

Highworth Rambles

Branching Out

Celebrating the landscape heritage of Highworth

6 Wrag Barn and Sevenhampton

Shorter walk: 2 miles. Longer walk: 3.5 miles. A mainly flat walk with open views.

1. With your back to the Post Office, cross the High Street and take the alley past the Council Offices out to Brewery Street. Turn R. At roundabout turn L along Shrevenham Road. Shortly after Stonefield Drive take grass track on R.
2. After 100 yards turn L and follow path straight ahead through small estate. Continue along grass path to golf course. Bear very slightly R, and when facing hedge comes into view, walk to hedge gap farthest from clubhouse. Turn L at track. For shorter walk go on to number 6.
3. For longer walk, pass through gap. Bear slightly R again to post at R end of facing hedge line. Take grass track with 2 short hedges on L to stile in corner. Bear R in field, aiming for electricity box to L of large house. Cross stile and walk to road in Sevenhampton.
4. Follow the road round to the L. At top of hill, take signed footpath on L. Keep to the R hand side of private garden (it is a right of way!) and leave via gap in corner. Continue along field edge. 100 yards before corner cross stile on L. Turn R and cross another stile back into golf course.
5. Follow grass track. At end of second short hedge, bear slightly R, aiming to L of clubhouse. At top of slope bear slightly L and pass through the L of 2 hedge gaps. Turn R on track.
6. Walk to road. Cross road, and take track opposite. After 100 yards take path on L to corner of hedge. Keep to R of hedge and cross stile in corner. Bear R to cross another stile into school playing-fields. Pass in front of fence by mobile classrooms and through stile in corner into Kings Avenue. Follow to Brewery Street. Cross the road and walk along alley opposite to High Street.



View towards Hampton from Highworth Cemetery



Market Square in Highworth



St. Michael's Church Highworth as seen from Lechlade Road

7 Fresden 4.5 miles

This walk offers extensive views of the surrounding countryside.

1. With your back to the Post office, go L along the High Street and ahead over the double mini-roundabouts into Eastrop. Continue down the hill out of Highworth until you reach Eastrop Farm on your left after about 1/2 mile.
2. Cross the signposted stile on the R and walk ahead to cross stile at end of field. Continue, keeping hedge on your R until it turns sharp L. Go through hedge gap and follow grass track to lane at Fresden.
3. Turn L, and in 300 yds. L again at signposted track. Pass cottage and barn, and continue in same direction to gate opposite Wickstead Farm on Highworth - Coleshill Road.
4. Turn L. Pass Eastrop Farm again, then turn R into lane beside No. 101. Bear L to Common Farm and walk between two stable blocks to pass through farmyard. Immediately after passing farmhouse turn L, and after a few yards, R past a row of stables. Leave farm through 2 facing gates. Cross stile at top L corner of field and walk to road.
5. Cross road and turn L. In about 300 yds. turn R up Priory Green Nos. 53 - 71. Bear L uphill, and at end of cul-de-sac walk up tarmac path. At junction, turn L, then fork R. On reaching a cul-de-sac on R, bear L then R to bring you to road. To return to square turn R, then L past car park, L again at mini-roundabout and R along Sheep Street.

8 Town Centre 3 miles

A short walk around the town and through Highworth Countryside Park.

1. With your back to the Post Office, go L along the High Street and turn L at the double mini-roundabout, then L into Priory Green. Turn R down footpath beside 4, Priory Green. Follow footpath.
2. At red brick gas installation turn R. Follow path keeping Northview School on the L. At large hedgerow turn L. Follow hedgerow all the way to the bus stop on A361 Highworth-Lechlade Road. Carefully cross road. Go straight on down path directly behind bus stop. At tarmac path into Blackworth Industrial Estate go straight on.
3. Opposite Thames Water follow path to the left then right. At the end of the road turn left. Cross Pentylands Lane and into Highworth Countryside Park. Walk diagonally across two fields, almost following the power lines, to the corner. Follow the edge of the next field behind the houses.
4. Go through hedge into field with the play park. Leave fields through tarmac path on left. Walk to end of Barra Close. Cross St. Michaels Avenue. Turn R. Take first L up Home Farm. Go up steps at top of hill. Turn L. Pass Westrop School on L. turn R where school grounds end. Walk up behind Doctor's Surgery.
5. Walk to top of Quarry Crescent. Turn L along Station Road. Carefully cross A361 and walk up Vicarage Lane with the Church on your right, back to the Market Square.



