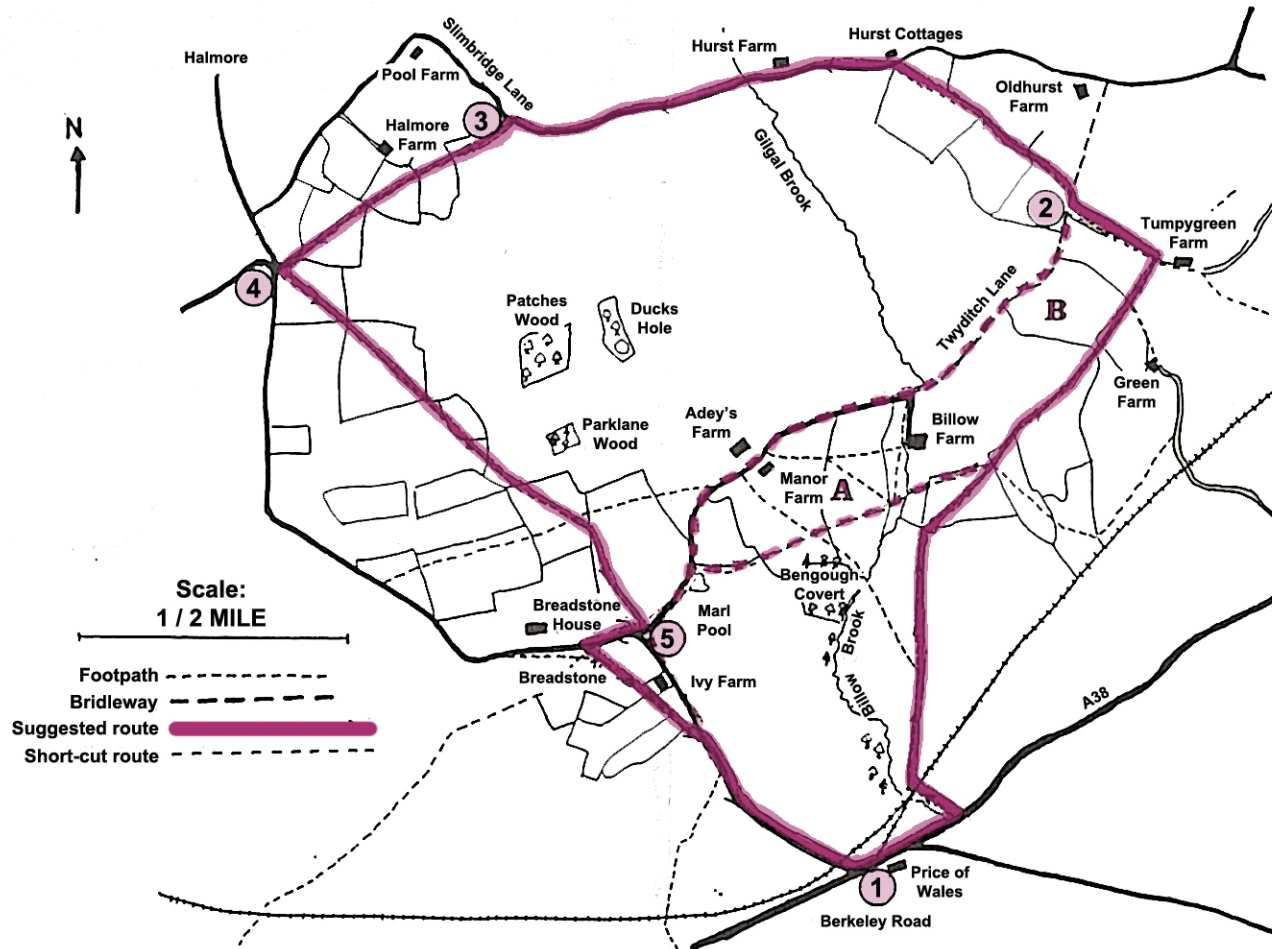


# Circular walks in the parishes of Hamfallow Hinton and Berkeley Purple Route



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When walking these routes please remember that all the land you are walking over is working farmland from which local people earn their living. Please observe the Country Code.

1. FASTEN ALL GATES
2. KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL
3. TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME
4. GUARD AGAINST STARTING FIRES
5. KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS
6. PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND TREES
7. AVOID DAMAGING FENCES AND HEDGES

This circular walk crosses lots of open Ground with varied farming interests, well away from roads but it also includes a quiet section of country road called Slimbridge Lane with a short section in Hamfallow Parish with a short section in Hinton Parish. The total distance is 5.2 miles, but there are short-cut options A of 2.3 miles and B of 3.8 miles. The start point is the Prince of Wales Hotel at Berkeley Road on the A38 (1). An alternative start point is at Halmore corner (4).

