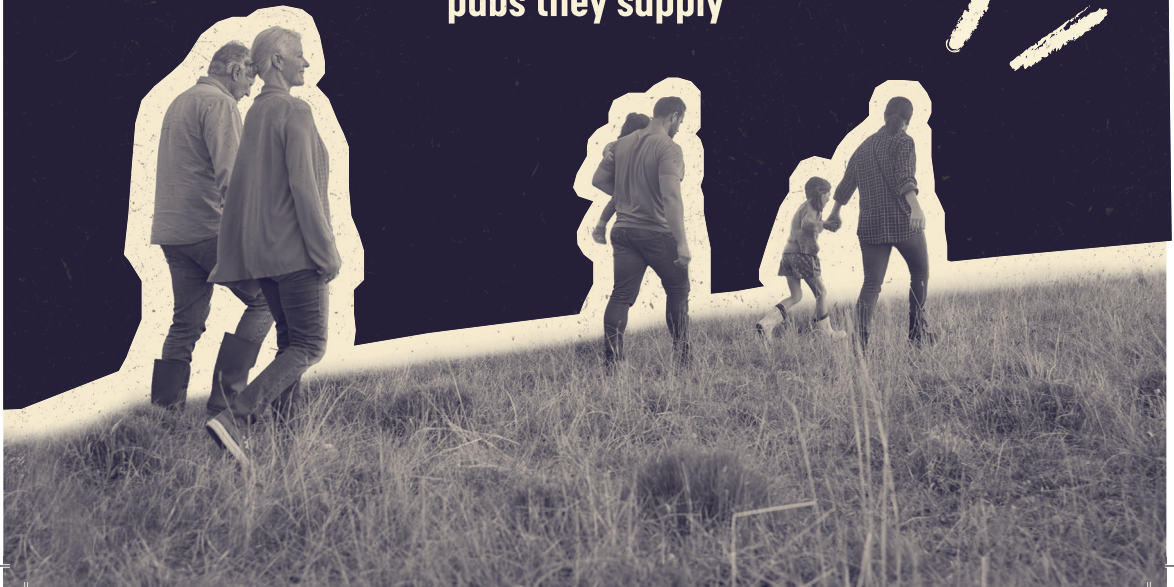




STROUD BREWERY PUB WALKS



A series of **circular walks** around
Cotswold villages, ending at
Stroud Brewery or the
pubs they supply





Welcome



INTRODUCTION

What an honour to be asked to create a booklet of walks for Stroud Brewery, covering the pubs that sell their ales. Surely this is the pinnacle of our walks booklets?

Stroud Brewery has a growing reputation both for the great beers and also their fantastic tap room which is open every day of the week. With long, shared tables and benches, great food available, community events and live music the Brewery is a lively space to be.

The other thing that makes Stroud Brewery so special is their ethos. Founder Grey Pilley strives to make the business as sustainable as possible – financially, environmentally and socially.

It is not just the process of brewing beer – minimising resource use, using local and organic ingredients, re-cycling waste (as feedstuff for pigs and cows on local small holdings) and delivering locally - but also the way they do business.

The people at Stroud Brewery believe an important element of developing long term sustainable communities is to strengthen the local economy - to bring money into it and then keep it there! This is one of the reasons why they focus on selling their beer through local shops.

They believe the brewery has a valuable role to play in its contribution towards the quality of life of Stroud and its surroundings, adding to its wealth, culture and 'social cohesiveness'.

These are just some of the many reasons we were so proud to be asked to develop a walks booklet for the brewery. Each walk has been hand-crafted by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy, but many of the walks had already been done by brewery-owner Greg who sent us in the right direction.

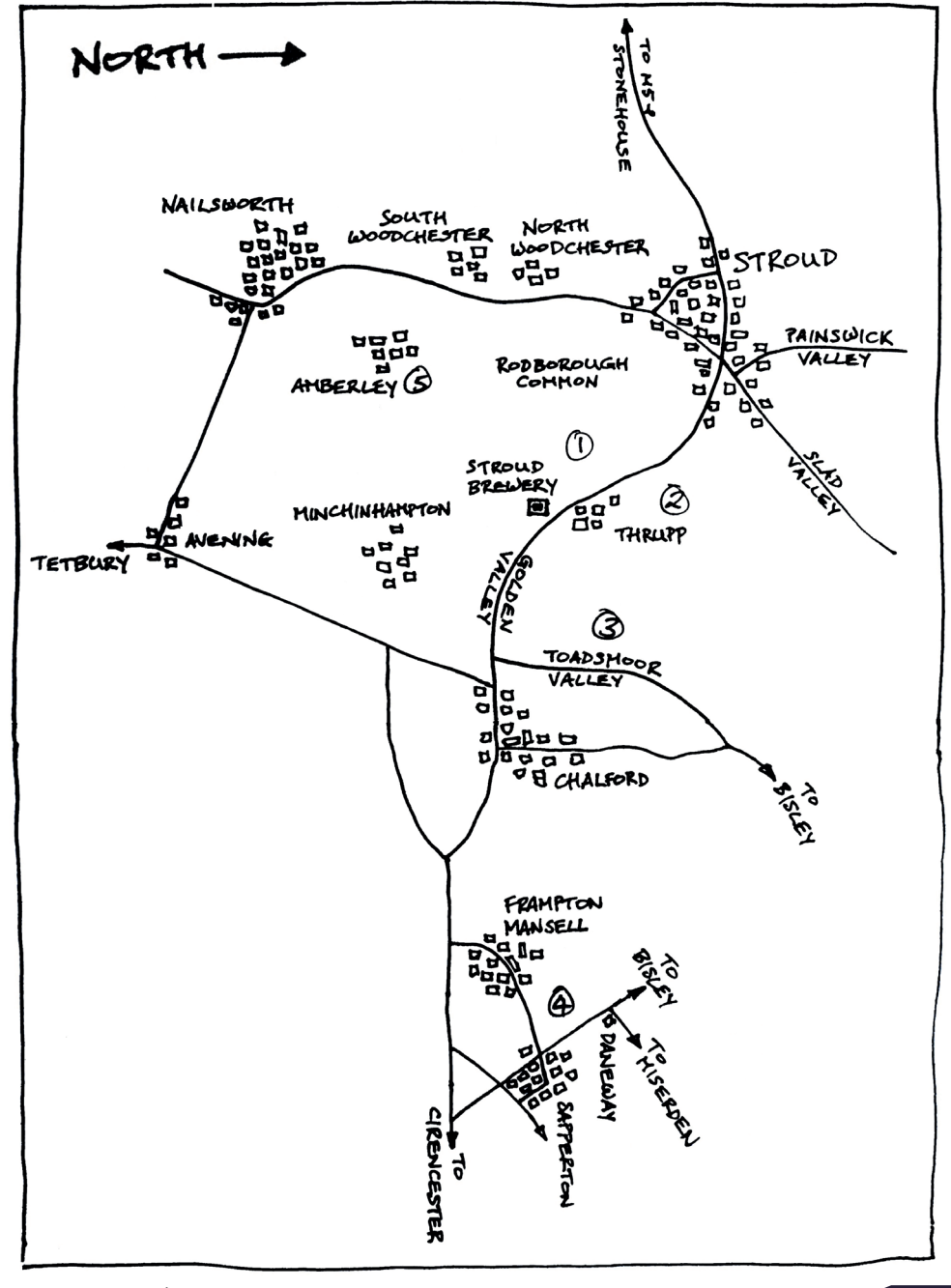
Daisy absolutely insists that we regularly re-trace the walks in case anything has changed, but if you spot any errors then please let me know – we will both be mortified and will correct the error immediately and re-publish on www.rrgordon.com.

