

INTRODUCTION

This collection of walks has been compiled and updated by Tony Slater, from material originally compiled in 1980 by the Avening Society as part of the celebrations for the 900th anniversary of the consecration of Avening Church. Additional walks have been added following a competition organised by the Parish Council. We hope that residents and visitors will find the walks interesting and be a helpful introduction to Avening and its history. We welcome suggestions for new walks, but they should be sent to the Parish Clerk with as much detail as possible. The timings are approximate and depend on how quickly you walk. Please respect people's privacy, keep to paths and roads, and follow the Country Code.

WALK 7 (Forty-Five minutes)

Leaving Holy Cross Church (1), Pass Avening School (40) on the RHS then right up New Inn Lane just past the Memorial Hall (39). Take the right fork into Point Church Farm Barns. After about 25 yards turn left to the footpath through a five bar gate opposite Church Farm Barns. Follow the path with the former Avening Football field on the LHS. At the next stile, turn right along the bridge path but pause for a while and admire the view across Gatcombe Park (48), with a rare view of Gatcombe House (49), and Avening.

After about 1000 yards turn down the field passing Avening Park on the RHS to the farm gate then follow the edge of the field to the farm building at the bottom of the field. At the farm building, turn right into West End and follow the lane to Heron's Mead; here take the signposted path across the fields to the Poolhay (9) and then onto the churchyard. Follow the path back to Avening School.

WALK 2 (one hour)

Leaving Holy Cross Church (1), cross the bridge over the brook and turn left, passing Pike House News (41).

Turn left opposite the Old Rectory (2) into Woodstock Lane. At the top of Woodstock Lane take the right fork up to the waymark post and here take the left hand footpath along the edge of the field crossing a waymarked stile, down a steep bank (north) locally as the Monkey Bank as there used to be a Monkey puzzle tree there) until you join the lane. Turn left and follow the lane (West End) all the way back to the village and Holy Cross Church. Alternatively, at Heron's Mead take the path across the field – see walk 1.



WALK 3 (two and a half to three hours)

Leaving Holy Cross Church (1), Pass Avening School (40) on the right then right again up New Inn Lane, just past the Memorial Hall (39).

Proceed up New Inn Lane and fork right into Point Road and further up the hill, towards Church Farm (11). After about 1/4 of a mile the lane bears to the right by some farm buildings, but here take the left hand fork towards a cottage at the end of the track. Traverse the stile, pass through a gate and take the left hand waymark following the lower edge of the field. The path then follows the boundary of the field passing through a number of waymarked gates and by Ledgemore Pond on the left. From the pond, the path passes through lovely countryside with a mixture of open farmland and converts until it reaches Shippons Grave Lane. Here, turn right and right again at Ruggers Green Wood and Oldfield Wood on the left until you reach a track – the old Avening to Nailsworth Road. Throughout the spring this area has many varieties of wild flowers, including Bluebells in the woods, and Cowslips and Primroses on the banks. Cross the track and turn right to join the bridleway leading all the way down to Avening and Woodstock. Pause for a while before descending too far and enjoy the views of Gatcombe Park to the left, Avening village ahead and Avening Park to the right.



WALK 4 (one and a half hours)

Leave Holy Cross Church (1), proceed past the school (40) turning right into New Inn Lane. As New Inn Lane joins Point Road, bear right then immediately left up a track for about 20 yards towards a private garage. Turn right in front of the garage and look for the waymarked stile into a field (this tends to become overgrown). Once in the field follow the path which is the old Park Horse Trail (13) clearly marked by the deep depression and line of trees.

The stile rises up the field to a stone stile at the top of Tebury Hill. Proceed up Tebury Hill a short way, and then cross the road opposite the TV mast and look for a bridleway post. Follow this bridleway directly to Linton Barn, through two gates, to meet the road. Here, turn left and walk towards Star Farm (43). Leave Star Farm on your right until you reach a cross road of the lane and track. Turn left along the track towards Nags Head and after 1/2 mile look out for a Cotswold stone straddle stile on the left. Cross the field and you meet Roundabout Lane so called because of the roundabout of trees on the right in the middle of the field. Turn right at Roundabout Lane and look out for the waymarks by a 'squeeze' stile. Pass the stile and then cross the field diagonally to meet Star Lane. Proceed down the lane to the Cross Inn (24) at the top of Avening High Street. Proceed down the High Street and return to the Holy Cross Church.

WALK 5 (one hour)

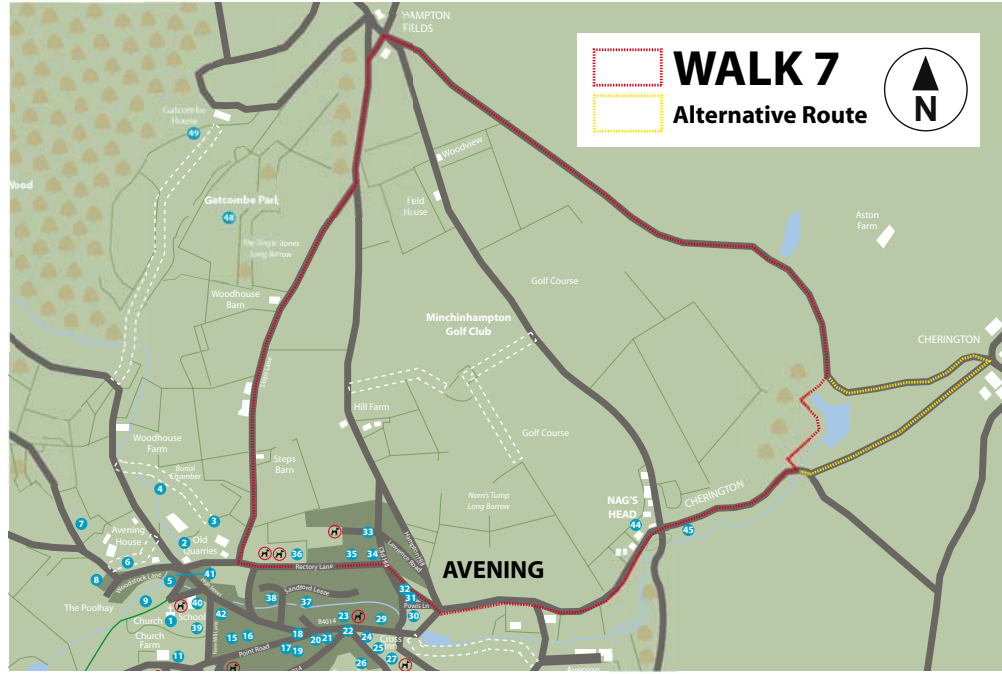
Roger Lindley (My Favourite Walk Competition winner 2008)

My favourite walk, scenery, solitude & history, bit of everything! A walk of approximately 2 miles (3.2km), along quiet lanes and paths. Boots stacked in wet weather. Starting at The Cross (24), go right hand side of the Cross towards Church Farm (11). After passing the large concrete cylinder on the right hand side of the road. This is a remnant of the Bristol Outer Defence Line constructed during the Second World War to protect the city and port from land attack from the east. The block would have been placed in the road as an anti-tank measure. Walking further up the lane you will see a World War 2 pillbox (28), again part of the Defence line. After walking round the bend pass a stone track on the left and climb the wooden stile immediately next to the track. Follow the well-defined path and enjoy the panoramic views that open up as you cross one field. Climb the stone stile and cross the next field to another stone stile. Turn right onto a bridle path for approximately 100 yards before climbing yet another stone stile into a field on the left. Follow the edge of the field past a number of stone bushes, these usually have a good crop of berries each autumn for making stone gin. Climb yet another stone stile, this time turn left onto the bridle path. The path, which can be muddy after heavy rain, drops down to Nags Head. At the stream, turn left and pass through Nags Head hamlet before turning left down towards Avening Court. At the bridge, pause to look through the peephole on the right hand side for a wonderful view of the stream and the cottage gardens. After this there is a short climb up the lane that then bears to the right before sloping gently down the main road. Look out for Old Hill Hill (29-33) which was the original road to Minchinhampton. Turn left up Hampton Hill, back to the starting point.

WALK 6 (one and a half hours)

Leaving Holy Cross Church (1), cross the bridge over the brook and at the main road cross over to enjoy this section of the walk through Gatcombe Park with beautiful views in all directions, the main steps barn on the right, and further along on the left, Woodhouse Barn.

When Steps Lane meets the main road proceed for about twenty five yards across the clubhouses on the left and follow the waymarks across another section of the course to Norm's Tump; exit the golf course across the stile and drop down the field (join the Nags Head lane towards Avening through a wooden road up towards the clubhouse on the left and follow the waymarks across another section of the course to Norm's Tump; exit the golf course towards the clubhouses. defined, and crosses a number of stone straddle stiles. Follow the public path across the fields and then the golf course towards the clubhouses. the direction of the path towards Minchinhampton Golf Club. This is a clearly defined, and crosses a number of stone straddle stiles. Follow the public path and look out for the footpath sign on the right. Cross the stone stile and follow the lane to the top of Avening High Street. Descend the High Street and look out for the lane on the right that takes you to the Old Avening Mill building (37). Proceed down the High Street returning to Holy Cross Church.



WALK 7 Alternative Route

WALK 7 (one and a half hours)

Tony Slater
This is an easy walk, mainly around quiet lanes, but it takes you through some magnificent countryside. Start at the playing field (36) in Rectory Lane (34-39), and from the left hand gate proceed across the field to the top left corner. Go along the wooded path and enter Steps Lane. Follow this to the top and join the main road, turning left, then right and right again to Hampton Fields. Go through the hamlet and down the lane through the two golf courses. You will drop down through a wooded area and on the left is a small lake at an entrance to Aston Farm. You may be lucky to see the resident Heron, and maybe even a Kingfisher. Further along the valley, past some large Willows on the right (originally planted to provide new bats for Avening & Cherington cricket team) there are two stiles. The rounded iron one on the left takes you to the top of Cherington (and is a favourite of ours for taking family portraits), while the right* takes you through the woods close to the lake. Along this path, take a left turn and drop down to the weir, cross the stepping stones and join the lane (right) towards Nags Head (44-45) and Avening.

