

HILLESLEY

Once the home of farm labourers and workers in the woollen mills of the Kilcote 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 completed in 1851, Anglicans had to travel the two miles to St Mary's at Hawkesbury. There are many other listed buildings, including The Fleece Inn.

SPLATT'S BARN VIEWPOINT

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

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.



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 at quarter of a mile intervals. This distance was the closest practical spacing 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 freezing up in winter.



ALDERLEY



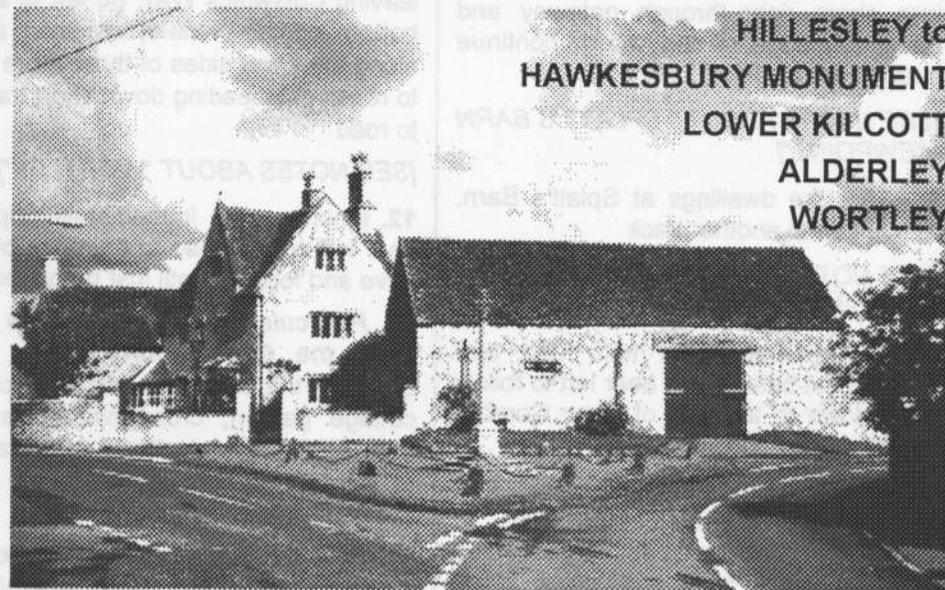
The village derives its name from "alder clearing" and contains some fine houses originally built in the 16th and 17th century for wealthy woollen merchants. The north-west tower of the Church of St Kenelm dates from about 1450, but the rest of the church was rebuilt in 1802. On Winner Hill to the east is an 18th century summer house (now a holiday home), standing near the site of the original Alderley House. Both the present house (built in 1860 and now Rose Hill private

school) and the summer house are best viewed from the last stage of the walk.

WORTLEY

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

Country Walks in and around the Parish of Hillesley and Tresham



HILLESLEY to
HAWKESBURY MONUMENT
LOWER KILCOTT
ALDERLEY
WORTLEY

The walk is about 6½ miles long - some of it being along part of the Cotswold Way - with the main climb being at the beginning and a long steady rise back to the village at the end. 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, 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 go pass the Fleece Inn into Chapel Lane; where the lane bends sharply, keep straight ahead up a track and through gate; continue up through two fields and then follow track up through the wood (Mear's Plantation)

2. After passing gate at top of the hill, turn sharp right through gateway and along top edge of the wood; continue straight ahead along track

[SEE NOTES ABOUT " SPLATT'S BARN VIEWPOINT"]

3. After the dwellings at Splatt's Barn, turn left on to another track

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "HAWKESBURY MONUMENT"]

4. Where track meets main road, turn left and just before gate bear left to follow track down to top end of Long Combe; continue down following bed of valley

5. Ignoring stile on the right, bear left of fenced ponds going upwards to gate/stile; continue past trees until reaching open field and cross it to gate/stile in far hedge at side of lane

6. Turn left, joining Cotswolds Way, and follow lane for about ½ mile

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "KILCOTT MILL"]

7. Turn right on to track just after Kilcott Mill (often very wet and muddy here)

8. After about 200 metres turn left through gate on to bridle-way; keep straight ahead through a number of gates for nearly a mile, eventually going up a tree lined track into Alderley

9. Turn right at main road and almost immediately right again down lane signposted to Tresham

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ALDERLEY"]

10. At cross roads, go straight ahead down the "No Through Road" and then almost immediately bear left on to sunken track (known as Kennerwell Lane)

11. At the bottom (site of Monk's Mill) turn left across stone bridge over stream; cross two stiles into second field and, leaving Cotswolds Way, go left to stile in bottom corner of field; continue ahead along the lower sides of three more fields to reach gate leading down short track on to road

