gate and head uphill, up the right side of the field

*Highfold Farm is to your left, the view is down the Holcombe spur to the main Painswick Valley*

> At the top of the rise, go straight across the farm drive via wooden gate

*NB. The farm drive leads to Highfold Farm.*

> Go through another wooden gate and continue across field, slightly to left, heading for large house in distance

> Go through a wooden gate and **turn right**, following the hedge on the right. You are now following stream to your left in bottom of valley

> Go through trees and **go straight** across path, through two wooden gates, into the field opposite; head diagonally right aiming for the top right corner

> Climb over stile (gate usually open) and stay on the right side of the next field

> Climb over stile and **turn right** up the farm track, then continue straight ahead up the tarmac farm drive

*Holcombe Farm is on your left*

> **Turn left** onto the quiet country road, keeping Holcombe Farm buildings on your left

> The road goes down into a dip to cross a stream and up the other side; continue past Holcombe House

> **Turn right** just after Upper Holcombe Farm at a Public Footpath sign at stone track that leads into farm

> Climb over stile and head **up and right** towards a telegraph pole and then towards the trees further up. Views to Painswick Beacon to right

> Climb over stile next to gate and continue up through the trees

> Just after a farm track on your right, where original track bends to left, **continue straight ahead** where indicated by a Public Footpath sign

> After 50 yards the path merges onto farm track which you saw earlier, continue along with field on right

> Towards end of field **bear slightly left** to cross over to farm track on edge of upper field

> Continue through into next field, keep to the right alongside the trees

> **Bear left** to follow permissive track which does a semi-circle through woods around the left side of Spoonbed Farm

> Emerge from woods and **turn left** to follow the old tarmac farm drive **straight ahead** all the way up to the road, ignoring a Public Footpath to the right

*You are now at Cud Hill which has panoramic views of the Severn Valley ahead & Painswick Valley behind*

> At road **turn right** and follow a footpath that runs to the side of the road

> After 200 yards you come to main road, cross it diagonally right just before telegraph pole to follow a path which runs parallel to road

> Ignore a path that forks to the left next to a fence and continue to follow the main path keeping road on right, cross a crushed Cotswold stone track, go thru some tree stumps following a footpath sign up a grass track heading diagonally up to the right; **please note that you are now entering common land so you can actually walk anywhere. There is a BENCH halfway up!**

> Head steeply uphill, aiming for the highest point of land that you can see; this is Painswick Beacon which is marked by a trig point at the top; this is at 283m above sea level (and The Oak is at about 125m)

*After looking at the view and resting, then head back to The Oak ... the following instructions lead you down the right hand side of the golf course. The area covered by the golf course is common land, but naturally it is sensible to stay to the side of the fairways. There is no play on Sundays.*

> Leave trig point heading *away* from Severn valley (effectively turning right from the direction you arrived)

> Go down the stone steps and turn right to head through the walkway with Cotswold stone wall, past the 12<sup>th</sup> tee and down the **right side of the fairway** next to the trees

> **Cross the road**, and continue up the 13<sup>th</sup> (and 3<sup>rd</sup>) fairway staying on the right hand side

> Then climb up past the edge of Catbrain Quarry to go through the trees at the top of a rise; go past 3<sup>rd</sup> tee and then along a short Cotswold stone track to emerge at a green at the end of another fairway

*Once again, please note that the golf course is on common land and you can walk anywhere!*

> Continue downhill past the 15<sup>th</sup> tee staying to the right; the 15<sup>th</sup> hole doesn't have a fairway, just a stony track that leads down to the green which is in a hollow (how do they ever land the ball on this green?!?!);

> Go to the left of the green and climb up to emerge at the 16<sup>th</sup> tee; turn right and walk down towards road

> **Go straight across road** & head diagonally downhill to a house with two spherical bushes at its gateway, (you cross 17<sup>th</sup> fairway which goes right to left)

> **Turn right** onto the road and follow this to the end (you can also walk through the Walkers Car Park)

> **Turn left** onto main road (B4073) walking downhill towards Painswick

> As the road bends to the left **turn right** down Gloucester Street

> At bottom cross over main road (A46) and head downhill. Opposite the Painswick Centre **turn right** into St Mary's Street and The Oak is on your left

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

### **SOMETHING INTERESTING:**

The land around Painswick Beacon is one of a string of hill forts constructed on the Cotswolds which date from the Bronze Age and are approximately 3000 year old. Unfortunately little is known of the occupants of this time.

