



Cam Neighbourhood Plan

Green Infrastructure Report Draft - 2019

DRAFT – V7 05.19

This paper sets out the contextual information for Cam Parish which can be used to inform policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1 Introduction to Green Infrastructure

1.1 Definition

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a term used to cover all many different green spaces such as parks and open spaces, or routes, together with 'blue' elements such as the River Cam and its banks.

Green networks are connected areas of 'Green Infrastructure'. Cam's green network is made up of lots of different places including private gardens, allotments and parks, together with the many 'snickets' and public footpaths. This green network has many and varied benefits for both the environment and for people. The green network is what has helped to define landscape and the built area structure providing links with the countryside, enabling walking and cycling and enhancing connectivity not only for people but also for wildlife and between different habitats.

GI takes many different forms. It can be delivered at many different scales and can have many functions. It offers ways to protect and enhance ecological networks, prepare for climate change, build economic success, manage flood risk and improve health and well-being. It provides alternative active access options and quality green spaces for exercise and socialising. It should also help to enhance landscape character and local distinctiveness.

1.2 GI and Cam

When the different elements of Cam's GI are mapped we can understand what there is, and where there are opportunities to improve the green networks or infrastructure. This might be through highlighting the importance of connecting up various spaces and routes (for example, the Cam Dursley Greenway) or through making sure that new developments link into and add value to the existing network of green elements in Cam, or through highlighting the importance of street trees in existing and new development.

The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to establish a Cam level evidence base upon which can inform policies to protect and reinforce this important aspect of Cam.

"Nature is sometimes taken for granted and undervalued. But a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing" White paper – the Natural Choice 2011

1.3 Objectives of this report

- to provide a source of information and evidence on existing GI assets as part of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as for planners, landowners and developers
- to identify areas and potential project areas to enhance the GI of the parish going forward

2 Overall Policy Context

2.1 National

The National Planning Policy Framework defines green infrastructure as:

"A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities" (National Planning Policy Framework, 2018)

2.2 Stroud District

Green Infrastructure is defined by the District Council as "a network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It needs to be planned and delivered at all spatial scales from national to neighbourhood levels. The greatest benefits will be gained when it is designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits (ecosystem services) for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, river and canal corridors allotments and private gardens"

In terms of district level policy, "GI provision is being discussed between all Gloucestershire district and county councils with the aim of providing a District-wide Strategic Framework for GI requirements. The Council will consider the requirements for GI, in line with the emerging GI Framework, when determining planning applications" (Stroud District Local Plan 2015).

The key chapter from the Local Plan is chapter 6: Our environment and surroundings. Key policies are listed below:

- Delivery Policy ES6: Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity
- Delivery Policy ES8: Trees, hedgerows and woodlands
- Delivery Policy ES13: Protection of existing open space
- Delivery Policy ES14: Provision of semi-natural and natural green space with new residential development
- Delivery Policy ES15: Provision of outdoor play space.

The Local Plan also allocates a site in Cam: **Policy SA3: North east of Cam**

Land to the north east of Cam, as identified on the policies map, is allocated for a mixed use development including employment, residential and community uses. Key requirements for the site are set out in the Local Plan, extracts which link to Cam's GI from the policy requirements are set out below:

- *"Landscaped linear park, including footpath along the River Cam and enhanced flood plain storage capacity*
- *Accessible natural green space and public outdoor playing space, including changing rooms / community building*
- *Structural landscaping buffer to the south east of the development, below the 50m contour, incorporating existing hedgerows and trees*
- *Extension to the Cam and Dursley cycle route along the line of the disused railway, through to the southern edge of the site and connecting Box Road with Courthouse Gardens"*

A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure for Gloucestershire (2015) which sets out county wide principles for GI also underpins the Local Plan forming part of the environmental evidence base.

2.3 Neighbouring Parishes

A Neighbourhood Plan is also being prepared for the adjacent (and contiguously linked) settlement of Dursley (May 2018 – The Plan is post regulation 14 consultation and has been submitted to Stroud Council for the next formal stages in the preparation of the

Neighbourhood Plan). The Dursley Plan includes a GI policy (Policy ES1) The Neighbourhood Plan proposes the establishment of a Dursley Green Infrastructure network connecting green spaces around and across the Town. Cam GI is linked to that of Dursley's, in particular through the Cam-Dursley Greenway and assets such as the Ancient Woodland.

