

Cam's Stone Stiles Walk

A moderate 2.5-mile (approx.) circular walk taking you to see 5 of Cam's ancient stone stiles.

You should be fairly fit and be able to walk over stiles.

Please obey the Countryside Code at all times and stick to the public rights of way offered to you in this leaflet (See back of this leaflet for the countryside code)

A book on Lichens and Mosses may be useful as the stone stiles are covered in beautiful examples of them. Something to cut overgrown brambles may be a good idea too.

The numbers given to each stone stile connect to a survey of their condition, carried out by Dave Street. These numbers are not linked to your OS map.

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Dave Winsor, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the stone stiles remain part of Cam's Heritage. Also a big thank you to Dave Street for carrying out the original stone stile survey.

The map used for planning this walk was: OS Pathfinder 1112
1:25 000



The walk starts outside the hub of Cam's village life, the Arthur S. Winterbotham Memorial Hall, High Street, Cam.

With the hall behind you, cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn left (L). Follow the pavement and proceed up Cam Pitch (a steep wooded road). Ignore the first foot path (FP) sign and turn at the concrete bollards into Blind Lane. This is a wooded lane where you swap traffic noise for bird song. Walk to the end, cross the road and continue up the lane. STONE STILE (SS) 13 is on your L at the junction with the Tarnac Lane.

Map Ref 745 002

These stones have been re-sited, when the Bovis estate was built. It was understood that they should be preserved as a heritage feature but sadly the agreement was misunderstood, the stone was broken and sited either side of the path.

Carry straight on, sign-posted The Quarry and Stinchcombe.

Take FP on your R just before the house. (Wooden stile.) Stop and take in the view. This is the beginning of a beautiful landscape that will follow you during this walk.

At FP crossroads turn R. Follow the track keeping Elstub Kennels on your L. Go through the kissing gate and keep alongside the hedge on your L till you reach a stile. Turn L over this stile. On a clear day you will see the Malvern Hills in front of you. Cam Peak is to your R, and the snakey Severn glistens to your L.

The path runs between wooden fences. When you reach the end of this fenced bit of path, you'll find your next SS (6).

Map Ref 740 005

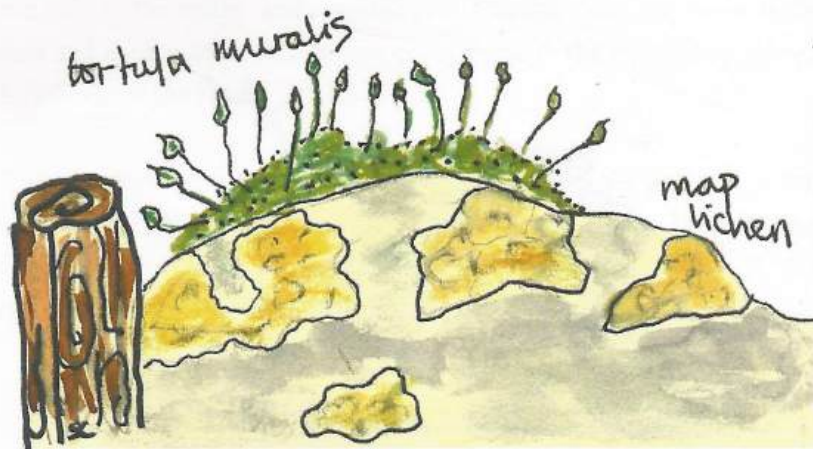
This SS is in poor condition. Some years ago an MEB vehicle hit it. I wonder which came off worse. Lorries are replaceable though! This may be the moment to get your book on Lichens and Mosses out...

Cross the field in front of you keeping the barn on your L. Take the FP through the gap in the hedge, turn R and enter Field Lane. SS (2) is in front of you.

Map Ref 738 004

This stone has a modern stile built around it, giving it some protection. Although the stone is upright, it is in poor condition. It is very weathered and I found myself wondering about the personal histories of the Cam folk, who in years past regularly used this stile...where were they going? Where had they been?

Cross the stile and keep by the hedge on your R. Here you have a wonderful view of the river - Saul to Sharpness. Home to so many boating people in the 19th century, as they moved essential items to and from the Midlands and beyond.



Follow the line of the hedge. There are four beautiful "guardian" trees in front of you. Walk to the far R, tucked away corner of the field. The four trees are on your L. You may have to move some branches but there in the corner of the field is SS (3).

Map Ref 736 004

This stone is in good condition. It needs straightening slightly. (DON'T TRY THIS!) The wooden steps help you get across.

