

Walk No. 10

This walk begins at the Stockton Cross Inn, and is a pleasant, not very demanding walk of about 4 miles. The first stretch is down the hill off the A4112 past the new vicarage in the direction of Grantsfield. When you have gone some 200 yards to the bottom of the hill, you turn left over the stile by the Cogwell Brook into a field normally containing horses and along KB 62 towards a dilapidated, but once lovely, old house forming part of Duggan's Yard. Go through the metal gate, pass to the left of the old house, then turn immediately right towards the fence with the house to your right and the workshops to your left. When you reach the fence turn left, and you will come to a stile behind work-shops. Cross the stile and then bear left, following the contours at the bottom of the field along the line of the Cogwell Brook for about 400 yards until you reach a stile leading into a lane. The brook flows under the lane, and you cross the lane and, on the other side of the lane, you negotiate another stile which brings you into a field along the bottom of which the Cogwell Brook continues. Continue along this path, now KB 64, through 3 fields and then bear right, up the hill, towards a poplar plantation. A gate takes you through the plantation along a bridlepath (KB 65). Through the gate at the top end of the plantation, you come out at a road. Turn right, and almost immediately you will see a stile on the other side of the road opposite a small cottage. Go over this stile and follow along KB 45, which takes you along the left side of the field. You continue along a clearly marked route through 6 fields until you come to a farm called Slaughter Castle. Turn left up the hill when you reach Slaughter Castle, keeping the outbuildings of the farm to your right. You are now on KB 30, and you follow KB 30 in a straight line up the hill to the top of the field, where there is a stile. If you turn round here, you will be rewarded on any reasonably good day by superb views over to Hay Bluff and New Radnor. On a very clear day the Brecon Beacons can be glimpsed in the far distance. Turn right before the stile and follow the path (KB 31) along the top side of the field, through a short green lane, and diagonally down to the right through a gate into another field. Following the headland of the field, first along the top and then down to the right, you will come to a gate leading to the road which runs from Grantsfield to Hamnish. You can then turn left and keep to the road which takes you past some pleasant farm buildings and cottages to Hamnish Church, the Church of St. Dubricius. Continue along the road beyond the church for 300 yards, and you will come to Rowley Cottage. Just before Rowley Cottage, there is a footpath sign. Turn right at this point over the stile and follow the path (KB 59) up the left side of the field until you reach the top of the field, where you bear left. After 50 yards or so you will reach a gate and stile which you cross. This takes you along the top of the next field past a wind-pump. Straight ahead of you, you still have marvellous views down towards Hay-on-Wye. After some 150 yards you will come to a gate in the hedge. Turn right through this gate, and walk up the bridle-path (KB 57) along the right side of the next field. Over the hedge to your right is a chicken-farm, and half-left ahead of you is the line of Rowley Ride Wood. To your left are the same wide views towards Hay and Wales. When you reach the top of the field, carry straight on through a gate which brings you into Bulmer's cider-apple orchard. You carry on in a straight line along KB 57 through the orchard (wonderful at blossom-time), and, with Rowley Barn over the hedge on your left you bend briefly round to the right at the bottom of the orchard. Here you turn left through another gate and go down the left side of the field to a gate over the Whitley Brook at the bottom. Then you walk up the sunken lane to the top, where you come to the road. Go straight ahead down the hill down what is in effect another sunken lane and past lovely cottages up the far side past the new vicarage back to the Stockton Cross Inn.