Rod Gordon
rod@rrgordon.com

Little Cotswold Walks Book 7

Index of Walks

- 1.** Stroud Brewery - Rodborough Common & The Canal → 1
- 2.** Stroud Brewery - The Heavens And Back → 7
- 3.** Stroud Brewery - Toadsmoor Valley And Back → 13
- 4.** The Three Pubs Loop → 19
- 5.** Amberley → 25





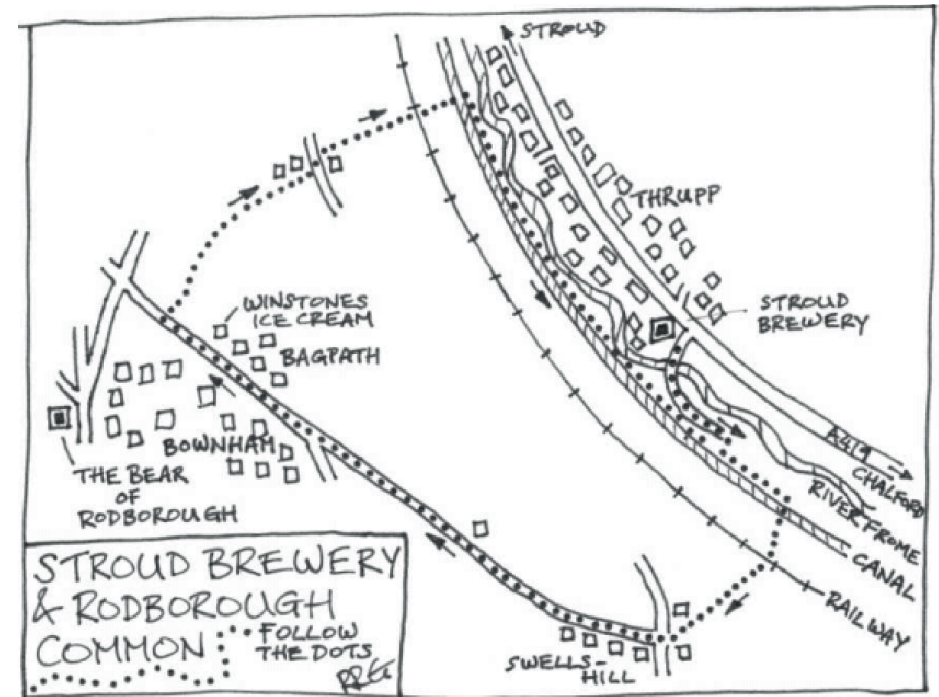
Stroud Brewery 2023 Edition
 Copyright © 2023
 RR Gordon



1.

STROUD BREWERY - RODBOROUGH COMMON & THE CANAL

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	<p></p> <p>This vigorous walk leads from Stroud Brewery up to Rodborough Common via Brimscombe, Bownham, Butterow and then back along the Thames & Severn Canal which runs along behind the brewery. The walk optionally includes a stop at The Bear Of Rodborough which stocks Stroud Brewery ales - and also Winstones ice cream! (open every day 10am to 5.30pm)</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating</p>	<p></p> <p>Daisy loved the run up the hill and across the common; also plenty of places for a drink, although she was always very tempted to jump into the canal!</p>
<p>Pubs on this walk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroud Brewery - www.stroudbrewery.co.uk Kingfisher Business Park, Thrupp, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2BY • The Bear Of Rodborough, Rodborough Common, Stroud, Glos GL5 5DE
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>1 ¾ hours</p>



Directions/Where To Park:

Take the A419 from Stroud in the direction of Chalford and Cirencester. As you drive past Thrupp, Stroud Brewery is on the right in the Kingfisher Business Park. Public access is off Hope Mill Lane. Follow the signs to the Brewery and park in the Brewery's car park.

The walk in summary:

Up the hill near Brimscombe to Rodborough Common, then down through Butterow and back along the canal.

The walk in detail:

- Exit Stroud Brewery from the back gate and turn left onto the canal path. Follow the towpath for a few hundred yards. You temporarily lose the canal as you cross a small road to continue along the footpath between a stone wall on left and a metal link fence on right; follow path for few hundred yards, industrial units to left and right, and then the canal is visible again.
- At a brick bridge over the canal, turn right to go over the bridge (BENCH)
- Go straight ahead under a bridge under the rail tracks (Brimscombe Road Bridge 100-12 SWM)
- Fork right to follow a tarmac path leading uphill with stream on left (Brimscombe is to your left)
- At the top of the hill, step through a stile next to a metal 6-bar gate
- You emerge onto a very narrow road between some houses, this is Swellshill
- At a small crossroads (red postbox), continue straight ahead (uphill) past Box Cottage; up, up, up!
- The road bends to the right with views over Golden Valley and the brewery; cattle grid sign
- Continue following the road, past Morningside, over the cattle grid; you are now on common land & therefore you may walk anywhere (within reason!), ie you may choose to walk on grass instead of road
- Go past a sign for Rodborough Quiet Lane, still following road, then fork right onto road at top (the hamlet of Bownham is on the left behind the Cotswold stone wall); continue along the road for some way
- Go past house called Fourtrees and road opens out onto the common; Winstones Ice Cream is on right. Look at that view!

At this point you may turn left to walk up to the Bear Of Rodborough which sells Stroud Brewery ales; the Bear is an inn and therefore open all day also selling teas, coffees and food; after a refreshing drink return to this point of the walk in order to continue

- With Winstones ice cream on your right, continue straight ahead across the grass, past two benches [SW Hooper and M Trickett] heading for a small metal trough
- Shortly before the trough, head right and down to follow a footpath across the grass
- The path becomes a Cotswold stone track with fence posts marked by National Trust; continue downhill
- You walk between some trees and then at the bottom of the path, go through a wooden gate
- Continue straight ahead past a house on your left, still heading down
- Turn left onto a quiet road; walk a few yards and then turn right at a public footpath (kissing gate) just past Montserrat Cottages; go straight down grass field; the path leads to a crossing over train tracks
- Go through a kissing gate, across the tracks (looking very carefully!!), down some steps, through a kissing gate and then across a black and white bridge over the canal; this is Jubilee Bridge
- You want to turn right here to head back towards the brewery - but you actually need to turn left and left to get onto the canal and then back under Jubilee Bridge (BENCH nearby)
- Follow the canal all the way back to Stroud Brewery, going past a brick bridge, a new lock and another bridge (go under or over!); notice the River Frome runs along your left
- The canal back gate into Stroud Brewery is ahead on your left

Something Interesting:

The stream which you walked alongside is the River Frome (the Stroud Frome as distinct from the Bristol/Bath Frome!). It has two sources near Birdlip: some springs in Nettleton Bottom (near the Golden Heart) and also at Climperwell Woods near the Fostons Ash. The two branches merge just south of Caudle Green before continuing to Sapperton and then through Stroud before joining the Severn at Upper Framilode.

