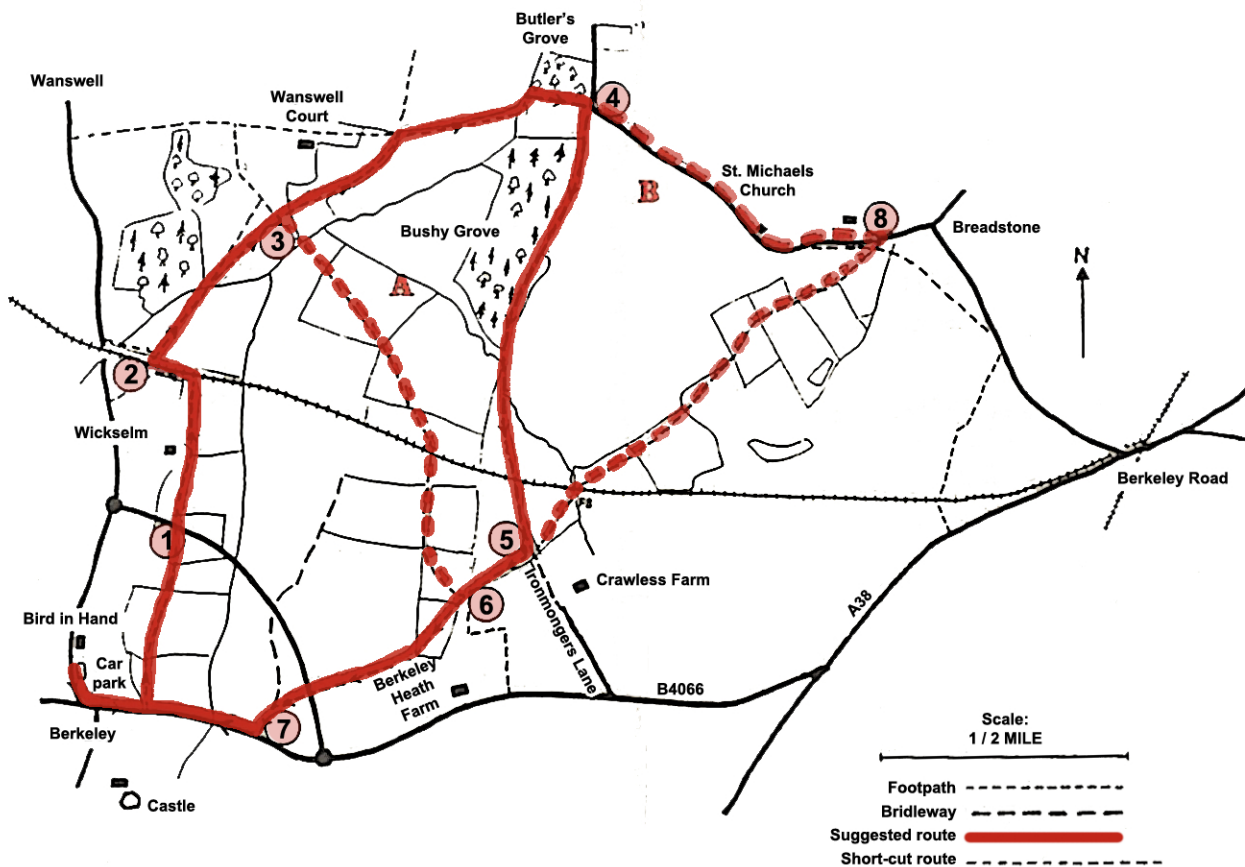


Circular walks in the parishes of Hamfallow Hinton and Berkeley Red Route



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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 route is an attractive walk, starting in Berkeley town centre but covering a range of rural landscapes including the largest stretch of woodland in the area. The going is easy, largely over pasture land but some fields with arable crops. The bridleway through Bushy Grove can be very muddy in wet weather so sturdy footwear is needed. The total distance is 4.2 miles, but there is a short-cut option A of 3.3 miles, or an extension B making a total of 5 miles. The start point is in the car park off Marybrook Street, Berkeley. An alternative is on the Halmore to Breadstone road by Butler's Grove (4).

