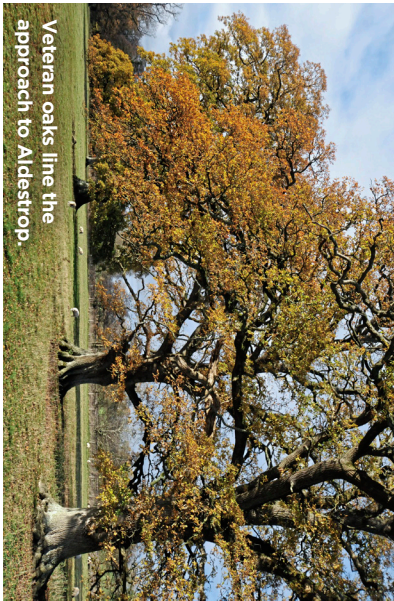


05 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ADLESTROP & DAYLESFORD

Distance: 6½ miles/10km Time: 4 hours Grade: Moderate



Veteran oaks line the approach to Adlestrop.

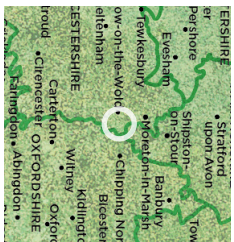
PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER



CHOSEN BY... ROGER BUTLER

This walk explores Cotswold scenery near Stow-on-the-Wold and passes a large award-winning organic farm complex at Daylesford, where fresh produce includes a fine bakery and cheese cellar as well as picnic food and drink. Features of interest along the way include the lovely village of Adlestrop, historic parkland at Daylesford House and an isolated 12th-century church which still has no electricity. Adlestrop is associated with a famous poem written by Edward Thomas, who died in action in 1917. This was based on a railway journey in June 1914, when his train briefly

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking By village hall/church in Lower Oddington, GL56 0UZ, grid ref SP228259

Is it for me? Paths/tracks through fields and woods; couple of quiet lanes
Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest towns Moreton-in-Marsh & Chipping Norton

Refreshments Farm shop with café at Daylesford.

Pubs in Upper and Lower Oddington: The Horse & Groom (01451 830584); The Fox (01451 870555)

Public toilets None

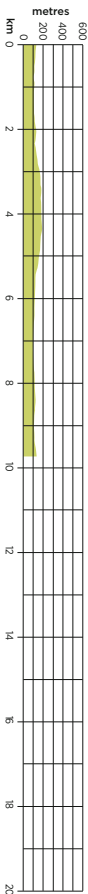
Public transport Nearest station Kimgham, limited bus services to start
Maps OS Explorer OL45; Landranger 163

stopped at the tiny village station. It closed in 1966 but signs and a platform bench can be seen. The poem, with reference to birds and flowers, is seen as a eulogy to our peaceful countryside prior to the First World War: *The steam hissed, someone cleared his throat No one left and no one came On the bare platform. What I saw Was Adlestrop – only the name*

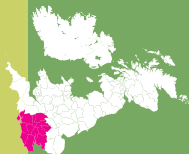
1 Start From the village hall walk east through Lower Oddington and continue around bend to the A436. Turn R on pavement then cross to the other side, cross railway bridge and take lane on L.

2 1 mile/1.5km Immediately go R through kissing gate and walk over field, with imposing Adlestrop

GRADIENT PROFILE



SOUTH WEST



06 HAMPSHIRE HAMBLEDON

Distance: 6¾ miles/10.7km Time: 3 hours Grade: Moderate



The path leads straight through the vines.

