

A large, leafless tree with a thick trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of bare branches stands in a grassy field. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The tree is the central focus of the image, with other smaller trees visible in the background.

Follow the Footpaths

**An Illustrated Guide to
Circular Walks around Twynning.**

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During the time we spent in 'lockdown' over Covid 19 we walked every day from home both re-discovering and discovering the many footpaths of Twynning Village and the Parish. We felt so lucky to be in such a lovely area and able to walk so close to home. March and April 2020 followed a very wet winter, many of the paths were muddy, and some of the fields too. I have indicated when this was a problem. In summer this may not be so. This walks booklet arises directly from these experiences.

All walks start from the Village Green

All profit made from selling these booklets will go to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

It goes without saying, but I had better mention it, these walks include much of the countryside that belong to farmers; treat their land with respect. All dogs must be on leads, and please clear up what they deposit. All gates that you open must be shut again. Always stick to the footpaths.

1. *Walk to Woodend via the Fishing Lakes and back via Church End 5 stiles, a bit of climbing, footpaths, lanes, fields and tracks. 3+ miles.*
2. *Through a former plantation and over the top to Hill End Farm, returning via Manor Park. Some climbing and 6 stiles. 2 Miles.*
3. *Part of Shakespeare's Avon Way. Easy walk. no stiles. 3 miles.*
4. *Footpaths, farm tracks and farm roads. Nearly 2 miles. Easy. 3 Stiles*
5. *A Walk through a new wood, farm land to Hill End and back via an Orchard. 8 stiles. Some uphill clmbs. 1.6 miles*
6. *Walking from the Green anticlockwise and back by the river. 2 miles*
7. *Crossing the A38 to Puckrup and Ripple. More difficult. 4.2 miles,*
8. *A clockwise walk around the Village. Up past The Manor and on up to farmland at Hill End. Returning via Downfield Lane. Easy. 2.9 miles.*
9. *Twynning to Strensham via Harbour Wood, returning via Bockeridge Common. Longer walk but not strenuous. 5.4 miles 4 stiles.*
10. *Going along Shakespeare's Avon Way to Strensham and back by Harbour Wood. Easy. 5.5 mile walk. No stiles.*

*** Glossary is at the back**



Way-marker signs are there to help direct you and indicate which direction to take after you have crossed a stile or when you leave a footpath. Sometimes there could be two or more ways to go. If so, the correct way will be indicated in the text on these walks.

Bridleways have blue arrows and are suitable for both walkers and horses.

1. Walking to Woodend and back via Church End.

3.2 Miles, some climbing, 7 stiles and a good chance of mud in places.

We leave the Green and walk towards the river, turning right along a footpath just before the entrance to Twynning Park. You will soon meet the first of the stiles and cross over this following the path along the field, turning right through a gate and across two small paddocks to another stile (marked by a lollipop sign) to



enter a small copse. At the other end is a kissing gate where you go straight on a field margin. Go ahead to where you join a farm road. Turn left here along a tree lined avenue. Keep going ahead where tracks cross, When you get to a T junction go right. Going up this track look up and you will see Owl



Boxes high in the trees, or maybe an owl if you are lucky! Turn left at the top and pass the Fishing Lakes on your left.



Just after the lakes you will see a footpath to your right going up across a field, take it and climb to the top, across another stile, straight across another field, but then ...



Don't go over the stile in front!

Follow the direction on the finger post and walk with the field margin



on your left side until you see, in the hedge, a stile leading to an alley.

Go down this alley, it might be very muddy! At the end you emerge into Church End Road. Turn left, go up the road and cross the over to find the

footpath. Enter this via a kissing gate and turn right along it, through 4 more kissing gates. At the end, turn left, and you will find that you are soon entering into Church End.



At the crossroads turn right towards the church, then past it. As the road bends to the right you will see ahead of you an iron gate. There is a passing place to its right, turn down here. You will emerge by a pretty pond on your left, go left and then quickly right on tracks down by The Monks Pools* keeping them on your right until you come across an avenue of trees. Go left here and at the end go and cross the stile ahead; it goes first through a field. Take the path ahead leading to the Play Area, this could be muddy, it will lead you to Kilmore Lane and hence back to the Village.

2. Through the former tree plantation and over the top to Hill End Farm, returning via Manor Park. 2.1 miles and 6 stiles.

We start this walk at the north end of The Green. With the school behind you continue on down Fleet lane until it branches, then go left along Downfield Lane. You pass 3 farms on your left and after Downfield Farm take a footpath on your left, marked by a finger post. Head uphill through the old tree plantation. Over a stile, the path ahead may well be muddy during wet weather. Continue up the path, over a stile and when you reach a footpath 'crossroad' go straight ahead and over another stile into a field, often full of sheep.