Oak tree near wind pump



Ian Fleming's final resting place, in Sevenhampton Churchyard



Branching Out - Eight Highworth Rambles

Highworth Rambling Club

The aim of Highworth Rambling Club is to enjoy and explore the countryside. The group usually walk fortnightly on Wednesdays and Sundays. Everyone is welcome. Please see Highworth Link Magazine, local press and Highworth Library for details.

Branching Out Project

Branching Out, working with the local community and Swindon Borough Council, aimed to celebrate, understand and care for the landscape heritage of Highworth, to foster a sense of pride of place, to increase skills and knowledge and to raise awareness of the Great Western Community Forest.

Walking For Health

It's good to walk. Research clearly shows that walking is the ideal way to increase the level of physical activity needed to maintain health and fitness for people of all ages.

How far and how often?

The current recommendation for physical activity is:

- 30 minutes brisk walking 5 times a week is all it takes to make a difference.
- "Brisk" walking means you breathe a little faster, feel warmer and have a slightly faster heartbeat.
- It doesn't need to be difficult and you should be able to hold a conversation.

For further information visit: www.whi.org.uk

Great Western Community Forest

The Great Western Community Forest is creating a green network of woodlands, open spaces and areas for wildlife in and around Swindon. This will create a greener and healthier environment that will bring pleasure to people for generations to come.

For more information call the Great Western Community Forest Team on 01793 466324 or visit our website:

www.forestweb.org.uk

Great Western Community Forest

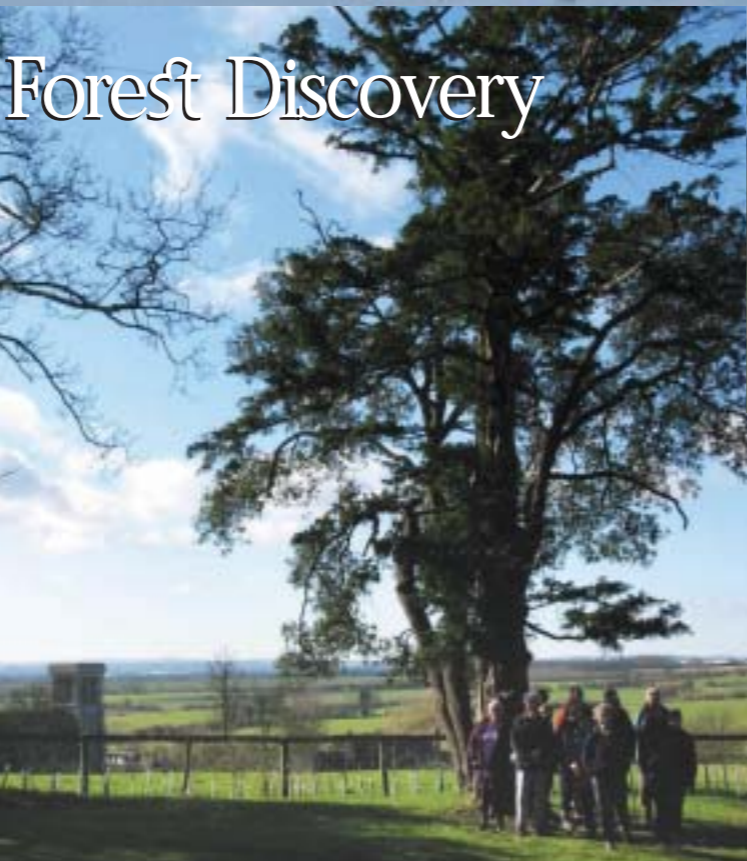
Premier House, Station Road, Swindon. SN1 1TZ

Local Heritage initiative



www.forestweb.org.uk

Forest Discovery



Branching Out

Eight Highworth Rambles

Celebrating The Great Western Community Forest and 21 years of Highworth Rambling Club

2 Pentylands 5.5 miles



1 Crouch Hill and Pentylands 5.5 miles

A flat walk over farmland, grass tracks and meadow.