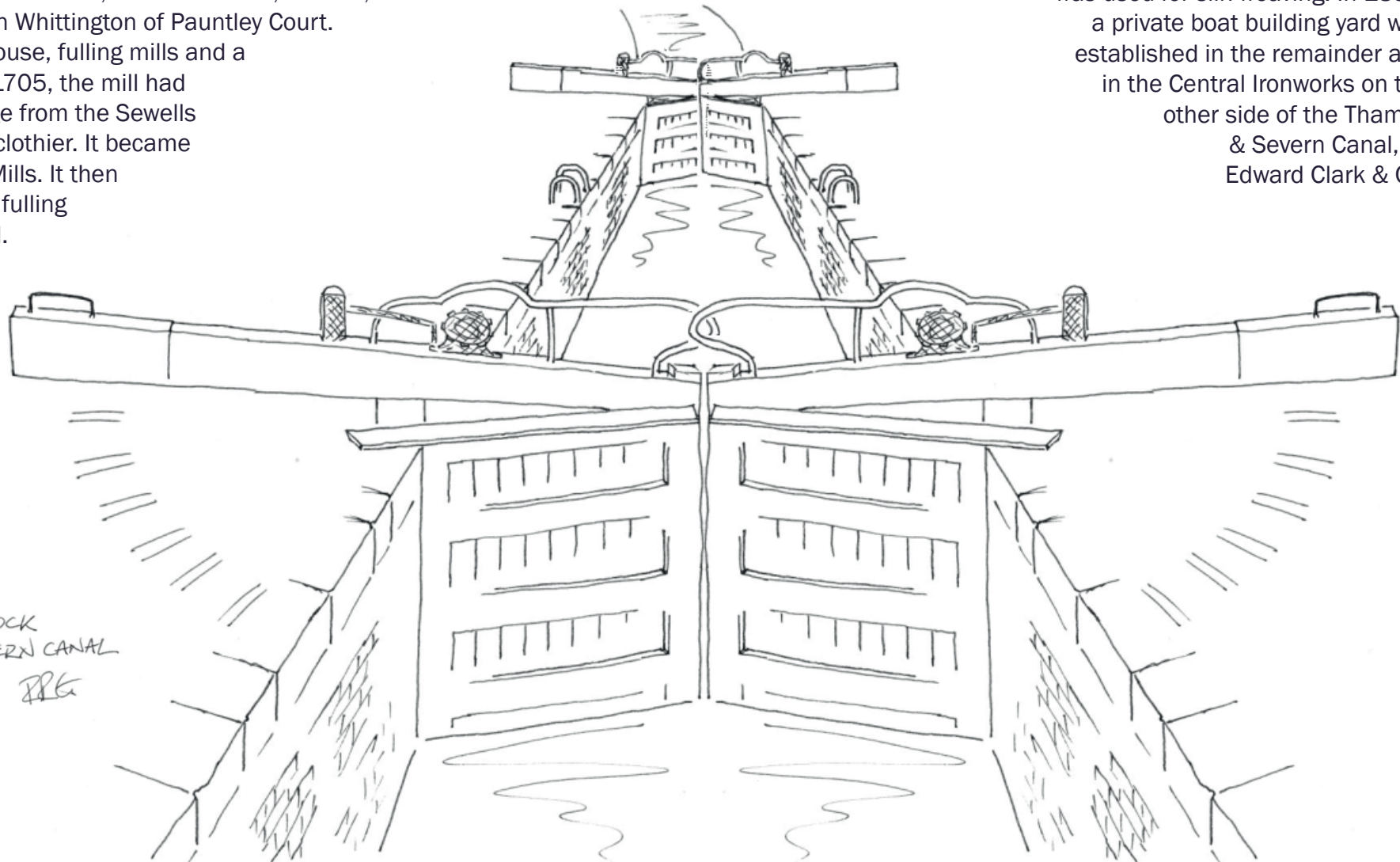
Did you know?

The shield and pennants of the Stroud Brewery logo are derived from the Stroud Coat of Arms. This artwork was gifted to the town by the original Stroud Brewery.

Stroud Brewery is based at Hope Mill Industrial Estate and Hope Mill has a rich heritage. In 1540, Thomas Sewell, clothier, leased the mill here from John Whittington of Pauntley Court.

It consisted of a house, fulling mills and a dyeing house. By 1705, the mill had passed by marriage from the Sewells to Joseph Gough, clothier. It became known as Gough Mills. It then consisted of three fulling mills and a gig mill.

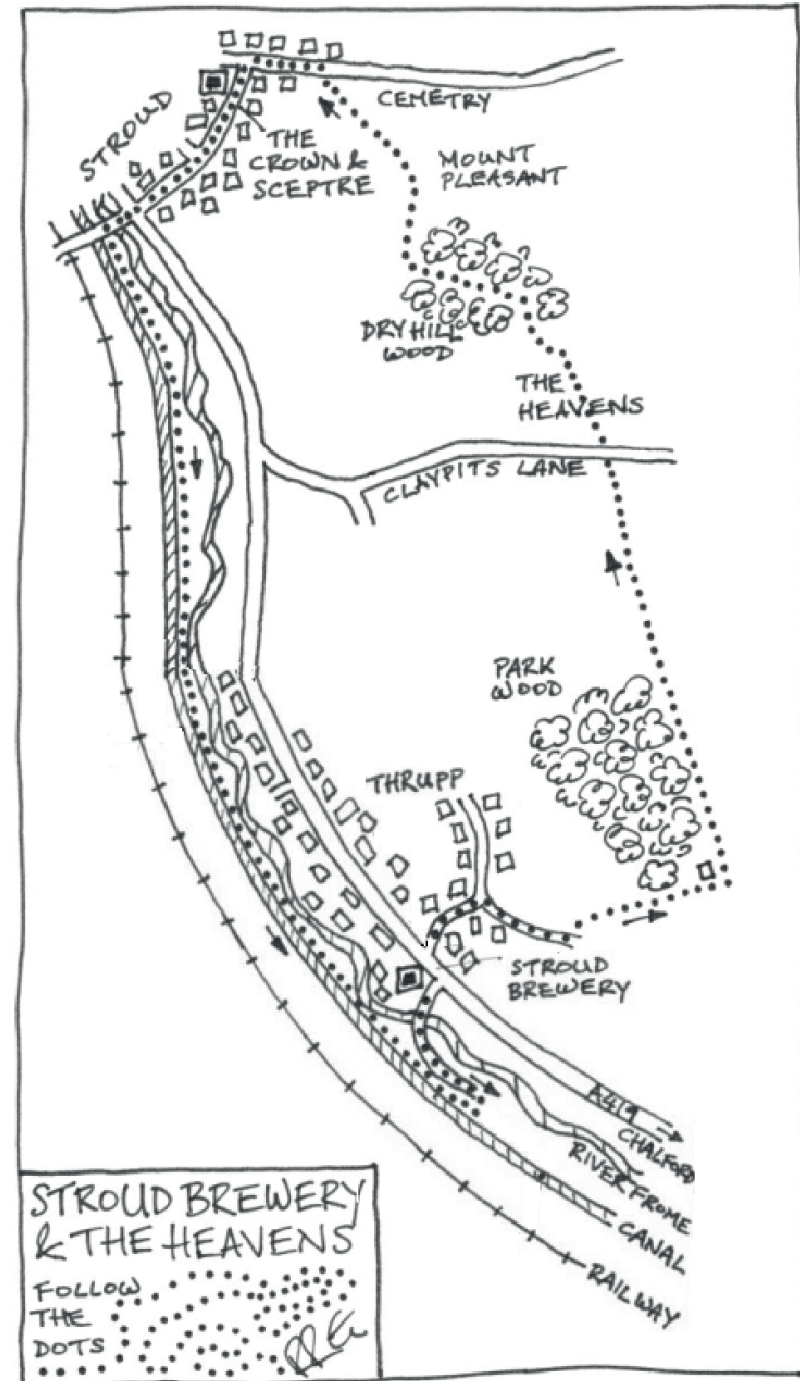
A new mill building was built in 1812 and given the name Hope Mill. In 1829, both Gough and Hope Mills were sold to Robert Bamford, a woollen yarn manufacturer, who shortly afterwards demolished Gough Mill. Between 1863 and about 1910, part of Hope Mill was used for silk weaving. In 1884, a private boat building yard was established in the remainder and in the Central Ironworks on the other side of the Thames & Severn Canal, by Edward Clark & Co.