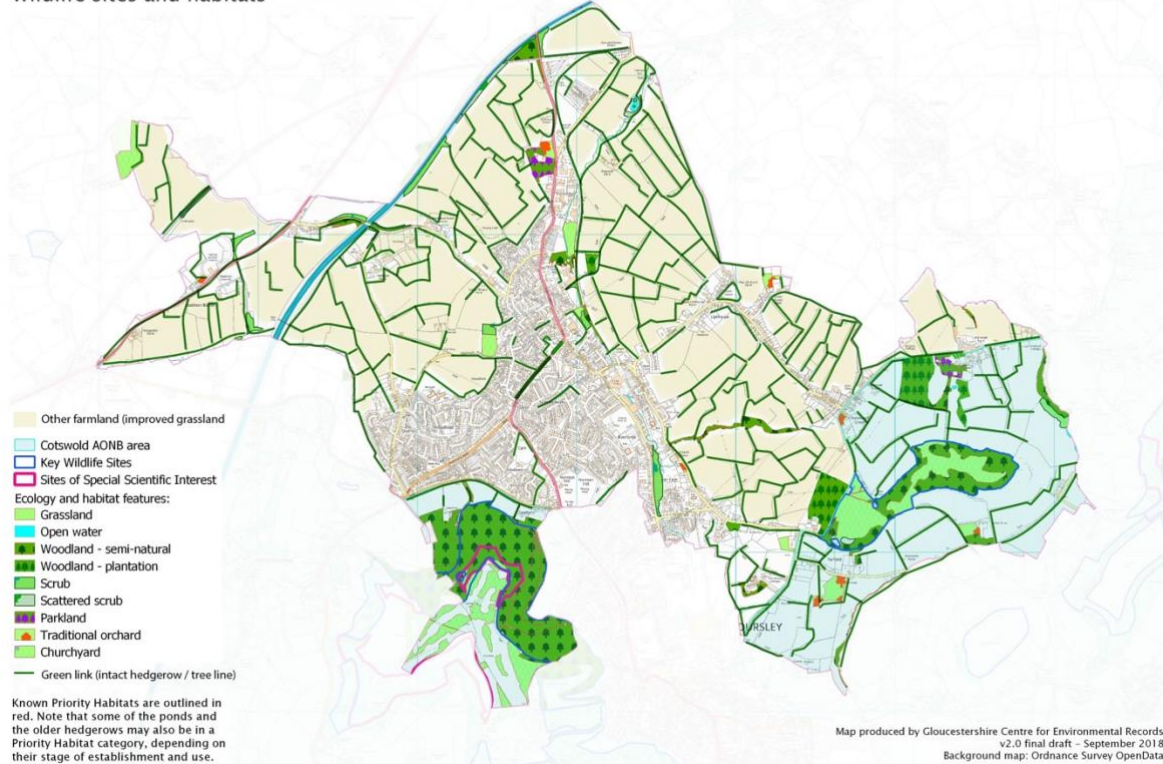
3 Existing Green Infrastructure Assets in Cam

3.1 Introduction

Cam benefits from a wide range of green assets that make up the local level Green Infrastructure (GI). It is a very 'green' parish overall where both the wider landscape setting and the many mature trees and gardens of the built settlements combine to contribute to a sense of a 'green' character.

MAP 1 – EXISTING GI

Cam Parish Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan
Wildlife sites and habitats



The River Cam is a key aspect of Cam's GI forming a green/blue spine down the middle of the parish splitting it into an eastern half and a western half. Most of the built up area is to the west and the open land lies to the east. The river banks are generally poorly maintained and the narrow strip of land on each side is covered in shrubs, brambles and

weeds. There are trees along several stretches which block the view and overhang the river, though at the southern parish boundary, the path of the river passes along a man-made channel through the newly-built Littlecombe estate, the banks are steep and high, but the river contributes to the character of the new development visually.

Cam's existing GI includes key habitats and wildlife sites, accessible areas of greenspace including the Ancient Woodlands to the South West of the parish which form an important part of the setting of the Parish as does the area to the south east, with the high point of Cam Peak, a distinctive conical hill which sits within the Cotswold AONB covering the south eastern area of the parish. Map 1 illustrates these points above and is a synthesis of environmental data prepared by Gloucestershire Center for Environmental Records (GCER) and also includes mapping of intact hedgerows and the farmland that surrounds the built settlement. The mainly intact network hedgerows of diverse management include some mature hedgerow trees that run across the landscape.

Cam also has an extensive network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which criss-cross the parish through both the built areas and the surrounding landscape (see maps 2 and 3) and includes parts of the nationally important route of the Cotswold Way.

