

Information



A ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH



The parish church of St Mary (grade I-listed) dominates the village. It dates back to the 12th century and is on the site of a Saxon church. Most of the church is in the perpendicular style of the late 14th and 15th centuries and was restored between 1882-85 by W.Wood Bethell of Bristol.

The height of the church is particularly striking, as is its formidable size. Within the churchyard there are tombs which form a fine collection of classical and local forms, contributing greatly to the setting of the church.



B HAWKESBURY MONUMENT



Was erected to the memory of a general at the Battle of Waterloo, Lord Robert Edward Henry Somerset, a member of the Beaufort family of Badminton, who died in 1842. The monument was designed by Lewis Vulliamy and dated 1846. It is a slightly tapering square stone tower, surmounted by a gilt cross, and is approximately 100 feet high with an entrance on the north-east side.

C HAWKESBURY AND INGLESTONE COMMONS

These extensive commons with their typical settlement pattern of small groups of cottages and farms around the edges, are ancient landscape features which have survived unchanged for a millennium. Commons were part of the "waste" of a manor, not suitable for arable or rich meadow land. Hawkesbury Common was known as "Hawkesbury's More", and Inglestone Common as "Inguston Greene", "The Green Common", or even "The Grosse Common of Hawkesbury below the Hill".

The traditional grazing period of beasts on the commons was regulated by manorial custom, as were their number and type. Animals do not respect parish boundaries, as this account from 1603 shows: "the wastes of these two manors (Hawkesbury and Horton) do abutt each upon the other divided only with a little brook or ford through which cattle have used time out of mind to wade or stray through into the other common". At fixed times of the year the Lord of the Manor could "drive" the common and "if he findeth any cattle of the tenants of Horton then he impound them and for any beasts the owner do paye a poundpenny before they have had these cattle again delivered".



What is access land

This walk is aimed at introducing you to open access land. These areas, which are shown on the map, mean that the public can walk freely on the land, without having to stick to paths. Areas of open access land were designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), and include mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land.

People across England now have approximately 865,000 hectares of land across which they can walk, ramble, run, explore, climb and watch wildlife as they are given the freedom to access land, without having to stay on paths. If you want to find out more about open access land, further information and maps are available on the Natural England website (just search for 'Natural England Open Access Land').



The country code
Please follow the Country Code at all times

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- ! Be safe-plan ahead and follow any signs
- ! Leave gates and property as you find them
- ! Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- ! Keep your dog under close control
- ! Consider other people

This leaflet was developed by the Ramblers Association with the support of an Environment Grant from South Gloucestershire Council

For more information on walking in South Gloucestershire and the wider area please go to www.outdoorswest.org.uk

www.southglos.gov.uk (access is free from your local library)

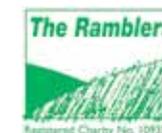
Hawkesbury & Inglestone Commons



Access walks in South Gloucestershire



| | |
|--------------|--|
| START POINT | St Mary The Virgin Church, Hawkesbury, Badminton |
| DISTANCE | 5.7KM (with optional 1.2 KM detour to the Hawkesbury Monument) |
| DIFFICULTY | Easy but moderate if you walk across the Commons and strenuous if you choose to climb Hawkesbury Knoll |
| TIME | 2-3 hours |
| REFRESHMENTS | None |





Introduction

The trail starts at St Mary the Virgin Church in Hawkesbury, linking Hawkesbury Knoll with Inglestone Common and Hawkesbury Common via lanes, paths and field paths. There is also an opportunity for a detour to visit the Somerset Monument and to climb the Knoll.

The Route

▶ **Starting outside the Church in Hawkesbury (1) cross to the bridleway opposite.**

Optional Detour The Knoll on your right is access land. There is a short permissive path to get to it. The climb is very steep but if you have plenty of puff the views make it worthwhile. Facing the Knoll look for the wall/fence going up on the right. Tucked under the big trees part way up is a wooden gate. Make for the gate and once through it choose your own route to the top. Come back through the gate

Continue on the bridleway until you reach the road.

Optional Detour If you wish you can turn right to get a close-up view of the Somerset Monument which, later, you will see several times from a distance. The detour will add about a kilometre to your walk. Return to the main route.

Cross the road and continue straight ahead along the lane until you get to a footpath on the left after about 150 metres. Head across the field to a point to the right of a group of trees.

In the next field follow the hedge on your right and come out on the road. This is Inglestone Common (2). Turn left and at the T-junction turn right following the road for about 500 metres until you see a cottage set back from the road, on your left.

Alternatively if you are feeling adventurous strike off across the Common making for the road on the other side. When you reach it turn right and look for a cottage (3) set back from the road on your left.

