

HILLESLEY

Once the home of farm labourers and workers in the woollen mills of the Kilcott valley. Both Hillesley Farmhouse and Hillesley House date from the 17th century with later additions. The Baptist Church was built in 1823, but until St Giles Church was erected 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.

COMMONS

Hareley and Assley Commons are two of the 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 such land, but unusually there are some definitive footpaths across both of these commons.

VIEWS OF THE ESCARPMENT

From Hareley Common onwards, there are good views of the Cotswolds escarpment. According which point on the walk one has reached, it is possible inter alia to see Nibley Knoll with the Tyndale Monument, Wotton Hill, Tor Hill and Wortley Hill, together with the tower of St Mary the Virgin at Wotton-under-Edge.

ABBEY GATE HOUSE

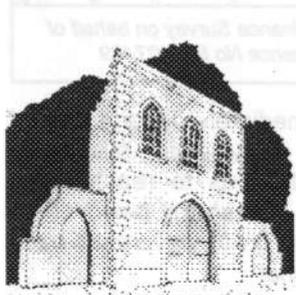
Kingswood was a large and important Cistercian abbey founded by William de Berkeley in 1139 with members from Tintern Abbey. It was dissolved in 1538, parts of its masonry being used for the construction of a hunting lodge now forming Newark Park, which lies about two miles to the east in the Ozleworth valley. The 16th century gate house is virtually all that now remains of the abbey.

NIND

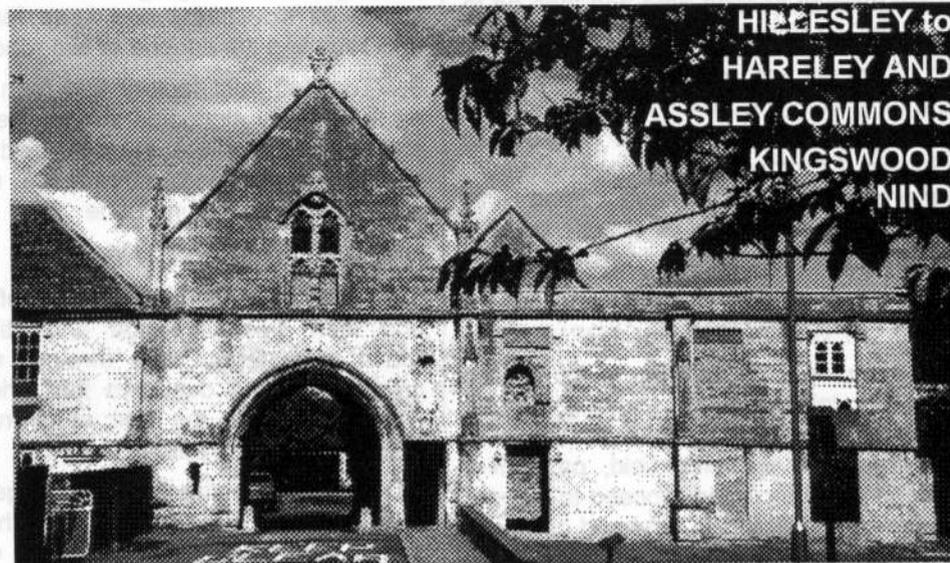
A small hamlet, now mainly comprising modern dwellings, together with a trout farm. On the southern side of the stream just beyond the trout farm, there is a rather unusual manager's house, specially designed for low energy consumption, much of which is enclosed by an earth bund.

ALDERLEY

There is a good view here of a Georgian summer house (now a holiday home) that stands on Winner Hill to the east of the village of Alderley. It was built in about 1770 close to the site of the original Alderley House, probably by the owner at that time, who was a descendent of Matthew Hale, a Lord Chief Justice during the reign of Charles II. The present house, built in 1860 is now Rose Hill private school and is best seen from the last stage of the walk.



Country Walks in and around the Parish of Hillesley and Tresham



The walk is about 5½ miles long and is generally level, although there is a long steady rise at the end. Parts of the walk are 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; bear right down to metal farm gate and maintaining same direction pass through second gate and then on to stile at Day House Lane

2. Turn left and, for nearly a mile, follow the lane which becomes a loose surfaced track just before cattle grid entrance to Hareley Common; when close to wood, ignore left fork and keep ahead until reaching very end of track by the buildings of Withymore Farm.

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "COMMONS" AND "VIEWS OF THE ESCARPMENT"]

3. Turn right through metal farm gate and then take the right-hand one of a pair of similar gates; continue through the progressively widening field, pass over stile in wire fence and proceed to sleeper bridge and stile in top left-hand corner of second field

4. When in the next field, aim for a concealed hunting gate situated within the far hedgerow a short distance to the right of trees enclosing farm buildings

5. Bear right, crossing farm track, to stile in the opposite hedge and then proceed down to stile in lower right-hand corner of next field

6. Bear left to stile in far hedge and, maintaining the same general direction, go through gates of next two fields to reach track by farm house; pass to right of the house and continue through two more fields by way of their gates

7. Turn right and keep alongside hedge through two fields to reach stile at road and follow to centre of village; take right fork at road junction just after the

Dinnewicks Inn and walk down to bottom of High Street

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ABBEY GATE HOUSE"]

