



THE PAINSWICK

Painswick Stream & Washbrook Farm

Water, mills and hills

2 miles (3.2km) - About 1.5 hours

Moderate walk with one long hill to climb.

If it has been rainy, wellies may be the best footwear.

Leave the hotel through the front entrance, turn R onto the lane. Follow all the way down the hill staying on the road. At the end turn L and then R onto **Ticklestone Lane**. The mill pond is on the left beyond **Painswick Mill** where you may spot some ducks. Cross the **Painswick Stream** and follow the path around to the R. Follow the lane uphill to meet a track.

Turn R and follow the path, taking a sharp L turn. Shortly afterwards take the footpath on the R (South). After about 75m turn R through a gate. Walk straight across the field (West). When you reach the top of the slope you will see the farm buildings. Walk to the left of the buildings and onto the farm track. The field may be muddy over this section. Turn L onto the farm track and follow this track around the next field edge to the road (**Stepping Stones Lane**).

Turn R onto the road and then after 25m L onto the footpath by the stream. Follow the path between the hedges and then the pollarded trees. Cross into a field and continue to follow the stream to the far (west) end of the field. Go over the stile and cross the bridge over the weir – please take care. The building on the opposite side of the drive is **Kings Mill**.

Turn R and follow the drive to the road. Turn R onto the road and after 50m uphill take the footpath on the L. Continue uphill on the path until you meet the main Stroud Road (A46) at the top. Cross the main road – Take care as it's a busy road and poor sight lines.

Going slightly to the R cross a stile into the field – look for the way marks. Follow the field edge (West). At the end cross a stile and follow the path which bears R.



Painswick Mill was first recorded in 1634. In 1752 an advertisement described the mill as a 'very good place for spinning'. In the following century it changed from cloth to produce hook and eyes and later was a Pin Mill before it closed in 1920.

The **Painswick Stream** was the local source of power. In 1086, four mills were recorded and by 1820 this had grown to 25, the majority of which were in the cloth industry.

Kings Mill was in use by 1496. The mill ground corn and drove cloth making machinery. In the 1850s it was known for producing the covering for billiard tables and 'celebrated' scarlet hunting cloths.

Follow the path which runs along the top of a wooded bank, cross another stile and continue over the next field following the edge of the woods.

At the end of the field there is a short diversion to **Washbrook Farm**. Go through the kissing gate and follow the path down to Washbrook Farm. You can view the attractive landscaped gardens on both sides of the path, please note these are private.

At the finger post return the way you came and climb back up the slope, you are now on the **Cotswold Way**.

Pass back through the kissing gate and turn L to follow the hedges. Continue across the field in this direction (East). You should be able to spot the spire of Painswick Church.

At the top corner of the field go through a kissing gate and then follow the fence up the hill. Through the kissing gate at the top, follow the path between the hedges. At one point the path turns sharp R and crosses a drive, watch for way marks. The path leads to a paddock, cross this following the hedge on the R. You will pass the **Tony Drake Memorial** on your R. Just beyond are benches providing an opportunity to rest your weary legs.

Pass onto the road and turn R. It is now downhill virtually all the way back to the hotel. Follow the road to the end, there is a pavement on the L.

Cross the main road (A46) – take care. Pass through the **Lynch Gate** into the church yard. Follow the path between the 99 yews passing St Mary's Church on the L. You may hear the bells as the clock strikes. Beyond the church turn R back onto a lane. On your L are the old town stocks. Continue straight down the hill on Hale Lane. You may spot a couple of animals on the wall half way down – What are they? At the end turn L onto Kemps Lane and the hotel is 50m up the slope on the L.

Washbrook Farm is a Grade II listed building, also a former mill. On the exterior is a blocked and half concealed door opening with C16 moulding.

The Cotswold Way is a 106 mile long National Trail running between Chipping Camden and Bath. For most of the route it follows the Cotswold escarpment.

Tony Drake Memorial. Tony was a very active member of the Ramblers who took on many footpath issues in Gloucestershire and helped to create the Cotswold Way.

Lynch Gate was built in 1901 when the church belfry was overhauled. The wooden timbers were replaced with a metal frame and some of these timbers were used to construct the lynch gate.