HAM MILL LOCK
THAMES & SEVERN CANAL
NEAR THRUPP
JRG

2. STROUD BREWERY - THE HEAVENS AND BACK

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	<p></p> <p>There is an area on the hills above Thrupp which is called The Heavens, which commands a view overlooking Golden Valley, Rodborough Hill and even over into the Severn valley and beyond. This walk goes from the Brewery, up through Thrupp, along The Heavens, back down into Stroud and back along the canal path. If you like stunning views then this is the walk for you!</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating</p>	<p></p> <p>Daisy loved this walk. We were out of the built-up area within just a few minutes and Daisy was able to be off the lead as we headed up the hill through the trees. She thoroughly enjoyed foraging through the woods and roaming around the grasslands. Also plenty of streams for a drink. All in all, she was a happy customer!</p>
<p>Pubs on this walk</p>	<p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroud Brewery - www.stroudbrewery.co.uk Kingfisher Business Park, Thrupp, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2BY • The Crown & Sceptre - www.crownandsceptrestroud.com Horns Road, Stroud GL5 1EG
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>2 hours</p>



Directions/Where To Park:

Take the A419 from Stroud in the direction of Chalford and Cirencester. As you drive past Thrupp Stroud Brewery is on the right in the Kingfisher Business Park. Public access is off Hope Mill Lane. Follow the signs to the Brewery and park in the Brewery's car park.

The walk in summary:

Across the main road, through Thrupp and up the hill; walk along the ridge through The Heavens, down to Bowbridge near Stroud and back along the canal towpath.

The walk in detail:

- From Stroud Brewery car park exit by crossing the bridge you came in by.
- Turn right at end and then left out of the industrial estate up a road (Hope Mill Lane) to the main road (A419)
- Cross the main road and go slightly left to go up Brewery Lane – up, up, up!
- At the T-junction at the top (Thrupp Lane) turn right, heading along the road, slightly uphill
- After a few hundred yards, turn left and climb over a stile (next to a metal 7-bar gate, opposite No. 154 Thrupp Lane) to follow a Public Footpath, uphill through the trees; past a reservoir on left (Severn Trent)
- After a while there is a barbed wire fence across the way in front of you; follow footpath kinks to the right here into a field; do not follow the game trail going straight across field, but head uphill on left side of field
- Go over a home-made metal stile next to a metal 7-bar gate (don't forget to look at the view behind!)
- Still walking uphill across the middle of the next field, aim to the right of the house at the top (if you need a breather look at the view again! Brimscombe, Bownham, Rodborough Common)

- Climb over stile just to the right of the house (Parkwood Cottage) and continue straight on up
- Follow path as it bends to the right at top, following track away from house, but then almost immediately turn sharp left uphill following a public footpath sign to walk around above house
- Climb over stile next to a metal 7-bar gate and follow track straight across field to far right corner
- Climb over stile into the woods (do not go through gateway into next field)
- Follow path along right/top edge of woods, the valley away to your left; you are now heading along the ridge for a couple of miles in the direction of Stroud (the top end of Bisley Road)
- Climb over a stile halfway through woods and walk straight on, keep to right/top edge of woods
- Towards the far end of the woods the path forks; take the right fork to continue near the right edge of the woods
- Climb over a stile to emerge from the woods, go straight across field
- Go through gap in Cotswold stone wall and head straight across next field, slightly left if anything, heading towards left hand telegraph pole (of the two directly ahead)
- Climb over a stile next to a wooden 5-bar gate and cross the road (Claypits Lane)
- Climb over stone stile next to metal gate and head slight left, diagonally down to light coloured garage. This area of the hills is known as The Heavens; see view of Stroud down to the left.
- Climb over a stile at bottom of field, go down to lane and turn right ignore the tempting stile to the right of the garage but head to the left of garage to follow track behind/below it; follow tarmac road down between houses, then stone path
- Climb over two stiles in quick succession next to metal gates, continue straight ahead, woods and valley on left
- Continue along the top/right edge of the woods; ignore small path off to the left
- The path heads slightly downhill, then leaves the top edge of the woods and bends left, heading more steeply downhill; ignore the yellow Public Footpath to the right and head down into the valley.

- At a gap in trees on right you will see a church with a graveyard; the walk heads past the graveyard later
- Go through a metal kissing gate, continue straight on, heading downhill (ignore path on left)
- Go through a metal kissing gate to emerge from the woods
- The natural route here would be straight on, but you should fork right, heading down to a stream in the trees (under telegraph wires)
- Cross stream and then head uphill towards the edge of the graveyard, up stone steps & thru kissing gate
- Follow tarmac path along side of graveyard, go up to top & turn left (houses on left, park on right)
- At the end of the lane, The Crown & Sceptre is straight ahead of you – go in for a well-earned pint; they always have a Stroud Brewery ale on draught
- When you come out of the pub, turn right to head downhill down Spider Lane
- At bottom of Spider Lane turn left and follow main road all the way down to the traffic lights on A419
- Go straight over at the lights, past the MG garage
- Turn left and go down steps to join the canal path, just past garage & willow tree (before Bowbridge Vets)
- Follow canal path all the way back to Stroud Brewery, joining at a lock, then going past a bridge, Griffin Mill Lock, Jubilee Bridge (black and white), another lock and another bridge
- Follow canal path back to Stroud Brewery entering the Brewery by the canal back gate




