

JUBILEE WALK MILES WITHOUT STILES

Mickleton and the Hidcotes

A series of Cotswolds walks to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012



After a steady climb you'll enjoy great views over the Vale of Evesham, then amble through two pretty hamlets, passing two famous gardens open to the public.

Distance: 6.4km/4miles
with a climb of 135m /450ft

Time: 2 hours

Start: Mickleton (near Chipping Campden) in Church Lane off the High Street. Pubs and shops in the village. SP162/435

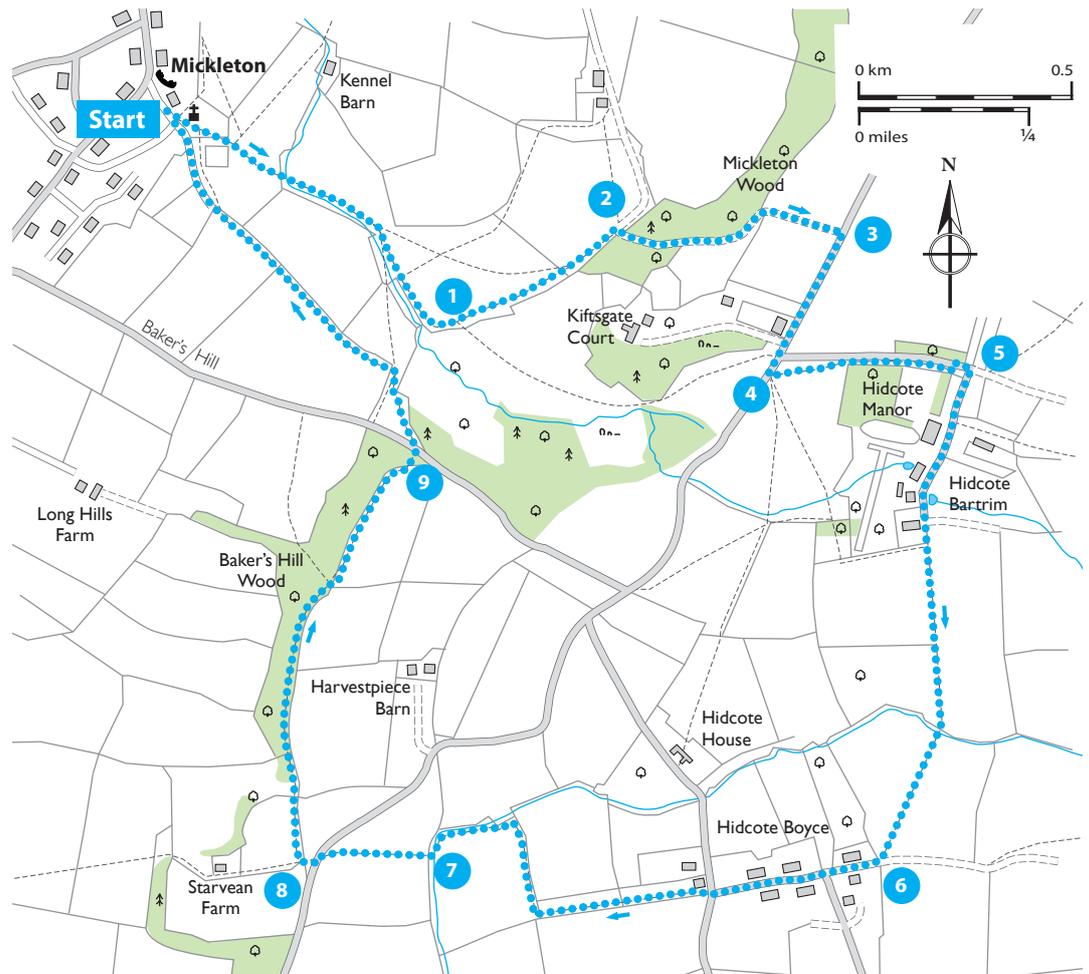
Route:

With the church on your left, go through a double gate and take the grassy path ahead (keeping a large oak tree on your left) to another gate. Follow the wide path alongside a wood through two fields.

Where the path rises **1** and curves to the left ignore two paths off to the right and carry on below a wood to reach a metal gate, with wide views including Meon Hill. Carry on to another wide metal gate on your right **2**. Turn into the woods up a stony track, at the top turn right by a small barn to reach a road **3**.

Turn right passing Kiftsgate Gardens. Ignore the lane on the left signed Hidcote Gardens, and carry on for 25 metres. then go through a small gate on your left **4** into park land. Bear left on the grass to a gate into the woods and walk alongside the lane.

Go through a gate onto the lane **5** and turn right and quickly right again



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onto a lane that passes the Hidcote entrance and through Hidcote Bartrim. Take the path ahead past a lone tree, down to a wooden bridge and cross the field to farm buildings in Hidcote Boyce **6**.

Here turn right and take the lane past a drinking trough (there may be fish), a few cottages and a large sculpture. At a T junction cross the road, go through a wide gate and

walk between hedges, past a holly grove, and through another wide metal gate.

Turn right then left around the edge of the field towards a hedge and stream. Turn left again and after 25 metres turn right **7** to cross the stream on a wooden bridge. A field-edge path brings you to a minor lane **8**.

Cross to the barn ahead, where the Heart of England

Way signpost points right along the escarpment. It may be muddy in the wood, but you'll soon reach a road **9**.

Take the gate opposite and you'll see Mickleton church below. Half way down the grassy hill take the kissing gate on your left through a field, into a small wood, and out again to a field path back to the church.

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Bartrim and Boyce — two hamlets for the price of one



Hidcote Manor

You'll walk past this beech avenue that was planted by Lawrence Johnston after he bought the estate in 1907. He planned the garden as a suite of rooms, each one leading to another of a different colour and style. It is now a popular National Trust property.



Meon Hill, site of an Iron Age fort



Mickleton's church dates from 1200. Worth a visit.

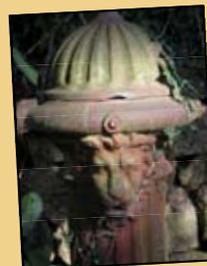
Kiftgate Court

Here there's the largest rose in England (50 feet high) and a lovely water garden.



And look out for these . . .

The hamlets of Hidcote Bartrim and Hidcote Boyce contain a few surprises. In Bartrim there's a hidden ha-ha* at point 5, then an iron lion with a helmet, and some unusual free range hens. In Boyce the horse trough may have some unlikely residents. Further on don't miss a big sculpture. Was it inspired by Midsummer Night's Dream (Act 5 Scene 1)? Then there's the holly orchard.



* A ha-ha is a ditch that keeps the livestock out of your garden without spoiling the view from the house.