An alternative name for the Beacon is Castle Godwin because Earl Godwin of Wessex camped here with his forces in 1052 AD. Godwin was the most powerful man in England at the time and was in revolt against King Edward the Confessor. A meeting was arranged to try to reconcile the two and Painswick may have been the site chosen. It would have been a convenient spot as it lay close to Wales where Godwin had been recruiting men to join his army, and was just inside the borders of Wessex where he would have felt safe. The Earl's son, Harold Godwinson, succeeded Edward the Confessor on the throne of England in 1065 – this is the same King Harold who died in 1066 at Hastings fighting against William the Conqueror.

The golf club was founded in 1891 and the course was laid out by David Brown who won The Open in 1868. The subscription rates in 1891 were: A Gentleman: One Pound; A Lady: Ten Shillings; Other member of the same household: 5 Shillings

## 4. Painswick Valley - North

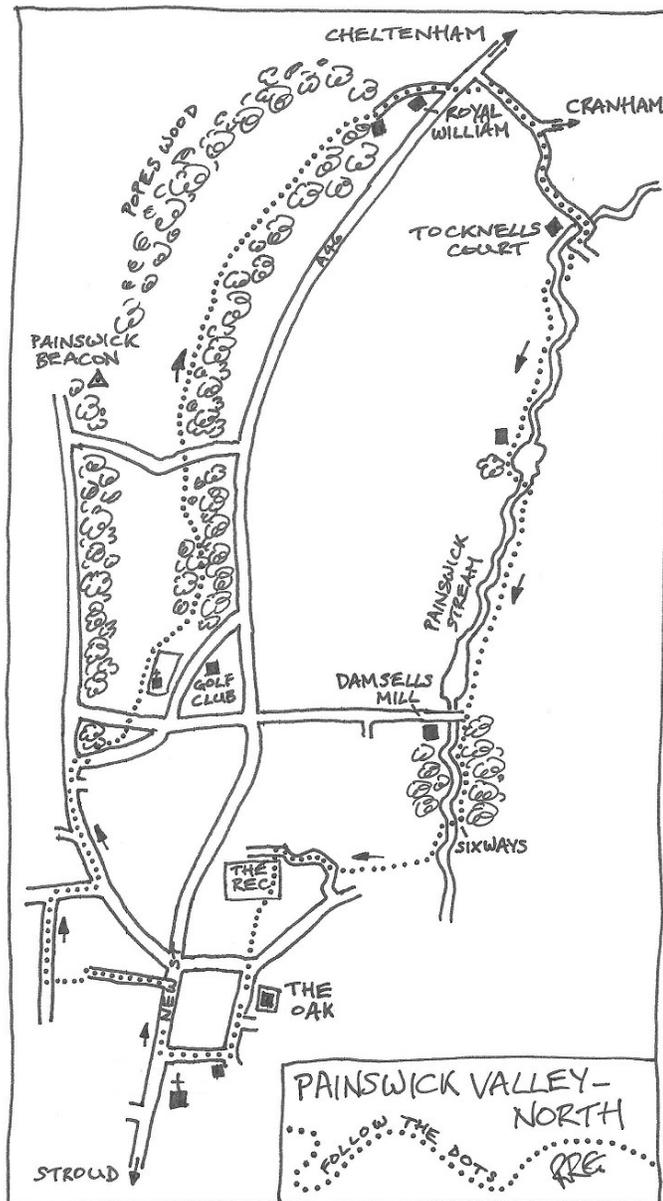
<p>Rod's Rating</p>	 <p>I like walks which have a mix of terrain and this has exactly that: woodlands and wide meadows, a climb up to Painswick Beacon with its raw, impressive views across the Severn plain followed by a saunter along the soft, delightful Painswick valley.</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?</p>	 <p>The first couple of miles are across common land and Daisy revelled in being off the lead, roaming far and wide. The return leg along the Painswick stream provided her with plenty of opportunities to jump in the water for a swim!</p>
<p>Is it a circular walk?</p>	<p>Yes (<i>head north along the hills, then return southwards along the valley</i>)</p>
<p>Parking</p>	<p>Limited on-road free parking in Painswick but Stamages Lane carpark, Painswick GL6 6UZ is currently free</p>
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>2½ - 3 hours    9 km (5½ miles)    240m up/down</p>