1. With church on L walk along Vicarage Lane to Lechlade Road. Turn R, then cross by pedestrian crossing. Continue downhill and take 1st. road on L (Westrop). Bear round to R at NO THROUGH ROAD sign and pass postbox in wall on L. At T-junction walk down hill. At bottom, where road bears L, turn R along Pentylands Lane.
2. Continue past sewage works. Then, where lane bears sharp L, and with road junction on R, keep straight ahead over stile. Follow path with hedge on L for about 1/4 mile, crossing another stile in the process. Cross footbridge on L, then turn R, and with hedge now on R cross 2 fields to lane.
3. Turn L, and in 200 yds. bear R and follow lane to North Leaze Farm.
4. On entering farmyard turn L, and with hedge on L cross 2 stiles into field. Keep to L edge, ignoring stile ahead. Leave field by double stile in top L comer. Walk along L edge of next field and through facing gate. In next field bear slightly L to far L corner. Cross footbridge, then bear slightly R in next field, keeping parallel to R hedge, and leave through facing gate on to track.
5. Turn L. In about 200 yds. bear slightly L and pass through small metal gate in wooden fence. (Note: This section will be very muddy after rain.) The track soon narrows to grass path. After 1/2 mile you reach footbridge over Bydemill Brook. Do not cross bridge, but take path to R. At junction turn L and follow to kissing-gate into field.
6. Turn L. Pass through 2 more kissing-gates. In 3rd. field continue ahead towards Highworth church. Leave field by footbridge, and bear diagonally R in next field to far comer. Go through opening. Continue ahead and look for opening in hedge on L. Pass through kissing-gate into large field. Walk ahead to comer of houses. On reaching hedge by power lines, turn L and cross stile in far comer. Cross next field and over stile back into Pentylands Lane.
7. Turn R. At road turn L and take second road on R (Brookfield). Follow road uphill and take footpath on L between houses. In Westrop turn R and retrace route back to Market Place.

A pleasantly undulating walk with a fine view of Hamnington Hall

3 Hamnington 5 miles



These eight walks from Highworth Market Place are to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of Highworth Rambling Club and to celebrate the Great Western Community Forest.

To guide you on your chosen ramble please follow the colour coded way-mark discs and read the written route directions given in this leaflet. The Rambles can be joined together to make longer walks.

Some footpaths may be uneven as well as wet and muddy after rain so care and suitable footwear are recommended. Walkers follow routes at their own risk.

Stiles are gradually being replaced by kissing gates to make access easier for everyone. Where written route directions mention "stile" this may actually be a "kissing gate".

If any walks are obstructed please contact Swindon Borough Council on: 01793 466386

A short walk with a fine view of the south side of Highworth.

