

**Walk 1**

6.5 miles / 10.5 km / 3 h 45 m

**H****Painswick Beacon and Cranham****Common**

Tom &amp; Audrey Capper

**From Painswick Beacon the route takes you down through the hamlet of Paradise to cross the Painswick stream, then up past Laurie Lee's sloping cricket ground at Sheepscombe and through Ebworth beechwoods. After reaching Overtown with distant views, it returns by Cranham Common, with more views and orchids in season. It passes the Royal William, and continues to Painswick Common, visiting the Iron Age Fort on Painswick Beacon, where there are wide and distant views on a clear day.**

**Start:** Painswick Beacon, signed Catbrain Quarry off A46 from Stroud or Cheltenham and off B4073 from Gloucester. Park in CP just below brow of the road where it crosses a golf course.

**Maps:** Explorer 179, Landranger 162/163, grid ref. SO 867116. **Buses:** Mon - Sat hourly from Cheltenham or Stroud to Paradise (46). Four return trips on Sundays.

**Alternative start points:** **D**, Near Cranham Church weekdays, SO 890124, or outside Cranham school SO 893125 on Sundays or **E**, Royal William pub CP SO 878126 ONLY if using pub.

**Food and Drink:** Royal William, Cranham on the A46 - 01452 813650.

Black Horse, Cranham (half a mile off route across Common SO 895129) - 01452 812217.

**A** From the Beacon car park walk up the road to the brow and down the other side. As the road bends L continue straight on down signposted footpath (not the Cotswold Way) through the woods to the busy A46. Turn sharp L then cross the road **carefully** to a bus stop and go along the pavement passing a house which used to be the *Adam and Eve* pub in Paradise (notice the hanging sign frame still there). Turn R down some steps and continue down the lane past two houses. Cross stile on L, then go steeply down the field to a gate and stile. Keep by hedge on L to cross the stream, then cross a field diagonally to a wood. Look out for small wild daffodils in spring in this area. Go through a gate into the wood, and after a few yards turn R over the stile and soon over another stile and down steps into a meadow. Cross the field dropping down to gate then another gateway on R into the farmyard. Go straight across between the barns, over stile by gateway and turn L. Soon cross another stile to R of a gate passing the classical Cotswold front of Damsells farmhouse, bearing L across the

drive to a stile at the wall end. Go ahead, at first level, then up and along to a kissing gate. Turn R down the track to pass a cottage on the L. Afterwards bear R to a metal gate.

**B** Go through and follow the field uphill passing a barn on your L. Now head straight up (vague boundary on L at time of writing) for about 200 yards to a gateway. Continue up another field to a gate onto a track leading to road. Turn R signed Sheepscombe. Look on L for gate to go up drive / garden of *Trench Hill*, and out at top. Follow power line to a stile and gate into Lord's and Lady's Wood. Now go upwards, crossing a track to top, then veer R with wall on L to follow track. Further on, take footpath on R to look over wall to Sheepscombe (Laurie Lee's) sloping cricket ground. Continue to a gate with stone stile on the R. Enter the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve where access is restricted to waymarked paths only. Go through gate and keep to L around Ebworth Plantation edge until your path bears steeply up off track and

turns L to lead into the *Old Ebworth Centre*. Look back along track to carving *Spirit of the Woods*. The Centre was created from 17th century Cotswold farm buildings, now shared by English Nature and the National Trust.

**C** Carry on up through gates to a track. Continue up through gates into a wood (full of wild garlic in spring). Now cross middle of large field to L of clump of trees. There are fine views over Cranham Woods. Go down over stile and through gate to bottom of valley, crossing small stream on R. Turn L through a gate onto a lovely uphill track in wood leading up onto Cranham Common and amazing views. Keep straight on down, leaving the common by a house called *Picardy*, meeting the road by the school. (*To visit the Black Horse pub turn R over common for half a mile. Return here to continue walk*) The walk turns L by the school. Go along the road to soon reach Cranham Church *where lie the ashes of Colonel*

*Carne of the Glosters, awarded the VC following the Korean War.*

**D** **[Alternative start point]** Walk from Cranham Church (or from outside the school on Sundays) down road forking L to *Mann's Court*. Here bear R down road and after crossing stream go half L over stile to climb field following a power line to a stile at top. Look for good views behind to Cranham Common and Church. Go L up road. When within 100 yards of A46 bear L up through woods to cross A46 **carefully** to the Royal William.

**E** **[Alternative start point if using the pub]** From Royal William go up road on R of pub to the common. Take the track on the R (not the bridleway) which follows the edge of the golf course for half a mile. Climb to the trig point at the centre of hill fort. Here are fine views of the Severn Vale, the Malverns and the mountains of Wales. Continue across top path. Descend steps and follow R edge of course down to road, and turn R to car.

Revised 2007 to take account of a path deletion at Sutton's Mill and northwards (point E on the original instructions). We regret copyright restrictions prevent us from publishing a map on the website. Please email us for any further help.