### The walk in summary:

*North along the Cotswold escarpment,  
then south along the valley  
following the Painswick stream  
back to Painswick*

### THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of The Oak, and follow the road (St Mary's St) as it bends to the right just before the churchyard entrance. At the main road (A46) **turn right** and head slightly uphill through Painswick (New Street)
- > Just after the traffic lights, immediately after Bank House, **turn left** up a tarmac drive (Hollyhock Lane)
- > **Turn to left** at top of driveway and then to **right** by a large tree, the drive narrows to a pedestrian footpath here
- > **Turn right** onto the residential road (Hyett Close)
- > **Turn right** at the next road (Churchill Way)



- > **Turn left** onto Gloucester Street. Continue uphill.
  - > Ignore the dead end road on your left, but then **bear left** just past Pound House at the main road (B4073) continuing uphill
  - > Just after Gyde Road, **turn right** at Golf Course Road (signposted Cotswold Way)
  - > Walk through the Walkers Car Park Perhaps stop at The Box for a hot drink and cake (Wed-Sun 9am-2pm) and out the other side, back onto road for a few yards
  - > **Fork left** at the sign for the Cotswold Way and emerge from some bushes on Painswick golf course (the 17<sup>th</sup> fairway runs across from left to right in front of you); head diagonally uphill towards a tall Cotswold Way marker post. *The area covered by the golf course is actually common land, but naturally it is sensible to stay to the side of the fairways whenever possible and wait for play. There is no play on Sundays.*
  - > **Go straight across the road** still following Cotswold Way signs; the path takes you to the left of Painswick Cemetery (Cotswold stone wall to your right); follow stone wall to the end
  - > Go straight across the first fairway of the golf course heading for a Cotswold Way marker at a gap in the trees ahead
  - > Go into woods (**BENCH**) following Cotswold Way signs; path is fairly level, slight uphill in parts, **BENCH** half way along
  - > The path emerges from the woods to follow a high Cotswold stone wall at Catbrain Quarry
  - > Go out along the quarry driveway, bearing left at the fork
  - > **Go straight across the road** and follow a crushed Cotswold stone track which leads along the right edge of the fairway; this track continues straight ahead for the next mile or so
- At this point you can take a detour up to the left and climb up to the trig point at Painswick Beacon in order to look at the view across the Severn plain to the Malverns and Black Mountains of Wales***
- > The land widens out at the furthest green (8<sup>th</sup> hole) on the golf course which is marked by a very tall white pole; go to the right of the green and down a rough track past houses (Bears Den & Bryher)
  - > Follow the track gently downhill as it becomes a tarmac road
- You are now leaving the Cotswold Way; ignore any Cotswold Way signs as you walk down the road; NB this is the halfway point of the walk.***
- > Follow the road down to the Royal William pub (on your right); you now need to cross the main road (A46), but stay on the left side for a few yards to walk through the bus stop; at end of bus stop go directly across and into the woods at a Public Footpath sign
  - > Follow this footpath for 200 yards until it reaches a small (very quiet!) country road; **turn right** onto the road & follow it all the way downhill to bottom of valley; **stay right** at fork following signs to Sheepscombe
- You will now follow the Painswick stream as it meanders back down the valley to Painswick***
- > Follow road round to right and climb over stile on the right next to gate just past entrance to Tocknells Court and follow path parallel to the stream and drive
  - > Upon reaching the house cross the bridge on right over stream, climb over stile and continue straight on into field following the stream on left and climbing over another stile
  - > At the end of the field, climb over stile on right (& a 2<sup>nd</sup> one immediately after) and continue straight on
  - > At a house on your right, **go to left of willow tree** and around the side of the small lake at the downstream end of the lake and over a wooden bridge
  - > Climb over a wooden stile and **head to the right** through a field following the stream
  - > Join the farm track at the end of a field and > (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 kissing gate at the end of the field to find yourself on a road

