

HILLESLEY



COMMONS

Inglestone Common is one of four inter-connected commons in this area. They are a legacy of the manorial system, when most land was in communal use. Following enclosures from the middle ages onwards of much land in England and Wales, the amount of common land was considerably reduced, generally comprising only the poorer ground not suitable for cultivation. While commoners have grazing and other specific rights, in rural areas there is no general public right of access to commons.

ORANGE END

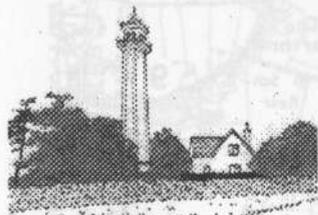
This small group of dwellings is clustered around the eastern approach to Inglestone Common, most of the houses being situated within the cattle grid and gateway. They were originally erected for commoners and farm workers, but the source of the unusual name is not known.



HAWKESBURY

The parish church of St Mary, its former vicarage, and two other dwellings are all that now exist of what in earlier times was the centre of a large estate owned by Pershore Abbey. Like other early settlements, it lies on the spring line at the foot of the Cotswolds escarpment. By contrast, what is now the sizeable village of Hawkesbury Upton had to rely upon its pond, so that its growth was constrained until the water supply situation was resolved in the 19th century.

HAWKESBURY MONUMENT



Otherwise known as the Somerset Monument because it commemorates General Lord Edward Somerset, who fought under Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo. He was a son of the 5th Duke of Beaufort and the monument was erected by his friends in 1846. The Duke of Beaufort still owns much of the land in this area, the family seat being Badminton House, which lies only a few miles to the south-east.

SPLATT'S BARN VIEWPOINT

When visibility is clear enough, soon after passing the houses it is possible to see the tops of both of the Severn bridges, Oldbury Power Station and the Forest of Dean, with the Black Mountains beyond.

Country Walks in and around the Parish of Hillesley and Tresham

HILLESLEY to
INGLESTONE COMMON
HAWKESBURY and
HAWKESBURY UPTON



The walk is about 6 miles long, with the main climb being after the half way mark. Most of the walk is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Stout foot wear is essential, as even during dry spells heavy mud or lying water might be encountered in places.

As street parking in Hillesley is very limited, the walk is not suitable for groups with 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, according to 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 southwards along surfaced drive into the playing field; follow footpath to double gates at far end; turn right down grass track and cross stile opposite rear of the village hall; keeping straight ahead, go over two clearly visible stiles

2. Bear half right to a concealed stile at kink in hedge; go down to stile in bottom far left corner of field and then down again to hunting gates enclosing a footbridge; walk up to the top left-hand corner of the next field

3. Cross sleeper bridge and stile and go through gateway opening in far hedge; maintaining same alignment, continue towards roof with a prominent dormer window to find concealed hunting gate; go across field towards stables, over stile and through stable yard and wooden gate on to the common

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "COMMONS"]

4. Turn left on to track (becoming a roadway) past houses; follow roadway around side of the common until reaching the second T-junction, then turn left towards Orange End; after grass triangle go through metal farm gate situated across the road on your right

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ORANGE END"]

5. Bear right across field to distinct gap in hedgerow; maintaining same direction, go past oak tree in middle of next field and head for tall tree standing on the boundary; go through open gateway to its right and continue with more tall trees and hedgerow on your left; then keeping straight ahead, go over footbridge and make for far left-hand corner of last field to reach concealed gate at side of lane

6. Turn left along lane, following it to road junction; climb opposite steps and stile and walk diagonally up the field to far top right-hand corner

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "HAWKESBURY"]

7. Enter wood through hunting gate; immediately turn right and then left to follow a path, which runs up and above the southern side of a small gully; leave wood through another hunting gate, bearing slightly right to metal gate; then turn immediately left through another farm gate and follow up left side of two fields to reach a crossing track, which forms part of the Cotswolds Way

8. Continue half left to end of the hedge which finishes close to an electricity pole; proceed ahead alongside a low bank separating two fields to reach a stile; cross cricket ground passing right-hand side of pavilion to a grass pathway with pedestrian gate at far end; turn left down surfaced driveway and footpath past side of The Beaufort Arms to reach village road. (The Fox Inn lies just to the right)