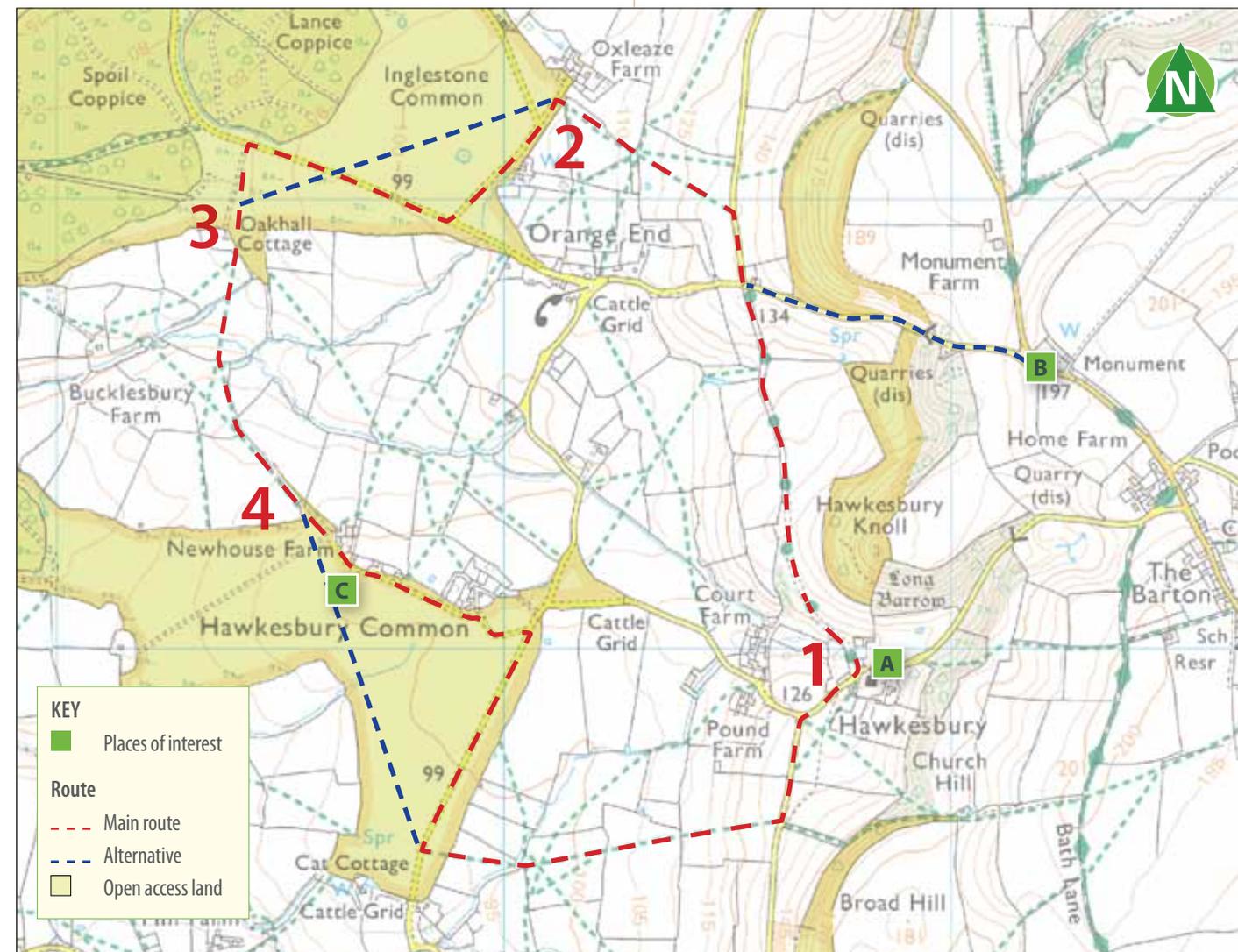
When you see the cottage cut across the Common making for the gate and stile to the left of it. Through the gate turn half left for the gap in the hedge. A rusty gate may be seen when you get to it. Make for another gap where the path crosses a stream which may be dry in Summer. Cross a narrow field and continue through two much larger ones following the hedges on your left. Eventually, turning left and right emerge on to Hawkesbury Common (4).

Walk in front of the farm buildings and cottages on to the lane and follow it to the T-junction. Turn right and note the metal gates in the hedge over to your left. Take the third one – the one before the cottage.

Alternatively there is another chance to walk across the Common. Look for the gable end of a cottage with a big tree alongside and make for a gate 100 metres or so to the left of it.

From the gate/stile and plank bridge alongside turn half left to the far corner of the field. Here there are two stiles with a plank footbridge in between. Continue in the same direction towards a large tree in the hedgerow opposite, then to another tree where you will find double stiles again. Head for the middle of three wooden pylons and you will see the gate to the lane.

Turn left on the lane and right at the junction from where you can see the church and your starting point just ahead of you. (Alternatively, after turning left on the lane, you can take the kissing gate up the bank on your right if you would like to walk through the churchyard).



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved South Gloucestershire Council LA100023410, 2011