Following the direction shown on the way-marker on the stile, cross this field. Have a look back, the views of the Cotswolds and Bredon Hill are very good from here. You will see two buildings ahead, go

towards the grey farm, cross the stile leading into and through the farm. When you get to the road

take the right fork towards a white

house called 'Wren's Nest'; turn left immediately after it on to a Bridleway. Follow this alongside a field and look out for a way-marker where the footpath goes left before a single

tree. Go down this farm track and footpath then through two old metal kissing gates, crossing the park land of the Manor with what is left of its medieval *Ridge and Furrow** field. Turn sharp left after the second gate to an alley which will lead you to Hill End Road and from thence downhill to the High Street.



3. Part of Shakespeare's Avon Way. 3 miles. *An easy walk. No stiles.*

From the north side of the Green with the School behind you continue down Fleet Lane and take the left junction to Downfield Lane. Follow the lane to its end and turn right at the T junction. Go down this lane and when you get to the tunnel under the motorway you will have done one mile. Go through the tunnel and you can pause a while and look ahead over the Upham Meadow; but you cannot enter between March to July because of ground-nesting birds. You may hear a Curlew calling and see a



Skylark rise. Turn left and go through the left hand gate to follow the track



keeping the M5 on your left for 0.3 miles. As you walk along you will see a fenced area on your right. There is a way-marker here to direct you.



You will see a row of trees, head to the left of the tallest tree and you will come to a footbridge over a brook. You are now 1.5 miles from the Green. Turn around and retrace your steps or go on to Walk 10.

Walk 10 carries on from here to Strensham and will be 5.5 miles in total

4. Footpaths, Farm Tracks and Farm Roads.

Easy Walk of about 2 miles with 3 stiles.

From Twyning Green walk down to the River Avon. When you get to the grass by the waters edge turn right over a foot-bridge through a gate. Walk along the path through a kissing gate and out into a grassy area. Passing Chad's Well* continue along with the river on your left, you are looking for a single post by the river which indicates that there is a track leading to a gate on your right. Go through this by



means of the smaller gate. You are now on a Permissive Path *. Carry on up this farm track, crossing over a small brook and go up the path until you are nearly at the farm where you turn right along a track. From here you can look back and see a good view of the Cotswold Hills on the skyline.



Go along right this track then turn right down a track with the Monks' Pools* on your right. Turn left along a fine avenue of trees. At the end of the avenue turn right down a slope on to a footpath left of a field.



Look out for a foot-bridge on your left and cross over it and go to the stile ahead. Cross this and enter a field



keeping to the right hand field margin to the end where there is another stile. Go over this and down the alley-way. When you emerge you are back on the Green.

5. A walk through a new wood and on up the hill over farmland, returning via an Orchard.

A Shorter Walk , but it could well be muddy, maybe wear wellies? and there are 8 stiles and one good climb. 1.6 miles. Lovely views.

From The Green go up Goodiers Lane, shortly before you get to the top turn right after house called 'Longleddon' and go down the hill looking for a foot-



path sign on your left. Go through the gate and follow this footpath until you reach the new plantation of trees. Turn right downhill, it may be muddy at the bottom near the stile. Climb over this and follow the direction shown on the right-hand way-marker arrow and climb up the hill, do not go left as shown on the other way-marker. Then across the farmland crossing two stiles as you go.

Stop here and admire the lovely views of the Cotswolds. Then cross over the final field and on the other side cross a stile to enter Hill End Common. Turn right along a path and at the end you will see a gate and stile on your right. Climb over it and follow the path through the orchard.



You can rest awhile on the bench thoughtfully provided by the owner.

Following a mown path across the orchard and then into pasture. You will meet 2 more stiles and often quite a bit of mud on the way, but it is lovely



there. The final stile takes you into a field; keeping the hedge on your right follow this until you spy the 'hidden' gate to the right of a green building.

This leads to a lane that you

ascend, until you find yourself back in Goodiers Lane.