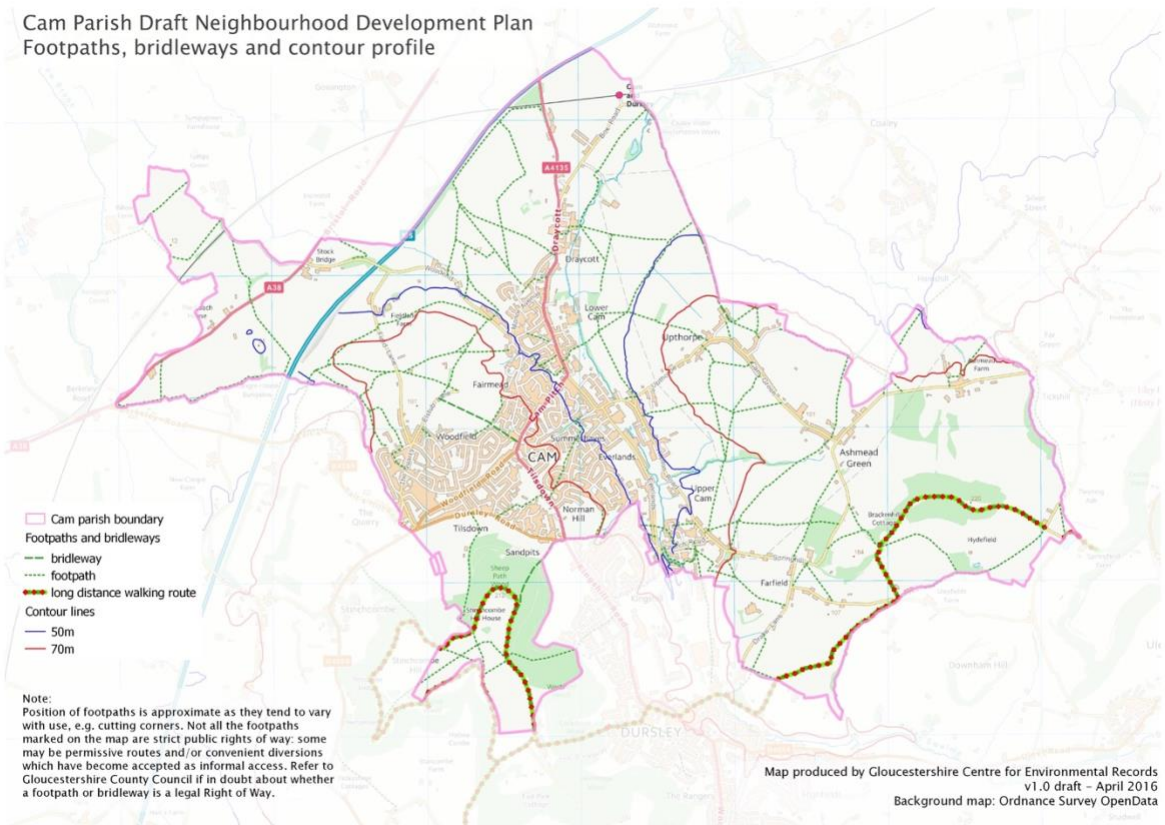
3.2 Routeways

Extensive Public Rights of Way (PROW) crisscross the parish. The Cam Dursley Greenway is a key project for Cam. Parts of the route are existing and parts are proposed. Sections of the route go through sites allocated to the north east in the Stroud District Local Plan (Site Allocations Policy SA3). Policy SA3 includes a requirement to extend the existing route along the line of the disused railway that runs through the site. The features and characteristics of the PRoW network – stone stiles, hedgerows and lightly managed paths – contribute to local biodiversity and allow for the dispersal and migration of species.

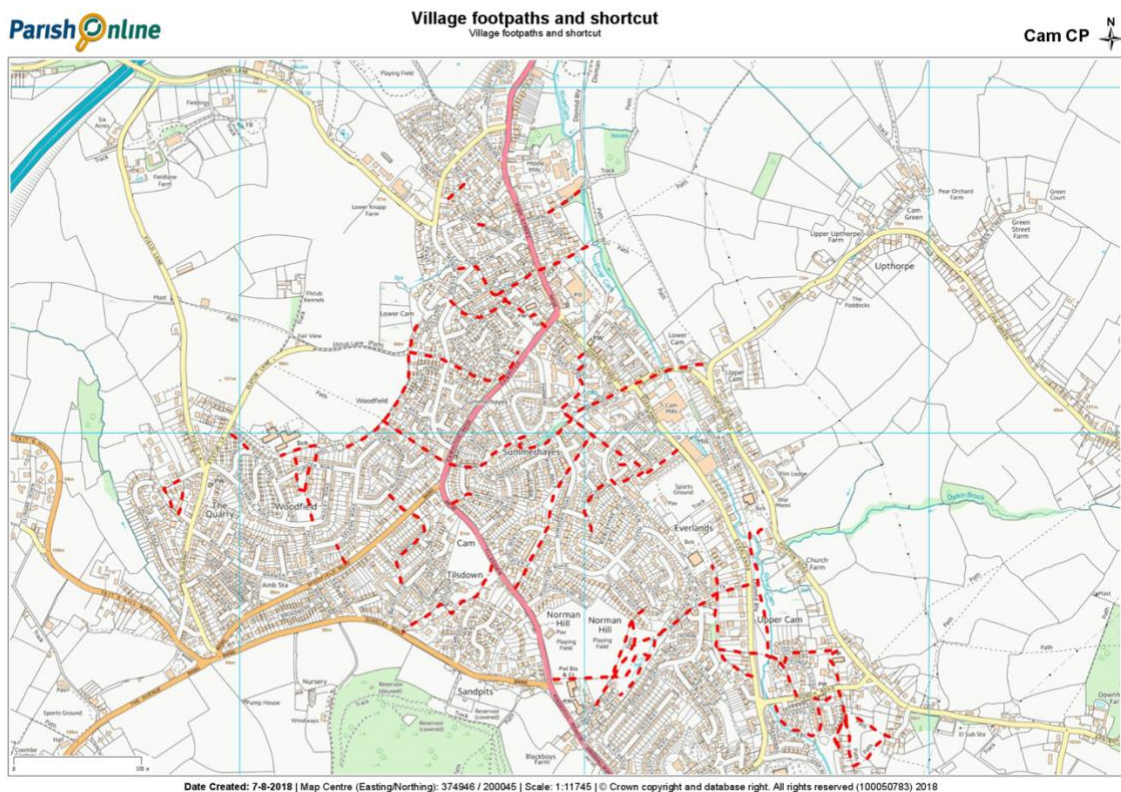
Key points are:

- the River Cam which runs through the parish from north to south forms an important soft green edge to the eastern edge of the settlement providing an important linear habitat, and at points a recreational resource.
- part of the Cotswold Way, a national trail, runs through the south of the parish, where it rises up to Cam Peak with expansive views from the top.
- the network of paths, or snickets, continues through the built area connecting through to the landscape areas and offering non-vehicular routes which have sections of well-treed areas and provide important links through the settlement and between elements of the GI network (see map in appendix) and form an important part of the character of the settlement and provide important non-vehicular routes.
- the proposed north / south greenway route linking Cam, from the train station in the north, along with Dursley and Uley to the National Cycle Network (Route 41)
- Cam Pitch is a part of a key route through the parish (the A4135) and forms an important and distinctive green route with mature trees.

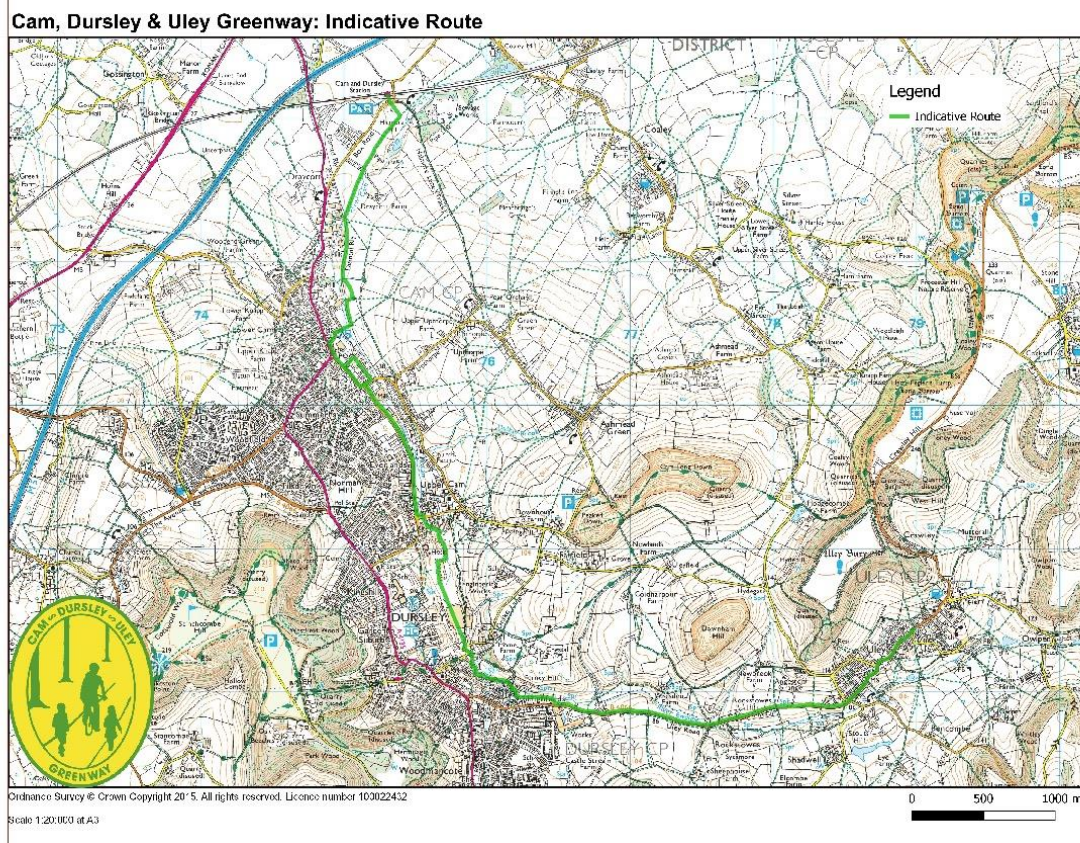
MAP 2 – Parish Footpaths, Bridleways and Contour Profile.



Map 3 – Snickets through the Built Area of Cam (see also appendix)



MAP 4 Cam Dursley Greenway Map – Emerging Route in Cam Parish



3.3 Recreation and open spaces

Cam Parish Council are actively taking a lead role in outdoor recreation areas. Jubilee Playing Fields is a key space for the Parish which is run by the Parish Council, the facilities include a Skate Park (listed separately below), play equipment, a climbing wall and an outdoor gym. The Parish Council have also recently undertaken a Play Review (2017) to audit exiting facilities at two other key local play spaces, Cam Green and Woodfield play areas. This information, together with feedback from public consultations event, has been used to put together plans for improvement.

Key spaces are:

- Cemeteries – including St Georges Churchyard
- Protected outdoor play spaces (covered by Stroud Local Plan policy ES13):
 1. Cam Green Play Area (a 2018/19 improvement project)
 2. Cam Mills Bowling Green
 3. Cam Recreation Ground
 4. Jubilee Playing Fields (including Cam Skate Park)
 5. Woodfields Play Area, Hadley Road
 6. Draycott Play Area
 7. Tilsdown Square
 8. Cam Woodfield School
 9. Everlands School
 10. Hopton School.
- Other outdoor play spaces:
 - Norman Hill Field (owned by Rednock School – not a protected outdoor playspace).

