



The Painswick Beacon & Cider with Rosie

A strenuous roller-coaster walk into the valleys and the fine beechwoods well known to Laurie Lee - and call in to his local for a drop of cider!

Essential Facts

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Route distance: | 19.9 km (12.4 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time: | 5 hours 30 mins |
| ▪ Shorter options: | Several possible |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 841 metres |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SO 866 096 |
| ▪ GPS Ref: | SO 86568 09568 |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer 179 |
| ▪ Toughness Rating | Cotswolds 3 |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

Up For A
CHALLENGE ?

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your favourite charity with

A Donation
An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

Leave the main public car park in Painswick by the pedestrian exit adjacent to the public conveniences at **S**, and turn right, up the main street. The impressive church is passed on the right. Turn left along Gloucester Street (B4073) and continue over a junction. Turn right onto Golf Course Road, and then take a path angling off on the left at the Cotswold Way sign.

The path crosses part of the golf course, then passes through woodland and by a quarry. The Cotswold Way climbs to the summit of Painswick Beacon. It seems strange to see golf links strewn across an Iron Age hillfort, but there are superb views from the trig point, **A**.

The route now curves to the right, following the edge of the woods. A short stretch of tarmac is vacated by following the Cotswold Way signpost on the left. This brings you into Buckholt Wood National Nature Reserve (NNR). Cross a minor road then the main road, and briefly walk alongside the Birdlip road. Take the Cotswold Way again at a sign opposite the Cranham turn at **B**.

Climb gently through the beechwoods. At a T-junction of paths go right, now leaving the Cotswold Way. The path goes downhill, then crosses a minor road. Take the path that goes off to the left, in front of the National Nature Reserve sign. Quickly fork right, following a path signed by yellow and orange waymarks on the trees. At the minor road go left, into the village of Cranham.

Start climbing the hill from the stream, then take the lane to the right, at the top of which is the Black Horse Inn, **C**. Turn right here, onto a track. Bear left, uphill, at a fork. Cross the road onto a track. This climbs, then drops into the valley, passing above Brook Farm and its pools.

Cross the valley and climb into Saltridge Woods NNR. The path continues climbing to the woodland edge, and leads into Lord's and Lady's Wood NNR. Here go right, downhill on a bridleway.

On leaving the woods there are fine views to Painswick and over Sheepscombe. The Laurie Lee Cricket Field is to your left. The track descends to a minor road, where go right. Follow the road to the junction, where you will find the Butchers Arms just to the right. The route, however, goes downhill, and then climbs by the church to the main road. Take the path opposite, and on meeting a track turn left, still uphill. On joining the road go briefly left, then right onto a track at **D**.

Ignore a path off to the farm on the left, and follow the track, just inside the woodland edge. On emerging from the wood, descend Down Hill to a minor road. Follow this road into Slad and go left at the junction to join the main road. The Woolpack and the church, **E**, face each other across the road. The pub was Laurie Lee's local, and the old boy now permanently resides opposite. Carry on out of the village. When you come to a footpath sign pointing to the left, instead cross the road and climb the slope on a path by a waymark post. On reaching a farm road go right, and at a junction then turn left.

The route now heads down a good limestone track to meet a road. Go left, then turn right, going over a stile by a gate. The path drops down by the side of Sheephouse. Go right, then take a track on the left. Cross the stream by a footbridge over a sluice and follow the stream to the road (after heavy rain it may be better to continue along the track from Sheephouse directly to the road). Follow the road uphill to return to the car park, **S**.



Sheepscombe Church



A Winding Lane
In Sheepscombe

This long walk can be shortened by taking one or more of the country lanes evident on the map. Take great care to observe traffic safety precautions on these lovely lanes.

Refreshment

Falcon Inn Public House Painswick Tel: 01452 814222 Meals and bar snacks available. Oldest bowling green in the world	Butchers Arms Public House Sheepscombe Tel: 01452 812113 Laurie Lee's local pub and restaurant
Black Horse Inn Public House Cranham Tel: 01452 812277 Meals available	The Woolpack Public house Slad Tel: 01452 813429 Another of Laurie Lee's pubs. Food served. Gardens overlooking the valley



The Woolpack
Slad

LOCAL INFO

Author **Laurie Lee** is best known for his autobiographical, "Cider With Rosie", although he was primarily a poet. He was born in 1914 and moved to Slad at the age of 3. After many years away, he returned to buy his childhood home there. He died in 1997 at the age of 83 and his grave can be found in **Slad** churchyard. He was a regular in the Butchers Arms in **Sheepscombe** and he bought the alpine cricket field there for £600 in 1968, to protect it for posterity.

Painswick has many fine buildings, the stone here being typically pale grey, rather than the warmer colours found elsewhere in the Cotswolds. The church of St Mary is largely 15th and 16th century, with a spire of 1632. There are many legends surrounding the yew trees so meticulously shaped in the churchyard. Some say that it is impossible to accurately count them, but that there can never be more than 99. Whatever the truth, the churchyard hosts many fine tombs, none more so that that of the stonemason who carved many of them - there is no mistaking the pyramid of John Bryan.