- > 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 kissing gate after just ten yards and the path leads into the woods. There is a metal gate after about 600 yards & then you continue to an intersection of half a dozen footpaths. I call this intersection *Sixways*. At the intersection there is a metal 5-bar gate

**NB. If you were to turn left at Sixways (through gate) you could walk 400 yards to join the Sheepscombe walk that is in Booklet 2 (you would join at Pyll House)**

- > **Turn right** at Sixways to cross the stream and enter a field; walk along the left (bottom) edge of the field
- > At the end of the field, go through a metal 6-bar gate (marked Public Bridleway & Public Footpath) and continue **straight ahead**; keep hedge on your right and stream on your left.
- > Go through a wooden 5-bar gate by a house (Highgrove) & continue **straight ahead** along farm driveway
- > Where driveway bends uphill & to right, **climb over stile on your left** & continue straight ahead following direction of stream (but 25yds up the slope from it); the pathway then curves upwards to a clump of trees  
*By the way if there are cows in the field, you can actually continue up driveway as the two routes meet later*
- > Climb over a stile and **head right** along the right edge of a field up towards tall trees & houses on a ridge  
*NB. The hamlet of Longridge is on the opposite hillside to your left*
- > Climb over a stile and **turn left** onto the farm driveway that you left earlier; you are now in Painswick
- > After 25 yards **turn right** up a footpath running between two wooden fences
- > **Turn right** onto road (Lower Washwell Lane) and continue uphill past houses such as Providence Cottage and Whispering Trees; follow road around to the left and then it finally flattens out
- > Straight ahead is a recreation ground (known as "The Rec"); there is a wide metal gate
- > 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 along 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 estate agents on left; pause to look at the prices!
- > Go straight ahead and The Oak is on your left. Stop for a well-deserved drink and a bite to eat!

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

**SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Painswick is well known for St Mary's Church, the 99 yew trees that grow in its churchyard and the legend that if a 100<sup>th</sup> tree is planted that it will always die from the touch of the devil, but until recently I hadn't realised quite how widely the story had spread.

Greg Thatcher is an artist from Iowa, USA, who travels to Painswick each summer to sketch or paint the yew trees. He has been doing this since 1991 and has produced over 250 works in pen & ink, mixed media and drawings with a 9H pencil. This is what Greg says of his work:

**My yew tree series is based upon yew trees growing in St. Mary's churchyard in Painswick, Gloucestershire, England. The yew trees were planted in the Middle Ages and form the most beautiful yew tree avenues in the world. Many of the trees planted along dirt pathways around the church have grown together to form archways. Upon discovering the Painswick yew trees, I became fascinated by the larger shapes of the trees & how their shapes & their intricate values interacted and melted together. I am also intrigued by the heightened dramatic quality of the light at Painswick, and had to be very attentive & aware to begin to identify the subtle changes & nuances with the trees. I find this process very stimulating & nourishing to my creativity & imagination.**

Take a look at [www.gregthatchergallery.com](http://www.gregthatchergallery.com) – my favourite is Yew Trees #69