- Other School Grounds (not included above):
 - Peak Academy.

The Stroud District Outdoor Play Space Study (2013) illustrates the level of provision of outdoor play space within Stroud district council as part of the evidence base for local plan. The report takes into account elements of open space, which are used for sport, recreation and children's play, whether in public or private ownership. It adopts the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) 'Six Acre Standard' document". This standard recommends the following minimum provision of outdoor playing space: **Total outdoor 2.4 Ha (6 ACRES) of play space per 1,000 population**

	Requirements	Provision	Shortfall/Surplus
FIT Overall	34.39 (Ha)	22.12 (Ha)	-12.27 (Ha)
Youth/adult	29.98 (Ha)	18.97 (Ha)	-11.01 (Ha)
Playing pitch	21.34 (Ha)	11.27 (Ha)	-10.07 (Ha)
Equipped CPA	04.40 (Ha)	03.15 (Ha)	-01.25 (Ha)

CPA – Children's Play Area

The study looks at cluster areas in recognition of the fact that some recreational facilities serve a wider population base than the parish in which they are located. The figures for the Cam / Dursley cluster (Cam / Coaley / Stinchcombe / Uley / Nympsfield / Owlpen) illustrate a shortfall in the provision of open playspace.

A 2004 Survey of Outdoor Playing Space (Stroud District Council 2004) used a different study area (Coaley / Slimbridge / Stinchcombe). This report indicates that the overall provision of outdoor playing space in this study area "exceeds the minimum NPFA standard by quite a considerable margin. This is also the case with regards to the provision of youth/adult facilities and playing pitches. However, a relatively large deficit exists in relation to the provision of equipped or designated children's play areas within the study area. This is despite the provision of a further play area at Woodview Road."

In that study the parish councils of the study area indicated that "a sufficient level of outdoor recreational provision exists in the study area to serve the needs of the residents. It has been highlighted that Jubilee Playing Fields is suffering from over-use and investment to improve its condition. The Parish Council is responsible for the Cam Green and Jubilee playing fields. The Parish Council extended the Jubilee Playing Field to an area of 4.38 ha following the acquisition of land adjacent to the site. An additional football pitch was been accommodated within the athletics track. Increased demand for the sports facilities has resulted in bookings being refused during certain periods of the year and during certain times of the week. Cam Town Council wish to expand the facilities on Jubilee Playing Field to cater for family based recreational opportunities. They also wish to provide some children's play equipment on the land at Woodview Road, which has been included in this survey in 2004. Concern has been expressed that Cam Sports Club is threatened by development."

MAP 5 – Open and Recreational Space



3.4 Local Green Spaces

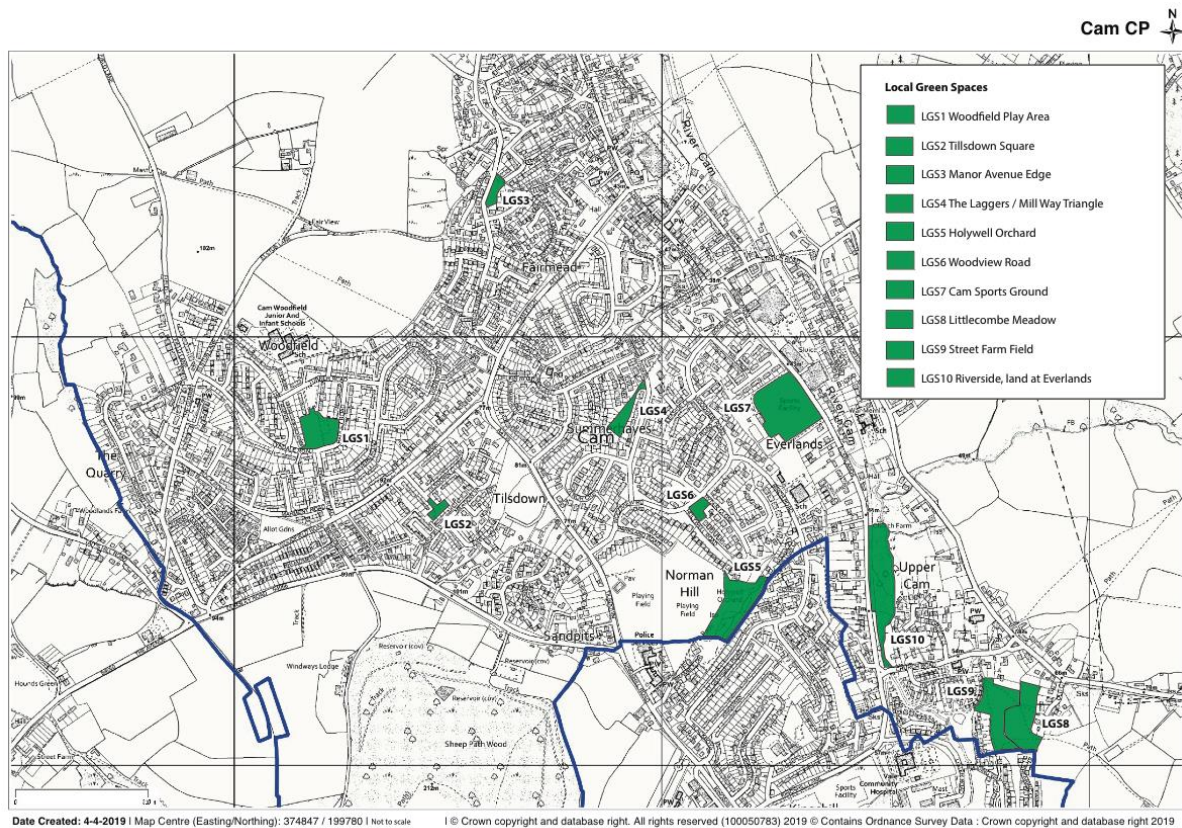
Local Green Spaces (LGS) will be allocated in the NDP and form part of the overall GI network.