Route Details:

From the car park head for the town centre and turn left down Canonbury Street until you see the footpath sign on your left to Halmore. Take this path up the side of the old Police station and across the field to a gate opposite, go over the stile to the next field to a gate opposite, passing bungalows on your left. Around here the views open up to the Cotswolds and over the wetlands in the valley. Go over the next stile and straight on, passing houses on your left and over the two step stile which leads down the steps to the Berkeley by-pass (1). Cross straight over the road with care, up the steps and over the stile. Cross the small field, over another stile and straight across the field passing Wicks Elm House on your left (An old land army house in WW2). Over the stile, by the house, head on, keeping a line of mature oak trees on your right, and towards the gantry crane. Leave the field by a pedestrian gate and turn left onto a narrow path alongside the railway line. Walk up the goods yard to Station House (2). To the left is an exit to the main Berkeley road. Take the path to the right of the house, leading to the railway line. Stop, look and listen before crossing the line. Proceed to a kissing gate and across the field towards pylons to a gateway at the right hand end of the wood opposite. Notice the lovely views across Stinchcombe Hills and Bushy Grove Woods. Cross the stream and turn right to follow the stream along, passing a lonely old oak tree until you come to a stone bridge on your right (3).

(If you want short-cut A back to Berkeley from here go over the stone bridge and straight across the field to a field gate. Through this gate the path goes diagonally right to a far right-hand corner where there is a stile. Over the stile, bear right to another stile and then over the next field to a gate leading across the railway. Take care again! Over the railway the path goes straight across the field, through a field gate and follows a hedge on your left to another field gate. In the next field bear left over to where a path comes into a field via a footbridge (6). Follow the main route description from this point.)

For the main route from (3) take the track that leads up towards the farmhouse and go through the first gate on your right into a long field, passing Wanswell Court on your left. This house is the oldest in the area and has historic connections with Berkeley Castle. The exit from the field is in the far right hand corner. Turn right through two field gateways and up on the hill, keeping the hedge on your left, passing a recently planted copse. At the top of the field join the track going left and where the tracks cross, turn right, passing Butler's Grove on your left. Go out through a bridle gate to the road (4). This is another good place to leave or join the walk, or to do extension route B as described

For the main route take the bridleway to the right of Bushy Grove Cottage through a bridle gate, heading south with Bushy Grove on your right. Notice the wild flowers here. Pass a site of an old woodmans house here, and where tracks cross go straight on. Follow the path as it meanders through more dense woods keeping going in the same general direction. Exit over a wooden bridge and bear left down a narrow pathway, then over another bridge and through a bridle gate into a field. Go straight ahead with the bridge on your left, aiming for the brick bridge where the bridleway goes under the railway. The other side of the railway, the route continues with a hedge on your left and out through a field gate onto Ironmongers Lane by Kite's Nest Cottage (5). Immediately past the cottage, turn right on the footpath through the cottage garden and over the stile. The path then goes across the next field out to a track at the far left corner of the field by the bison shed of Cattle Country (6). Cross the track and go over the footbridge into the field. Turn left here, and through a field gate and aim diagonally for a stile in the far right hand corner of this old orchard. This is a good spot for birds, some of them using holes in old apple trees as nest sites. Go over the stile and diagonally across the field to another stile and then to a bridge and stile halfway down the left-hand hedge. The path then leads out to the Berkeley bypass via a stile. Cross the bypass and take the path down to the steps to a stile. In the field head slightly left over the hill crest, passing a vent pipe on your right. The exit is to your right below you through a bridle gate to the right of the main gateway (7). Turn right on the road and walk back up to Berkeley to the starting point.

Extension Route B

This is drier under foot than the main route from (4) to (5), but doesn't include the attractions of walking through woodland. If you want to do this extension from (4), take the road towards Breadstone, passing the site of the former St Michael's Church (a tin church now removed and marked only with a white picket fence) and Breadstone House, noting the attractive gothic architecture. Almost opposite the lodge for Breadstone Lodge, take the footpath to your right (8). This crosses the field to a point where two hedges join. Cross the stile here and follow the hedge on your right along to a footbridge and stile. Cross straight over the next field to a field gate. Bear left over the next field to a stile then straight ahead, deviating slightly from the hedge on your right over to a stile. Go straight over the next field to a field gate and then down towards the passage under the railway. Go through the metal hand gate, then under the railway, through a field gate and almost immediately turn right over a footbridge across a stream. Aim for the top left hand corner of the next field to a stile leading on to Ironmongers Lane by Kites Nest Cottage (5). Continue as on the main route from this point.