6. Walking from the Green anti-clockwise to the river

via farmland. 2 miles, 6 stiles

You go north west from the Green passing the shop on our left. Soon you will see the old Village Pound*, part of the farming history of Twyning. Continue up the High Street on the pavement until it runs out, then carefully cross on to the verge on the left. Go over the junction on your left walk on up Brockeridge Road, passing Duddage



Manor and then take the footpath on your left. Skirt around the Industrial Estate, it may be muddy at the beginning. Cross the stile to get behind the buildings and over the stile you find there to enter a field. Your exit is a stile in the far corner. This takes you to a busy road, take care when crossing

to the other side. Go right and turn left into to the access road ahead marked 'ACE'. Cross over to the stile on your right. Follow the footpath across to another stile and over the field until you reach the lane by the Monks' Pools*. Go left down here and then turn right. Continue straight ahead along the track until you come to a pool on your right where you go left down the access track. This leads to the river. Go through the gate at the end and join



the riverside path going left. When you get to the Wharf you might enjoy sitting on the Jubilee Bench to watch the river boats go by.



7. This is a bit more adventurous. You cross the A38 twice. First to go across Puckrup Hall golf course and then coming back beside The Crown, Shuthonger.

4.2 miles, 5 stiles, many kissing gates and some mud.

Leaving the Green north west out of the village, turn left down Churchend Lane, the Charles Church estate is on your left. Walking on the wide road-side margin arrive at the junction with Cherry Orchard Lane on your right.

Cross over here and walk up the lane to the A38.

Turn left but cross carefully to the other side of the A38 where there is a pavement. Just before a stone track you will get to a kissing gate leading to a path crossing towards the left hand side of Puckrup Hall. Follow the way-markers through the grounds and out to the car park behind. Walk through the gate in front and go a short way before you meet a road junction. Here you have to



take sharp turn left with a barn on your right. Walk to the end of the lane where there is a footpath through a gate on your right. This leads across some land to a 'hidden' stile and down through woodland to

a field stile. Follow the arrow to go half right across this field. Cross at the stile.





You will come out on to Bow Lane, turn left and walk to the bottom of the road crossing under an old railway bridge. The footpath goes left here through a gate.

This next bit was very muddy in April. You are entering the flood plain and there was evidence of overflow from a gully or a stream, and cattle had further trodden the mud to make it a bit of a challenging walk, but only for about 150 to 200 yards. The way marking is quite good, but as you

go across the first of three fields head for the left hand side of a stretch of willows on your right, and you will see the gate and stile in the distance. Here you join a bridleway and all the gates open for the horses, no stiles here. From there you follow the well marked bridleway until it joins a lane, turn left up the hill to climb up to the A38 again.

Cross carefully by the garage and go down by its right hand side looking on your left for a kissing gate. Follow the footpath, it will lead you to Church End Lane via five kissing gates and avoid the dangers of the bendy road.

Go left towards Church End, turning right to go past the church, and then when the road bends right go ahead to a footpath by a metal gate.

Follow the footpath to a pond on your left, then go slightly left and then right past the Monks' pools*. Go left along the avenue of trees and at the end go over the stile you can see ahead, leading to TRAC, Towbury Court, Kilmore Lane and the High Street.



8. A clockwise walk around the Village. Up past The Manor and on to farmland at Hill End. Returning via Downfield Lane.

Mostly easy walking with kissing gates and bridleway, 1 Stile. 2.9 miles.

We leave the Green heading north west, pass the shop on your left, but stay on the pavement on the right until it runs out. Now turn right up Lynworth Lane, at the top go through the kissing gate to enter the grounds of The Manor. Keep the hedge on your right and walk along the footpath, going through the next kissing gate and up the farm track past the farm until you reach a junction. Turn left here along the bridleway and



follow this as it curves to run alongside the M50 and you will come to a bridge over the M50. Here you can observe the traffic as it speeds underneath, and admire the distant views of the Malverns.

To go over the bridge and further on you will have to follow



walk 9!



This walk is not going that way, so retrace your steps and continue left

along the farm track until you come to a stile.

Go over it and walk ahead along Dingle Lane directly opposite. At the end of this lane turn right along a road and then left the next junction. You follow this lane down hill and continue on it as it swings right to join the Downfield Lane and from thence all the way back to the village. This ends your walk with a road when you can step out!

9 Twyning to Strensham via Harbour Wood, returning via Brockridge Common. 5.4 miles 4 stiles.

We start from the bridge over the M50 in walk 8.

Go over the bridge and immediately turn right to follow a footpath up hill walking on the field margin until you see a footpath sign on your right. Turn left walking across the field. You are heading to the gap



in the hedge with a stile then go straight on to the

right side of Harbour Wood. Keeping the wood on your left follow the track up towards the paddocks, gallop and stables of Drinkwater Stables.

Go through the buildings and out the gate,



then turn sharp left along a footpath. There are good views to the right. The footpath ends at an open field, go straight across this, cross the stile to the farm road and turn left along it.



Down the road you come across a farm being restored and large areas of scrap metal. Go on through and take the track to the left which leads to an iron gate and on to Brockridge Common.