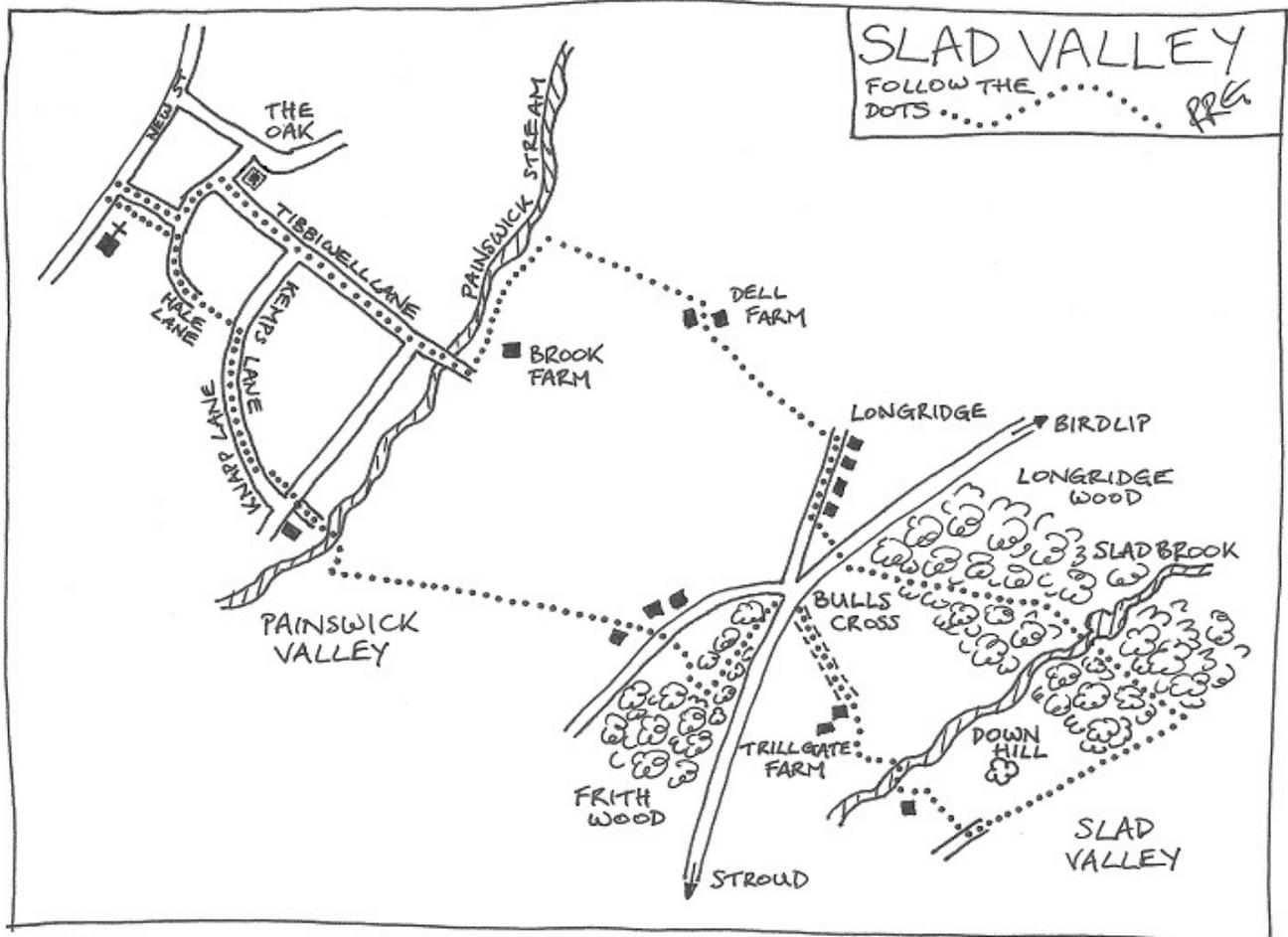


## 5. Slad Valley.

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	 <p>An energetic hike across to the east of Painswick to walk around the famous Slad Valley. This walk features a small loop around Slad Valley itself, but goes along a part of the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way, which you can follow further in order to extend the walk by another hour or two.</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?</p>	 <p>Some nice stretches in the woods providing an opportunity to hunt through the undergrowth; plenty of ups and downs and places to drink.</p>
<p>Is it a circular walk?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Parking</p>	<p>Limited on-road free parking in Painswick but Stamages Lane carpark, Painswick GL6 6UZ is currently free</p>
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>2 - 2½ hours    7km (4½ miles)    315m up/down</p>