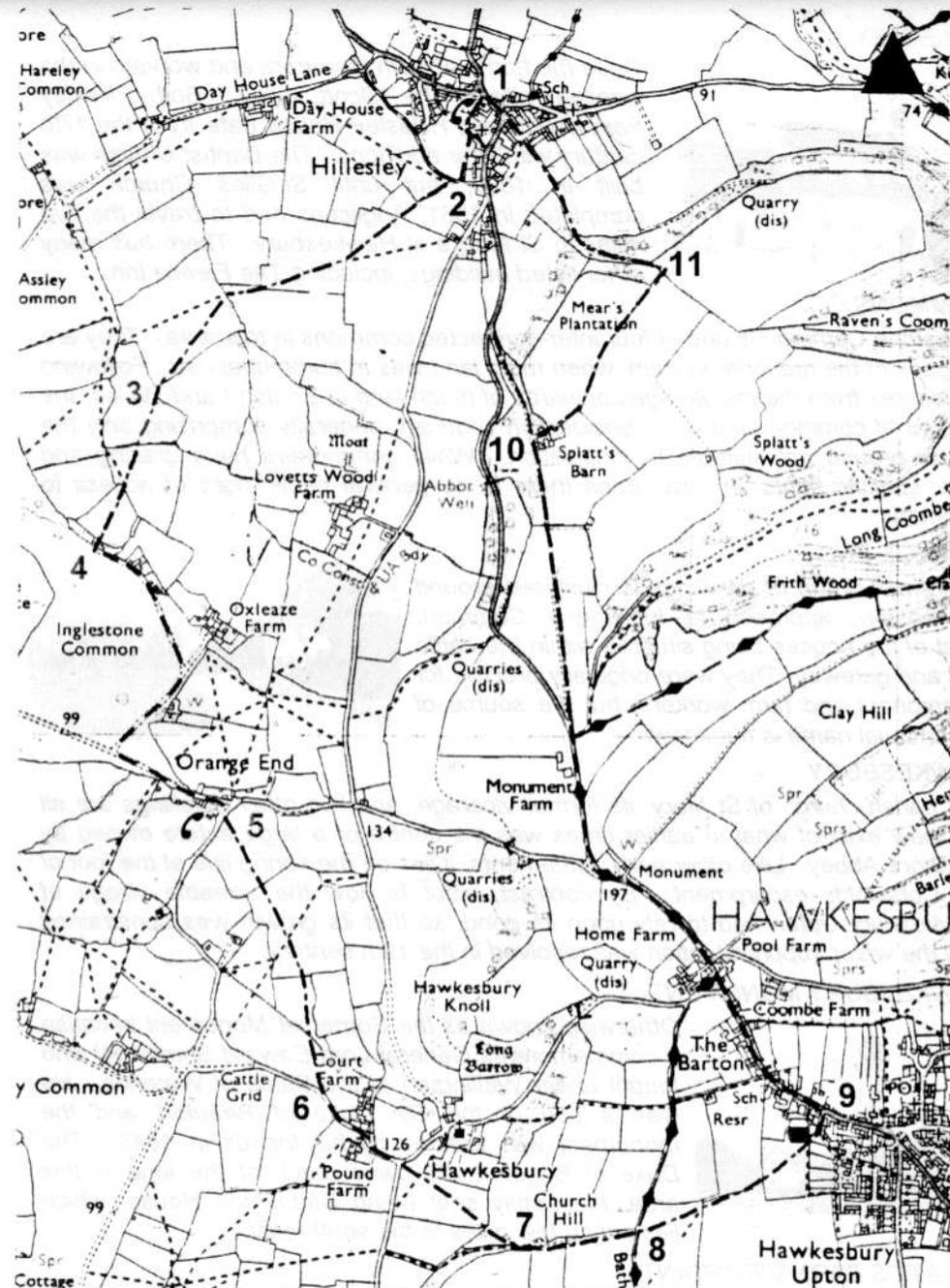
[SEE NOTES ABOUT "HAWKESBURY MONUMENT"]

9. Follow road northwards for some distance, **taking particular care in last section where there is no pavement**, to the point where the road swings left and there is a bridleway track straight ahead; follow this track until it reaches junction with a footpath, next to two dwellings

10. Turn right past the front of the houses and after a stile follow the right-hand side of a long field

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "SPLATTS BARN VIEWPOINT"]

11. When by wood, turn sharp left and follow path downhill through wood and two fields to reach lane; continue straight ahead back to the War Memorial



Reproduced from 1998 Explorer 167 1:25000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Licence No MC 027429