It is proposed the spaces below, as identified on Map 6, are designated as LGS in the NDP:

- LGS1 Woodfield Play Area
- LGS2 Tillsdown Square
- LGS3 Manor Avenue Edge
- LGS4 Mill Way Triangle
- LGS5 Holywell Orchard
- LGS6 Woodview Road
- LGS7 Cam Sports Ground
- LGS8 Littlecombe Meadow
- LGS9 Street Farm Field
- LGS10 Riverside, land at Everlands

Further detail on the process undertaken to designate local green spaces in the NDP can be found in the Local Green Space Report.

Map 6. Local Green Space Designations



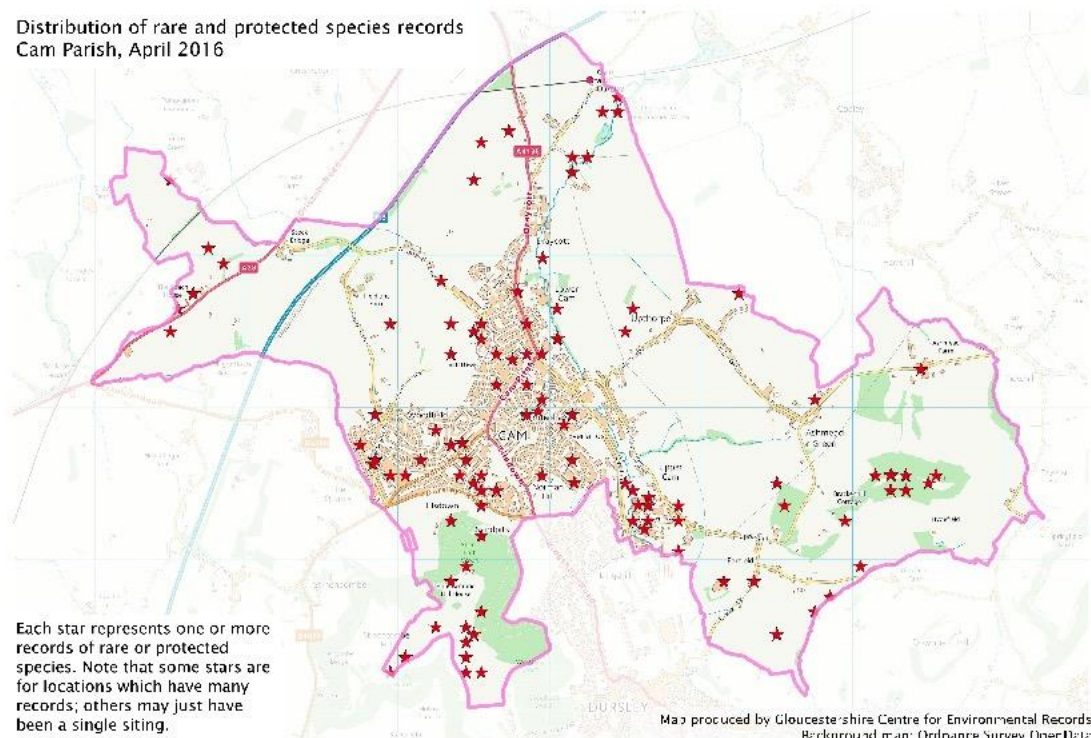
3.5 Biodiversity

Supporting healthy GI is vital for the resilience of wildlife which is under increasing stress from habitat loss. The river corridor of the Cam is a key asset for habitat with the associated trees, wetland features and other vegetation. The parish is rich in wildlife and a large number of rare and Protected Species have been recorded in the parish as

illustrated in map 6 (and listed in detail in the appendix). See also map 1 for wildlife sites and habitats.

MAP 7 - GCER Distribution of Rare and Protected Species Map (2016).

Distribution of rare and protected species records
Cam Parish, April 2016



Traditional orchards (orchards managed in a low intensity way, in contrast with orchards managed intensively for fruit production) are UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and recorded throughout the parish (see map 1). The seven mapped orchards represent a valuable resource with ecological, cultural, heritage and landscape value. The Gloucestershire Orchard Trust (GOT) is a charity dedicated to the conservation and celebration of traditional orchards in Gloucestershire which records that '75% of Gloucestershire's orchards have been lost in the past 50 years and what was once a familiar part of the landscape is now increasingly rare'. Historic Mapping information available on the Know Your Place historic mapping website (<http://www.kypwest.org.uk>) illustrates how orchards and woodland were once much more a part of Cam Parish.

Other key points include:

- the river corridor of the Cam, it's associated wetland areas and riparian vegetation which provides a 'soft green edge' (Landscape Sensitivity Study 2016) to the settlement
- Dulkan Brook and the associated riparian vegetation which flows into the River Cam
- Cam Long Down - a Key Wildlife Site, protected by Stroud District Local Plan policy
- Priority Habitats are recorded in the parish, including Traditional Orchards and Grassland.
- the presence of rare and protected species including 'UK Priority Species' such as Great Crested Newts and Small Emerald Moths together with 'Nationally Rare' plant species such as Hawkweed recorded as growing in Sheep Path Wood – an

area that includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (GCER Record of rare and protected species 2017)

- the network of hedgerows around the pastoral and arable landscape provide important linear habitats

3.6 Trees and woodland

Trees play important role in Cam's GI network from the ancient woodland to the south of the parish on the lower escarpment slopes within the Cotswold AONB, to the street trees and garden trees of the built settlement, to the trees along the River Cam.

Cam can include Ancient Woodland within the GI network of the parish, which is significant as according to the Woodland Trust, Ancient Woodlands now cover just 2% of the UK. The Trust defines ancient woodland as areas that have "had woodland cover for centuries and have been relatively undisturbed by human activity. Over hundreds of years they have evolved complex communities of trees, plants, fungi, micro-organisms and insects". Sheep Path Wood in the south west of the Parish is identified as Ancient Woodland, see map 8 - Ancient Woodland

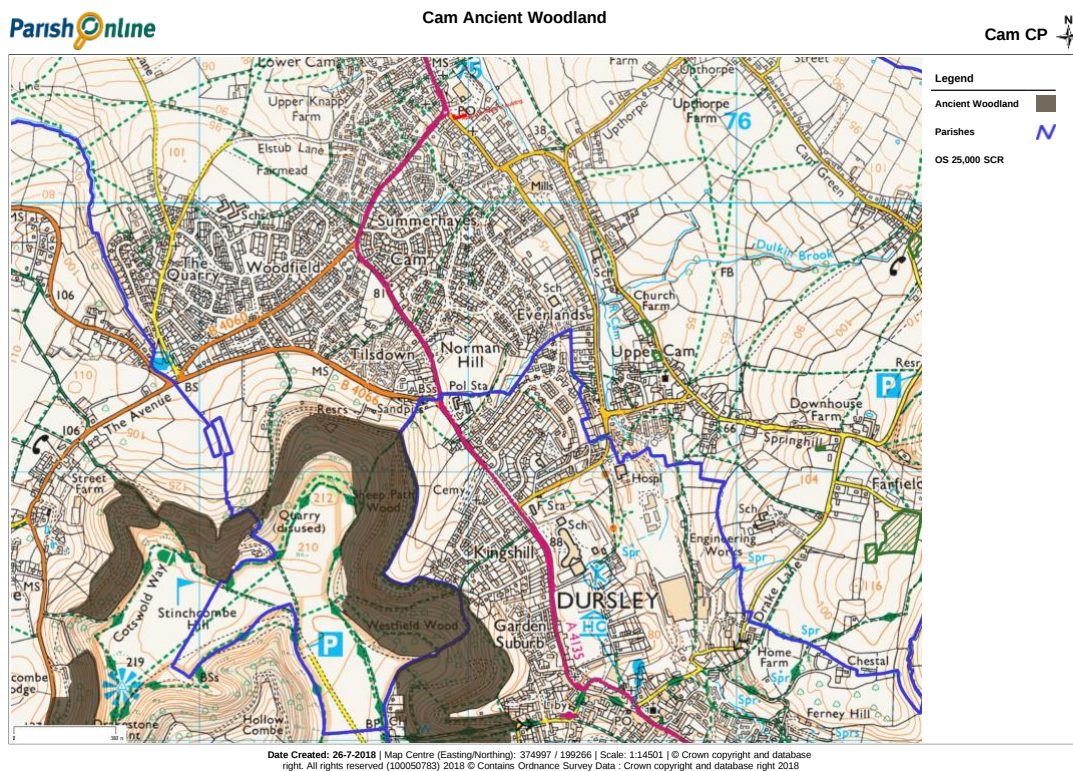
Other key points include:

- mature field trees and a comprehensive network of hedgerows in the pastoral landscape
- street trees are a common feature and there are some distinctive and mature species that are key local landmarks.
- gardens containing mature trees are common, especially around Draycott where the gardens are large (see Cam Parish Design Statement 2018).
- tree belts along the M5 edge in the west of the parish.
- Cam Pitch and the mature trees in the heart of the built area, as noted above.
- Trees with TPOs (map from Stroud District – Place Studio have asked for one to be provided)



Left: Aerial (Google Maps) of part of the settlement of Cam which illustrates the 'green' feeling in the built settlement with street trees – Cam Pitch is of particular importance.