### The walk in summary:

Down to bottom of village & then up opposite side of valley to Bulls Cross (heading east); a small circuit around Slad Valley before heading back to Painswick. Look out for bench halfway round! If you wish to extend walk with a longer circuit around Slad Valley see [www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/laurielee](http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/laurielee)



## THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of The Oak and then first left at the Cross (later becomes Tibbiwell Lane)
- > Follow the road all the way to the bottom of the valley
- > Just after crossing stream at bottom, **turn left** up the farm track to Brook Farm (Public Footpath sign)
- > 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 (**DD**), 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
- > Just before a house on left, **turn right** between two metal gates and walk uphill between the two fields
- > At the top right continue straight ahead through wooden gate
- > Look behind and right at view of Painswick Church then continue straight ahead through metal gate towards farmyard (Dell Farm)
- > Bear right through the farmyard, going past the pond on the right, then walk uphill along the farm track heading towards the houses at the top of the hill (Longridge)
- > Ignore any potential turnings at an intersection of tracks halfway up and keep heading up the hill, following a grassy track towards the houses at Longridge
- > At top, go through kissing gate and **turn right** onto road, Painswick is to the right across valley & houses of Longridge are on left
- > After 25 yards, at 'The Briars' and 'Kontiki', there is a raised farm track on the left side of the road: walk along this track
- > Before end of track **turn left** at Public Footpath sign at gap in hedge; walk up past small common area
- > **Turn right** onto the tarmac drive and then after just 10 yards ...
- > **Turn left** at a Public Footpath sign (marked Wysis Way) and head diagonally right up through the woods
- > Go straight across the main road and continue down the lane on the other side, signposted by a Public Footpath sign

*You are now about to walk into Slad Valley & at this point you join a stretch of the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way*

- > Follow the farm track downhill to the bottom of the valley, going around a metal gate halfway down
- > **Fork right** about 100 yards from the bottom following a white Public Footpath arrow and Laurie Lee sign
- > Continue straight ahead at the very bottom, going past a small lake on your left
- > Climb up very steeply going **straight ahead**, ignore paths to left & right
- > At the top of hill **turn right** onto a farm track which runs along a ridge at edge of trees with views to left

*NB. If you wish to follow the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way, continue straight ahead at this point through a gap in wall, through bushes & you will find another Poetry Post just the other side (with beautiful view across a valley)*

- > Follow the path along the top edge of the woods until you emerge from the trees (this near the top of a hill called Down Hill, which has lovely views down Slad Valley straight ahead towards Stroud); walk downhill straight ahead, crossing the occasional all-weather horse training tracks (**BENCH**)



- > At the bottom, soon after the gateway by a barn, join a tarmac road, but after 100 yards **turn right** following a Public Footpath sign along a farm track; *you are now on a short stretch of the Wysis Way*