Follow the FP ahead and go over the next stile keeping near the hedge on your R. Look out for the Buzzards and Lapwings. If you continue straight ahead to the stile at the bottom of this field, you will find SS(4).

Map Ref 733 004

However, before you get there, halfway down the field take the wooden stile on your R. Take the FP that crosses the field diagonally. (Field mouse heaven.) At this point stop and look to your L and feel proud that you are using sustainable energy and not burning up fossil fuels!



Brambles.

Cross the dip and wooden stile. If you look in the hedge to the R of this wooden stile, you will see another SS (14) which appears to be in good condition, but hidden in brambles.

Map Ref 735 006

If you are doing this walk in the autumn, then the blackberries at this stile are the sweetest in Cam. Maintain the line across the field. If you hear Skylarks here in the spring/summer then please write and let us know.

Cross the wooden stile and go down the steps. You are back in Field Lane.

Turn L, then R at the FP sign and here is SS (5).

Map Ref 737 007 (1.8 miles)

This is a very large stone in great condition. A very useful concrete step holds it in place. You have to spare a thought for the poor horse that was on "cart" duty that day!

Carry straight on. Cross dip and wooden stile, second feast of blackberries here. Cross the field, slowly losing the M5, thank goodness. Go through the hole in the hedge and over the stile. Continue the line through the field and over another stile before going through the metal farm gate in to Woodend Lane.

Turn R and pass the microbrewery on your left. Beware of traffic in this narrow lane! At the junction with Manor Avenue turn L. This was once farmland, too. Follow the road to its end at a T-junction and turn R. You will soon see the Memorial Hall on the L in a few hundred yards.

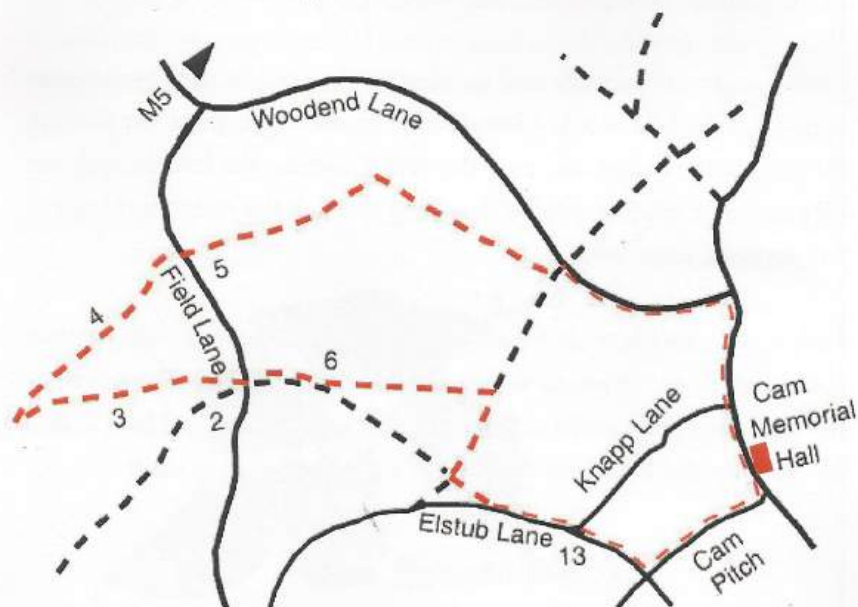
There are other stone stiles if you would like to visit them. Some are easier to find than others. Here is a list of map references so you can create your own "Stone Stile Trails".

SS No	Map Ref	SS No	Ref No
1	760 001	8	745 010
2	738 004	9	744 014
3	736 004	10	745 016
4	733 004	11	746 016
5	737 007	12	745 010
6	740 004	13	745 002
7	741 004	14	735 006

Thank you for taking the time to discover a small part of Cam's heritage. I feel this walk shows very clearly what a varied place Cam is. A place of ancient stones, panoramic views, working farms and housing estates, all co-existing to make up a place that first showed up on the map, in the Domesday Book, as Cama.

Su Chard, September 2003

Thanks to Phil Chard and his GPS for making sure I didn't get lost! This leaflet wouldn't have happened without him.



[illegible]

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.

Founded by Local Heritage Initiative

Produced by Cam Wildlife Group and Stroud Valleys Project

Stroud Valleys Project

8 Threadneedle Street

Stroud

Glos.

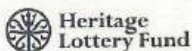
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Local Heritage *initiative*



Local Heritage Initiative is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency