

## Walk 2 5¾ miles

## Painswick, Huddinknoll Hill and Edge Common Harold and Betty Wood **\*\*Route with minor revisions 2007\*\***

- **DESCRIPTION:** A moderately hilly 5¾ mile (10 km) (3 hours) Cotswold walk. A mix of farm footpaths, tracks and lanes. Beautiful views in all directions - it is rewarding to look behind you now and again. From the escarpment on a clear day views can be obtained as far as the Brecon Beacons. If you have not visited Painswick before allow plenty of time to enjoy this delightful place. There is a visitors' pay/display car park near Church in Stamages Lane for after the walk.
- **DIRECTIONS:** From Cheltenham or Stroud, use A46, turn at Painswick traffic lights uphill on B4073 towards Gloucester. Turn right into Golf Course Road after half a mile. From Gloucester take the B4073. When nearing Painswick, in wood, turn left at Golf Course Road (just after entrance to Painswick House Rococo Gardens on right. **PARK** in free walkers'/ramblers' car park on left of Golf Course Road, grid reference 866 104, OS maps Landranger 162 or Explorer 179.
- **BY BUS** to Painswick from Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester. A limited Sunday service runs from Stroud and Cheltenham. From main road, go up Gloucester Street, turn left at Butt Green.
- **FOOD & DRINK:** Royal Oak Inn, Painswick (01452 813129) and the Edgemoor Inn (01452 813576).

**A** Leave car park and walk back to main road. Turn left downhill for ¼ mile. After passing a telephone box turn sharp right into Butt Green (cul-de-sac). **\*\*At end turn right and immediately left through trees behind cottages to drive. Turn left to go through metal kissing gate, turning right \*\*** to follow path down. On the right are the grounds of Painswick House, and you should have fine views of the house. Follow this boundary over two more stiles and through a gateway, then up and down to a stile by gate near small stream. Keep to right uphill over stone stile into farm drive.

**B** **\*\*The definitive line runs across the corner of the field going through the gate in front of you to a stile but in our experience it is often obstructed by crops. You have every right to walk through crops growing on or over a path, but stick as close as you can to its correct line. In this instance a permissive alternative has been provided turning left downhill, crossing stile on right and along the field edge but please note that this is not a public right of way. \*\*** Cross the stile and follow hedge, now on your right, in a similar direction. Just after passing a small pond on

*This excellent walk has become rather accident prone since publication, since there have been three minor diversions, two official and one not.*

*Alterations to the text to prevent your confusion are shown **\*\* thus \*\***.*

*The stile shown in Peter's drawing is now history, having been replaced by an unromantic metal kissing gate!*

*Please refer to the map in your book. We regret we are unable to reproduce one here for copyright reasons.*

*Revised 2007*

*[www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk)*

the left, climb stile into sunken path, and ignoring stile opposite, go left down damp sloping path. Bear left at the bottom over a bridge and by gate, over stile and follow stream on left. Go over stile into a light wood and after holly grove **\*\*cross over bridge on left, and after a few yards turn right through bushes towards metal gate. Cross stile by gate to reach a drive. By cattle grid bear half right up\*\***] enclosed path leading to stile. Climb hilly field, keeping right of Edge Farm to top corner and concealed stile into road. Turn right and walk up road. Look for fine view of Painswick Beacon on right and Church behind.

**C** Where road bears right go ahead by a pinch stile and cross a field with modernised barn on right to stone stile. Cross the road and go diagonally up bank on bridleway which becomes wider with railing on right. *Good views on right to Severn Vale, Forest of Dean and the Brecon Beacons.* A hundred yards after the track is crossed by two rails you may see a metal kissing gate and steps downhill on right. Do not go down, but notice passing places on steps - for ladies in crinoline dresses! Go to end of track bearing right onto road which joins busy A4173.

**D** After 20 yards uphill cross CARE-FULLY to stile then down steps over stile into a field. Walk half left to cross a stile in corner. Here are more views, including May Hill with its trees. Follow hedge on right and after 50 yards cross stile on right into large meadow. Bear left to cross stile by gate in far corner of field beside house. In road turn right and immediately left over stile and along enclosed path. After 50 yards cross stile into large field. Head half left to corner of wood but do NOT cross into it. The route now heads along the

broad track under trees to a gate. Go slightly up in next field on same line and after 100 yards look behind for a magnificent view of the Malverns. At far left end of field go over stile, hidden at first. Turn left up road for nearly 600 yards to main road. At junction turn sharp right with CARE. After 100 yards on left enter common through the right of two large wooden gates.

**E** Take the path ahead and follow this across delightful Edge Common (also known as Rudge Hill). There are several paths across the common all leading in a similar direction, so follow one of them. In a few minutes make your way down to the road near to the

Edgemoor Inn. You may spot the Cotswold Way (*see page 32*) joining from right. Now cross the busy A4173 with CARE to Jenkins Lane (Edgemoor Inn is on your left). After 250 yards down road, turn left through kissing gate. Soon turn right downhill through gates and pass stone with Cotswold Way plaque. Go down field to right corner and into wood. Go down steps, over bridge and through wood to a gate. Go through and in 100 yards go through a gate on the left on to a track, following it right.

**F** At junction by

Washbrook farmhouse where Cotswold Way turns right, keep straight on up drive. Cross a road into Upper Dorey's Mill Lane to reach mill house at the end. QUIETLY cross parking area just before the house. Turn RIGHT down through the garden with a small pond on your left over a bridge and stile. Follow path steeply up to stile at top. Go over and then left over stile through one field to another stile. Cross and turn right heading for farm buildings up hill. Cross two further stiles and continue up farm drive. Soon after double bend turn right over the stone slab stile to retrace your route.



*Painswick House with Rococo Gardens*