

## HILLESLEY



Once the home of farm labourers and workers in the woollen mills of the Kilcote valley. Both Hillesley Farm House and Hillesley House date from the 17th century with later additions. The Baptist Church in Kilcote Road was re-built in 1823, but until St Giles Church was completed in 1851, Anglicans had to travel the two miles to St Mary's at Hawkesbury. The village has many other listed buildings, including The Fleece Inn.

## ALDERLEY

The walk does not go through Alderley, but it passes quite close to Rose Hill private school, originally Alderley House when built in 1860. On Winner Hill to the east of the village is a Georgian summer house (now a holiday home), standing near the site of the original Alderley House. It was built c.1770, probably by the owner at that time, a descendent of the famous Lord Chief Justice Matthew Hale.



## WORTLEY

Broad Bridge is noteworthy for its narrowness! Just to its north lies the small hamlet of houses once occupied by cloth merchants and workers in the onetime many mills of the Ozleworth valley. The walk passes a former grindstone mill by the fast flowing weir, Broadbridge Mill (now a trout farm) and also the sites of Monk's Mill and Knowles' Mill.

## TRESHAM

A remote village of grey stone buildings situated high on the edge of the Cotswolds escarpment, consisting mainly of small cottages and a few large properties, which were previously farmhouses. Its size was originally restricted by the problems of water supply in this hilltop location. Until the village church was built in 1855, the nearest place of worship was at Leighterton, to which Tresham is still connected by a long footpath crossing the A46.

On the right at the top of the bridleway is Well Hill, where once there was the only source of water for the village. Together with the creation of a small amenity area, the well has been recently restored by the villagers as a Millennium project.

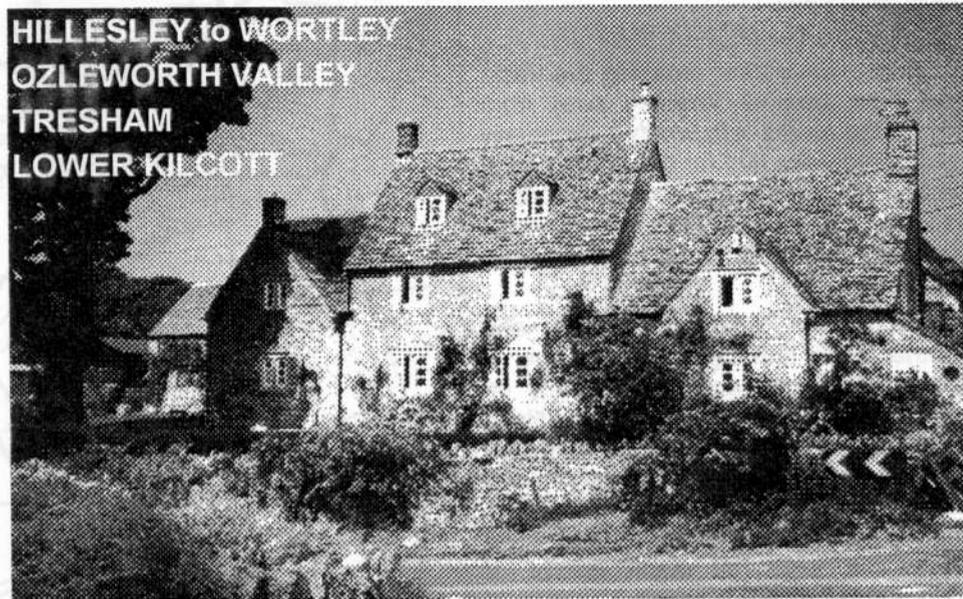
## KILCOTT MILL



One of the best surviving examples of the woollen and corn mills which at one time from the 16th century onwards were located down the valley a quarter of a mile apart, being the closest practical distance to provide a sufficient head of water to turn a water wheel. Kilcote Mill still has its mill pond, sluice and related buildings, with the water-wheel inside to prevent its freezing up in winter.

# Country Walks in and around the Parish of Hillesley and Tresham

HILLESLEY to WORTLEY  
OZLEWORTH VALLEY  
TRESHAM  
LOWER KILCOTT



This walk is about 6 miles long, twice crossing the Cotswold Way, with a quite steep climb near the middle of the walk. The whole walk is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Stout foot wear is essential, as even during dry spells heavy mud and lying water might be encountered in places.

The walk can be started and finished at either Hillesley or Tresham, but as street parking in both villages is very limited, it is not suitable for groups arriving in several vehicles.. However, provided prior arrangements are made with the proprietors, it might be possible to park at The Fleece Inn (01453-843189).

At the time of publication, all the paths were negotiable with signs or waymarks in many places. Nevertheless, depending on the time of the year, some stiles can be obscured by seasonal growth and also deviations might be necessary around the side of fields where paths have not yet been re-instated following cultivation.

Please observe the Country Code, leaving gates open or closed as you find them. Dogs must be kept on a lead whenever livestock is present.

This set of walks has been published by Hillesley and Tresham Parish Council to commemorate the new Millennium, with the benefit of a grant made by Gloucestershire County Council under the Local Paths Partnership Scheme.

