

Walk No 3

Wotton, Wortley, Alderley, Tresham, Broadbridge (8¼ or 4½ miles)

This walk starts from The Chipping car park. Take the exit at the bottom right-hand corner, with a metal safety barrier. Turn left down the road to a T-junction, and right into a lane signposted Brown's Piece. This becomes a track. Just before it goes through a gateway into a field, take a path on the left which goes diagonally down the slope. Follow this path, stepped in parts, down to the valley bottom and turn right. Cross a footbridge and keep to the right of a board fence to reach a stile.

Cross this, go over a tarmac road and straight onto another stile, just to the right of a terrace of five houses. Beyond this stile is a very large field. Bear half left, keeping the solitary tree on the right, and walk up the slope to reach a stile by a gate, with a footpath signpost. This crosses Nind Lane to a metal kissing gate, with a footpath signpost to Wortley and Broadbridge. Follow this, keeping to the left of the fence, until a gap in the hedge takes you into the next field. Walk diagonally left across this field to a metal kissing gate in the far corner, then go straight over the next field to a stile. Having negotiated this, turn left and keep to the left hand edge of the field. The path dips into a hollow and reaches a gate. Go through this, keep to the left of the house and walk down the drive to meet the road at Wortley.

Cross the road carefully to the Ozleworth Lane and follow it around a sharp bend until just beyond the buildings on the right, where there is a wooden kissing gate with a Cotswold Way signpost. Go through the gate, walk half left downhill towards an electricity pole with a yellow arrow and a white spot and a Cotswold Way way-mark post, to reach the Ozleworth stream.

(Short Route: Turn right at the bottom of the field and keep to the left, then skip to the Short Route return directions).

Cross two gates to reach a bridleway known as Kennerwell Lane. Follow this to the right, over the river and up the hill to Alderley, noting the Cotswold Way way-marks and the strong spring on the left. On reaching the village, cross the road and proceed up the opposite road to reach a junction where the church, 50 metres to the right, is worth seeing.

Bear left at the junction and leave the road very shortly by turning left at the Cotswold Way sign in front of a large house. After passing a barn on the right continue through a gate to follow the well-defined track (The Cotswold Way) which keeps to the side of the hill, with fine views, for a mile up the valley. It then joins a muddy lane at right angles. The Cotswold Way is signed to the right, but turn left up the lane for Tresham.

The route follows the obvious track, climbing up the valley to Tresham, which can be seen at the top of the hill ahead. Beyond the third gate (take the right-hand one) the track rises to the right-hand side of the valley. Keep to the right of the fence, a little later taking a left fork, and follow the track up to the lane at Tresham, a hamlet superbly situated on the edge of the Cotswold scarp.

Cross the lane and walk up the drive of the farmhouse called Burdon Court Cottage, turning left to pass between the house and a converted barn. At the end of the barn turn right alongside the fence and cross a stone stile into a field. Proceed straight across the field to a gate onto a walled track. Turn right and follow this track, keeping left at any forks. There are fine views over the Ozleworth valley.

The track winding down into the valley is concreted until a hairpin bend where it turns sharply to the right. At this point where the concrete surface ends go straight ahead over a stile and walk across three fields to reach an enclosed cart track. This leads on past Whitehall Farm to a gate just before a collection of modernised farm buildings. Turn right here down a tarmac drive.

Just before the bridge over the Ozleworth Stream, opposite one of the many derelict mills along this waterway, turn left. Keeping the stream on the right, cross two fields, passing another mill, to re-emerge onto Kennerwell Lane. Turn right over the river, cross two gates and retrace the Cotswold Way for a short distance before bearing left over a stile and out of the large field (at this point the Cotswold Way veers off diagonally right).

(Shorter Route Return: Those who chose the short route should follow the route now described).

Continue, keeping to the right of the fence, through three more fields until you reach the road at Broadbridge.

Cross the road and climb the stile beside a gate with a footpath signpost. Walk straight across the field, keeping to the right of an old, hollow oak tree, to a stile. Beyond this, walk on the left-hand edge of the field, but when the hedge swings left, go on across the field, veering right towards some telegraph poles to reach a stile on the far side. Go straight across the next field to a hedge gap. Cross another field, aiming half left, to reach a stile to the left of a tree.

Walk around the left-hand side of the next field until you see another stile. Cross this and turn right, then follow the line of telegraph poles. Cross two footbridges and continue along the streamside opposite Nind Mills. Go over another stile and a footbridge and soon a stile with a footpath signpost leads onto Nind Lane. Cross this and go through a gate. Turn half right and walk across the field to another gate. Walk up the next field towards a farmhouse on the skyline, and go over a stile next to a gate.

Beyond this, walk round the left-hand side of Leys Farm buildings (keeping out of the farmyard) to reach a stile on the right. Take the first gateway on the left and walk down the field, keeping left, to another gate. From this, head for Hawpark Farm to the left of the orchard. Cross the bridge over the stream, go through a gate, keep right and cross a stile just before the farm. Walk up the field, keeping right, to reach a stile towards the top right-hand corner. Cross this and follow the hedge on the right up the valley, eventually arriving at Brown's Piece. From here, retrace the outward route for 300 metres to The Chipping.

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