*An alternative route keeping to the lanes, takes you above the lake, across the stream (you can turn right here and go around the lake edge to avoid the hill) and up a steep hill into Cherington. Double back right at the junction, and follow the hill down through the woods to re-join the route above. Through late January and February, the woods surrounding the lake provide a stunning display of Snowdrops.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

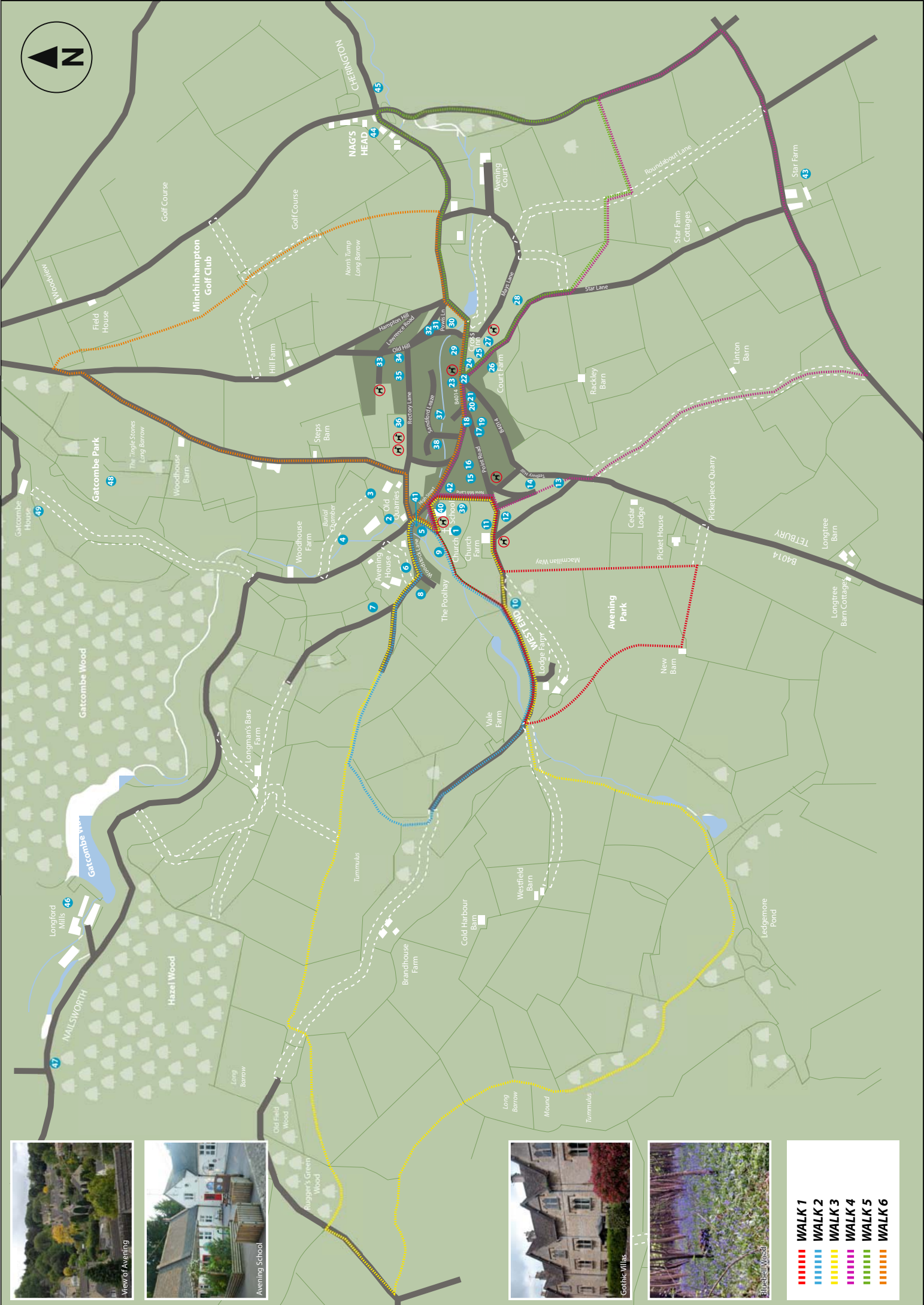
Photographs supplied by Kay Adkins 07092 307416 <http://kayadkins.longfurlong.co.uk/> Tony Slater 0779 3669930 www.cornish-holidaycottage.co.uk

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7 WALKS around Avening



The Countryside Code
Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people
Always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly



View of Aveing



Aveing School



Gothic Mills



Borealis Woods

- WALK 1**
- WALK 2**
- WALK 3**
- WALK 4**
- WALK 5**
- WALK 6**