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "HILLESLEY"]

1. From the War Memorial, head northwards on opposite pavement and **with caution at the sharp bend** cross over stile on other side of road; go diagonally across two small fields to reach farm track

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ALDERLEY"]

2. Immediately after crossing the track, bear right downhill, keeping away from first hedge on the left; when it eventually comes into view, aim for the upper end of second hedge and cross sleeper bridge and stile; go diagonally left passing lower electricity pole to reach far bottom corner of next field

3. Cross the stile, footbridge and another stile; turn right and go over a second footbridge and follow hedge on left all the way round to reach the stile in corner of field; go through a young tree plantation, keeping close to its western edge, emerging via a stile in corner; bearing slightly to the right, cross two fields with stiles to reach corner of cottage garden

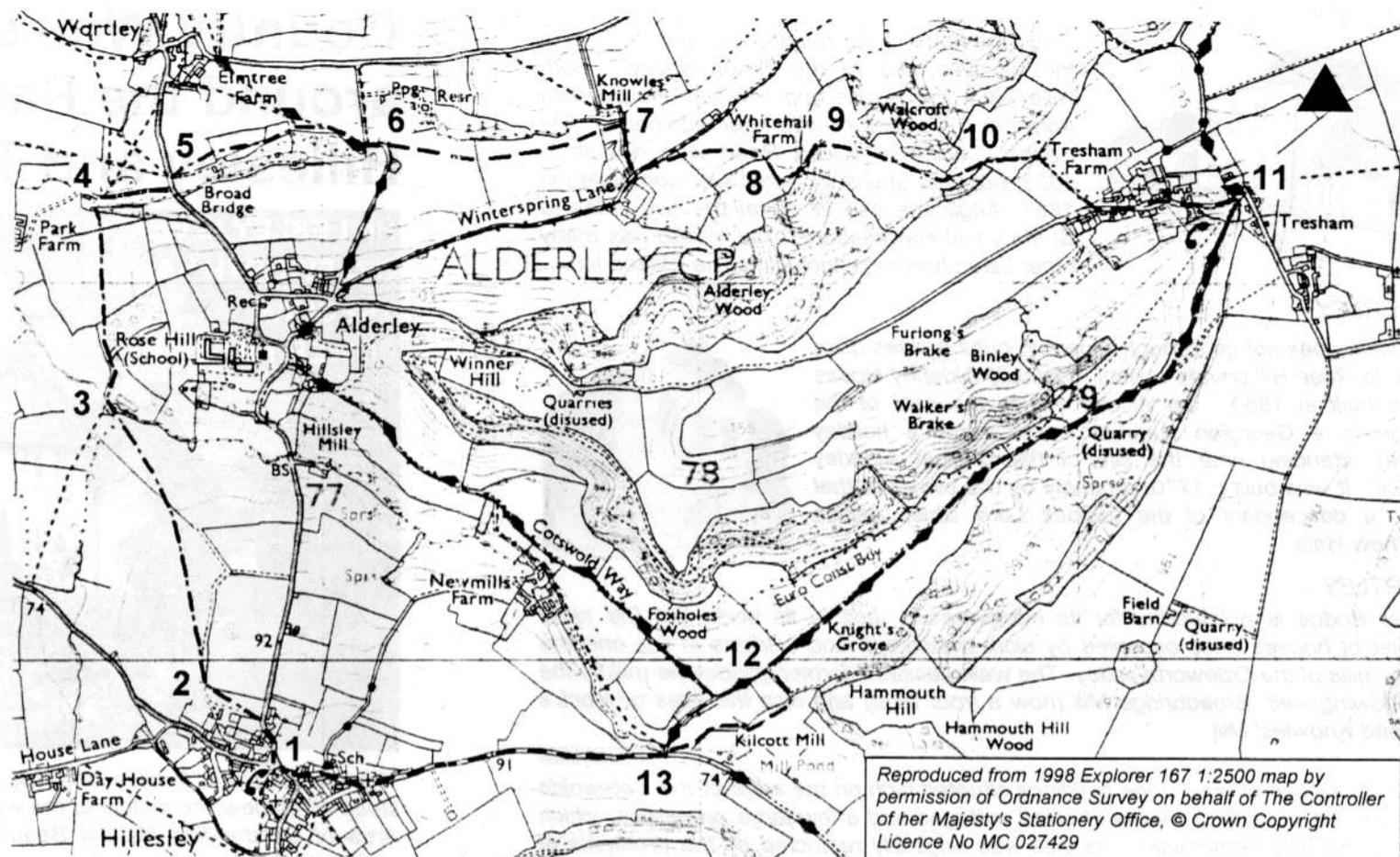
4. **Particularly keeping children away from the fast running water**, pass between the garden hedge and a weir; turn right along farm drive to its entrance; with Broad Bridge immediately on the right, go diagonally left across the road to a short track leading up to stile by a gate

5. Continue ahead along lower sides of five fields, initially passing a trout farm

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "WORTLEY"]

6. At the bottom of an enclosed track (*Kennerwell Lane and the site of Monk's Mill*) continue ahead through three fields to reach concrete drive by the *site of Knowles' Mill*

7. Turn right up the drive and then left at the top; after about 100 metres go over



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stile on right and continue to second stile; bear right over brow of field and cross third stile at edge of field

8. Follow grass surfaced "track" bearing around to left and at edge of wood bear right through open gateway to follow narrow path up through trees

9. Soon after the trees end, cross stile in wire fence on right and generally following its left side go to top of next field; turn left through gate in corner and very soon ascend mud-surfaced slope rising on the right

10. After climbing the slope, cross a concealed stile situated some way along opposite hedge; then bear slightly left and cross stile by farm track and then over stone stile at road; turn left along road into Tresham

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "TRESHAM"]

11. Near sharp bend in the road, walk down the bridleway (*part of The Monarch's Way*) and follow loose surfaced track, passing through several gates - after some distance the bridleway becomes a grass track - continue ahead following bottom of the valley

12. After the final gate, track becomes enclosed again. If ground sufficiently dry proceed ahead. *Alternatively*, go left immediately before the gate and up to stile in corner of field, turn right and continue along side of next field, again go right over second stile and then bear left down to gate near lane

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "KILCOTT MILL"]

13. Turn right on to Kilcott Lane and follow the road up to Hillesley; just after Baptist Church, keep right and follow road back to the War Memorial