

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



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

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This circular walk, starting by the canal at Purton quickly takes you up and along the highest bit of ground around here, a broad ridge running north-south. From the ridge you get some of the best and widest views in the area. The walk covers a range of rural landscapes, mostly pastureland, with some arable, as well as passing some interesting historic buildings. After the initial hill from Purton the going is easy and mostly reasonable under foot. At times certain sections will be muddy in wet weather, so sturdy footwear is advised. The total distance is 4.8 miles. Using short-cut route A the length is 3.4 miles and using B it is 4.1 miles. The starting point is the canal car park, Purton (1). An alternative is to start from Halmore (6).

Route Details:

From the carpark (1) cross the road and take the sign-posted public footpath which goes into the left of Purton Church. At the hand gate leading in to a field bear slightly right to a field gate to the right of Fisherman's Cottage. Through this gate turn half left and go up the hill, roughly following the line of electricity poles. At the top of the hill you reach a field gate. It's worth taking a pause to regain your breath after the climb and admire the views all the way round from the Forest of Dean, the Severn Valley, and over to the Cotswolds. Go through the gate and continue along the ridge with the hedge on your right. Through the hand gate and shortly after another hand gate which brings you into a field with the hedge on your left. Go along this hedge side and past Ironwells Grove, an attractive copse of trees of mixed ages and species and a lovely display of bluebells in the spring. Go through the hand gate at the far end of Ironwells Grove, continuing in the same direction, and follow the hedge on your left across a large field to another hand gate. Once again, after going through the gate follow the hedge on your left. You pass a field on the left which contains the remains of an old wind pump. Around this area are some overgrown hedges which contain a good variety of plant species and are attractive to birds as nest sites and sources of food. Where the hedge stops, continue straight across the field to another hand gate. Through this gate, aim to the right of an oak tree in the field over towards a gap in the hedge on the nearside of the bridleway Lip Lane (2). A metal field gate can be seen on the far side of the lane. At the bridleway is straightforward short-cut A down to Halmore (6). (If you want the short-cut, turn left and follow the lane down to the bridlegate. This leads down between the pleasant mixed woodlands of Oxenbrook and Howe's Grove. The latter, classified as a 'key site' of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is believed to be an ancient woodland because of the range of wild plants growing there. At the bottom of these woods is a field gate and the track continues uphill past a conifer wood on your left, then down through another field gate out to the road at Acton Farm (6).

For the main route go across Lip Lane, through the metal gate and take a right fork in the path across a short section of field to a stile. Over the stile the path goes roughly along the middle of the next long field to a field gate. Through this gate, go across, towards the right-hand corner of the field where a stile leads into the next field with a hedge on your left. Carry on along this field till you come to a stile on your left (3). (At this point is an interesting short-cut option, B. If you want this short-cut, turn left over the stile. Here you enter an area

of hay meadows. These meadows are managed in a traditional manner, without the use of weedkillers and artificial fertilisers, and have a wonderful variety of plant species, and because of this provides a good habitat for a range of butterflies and moths, especially in spring and summer. The way goes straight across two hay meadows and a third field out to the Wanswell to Halmore road. Turn left on the road and continue till you come to point 5 where the footpath crosses the road just before Oldlands Farm. Continue with the main route from this point).

For the main route from (3), do not cross the stile but continue along the hedge side through two gateways, across the drive in front of Butlers Farm, over a stile, a small field and another stile out to the road. Turn right on the road and almost immediately left onto a sign-posted footpath which leads across a small field to a stile. Over this stile go straight ahead to a field gate. When you get through the gate continue straight on, keeping the hedge on your right, over to a sleeper bridge and stile. Cross the next field to a metal field gate onto a tarmac drive (4). Turn left on the drive and walk down towards the farm. Where the drive turns to the right to the farm, go straight ahead and through a gate into the remains of an old orchard. To your right is the 16th century moated building of Wanswell Court with its historical connections to Berkeley Castle. The remains of the moat can be seen to the west and south of the building. Proceed to the far hedge of the orchard field, over the stile and follow the hedge on your left until you come to a hand gate. Turn left through this gate and follow the hedge on your right. On the other side of this hedge is a plantation consisting of a fine mix of conifers and broadleaf trees and berry-bearing shrubs, a good site for birds. Go through the next gate and straight ahead to the Wanswell to Halmore road (5).

Cross the road and take the right hand of the two paths in the opposite field, going through a metal hand gate on the right and a metal field gate. The path then goes diagonally right toward the large building of Acton Hall and up to the corner of the field to a wooden gate. Follow the hedge on your right past the back of the grounds to Acton Hall until you come to a stile on your right. Over the stile go diagonally left to a metal field gate out to the bridleway and then turn right out onto the road at Halmore by Acton Farm (6).

Turn left on the road and take the first footpath on the right leading via a house drive and stile to a field. Follow the left hand hedge and turn left over the first footbridge. Follow the hedgeside on your left to another footbridge. Over this bridge the path bears slightly right to a gate opposite. In the next field, turn left along the hedge and over to a stile. Cross this stile and follow the left-hand hedge to a field gate on the left between two oak trees. In this next large field the path goes straight over, by two big oak trees in the middle of the field, to a gate at the far side. Through the gate, bear left out to the road by a metal gate opposite the houses of Riddle Street. Turn right on the road and walk back to the starting point at Purton. On the way you pass the Severn Waterworks site in which there is a plantation of a good variety of native and introduced tree species. This screen copse forms an attractive feature as well as a potential wildlife site.