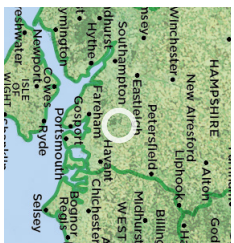
PHOTO: TOM BALLEY



CHOSEN BY... PHILIP THOMAS

In 1952, retired army officer Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones planted what is now England's oldest commercial vineyard on a chalky, south-east-facing hillside above the South Downs village of Hambledon. This sparkling walk treats his trailblazing terroir en route to the hallowed field giving Hambledon its other claim to fame as 'the cradle of cricket'. The cricket ground at Broadhalfpenny Down was the original home ground of the Hambledon Club, the foremost leather-on-willow outfit in 1770s England. The Laws of the modern game have roots in rules drawn up

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking West Street, Hambledon, grid ref SU645150, postcode PO7 4RW; considerate on-street parking

Is it for me? Clear field paths/tracks, some prone to summer overgrowth, briefly on road
Stiles 3

PLANNING

Nearest town Waterlooville

Refreshments The Old Forge Tea Room and The Vine (02392 632799) in Hambledon; The Bat & Ball, halfway round (02392 632692)

Public toilets None

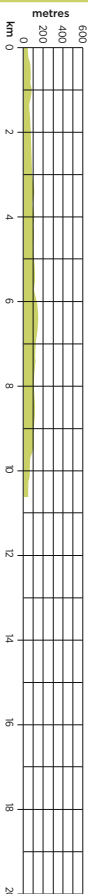
Public transport Bus D1 from Waterlooville to start (Mon-Sat, firstbus.co.uk)
Maps OS Explorer OL3; Landranger 196 & 195

at the adjacent Bat & Ball inn, where Hambledon's captain, Richard Nyren, was landlord.

1 Start From West Street, turn up High Street (opposite People's Market village shop) into churchyard. Take path R of church to gate and lane. Cross and take path in front of primary school, waymarked 'Wayfarer's Walk Circular Route'. Keep straight on shady footpath ahead, over track then through vineyard. Cross track/stile at far side and turn L, continuing on hedged-in path, tucking R through kissing gate. Through a belt of trees further on, emerge into arable field and go straight on to hedge gap at far side.

2 1 mile/1.7km Cross road into Hambledon Cricket Club.

GRADIENT PROFILE



SOUTH EAST

06 HAMPSHIRE HAMBLEDON

OS Explorer map OL3 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

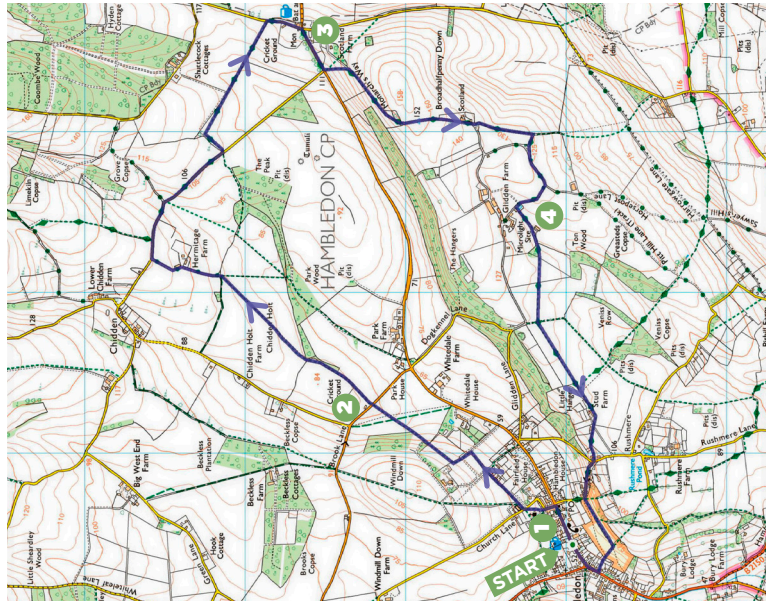
The path follows R edges of pitch and next field. Cross next field to gate at far side. Continue up track ahead past Hermitage Farm – it becomes paved. Turn R onto lane. Ignore first two L turns, and in about half a mile (800m), take a footpath L along a woody field edge, waymarked Monarch's Way (MW). At corner, the path turns R over fields, with Broadhalfpenny Down cricket ground up ahead. At road, turn R past The Bat & Ball pub to crossroads.

