

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. The village has many other listed buildings, including The Fleece Inn.

ALDERLEY

A Georgian summer house (now a holiday home) stands on Winner Hill to the east 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.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

In addition to the imposing church of St Mary the Virgin, the town contains many historic buildings, including The Tolsey at the corner of Market Street, with its Victorian Jubilee Clock. The almshouses in Church Street have a 17th century chapel within their courtyard, which may normally be visited by members of the public.



NIND

A small hamlet, now mainly comprising a group of mostly modern dwellings, together with a trout farm, lying to the left. Just beyond the trout farm, there is a rather unusual manager's house, which was specially designed for low energy consumption. It can just be seen from the lane when you are by Nind Farm..

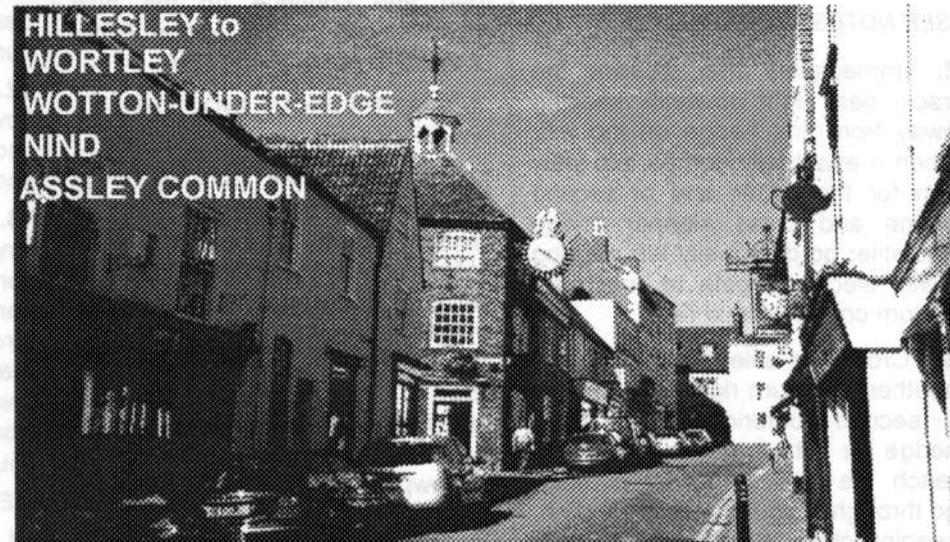
VIEW OF THE ESCARPMENT

From the middle of this field there is a very good view of the Cotswolds escarpment, including Nibley Knoll with the Tyndale Monument, Wotton Hill, parts of Wotton-under-Edge, Tor Hill, Wortley Hill, Winner Hill with its Georgian summer house, the roof tops of Hillesley, the Somerset Monument and Hawkesbury Knoll.

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.

Country Walks in and around the Parish of Hillesley and Tresham



The walk is about 7 miles long, with only two short rises. 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). Alternatively, depending on the number of cars involved, the walk might be started and finished at Wotton-under-Edge, taking a lunch break at Hillesley.

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 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; go through farm gate on other side of the driveway and continue up to stile alongside farm gate at top of the field; bear left to reach stile on top of banked edge of next field

5. Continue ahead to stile situated a short distance west of houses; bearing left again, aim for stile midway along far boundary; cross stile and immediately turn left and follow hedge to reach Nind Lane;

cross stile on other side of lane and then walk towards left-hand end of the row of houses

6. Join surfaced footpath and follow it - passing over a stream - all the way until it reaches the end of a road; turn left just before the road and continue up the now narrower path, going up two flights of steps to reach Symn Lane

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE"]

7. Walk up Symn Lane as far as the clinic and immediately turn left on to footpath at side of school entrance; on reaching the last building, cross stile and lining up with monument on far skyline go to gap in hedgerow; then go steeply down to stile in right-hand corner of next field; turn left and walk down to metal gate close to eastern side of Hawpark Farm

8. Turn sharp left and follow the brideway through two metal gates to reach Leys Farm

9. At the farm, turn sharp right to locate stile in side hedge; cross the stile and walk alongside the hedge parallel with barns; at end of the farm buildings bear left towards a pair of farm gates, crossing stile next to the left-hand gate; continue in same direction through next two fields to reach Nind Lane

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "NIND"]

10. Turn right on to lane and follow to road junction; turn diagonally right and go through metal farm gate on opposite side of road; follow hedge along left side of field