Something Interesting:

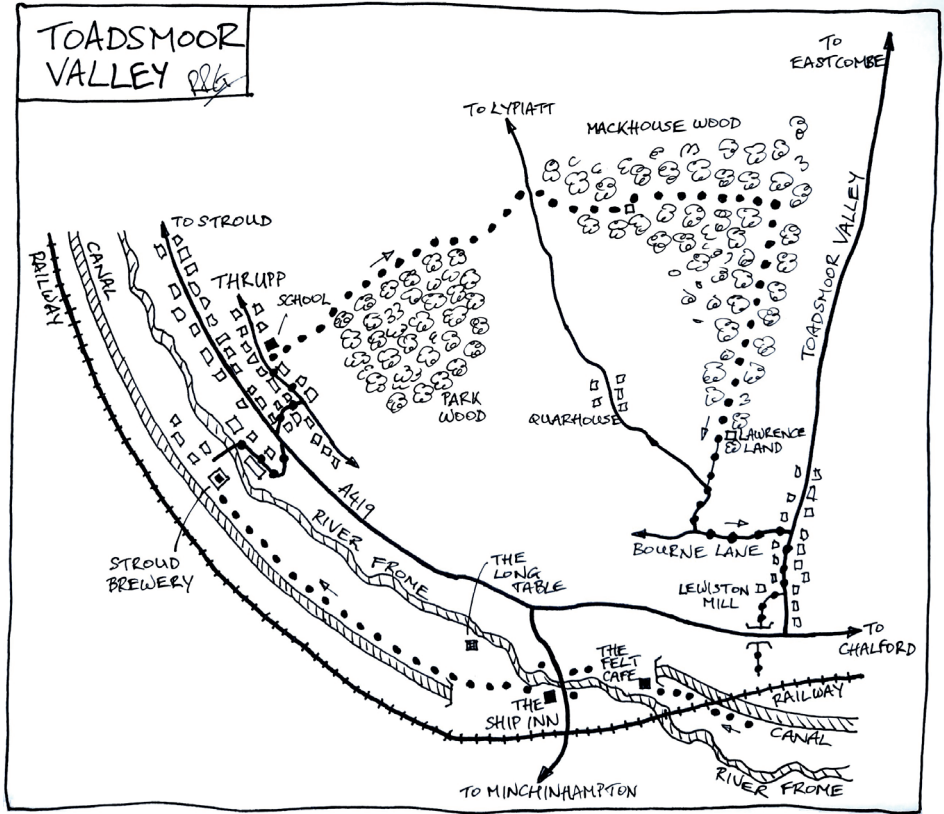
The Thames & Severn Canal was completed in 1789 and was conceived as part of a river and canal route from Bristol to London. At its eastern end, it connects to the River Thames at Inglesham Lock near Lechlade, while at its western end, it connects to the Stroudwater Navigation (also a canal) at Wallbridge near Stroud, and then to the River Severn. It has one short branch, from Siddington to the Cirencester. Competition from the railways took much of the canal's traffic by the end of the 19th century, and most of the canal was abandoned in 1927, the remainder in 1941. Further information about the canal and recent restorations can be found at www.alongthecotswoldcanals.co.uk

TIME FOR A DRINK!



3. STROUD BREWERY - TOADSMOOR VALLEY AND BACK

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	<p>  Up past Thrupp school towards Lypiatt to skirt The Heavens – with wonderful views – before dropping down into the fantastic Toadsmoor Valley. Just when you're in need of refreshment, you get a choice of the Ship Inn, The Long Table and the Felt Café, before heading back to the brewery. We stopped at all of them! </p>
<p>Daisy's Rating</p>	<p>  Long walks are best! And this one is through fields and woods where dogs can roam to their hearts content. There are streams at various stages to drink and cool down. </p>
<p>Pubs on this walk</p>	<p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroud Brewery - www.stroudbrewery.co.uk Kingfisher Business Park, Thrupp, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2BY • The Ship Inn - https://www.theshipstroud.co.uk/ Brimscombe Hill, Stroud, Glos GL5 2QN <p>And also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Long Table - https://www.thelongtableonline.com/ • The Felt Café - https://www.feltcafe.co.uk/ </p>
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>2 hours</p>



Directions/Where To Park:

Take the A419 from Stroud in the direction of Chalford and Cirencester. As you drive past Thrupp, Stroud Brewery is on the right in the Kingfisher Business Park. Public access is off Hope Mill Lane. Follow the signs to the Brewery and park in the Brewery's car park.

The walk in summary:

Up to The Heavens, down to the beautiful Toadsmoor Valley and back along the Stroud Canal to Stroud Brewery

The walk in detail:

- From Stroud Brewery car park exit by crossing the bridge over the River Frome, which you crossed on the way in, then turn right and then left out of the industrial estate up Hope Mill Lane to the main road (A419)
- Cross the main road and go slightly left to go up Brewery Lane – up, up, up! Yew Tree Farm is opposite you at the top
- Turn left to walk along lane (Thrupp Lane!) passing a side road called Yew Tree Way on your right
- Just before Thrupp Primary School turn right (signed Public Footpath to Lypiatt) to go up a steep tarmac lane
- Continue straight ahead up a steep, stepped path with wooden handrail; pass school football pitch/play area on right
- The route goes straight up the hill to Lypiatt. Go over wooden stile, continue straight ahead/up ignoring paths to left and right
- The path widens as you continue up, with Cotswold stone wall and Park Wood to your right
- Just before a tempting metal and wood stile into the woods, turn left, go 10 yards then turn right to go up a grass bank out of the trees and into the open. This path then curves back to continue up alongside stone wall!
- Climb over wooden stile near the top to continue straight ahead along the right edge of a field. Pass a wooden stile on the right (don't go over it!)
- Go through a former kissing gate and continue straight ahead through the trees and into a large field (barn on right)
- Follow path along left edge of field
- Climb over a wooden stile and cross a tarmac road (cattle grid to right) to take a footpath through a beech hedge ahead (this is slightly hidden)
- Walk downhill through a small wood for a short way
- At a tarmac road turn right down lane, pass a Bridleway on left into woods and, where the road splits, take left fork downhill (Mackhouse)
- The road becomes a stone track behind the house and winds

to the left through Mackhouse Wood and down towards the Toadsmoor Valley

- Where the track bends to the right, ignore path to left through a large metal gate, but continue down/right (you might hear/see the road at the bottom of Toadsmoor Valley now)
- After 30 yards, at a metal seven bar gate, with barbed wire along the top, go over a wooden stile on the right and head left and up, to walk parallel with the road in the bottom of the valley
- The path leads uphill through the trees but continues to follow the valley at approximately the same height. Do not take path on right but continue on flat wide path
- After approx. half a mile you step over a stream running through a cutting. Ignore a track which forks up right shortly before it
- Walk over a broken stile and continue through wood (wire fence to left); you should still be going parallel with the road in the bottom of the valley
- Climb over another stile as the path continues straight on above a small estate on the left (interestingly called Lawrenceland); do not be tempted to turn left to Lawrenceland at a Public Footpath sign down into the valley
- Go over a stile and you will find yourself on a tarmac drive at the gate to Lawrenceland turn right and follow the driveway from house (BENCH after a little way)
- After 100 yards you come to another gateway for Lawrenceland (two Cotswold stone gateposts)