## Route Details:

From the Prince of Wales (1) cross the road with care, turn right and walk along the verge to a footpath sign. Take this path on the left, over a stile, along by a stream to another stile which leads over to the railway line with a pedestrian level crossing. Stop, look and listen before crossing the line over to a metal stile. In this next field turn right, starting up the hill, but veer left on the path almost going due North, through the crop over towards a solitary oak tree in the next field. In the far distance, slightly to the left of your route direction can be seen May Hill, with its ring of conifer trees planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee. Pass through the gate and carry straight on up the hill past the solitary oak. When you reach the top of the hill, there are, in addition to May Hill, commanding views over the Severn Vale with the Malvern Hills in the distance. The path descends towards Billow Farm. As you proceed down the hill, the tall and slender spire of Slimbridge Parish Church stands out against the distant Robin's Wood Hill. After you pass through the metal gate at the bottom of the hill, the path bears right over towards the far corner of the field to another metal field gate.

(At this point, if you want short-cut A, turn back along the valley bottom of the footbridge over Billow Brook, to the left of Billow Farm, and take the path up over a stile towards the right hand hedge of Bengough Covert. Cross the stile and go across the field, passing an orchard on your right, out to the road by the pond called Marlpool. Turn left on the road and go to the Breadstone road junction, point (5).

For the main route, go through the metal gate and over to the far left hand corner of the next field to a footbridge over the ditch. The path continues alongside the hedge on your left and straight across the remainder of the field to a stile by a small electricity pylon. Over the stile and a bridge you enter a small copse area which you leave by another stile. Go over to the left hand corner of the next field where there is a stile at either end of the footbridge. Continue in the same direction up the hill to the hedge. Turn left and go down the hedgeside until you reach a pedestrian gate on your right. Through the gate turn left and down the hedgeside to a stile onto the bridleway called Twydit Lane (2). (If you want short-cut B, turn left along this Tarmac lane. Note the attractive shrub growth, which is good for birds. The lane leads to the road out to Breadstone, point (5).

For the main route turn right on Twydit Lane for about 50m to a footpath on the left. Take this path alongside the hedge on your left to a stile in the corner of the field. The path continues in a NW direction with the hedge now on your right, over another stile and straight across the field to the Slimbridge

Lane road opposite Hurst Cottages. Turn left on the road and walk towards Halmore for about half a mile. Unfortunately there are no public footpaths to enable one to avoid walking as much on road as this, but the road itself is not too busy and is a pleasantly winding and undulating route.

Take the first footpath on the left, point (3), go through the gate and almost immediately through another gate to the left. Turn right here in a SW direction and aim for the V-stile and footbridge in the far hedge. There are some fine large specimens of oak trees here. The path then continues in the same direction over three more fields behind Halmore Farm. In the third field go diagonally across to the far corner where the hedges close to form a short length of lane, leading out through two field gates to the Halmore road junction (4). On the way you pass some mature orchards on your right. The apples from here are still used locally for the brewing of scrumpy, a very tasty form of cider.

At the road turn left and immediately left again into the next footpath which goes diagonally across the field (in a SE direction) to a stile in the far corner. The path continues across the corner of the next field to another stile nearby and then diagonally across a large field to a field gate in the corner. Although most of the land in this area is pasture, or maybe a grass crop for silage or hay, some of the fields in this low-lying area often contain crops such as Maize. However, the routes on the definitive line of the Public Rights of Way should be kept clear of obstruction from crop growth at all times according to the 1991 Act. Also when the land is ploughed the path should be reinstated shortly after ploughing. From the gate the path continues in the same direction, following roughly the left hand hedge to a pedestrian gate. Through this gate continue SE to another pedestrian gate near to the right-hand corner of the field. The path goes diagonally over the next large field to a gap in the hedge, then veers right to a stile in the middle of the hedgerow. Throughout this area there are several scattered patches of woodland, mostly originating from fox coverts or game coverts. These wooded areas and network of hedges are about the only refuges for the decreasing amount of wildlife existing in the intensively farmed land these days. Go straight across the next field to a metal field gate and onto a track leading to the Breadstone road junction (5).

At the road junction turn right along the road towards Halmore. Take the first footpath on your left, over a stile and after a few paces head left again to a stile and Bridge towards the back of Ivy Farm. The footpath goes through two metal gateways alongside a hedge towards a stile leading into the edge of an old orchard. This leads out to the road through a gate. Turn right, watch out for traffic, and walk out to the A38 and back to the starting point, the Prince of Wales, a good spot for well earned refreshment!