- > At the end of the first field on your right, **bear left** and shortly before a house (Trillgate), **turn right** through a gate into a field (follow white footpath sign)
  - > Skirt around left edge of field heading down to bottom of valley, through a gateway (or over stile)
  - > Climb up the grassy field on the other side, heading towards right side of the house (Trillgate Farm)
  - > At farm **turn right** onto footpath just before wooden gate and then **turn right** to head up the drive; follow the drive all the way to the top, up, up, up until you get back to Bulls Cross (the main road you crossed previously)
  - > Continue **straight across** the road and **bear left**, not down the road opposite which is signposted to Wick Street but along a bridlepath to the left; this goes through three gates and into Frith Wood Nature Reserve
- Frith is a Saxon word meaning woody common*
- > After 50 yards there is a noticeboard on the right describing Frith Wood and after another 50 yards, **turn right** to follow a Permissive Bridleway downhill in the direction of Painswick
  - > After a while, where the permissive path flattens slightly and curves to the left, **turn right** following a Public Bridleway sign to emerge on the side of a field
  - > Go through a wooden gate at the top, walk down the side of the field, through a metal gate at bottom
  - > Go straight across the road and down a farm track past a barn on your left, heading for Painswick
  - > Where the track bends to the left, continue straight ahead over a stile still heading for Painswick following a path inbetween a hedge on your left and a wooden fence on your right
  - > Go to the left of the gate straight ahead to go through a metal V stile, there is still a hedge on your left and fence on your right but the path is narrower now
  - > Go over a small stile in a gap in a Cotswold stone wall and continue downhill
  - > The path flattens at the bottom, about 100 yards short of the stream and you should **bear right**
  - > After the garden on your left, **fork left** down to the edge of the village
  - > **Bear left** at the bottom (noting the lovely mill pool on the right!) and walk up the road (Ticklestone Lane)
  - > Continue straight ahead at the top to follow a Public Footpath uphill across a grassy area
  - > You emerge onto a road (Knapp Lane); follow this road uphill (right/straight on); up, up, up
  - > Shortly after Orchard Mead on the right, the road flattens out; follow a high Cotswold stone wall on your left and then **turn left** up an alleyway where the high wall ends (just before Churn Cottage)
  - > The alleyway emerges at the bottom of a road (Hale Lane), continue up to the top (noting the village stocks) and then **bear right** and follow St Mary's Street over the Cross back to The Oak on your right

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

### **SOMETHING INTERESTING:**

*On this walk you cross at Bulls Cross twice – a site mentioned by the author Laurie Lee in 'Cider with Rosie' when he tells the tale of a phantom coach which was rumoured to travel in the area:*

'The Bulls Cross Coach was another ill omen, and a regular midnight visitor. Bulls Cross was a saddle of heathland set high at the end of the valley, once a crossing of stage-roads and cattle-tracks which joined Berkeley to Birdlip, and Bisley to Gloucester-Market. Relics of the old stage-roads still imprinted the grass as well as the memories of the older villagers. And up here, any midnight, but particularly New Year's Eve, one could see a silver-grey coach drawn by flaring horses thundering out of control, cold hear the pistol crack of snapping harness, the screams of the passengers, the splintering of wood, and the coachman's desperate cries. The vision recalled some ancient disaster, and was rehearsed every night, at midnight.

Those who hadn't seen it boasted they had, but those who had seen it, never. For the sight laid a curse upon talkative witnesses, a curse we all believed in – you went white in the night, and your teeth fell out, and later you died by trampling.

As for Bulls Cross – that ragged wildness of wind-bent turves – I still wouldn't walk there at midnight. It was a curious tundra, a sort of island of nothing set high above the crowded valleys. Yet its hollows and silences, bare of all habitations, seemed stained by the encounters of strangers. At this no-man's crossing, in the days of foot-pads and horses, travellers would meet in suspicion, or lie in wait to do violence to each other, to rob or rape or murder. To the villages around, it was a patch of bare skyline, a baldness among the woods, a wind-scarred platform which caught everybody's eye ...'



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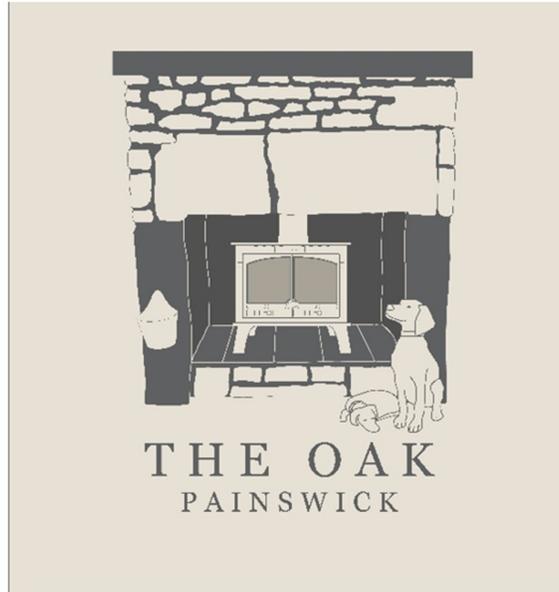


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