8. Turn right into cul-de-sac road at side of St Mary's Church; then right and left on to footpath enclosed by railings, passing the Congregational Church; ignore all side paths and keep forward until reaching the second of two roads

9. Turn left past factory and then right on to pathway alongside stream; beyond metal gate continue through field, still generally parallel to stream, to reach gate leading on to Nind Lane

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "NIND"]

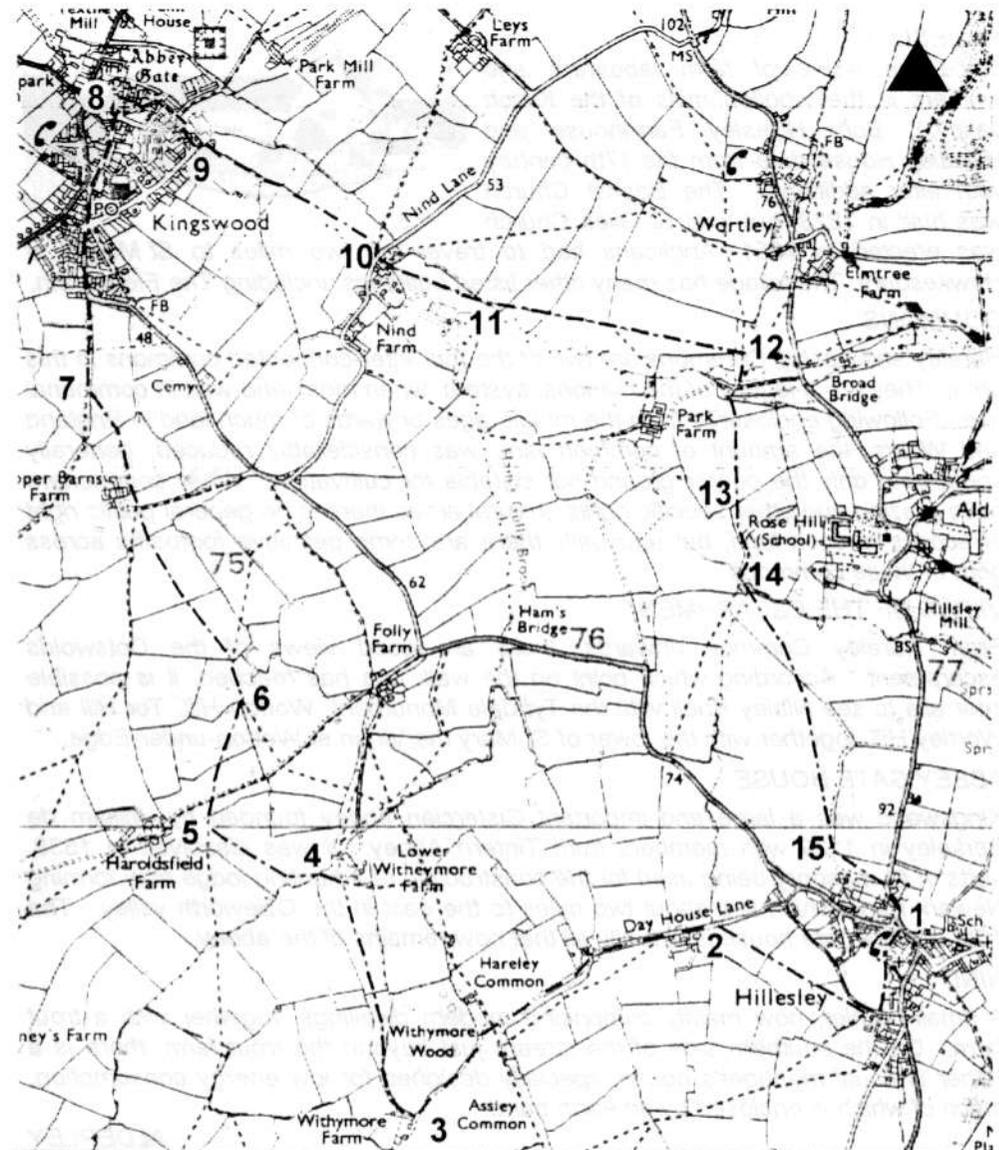
10. Cross stile on opposite side of lane and then sleeper bridge and stile to reach meandering path through rough ground, passing over two foot bridges, with trout farm on the right; at its end the path turns left to a stile

11. Bear right to stile at side of large tree and continue to indistinct gap in hedge on far side of next field; then go on to double stiles in next hedge and finally to stile in far right hand corner of large field

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ALDERLEY"]

12. Turn right down to metal farm gate and **particularly keeping children away from the fast running water**, pass between the weir and hedge enclosing cottage garden; cross two stiles and, heading towards electricity pole standing to right of a line of trees, walk to a very indistinct stile in wire fence

13. Pass through tree plantation keeping close to its western edge, emerging by way of a stile in right hand corner of the plantation; then follow around hedge on the right and cross footbridge; turn left in corner of field, cross stile, footbridge among trees and then another stile



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14. Bear right past nearest electricity pole to cross stile and sleeper bridge at upper end of hedge that encloses the lower part of field; then walk diagonally uphill aiming just to the left of the visible roofs and chimneys

15. Bear left immediately beyond end of enclosed track and walk diagonally across two small fields to reach road; **with caution at the sharp bend** cross road, turning right on to pavement back to the War Memorial