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "VIEW OF THE ESCARPMENT"]

11. On reaching a waymark post turn sharp right and go to farm gate in opposite side of field; bear left and cross two fields by way of fairly obvious stiles; at third field bear left to stile just to the right of a gateway serving another field; proceed to stile midway along far boundary; bear right, crossing farm track, to hunting gate in opposite hedgerow

12. Turn left and head towards Lower Witheyshire Farm and shortly before the farm cross stile and sleeper bridge

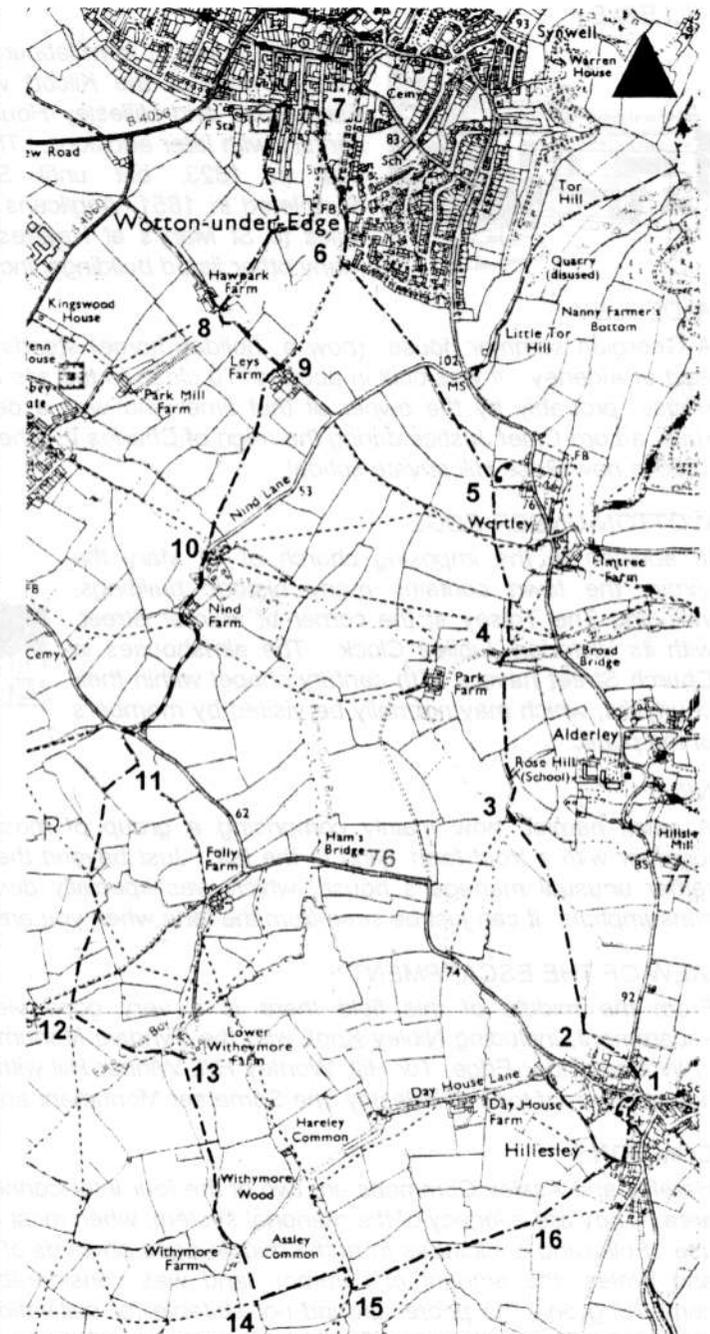
13. Turning right, proceed down long field to stile in wire fence; continue through the progressively narrowing field, eventually passing through two metal farm gates to reach Assley Common; bear right towards electricity pole standing close to the hedge that runs along southern side of the common

[SEE NOTES ABOUT "COMMONS"]

14. At the hedge turn left and follow it to a stile near the corner of the common; turn right over the stile and very soon reach another stile situated in hedge on the left

15. Cross the stile, sleeper bridge and another stile; continue downhill to a footbridge enclosed on each side by hunting gates; go up to, and cross, the stile at side of metal farm gate and then proceed to stile "hidden" in boundary kink midway along top of next field

16. Bear left towards stile in hedge enclosing north side of next field; cross two small fields to reach brideway in front of timber pavilion; turn right on to brideway and then go left into the playing field, following surfaced footpath back to War Memorial



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