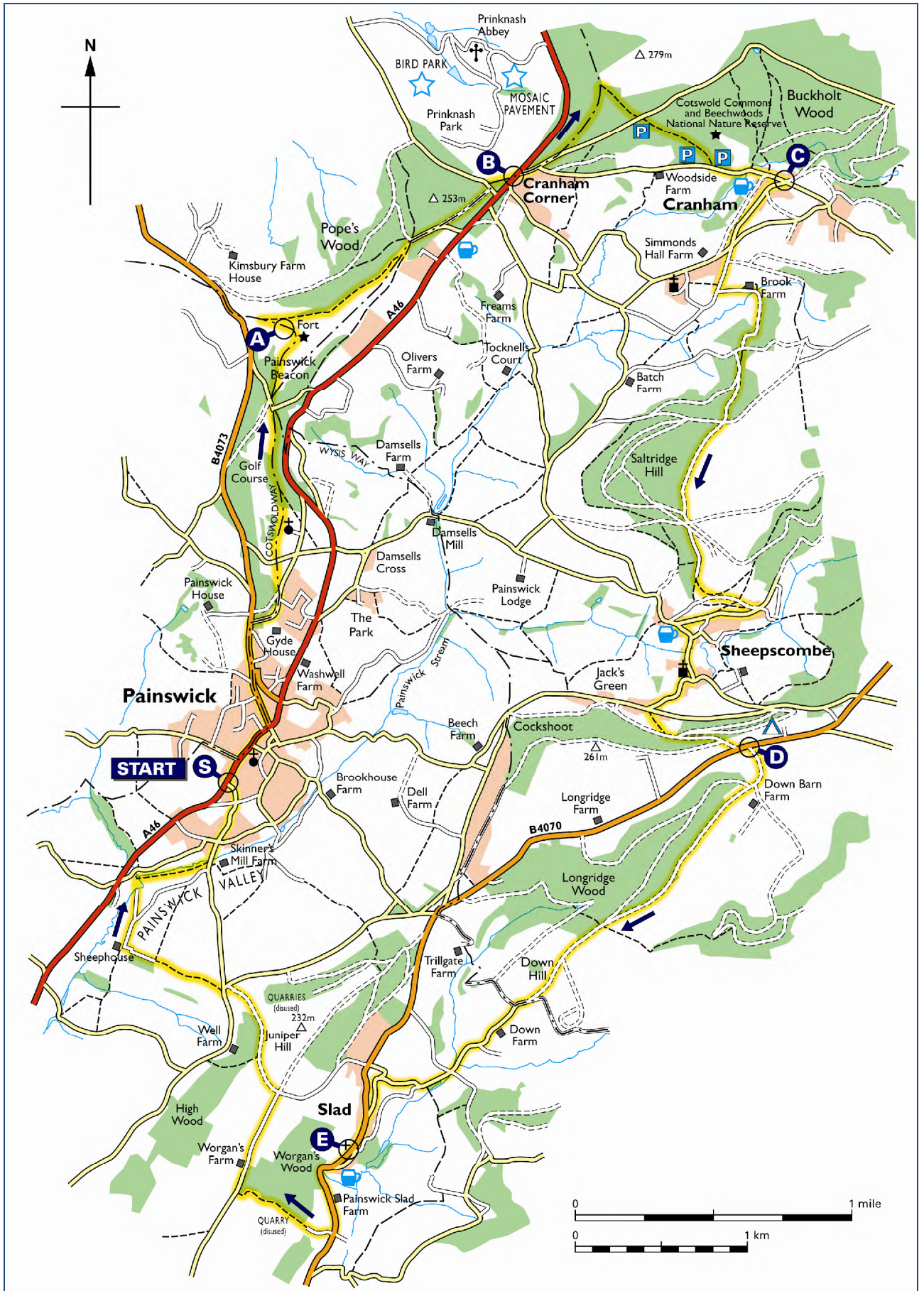
Painswick Beacon is surmounted by an Iron Age hill fort. Stone from adjacent quarries was especially prized and is found as far afield as Westminster Abbey.



























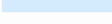




Laurie Lee's Grave
Slad

THE PAINSWICK BEACON G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
PWK S	S	SO 86568 09568	135
PWK A	A	SO 86828 12094	252
PWK B	B	SO 88316 13065	186
PWK C	C	SO 89595 12940	175
PWK D	D	SO 89524 09718	180
PWK E	E	SO 87217 07359	141



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route				
	Motorway		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	Main road		Church with spire		Information centre
	Secondary road		Other place of worship		Parking
	Minor road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Other road		Building		Public house
	Track		Built up area		Picnic site
	Footpath		Woodland		Camp site
	Bridleway		Sand		Major tourist feature
	National trail		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Cotswolds** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route on Dartmoor,