

Hilderstone

Distance 6 miles

Time 3 hours

22 stiles

Directions

Maps:OS Explorer 258

Turn right out of the village hall car park into the Allways. Follow the road to the T junction then turn right again and walk 200m to a stile set in the left hand bank of the road.

Climb over this stile and walk straight ahead with the field boundary on your right to a stile in the far field boundary. Cross this stile and turn left when it's a short step to a second stile. Follow the footpath over this stile and down the hill to a stile and footbridge crossing Wheatlow Brook indicated by a red and white pole (2).

Go over the bridge and turn right following the footpath across the field with the brook to your right until you reach a stile in the far field hedge. Cross this stile and walk straight ahead to a gate, with a waymarker, in the far field boundary.

Go through the gate and turn right to follow a rough track downhill to a pair of farm gates at a bridge across Wheatlow Brook. Cross the bridge and turn left following the left hand field boundary first parallel to the brook, then uphill until you reach a stile near the corner of the field.

Climb this stile and walk straight ahead, with the brook now down in a dip on your left hand side, towards Yew Tree farmhouse at Wheatlow Brooks. When you reach the farm cross the stile beside the farm gate and follow the track which goes past the farmhouse and bear left to meet the road.

Turn left and follow the road up a steep hill to Garshall Green. At the top of the hill turn right past the postbox. Follow the road for 300m, passing the old Wesleyan Chapel on you left (4) until you reach a side turning to the left opposite Basket Weave Cottage. Follow this left hand turning until the metalled road bears sharp left. Instead of turning left go straight on through the farm gateway to follow the track to Garshall Green Farm.

At Garshall Green Farm go straight on through the farmyard to a farm gate, indicated by a waymarker, at the far side of the yard. Go through this gate and follow the footpath with the hedge on you left until you reach to a gap in the hedge at the far end of the field where a short path slopes down to a bridge across a brook.

Cross the bridge and walk across the field to a farm gateway waymarked on the right hand post. Go straight on through this gateway and up the rise to a waymarked farm gate in the far field boundary. Passing through this gate walk straight ahead until you reach the track leading to Hall Farm. At this point turn left over a cattle grid and follow the concrete driveway to Hall Farm.

At Hall Farm follow the footpath through the gate into the farmyard, turning right through the yard and through a second gateway to reach the farm gate immediately to the right of the farmhouse. Go though this gate and walk straight ahead with the field boundary on your left to the stile in the far field boundary that leads into Hall Wood.



Follow the footpath down the rough steps through Hall Wood (5). At the bottom of the wood there is a bridge across a small ditch and a stile leading into an open field. Walk half right across this field to the stile and bridge across the brook in the far corner.

Cross the bridge and walk straight ahead up hill with the field boundary on your right passing two stiles on your right, the first of which leads to the footpath to Hilderstone Parish Church (6). Continue uphill to cross the stile in the top corner of the field and straight on to a double stile in the far field boundary. Climb these stiles and turn half left walking up the hill to stile in the opposite hedge. Cross this stile and walk straight ahead, passing a pond on your left hand side, to a farm gate in the opposite field boundary. Go through this gate and turn half right across the field to a stile that leads into the drive leading to Leasow Farm.

Turn left and follow the drive past the farm to where it ends at a stile beside a farm gate. Cross the stile and walk straight ahead along the ridge with the field boundary to your right passing a large pond on your left hand side (7) until you reach a stile beside a farm gate. Cross the stile and continue straight ahead to the farm gate at the farthest end of the field. Go through this gate and follow the farm track to the gateway at the far end of the field. Go straight on through this gate towards Dayhills Farm.

At Dayhills Farm go through the gate and turn right into the farmyard (8). Follow the footpath down through the yard turning first left past the barn and then right past the farmhouse to leave via the front drive. Just after you leave Dayhills Farm turn left off the drive and it's a short walk to a steel gate, beside a farm gate, leading into an open field.

Go through the gate and walk half-left diagonally across the field, up hill to power line pole in the centre of the field and then down hill to the brook behind Oulton House. Before reaching the brook, take the footpath that turns to the right, away from the brook. This directs you back up the small hill behind Oulton House. Walk up the hill skirting Oulton House farm buildings on your left-hand side, then bear left to a stile in the fence to the right of Oulton House.

Cross the stile and walk diagonally right across to the lower corner of the field where there is a small bridge across a ditch. Go over this and straight on to the stile leading to the drive from Oulton House. Turn right after climbing the stile and follow the track over the cattle grid. 50m further on there is a stile on the left, and a bridge across the brook (9). Cross both and follow the power lines up the hill to a stile.

Go over this stile and carry on diagonally across the next field, climbing up a bank to a stile beside a farm gate in the far corner. Cross the stile and go half-right a short distance to a second stile. Crossing this, turn left and follow the field boundary on your left to another stile. Climb over the stile and down a steep bank to a small gate leading to the road from Garshall Green to Milwich.

Turning right, follow the road around to the left, then take the right-hand turn into The Allways, which leads back to the Village Hall car park.



Visitors to Hall Wood in late spring will experience the unforgettable sight and smell of 'ransoms' (*allium ursinum*), also known as wild garlic. The profusion of strap-like leaves and stunning white starry flowers erupt over the steps and banks and emit the characteristic smell. The leaves are used by chefs, both amateur and professional, in salads, soups and stews imparting a surprisingly mild flavour.



The Wesleyan Chapel at Garshall Green was built in 1835 and extended 50 years later. It finally closed in 1981 since when there has been a joint Anglican/Methodist congregation at All Saints' in Milwich. One family saw five generations christened in the chapel.