4 Red Down 4 miles



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1. With church on L, walk along Vicarage Lane to Lechlade Road. Turn R and go over pedestrian crossing. Continue down hill and take first road on L (Westrop). Follow road round to R. At T-junction cross road and turn L downhill. At bottom, where road bears L, turn R into Pentylands Lane. Almost at once take stile on L. Go across field and over stile in far hedge. Keep to L side of next field as far as power lines, then bear R and go through metal kissing-gate in facing hedge. Turn R, and leave field via gap in hedge. Turn L diagonally across next field to far comer and over footbridge. Continue diagonally across large meadow via 3 kissing-gates.
2. Walk along earth path. At path junction, fork R. At track junction by footbridge turn L towards Hamnington Wick. After a while the track narrows to a grass path. After another half a mile pass ahead through a metal gate. The path now widens again into a track; in 100 yds., just before it starts to bear L, turn L through large hedge gap.
3. In field bear slightly L and towards clump of trees and distant hill. Pass through hedge gap, following sign for Hamnington, and walk ahead along road grass track, which eventually becomes concrete. Continue towards farm buildings. (Highworth Church is now visible on L). Where track bears R, ignore sign to Highworth and Hamnington, and go ahead into field. Cross next field and another stile. In next field bear L to pass over stile and footbridge about 100 yds. to R of far comer. Head up field, through hedge gap to metal gate in top L comer. Turn R and follow track to road.
4. Turn L, ignoring a R turn, continue for half a mile to track junction. Turn L. If track is muddy, use alternative path which soon appears on L and eventually rejoins bridleway. Follow to road.
5. Turn R, and at road junction by Freke Arms take L fork. Cross Highworth/Blunsdon road and turn L towards Highworth. At bottom of hill turn R by signpost and cross field and stile. Continue ahead along side of next field, with hedge now on L. Near top of field turn L through gap in hedge, and turn R. With hedge now on R, pass golf shop to top of field. Go R across stile and back into playing-field. Walk to L of tennis courts and return along tarmac path to Cricklade Rd. Turn R back to Market Square.
6. Turn L. Walk up to top of golf course, then turn R and continue ahead to end of next field. Cross stile and bear L into playing field. Walk to L of tennis courts and take narrow path to Cricklade Road. Turn R to Market Square.
5. Turn L. In 200 yds., as path begins to bear L, continue ahead across field to post at top of field, and from there follow waymarker arrow to a stile. Continue ahead to another marker post, then bear slightly L downhill, keeping to L side of gallops, and cross stile at bottom. Follow yellow and white marker posts ahead and pass through gap in hedge.
5. Turn R. In 100 yds. go through gap in hedge and follow more posts L up next field, with hedge now on L. Near top of field turn L through gap in hedge, and turn R. With hedge now on R, pass golf shop to top of field. Go R across stile and back into playing-field. Walk to L of tennis courts and return along tarmac path to Cricklade Rd. Turn R back to Market Square.
6. Turn L. Walk up to top of golf course, then turn R and continue ahead to end of next field. Cross stile and bear L into playing field. Walk to L of tennis courts and take narrow path to Cricklade Road. Turn R to Market Square.
5. Turn L. In 200 yds., where road bears R, continue ahead along lane, past Hamnington Church to Bydemill Farm. Bear R through farmyard, then L past farmhouse garden and over footboard by signpost. Cross field and footbridge. Head up field to L of pylon and cross stile by wooden gates. Follow broad track between fences and take narrow footpath to L of garden. Cross track and stone stile opposite. Bear slightly R up next field, pass another stone stile then take well-worn track through centre of next field. (Turn for fine view of Hamnington Hall.) Walk through cemetery and follow winding path to Bydemill Gardens. Turn R to Cricklade Road, then L back to High Street.

A varied walk over downland and fields.

5 Stanton Fitzwarren 6.5 miles



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1. Walk along High St. to lights. Cross main road, taking L side of Cricklade Road. Shortly after lay-by opposite Oak Drive, take signed path on L into sports field. Bear R and cross stile in far comer. Turn L and walk down golf course, passing golf shop. Following white and yellow markers, turn L through hedge gap and continue downhill to bottom of golf course. Turn R, and in approx. 100 yds. through hedge gap on L.
2. Walk up field and cross stile. Continue ahead up Red Down, keeping to R side of gallops. At end of gallops, cross stile and continue ahead over field to black marker post which soon becomes visible. Bear R to join track at edge of field, and continue down to stream.
3. Cross footbridge and walk along hedge of next field, heading for oak tree opposite. In next field bear diagonally L to far comer. Turn L on to broad grass track. At top of slope, follow track round to R. At track junction by large barn, turn R. In 200 yds. take track on L between enclosures and walk down into Station Fitzwarren.
4. Turn L. Follow the road round a L hand bend, and in 200yds. turn L along a cut de sac marked The Avenue. Walk ahead into field, and after about 300 yds. bear R by marker post. Pass through hedge gap opposite and turn L. Keep by hedge, then ahead across field to gap in trees and on to main road.
5. Cross the stile opposite and go over field to hedge gap. Cross disused lane and enter field along stony track. At end of field, cross stile to R of gate and walk diagonally over next field to gate in far R comer. Walk along short track to farmyard and turn R. Leave farm along L edge of QueenStaines farmyard broad track. At road turn L and walk down into Sevenhampton.
6. Just inside the village turn L, passing Bellingham Farmhouse. At end of lane go through small gate. Bear R, keeping outside fence surrounding cricket field. Continue along edge of two large fields to main road.
7. Turn R. In about 400 yds. take signposted path on L just after former lighthouse. In a few yards bear R, and follow marker posts up and round the golf practice field to hedge gap at far comer. Turn R and walk up past golf shop to top of field. Go R across stile and into playing-field. Take narrow path to L of tennis courts back to Cricklade Road. Turn R back to Market Square.

Warning: Some parts of the bridleways near Hamnington are uneven and extremely wet in winter and early spring.