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "WORTLEY"]

12. Ignoring stile immediately opposite, bear left across road to entrance of farm drive and follow it until just before house

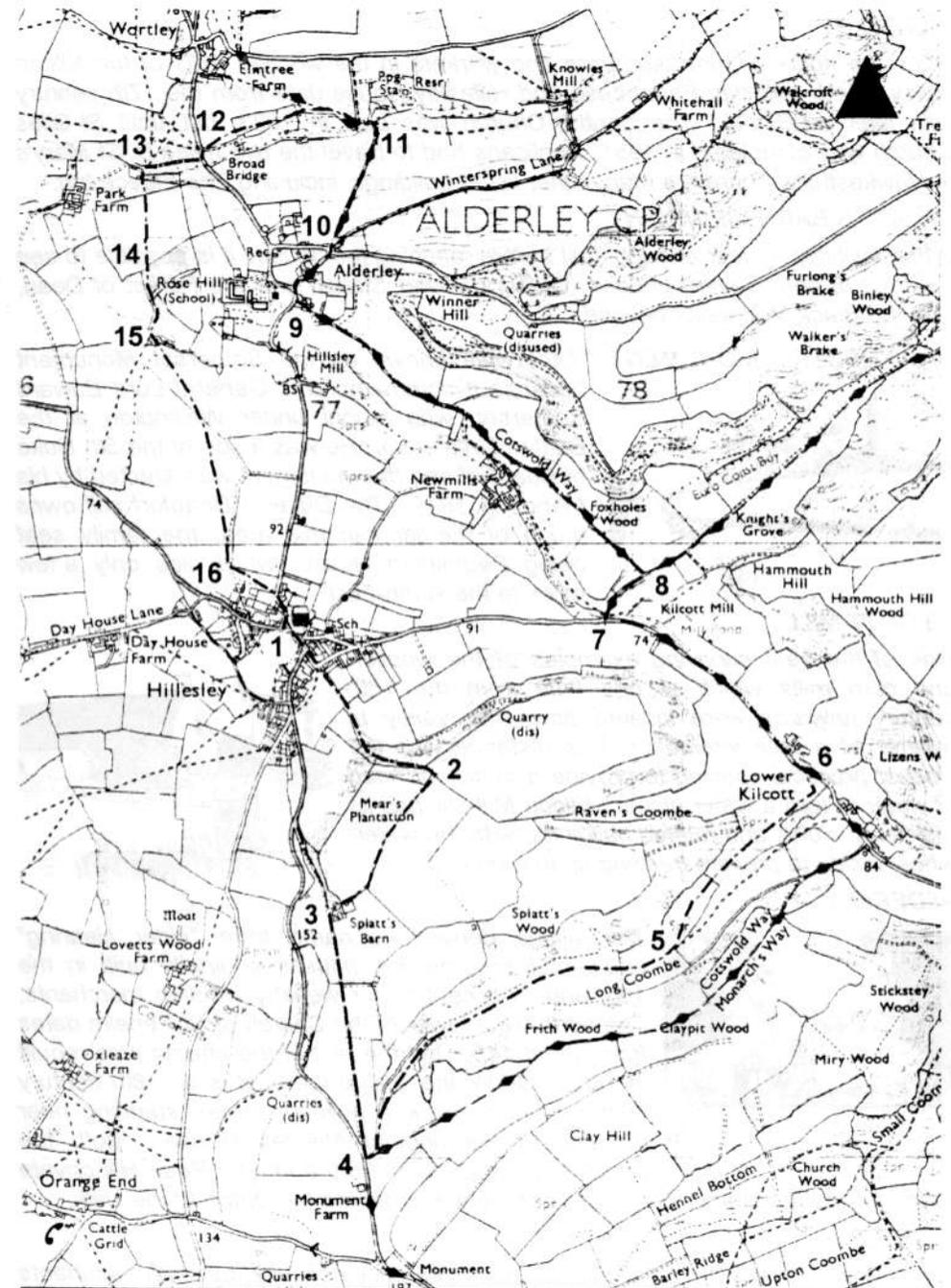
13. **Particularly keeping children away from the fast running water**, pass between the weir and hedge enclosing cottage garden; cross two stiles and, heading towards electricity pole standing to right of a line of trees, go to an indistinct stile in wire fence

14. 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 the field, cross stile, footbridge and another stile

15. Bear right to nearest electricity pole and then to stile and sleeper bridge over ditch; walk diagonally uphill aiming just to the left of the visible roofs and chimneys

16. 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

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "ALDERLEY"]



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