Keeping the field/common margin on your left walk along until you see a wooden bridge and go over it. Still keeping the field margin on your left walk along the bridleway and paths, there are both muddy patches and brambles. You might want



to skirt these.

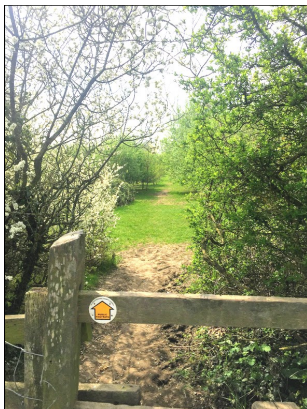
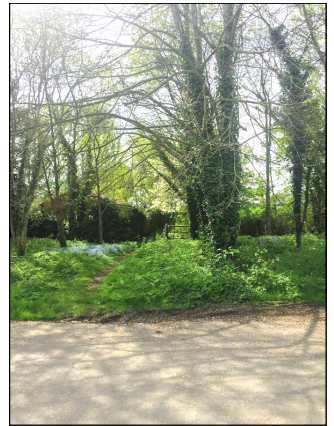
You are looking ahead for a broken wooden fence and an ancient apple tree.

Make your way up to the top

corner of the common where you will find

partly hidden, a gate in a muddy area. Go through this gate and walk along the track following a fence on your right.

When you get to the end turn left up the track where you will see the bridge over the M50 that you crossed earlier. Go over it and turn left walking along the farm track until the end where you enter Dingle Lane, possibly over a stile if the gate is shut. Turn right at the top, walk up the hill and along the road until you get to a left turning with grassy triangle. Behind the triangle is a path leading to a stile. Climb over the stile and go across the field keeping the field margin on your right, go through



a gap in a line of trees

and forward to climb

over another stile in a

hedge. This leads you

into the tree plantation.

Go across and follow the

path across a grassy area to Goodiers Lane then left and back downhill to the Green.

Walk 10. Twyning to Strensham and back via Harbour Wood.

This walk has no stiles and is fairly easy walking for 5.5 miles.

You pick up this walk where we left it in Walk 3.

Go across the footbridge and head over the field to the left of the farm buildings ahead. After you pass the buildings you will see a track ahead, join this and go on to cross over a track junction. Follow the track between two fields. You can see Bredon Hill rising on your right. When you reach the gate



go through and enter Mill Lane. Turn left here and follow Mill Lane for a while eventually crossing over the M5. Turn right towards Strensham along Twyning Road, passing Strensham Wood* on your left.

Take the second road on your left which leads you to the Drinkwater Racing stables and look for a gate on your right. Go through the smaller metal gate and follow the footpath through the stables and out on to a wide track that takes you past the horses in their fields and the gallop on



your left. Keeping Harbour Wood on your right follow the farm track on to the field ahead. You will notice a lone footpath sign in the middle of the field on your right! Head for the gap in the hedge ahead and then up the hill straight ahead towards a hedge. Turn right at the hedge and follow the footpath downhill to the road. Turn sharp left here, then right to go over the M50 bridge. Turn right on to the Bridleway and follow this going first left

and then joining the track going right past some farm buildings. You follow the path through the Manor grounds through two kissing gates to Lynworth Lane. Turn right to follow the road until you are back on Twyning High Street.

Glossary

Chad's Well or St. Chad's Well, is recognisable by the square section of post-and-rails fencing around it. It is named after the 7th century missionary St. Chad of Mercia, an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of York and Lichfield whose name (a British-Celtic name rather than a Saxon one) is attached to a great number of healing wells. Indeed he is something of a patron saint for holy wells.

Monks' Pools are believed to have belonged to the Abbey at Winchcombe, along with other parts of the village. They provided trout for the monks.

Permissive path. In certain areas of countryside farmers permit the public to cross over their land. This permission can be withdrawn.

Strensham Wood. As you go along Twyning Road into Strensham there is a large area of beautiful mature woodland on the site of a former 19th Century house, now derelict. There is a circular path through, starting from the road.

Ridge and Furrow Fields. In Anglo-Saxon days times farmers used Oxen to pull their ploughs. The plough cut into the turf and piled it up to the side, as the oxen turned at the top of the field and came back down the field soil piled up against the first cut. This added surface area and helped drainage.

Twyning Pound. When an animal was found wandering having escaped from field or stable it was placed in the Pound for safety. Sometimes the farmer had to pay a fee to re-claim it.

'Twyning Wood' is the area behind Hill End Road planted with trees by the landowners, with help from The Woodland Trust. It is generously shared with the village.