Here you could take a shorter/steeper route back down the main road at the bottom of the valley. Simply turn left at the Public Footpath sign, go over a stile and head steeply downhill through bushes and across grass. You will see a house on the left and a stile at the bottom. Turn right onto a tarmac drive. At end of drive turn left onto Bourne Lane

- Alternatively, follow driveway to end, and turn left onto a tarmac road (Gunhouse Lane) which you now follow all the way down to Bourne Lane and then the main road at the bottom of the valley

- At the main road turn right then take a right just past Lewiston Mill and walk through the tunnel under the main road (A419)
- Continue straight ahead through a small industrial estate and then, as road narrows, turn right onto the canal path back towards Stroud Brewery
- Follow the path, river to left, canal to right
- After a while the canal path goes under a bridge with The Ark Cycles and the lovely Felt Café to your left; time to stop for some refreshments? Just turn left off the path into the café
- Leave the Felt Café to continue along the footpath in the same direction; continue alongside the river to your left.
- You lose sight of the canal as you follow a tarmac drive for a while
- At the end of the drive, just before the large building of Brimscombe Mill, turn left to cross the river. The road bends to the right to follow signs down and around Brimscombe Port and Mill; join main road coming down through Brimscombe

- Immediately after The Ship Inn on your left (another pit stop perhaps? Stroud Brewery Ales here) turn left along a tarmac lane
- Just before you re-enter the canal path you will see The Long Table to your right...why not pop in and have a look at their gallery, bike store or even have a drink or bite to eat?
- Leave The Long Table and continue along the canal path in the same direction, which you now follow all the way back to Stroud Brewery entering the Brewery taproom by the back gate.



HURRAH!

You've made it and it's certainly time for some refreshment now!!



4.

THE THREE PUBS LOOP

Rod's Rating	 <p>Is there a finer trio of pubs in a tight cluster anywhere in the Cotswolds than The Crown, The Daneway and The Bell? All three are nestled in or overlooking a delightful sweep of the Frome Valley where the river turns westwards to head towards the Severn. We've designed the walk to start at The Crown in Frampton Mansell, as it's the nearest to Stroud, but you could start at any of the pubs.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Woods and wide-ranging hillsides where dogs can have a run, but some stretches of the canal have high sides and dogs are best kept on the lead here.</p>
Pubs on this walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crown Inn - www.thecrowninn-cotswolds.co.uk Frampton Mansell, Stroud GL6 8JG • The Daneway Inn - https://www.thedaneway.pub/ Dane Lane, Sapperton GL7 6LN • The Bell at Sapperton - https://www.bellsapperton.co.uk/ Sapperton, Nr Cirencester GL7 6LE
How long did it take?	2 – 2 ½ hours (plus stopping time!)

Directions/Where To Park:

Use the carpark at The Crown Inn if you intend to use the pub; otherwise plenty of road parking in the village, eg near the church. Frampton Mansell, Stroud GL6 8JG www.thecrowninn-cotswolds.co.uk

The walk in summary:

Climb up above Frampton Mansell, go down through the woods to Sapperton, take the Thames & Severn Canal towpath to The Daneway, then continue along the canal before walking back up to The Crown

The walk in detail:

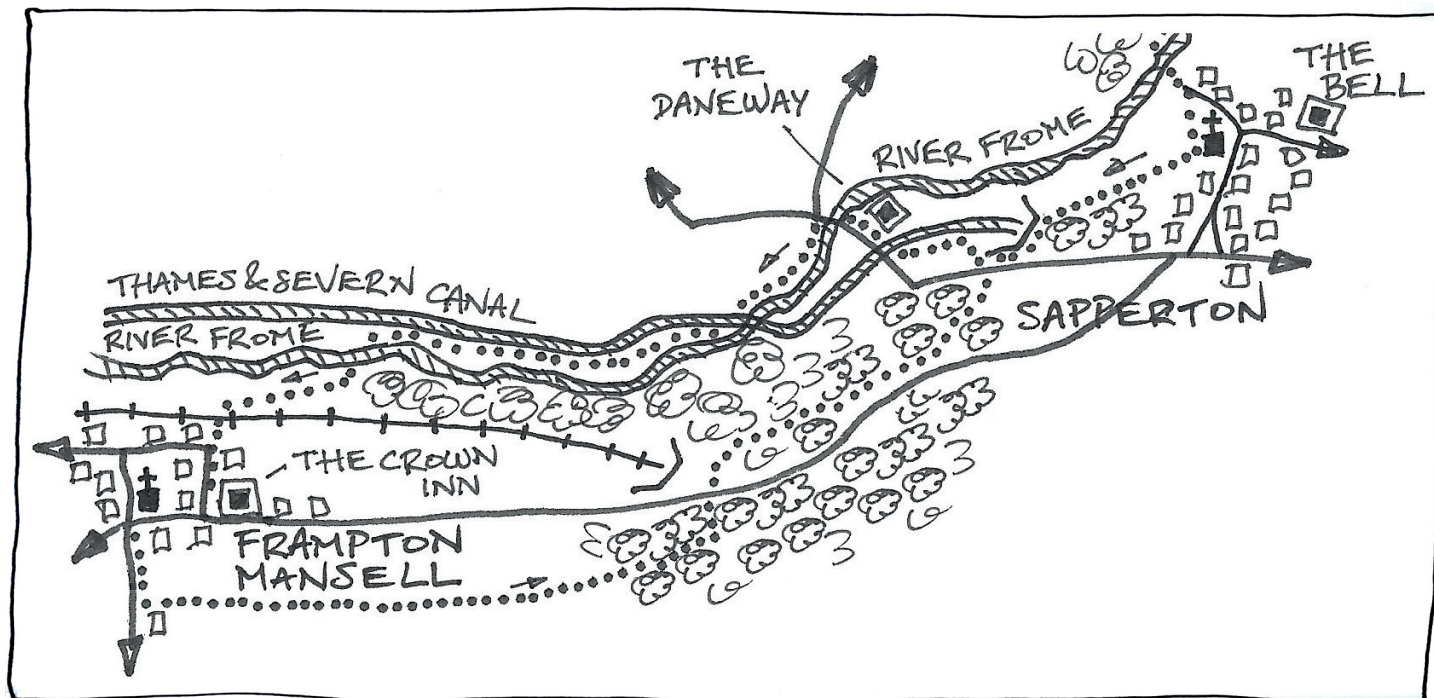
- Turn left/uphill out of the pub car park
- Walk up the road and then turn right on to the main road to walk uphill past church on right
- Where the road splits take the left fork up towards the Village Hall
- Just before the Village Hall turn left into a field via a gap to the right of the large metal gate, following public footpath sign
- Continue straight across the middle of this field on the path which the farmer normally creates. The Frome Valley and Oakridge Lynch are to your left
- Cross into a second field through a wide gap in a stone wall
- At end of field turn left, walk 20 paces, then turn right into the bushes and wood, bearing right at a fork after 10 paces (it's like following a treasure map here! If you get confused, the main objective in the next section is to walk down to the road between Sapperton and Frampton Mansell but you first need to walk through the woods for a couple of hundred yards)