3 3½ miles/5.5km

Turn R (no verge – take care). In about 250m, at road junction, cross stile on L, waymarked MW. Bear R uphill to cross stile at end of tree line. Follow track R over Broadhalfpenny Down to Scotland Cottage. A sign attached to a telegraph pole indicates a path tucking L through a tangled thicket, then along a field edge. Well before you reach the bottom corner, this path surreptitiously tucks R through a gap in the greenery to a flinty track (there's a fallen tree to negotiate). Turn R, then fork L at muddy pond. Follow MW R at next junction towards Glidden Farm.

4 5 miles/7.9km

Take track L after pond. Go R of barns at end, then continue west over fields, through a series of kissing



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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The path across the down splits – take either route, meeting path coming downhill, R into the village. Turn L for a tea room, or R then R again at junction into West Street. [CW](#)

gates, following power line poles ahead. At track, cross next field to gate and hedged-in path to driveway at Stud Farm. The waymarked MW tucks R of metal gate down a sunken path, popping out by Rose Cottage. Turn R down steeper L-hand lane into Hambleton. At bend, take path ahead over Speltham Down (National Trust sign) through old metal kissing gate (worth detouring L uphill here for a view over the village).

05 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ADLESTROP & DAYLESFORD

OS Explorer map OL45 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

House ahead. Meet track and turn L past cricket pitch to go through gate, with wooded pool on L. Walk up path between fence and trees to gate and join lane with church on R. Fork L at small thatched Post Office and walk down to a junction with old railway platform bench.

3 1½ miles/2.5km

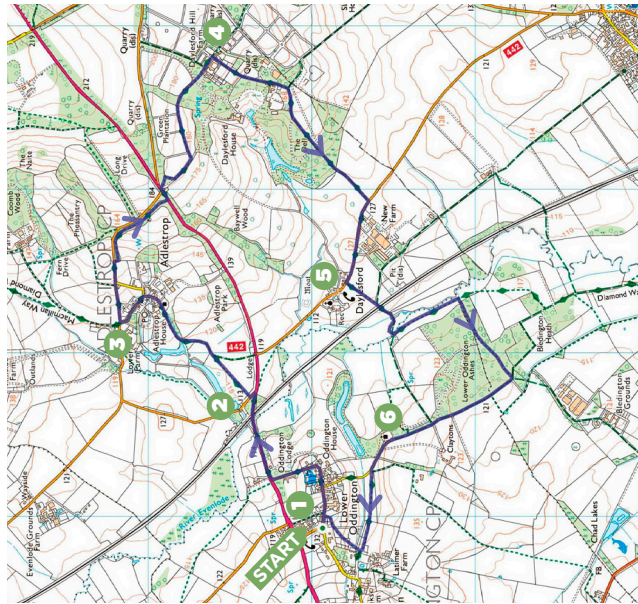
Turn R up the lane and after 350m take path in trees on R, parallel to lane. Continue to gate at A436 – cross road, turn L past lodge and take gate on R, with path into trees. Go R at fence, then L on tarmac drive after 50m. Fork L at huge evergreen oak and follow track between fences and paddocks. Track continues into trees – go through gate at barn and walk ahead between farm buildings.

4 3 miles/4.5km

Turn R at Hill Farm Barn and go down drive to waymark at end of long wall. Bear R, now with beds of lavender on L. Drive dips downhill – continue through parkland and just before lane go R via small gate on permissive path between hedge and fence. Another gate leads back to lane, with Daylesford farm shop on far side. You might want to allow an hour here!

5 3¼ miles/6km

Continue along lane to kissing gate on L, with path



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between fence and tall hedge. Walk down to small gate and turn R on track over railway bridge. Continue over iron bridge and take stile on L into long field, with meandering river on L. Go through gap and then go R to gate into wood known as Oddington Ashes – sadly, many have now been felled due to ash dieback. Turn R on track at end of wood, go through double gates and keep ahead to Saxon church of St Nicholas, with wall painting dating back to 1340.

take stile on L after 200m. Cross next field with new tree planting, go through gate and head for far R corner. Pass through two small gates and veer R up paddock. Cross two stiles and go through pair of small gates at top R corner. Follow narrow path behind church to gate at lane. Turn L to village hall. [CW](#)

6 5½ miles/8.8km

Cross field to small gate, continue ahead along lane and