- Follow footpath along top of woods keeping stone wall to right and then after approx 200 yards turn left to go steeply downhill until you reach the road - KEEP A SHARP EYE OUT FOR THE FOOTPATH HERE AS ITS NOT EASY TO SPOT!
- Cross the road heading slightly right to go through a narrow wooden gate (to the right of a large wooden gate) and enter the woods
- Follow path down through woods eventually passing a lovely glade of very tall pines on your left
- Exit the woods (between more tall pines) to enter a small grassy area, fork left and down but then 20 yards further on, under an oak tree, fork right to skirt the bottom of the open grass area
- Go through small wooden gate (to left of large wooden gate) and head down to a road (this is the road from Sapperton to The Daneway)
- Cross the road and follow Public Footpath sign down into woods until you reach the canal

- At canal turn right and go left over top of the canal tunnel entrance
- Go through a metal kissing gate under the trees
- Climb diagonally right up the hillside towards the village of Sapperton
- Go through metal kissing gate and up a stone path/track which runs along the bottom edge of the village.
- The track becomes tarmac. At top turn left onto lane
- Just before the church turn right up a steep footpath which runs alongside the churchyard
- You emerge onto a road at the top (at a junction with a phonebox). Continue straight ahead up the road opposite and the Bell at Sapperton will be on your left. Stop for refreshments!
- On leaving The Bell retrace your steps to the canal by turning right out of the pub, going down the road, crossing the road at the end to take the footpath downhill to the left of the church
- At the bottom of the footpath turn left and, after a few paces,

turn right (downhill) at crossroads of footpaths; walk downhill and through a wooden kissing gate then head diagonally left down into the valley (along the same footpath you came up earlier)

- At the bottom of hill go through metal kissing gate under trees
- Cross the top of the canal tunnel entrance and turn right to walk alongside the Thames and Severn Canal
- Follow the canal towpath until you come to The Daneway pub car park on your right – stop for a drink!
- Exit the pub car park using the main car entrance and go across the road. There is a Public Footpath just to the right of the bridge over the river and canal. Follow the canal towpath ahead



- The canal is on your left and you follow it for a few hundred yards then cross over using a narrow wooden footbridge. The canal is now on your right and the Frome is on your left
- After a while you come to a brick humpback bridge over the canal (Whitehall Bridge). You need to leave the canal and river here and start climbing diagonally up the hillside to your left up towards the village of Frampton Mansell, so ...
- At the bridge fork left to climb up onto the track that goes over the bridge, turn left, walk a few yards and then turn right to head up a farm track which leads in the direction which the River Frome is flowing (west) but which heads diagonally away from the river/canal heading uphill
- Go through a farm gate and continue uphill
- You reach some railway tracks with a pedestrian crossing. Go through gate, cross the tracks and go through gate on the other side
- Go straight ahead and then bear left up onto a lane heading uphill. The Crown Inn is on your left after 50 yards.





PHEW!

**You've made it so go in for a well-earned
drink and bite to eat!**



5. AMBERLEY

Rod's Rating	 <p>An interesting walk which criss-crosses the little settlements which are scattered around the edge of Minchinhampton Common, including St Chloe, Littleworth, Pinfarthings, Bownham and Amberley – with three great pubs en route.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy liked roaming across the common but particularly enjoyed the woods which were on the slopes down to Nailsworth Valley</p>
Pubs on this walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amberley Inn, Culver Hill, Amberley, Stroud GL5 5AF - http://www.theamberleyinn.co.uk/ • The Old Lodge, Minchinhampton Common, Stroud GL6 9AQ http://www.food-club.com/pubs/the-old-lodge/ • The Black Horse, Littleworth, Amberley, Stroud, GL5 5AL http://www.theblackhorseamberley.co.uk/ • The Bear Of Rodborough, Rodborough Common, Stroud, Glos GL5 5DE https://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk/the-bear-of-rodborough/
How long did it take?	1 hour

Directions/Where To Park:

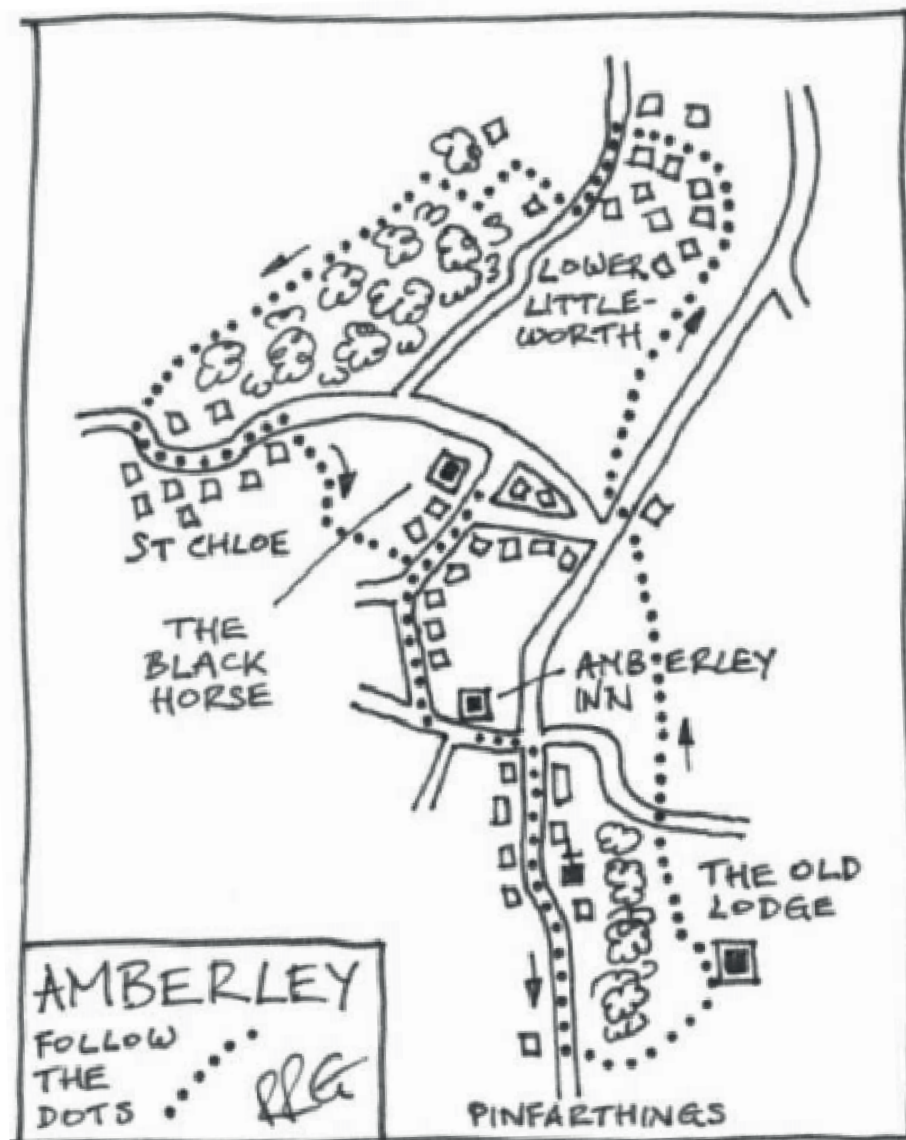
Halfway from Stroud to Nailsworth, turn left up to Amberley. Park by the Amberley Inn, either in their parking area over the road or just outside Amberley School a few yards up the hill.

The walk in summary:

South through Pinfarthings, then north along the edge of Minchinhampton Common, then return southwards along the edge of Nailsworth Valley

The walk in detail:

- From Amberley Inn, take the road opposite which is signposted to Pinfarthings and Church; walk past the school on the left and then the church
- At T-junction at the end of the road, turn left heading uphill for a short way on the next road signposted Nailsworth and Minchinhampton
- Just past the sign for Pinfarthings, take a stony track which forks up to the left (opposite pale blue house)
- This takes you up to Minchinhampton Common; the public footpath curves to the left and then heads up the fairway to The Old Lodge – which sells Stroud Brewery Ales!
- Turn left ten yards after a black and white post to head back towards houses among the trees (Nailsworth valley is on your left)
- Go past a golf green on your left and over the road between black and white chevron signs
- Go past a bench between two trees and take the wider path to the right (not down to houses)
- Follow the edge of the common with Amberley and the valley to your left until you reach Amberley village green, with war memorial in the middle and bus shelter on the right



- Cross road, then green, with war memorial to left, cross next road and small parking area
- Go to right of backless wooden bench and curve right past two big trees, go past more backless benches
- The walk continues along the edge of the common, heading in the same direction; follow Cotswold stone wall and houses on your left
- The path curves to the left across the entrance to Moor Court and then bends further left to head downhill between two walls

Here you can make a quick pit stop at **The Bear of Rodborough** by continuing straight ahead for a few hundred yards to find it on your left. Slightly further on on the right is the fantastic **Winstones Ice Cream shop** – definitely both worth a pause!

- Fork right down a drive and then turn sharp left onto a road (or cut across the grass to left of a green box)
- You are now in Lower Littleworth heading towards St Chloe; follow road past a spring on the left. Lovely views of North Woodchester
- After 30 yards, turn sharp right at a Public Bridlepath sign at Lawford Cottage
- Follow narrow tarmac lane which goes past a house called Woodvale and leads steeply downhill
- 50 yards short of a house at the bottom of the drive, turn left to follow a public footpath sign into woods
- Follow path as it goes up and down with barbed wire fence and garden on your right
- Turn right at a footpath which leads steeply downhill between two old Cotswold stone walls
- Go all the way down to the stile and look at the lovely view down to the bottom of the valley
- After looking at the view, walk 15 yards back up the path and turn right along a path which follows the lower edge of the woods, with the valley on your right
- After 200 yards, take right fork which is the more main path leading slightly downhill, on edge of woods

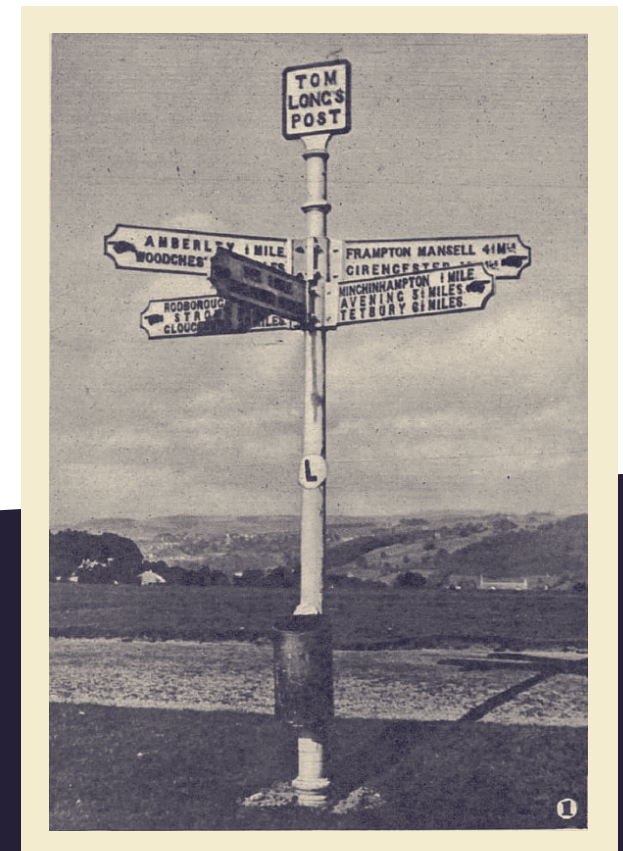
- A little further on, another path comes down from left to join main path; you should continue straight on
- When you come to a road, turn sharp left to head uphill past an “Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles” sign; you are now in St Chloe; go past houses called Highwood and Little End
- At the top, go straight ahead through an iron kissing gate, following yellow public footpath sign
- The path goes past allotments on the left and then bends to the right; there is a field to your left
- Go through another iron kissing gate and turn left onto road
- After a few yards you will find The Black Horse which sells Stroud Brewery ales – great views from garden
- After a drink, turn right out of the pub (going back past iron kissing gate)
- Turn right opposite a house called The Old Lamb Inn, heading downhill
- Follow the road around to the left
- Turn left at the main road or cut across the grass; the Amberley Inn is on your left



**Any problems with these directions?
Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)**

Something Interesting:

Tom Long is one of Stroud Brewery’s most popular ales and is an amber beer with spicy citrus aroma (3.8%). Available all year round, it is named after a mythical highwayman hung at Tom Long’s Post on Minchinhampton Common. Tom Long’s Post is a modern signpost where a number of minor roads meet in the middle of Minchinhampton Common. In fact most hangings took place at the gallows at Over or at the County Gaol in Gloucester, so if Tom Long was a highwayman, it is more likely that the post was where his body was hung in chains after execution as a deterrent to others. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Tom Long was the nickname for a carrier - like Tommy Atkins for a soldier or Jack Tar for a sailor. Therefore it is suggested that Tom Long’s Post was a setting-down and picking-up point for the carriers operating on the old road from Stroud to London which crossed the common.



**You can also download other
booklets in the series from**

www.rrgordon.com



1. Birdlip & Beyond
2. Painswick Valley
3. Toadsmoor Valley
4. Frome Valley
5. The Oak, Painswick
6. Stroud & Surrounds
7. **Stroud Brewery**
8. Windrush Valley West
9. Windrush Valley East
10. The Daisy Way
11. Lockdown Allsorts
12. Holy Brook Valley
13. Cherry Tree Glamping
14. Coln Valley North

Stroud Brewery Pub Walks
In collaboration with Little Cotswold Walks
Book 7. Stroud Brewery 2023 Edition
Copyright © 2023 by RR Gordon