Map 7 – Ancient Woodland



3.7 Local food production

Food production is an important activity in the parish for local businesses and residents in various ways including:

- Allotments
 - Upthorpe Lane Allotments
 - Ashmead 1 Allotments
 - Ashmead 2 Allotments
 - West End Allotments
 - Woodfield Allotments
 - Middle Mills (Private Allotment)
- 'Traditional' orchards (see map 1)
- Local farm producers that work in rural farmland that forms a backcloth to the settlement.

The space available to communities to produce locally grown food brings with it benefits of access to fresh, healthy and affordable food, as well as proving a way to reconnect with nature together with social benefits. The National Allotment Society (NSALG) is the leading national organisation upholding the interests and rights of the allotment community across the UK. NSALG highlights the statutory obligation on local authorities (in this case Cam Parish Council) to provide allotments where there is a demand, and outlines a national rising trend in the demand for allotments. In Cam Parish there is a waiting list of 14, and people who are waiting for an allotment wait for one that is close to where they live. Current provision is considered to be sufficient.

3.8 Character and Sense of Place

GI plays a key role in creating local character and sense of place. From the wider landscape setting of the parish, to the setting of historic assets such as Halmore Mill (a non-listed but working mill) and the contribution of GI to the character of the built settlement.

The Parish is characterised by its setting, nestled below an escarpment on its east side that is part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Beauty and includes the distinctive conical hill that is Cam Peak. This hill and its surrounds can be seen from most parts of Cam and forms a backdrop for the village along with Stinchcombe Hill, also part of the escarpment.

Other key landscape character points include:

- Cam Parish has a varied landscape that falls into two national landscape character areas: Cotswolds & Severn and Avon Vales.
- Southern parts of the parish form part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and form a dramatic backdrop to the Parish.
- To the north, the parish landscape falls within the Escarpment Foot Slopes character type as defined by the Stroud District Landscape Character Assessment (Stroud District 2000) and is a predominately pastoral landscape with an extensive network of hedgerows and mature field trees.
- The M5 forms an edge to the west, where it is visible when not screened with trees belts and bunds.
- Rural farmland forms a backcloth to the settlement with extensive networks of hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees.
- The River Cam runs through the parish from north to south and forms a soft green edge to the eastern edge of the settlement.
- To the south, the landscape character type is defined as Escarpment by the District Landscape Character Assessment.

As described in the Cam Community Design Statement (2018), the overall feeling throughout the built settlement of Cam is of a garden suburb, given the (mostly) generous plots, large gardens (by current standards), off-road parking options and a real sense of 'green' through open plan front gardens and extensive planting. Some of the older properties were built right up to the road edge, or even as blocks at right angles to it, but most have clear front gardens, in some cases with space to park off the road. Upthorpe to the east, is separated from the main settlement by a green gap which provides an important space between built settlement areas in the Parish and plays an important role in the character of 'outer Cam'.

4 Green Infrastructure Opportunities and Issues to address in the Plan

4.1 Future development in Cam

The Stroud Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2016) establishes the sensitivity of the landscape around the principal settlements within Stroud district to accommodate future housing and employment uses. How new settlement integrates into the existing GI network whilst extending and enhancing it will be key going forward in addressing issues and harnessing opportunities for the overall GI of the parish.

Key conclusions from the assessment:

- The preferred direction for housing growth for Cam is to the north/north east and east on relatively flat land or low lying slopes which are associated with existing or allocated development, are not widely visible and do not

adversely affect river corridors. Care would be needed on the relationship with the M5 to minimise visual and other impact in both directions.

- The preferred direction for employment growth for Cam is to the north/north east on relatively flat land which is associated with existing or allocated development and is not widely visible. Care would be needed on the relationship with the M5 to minimise visual and other impact in both directions.
- Existing and potential human corridors (footpaths) and wildlife corridors combined, that connect parts of the built area to the wider landscape (and vice-versa) should be retained in any future developments (ideally also to any changes in the use of agricultural land) and also enhanced where possible; if appropriate funded on and off site by related development.
- To the north east are areas that are identified as having a medium to low sensitivity to housing (C07/08).
 - C07: Housing development could be accommodated on the west side of Box Road, preferably retaining and enhancing the adjoining hedgerows and trees. It would be desirable to retain the open field to the east of the road as a positive open setting for the mill.
 - C08: The mature trees and grounds around Draycott should also be retained. There should be a substantial screening mitigation and green infrastructure between the area and the M5, e.g. tree screen and earth bund. The recreation ground and PROWs would need to be accommodated into the green infrastructure of the development.
- The sensitivity of areas to the east (C02/3/4) which play an important role separating Cam from Upthorpe and in importance of the soft green edge to the settlement along the River Cam corridor (which also contributes to the separation between Cam and Upthorpe)

4.2 GI opportunities in Cam

Cam's GI already provides many social, economic and environmental benefits. Going forward it will important to:

1. Conserve and enhance biodiversity, through the protection and enhancement of habitats and wildlife sites and linkage of key habitats.
2. Mitigate and adapt to climate change – promote access to green routes that reduce the need for travel by car.
3. Promote sustainable growth and economic development – Green Infrastructure plays a key role in place-making in existing and new development in Cam.
4. Support healthy living and well-being – Strengthen links to the countryside and retail centre by enhancing and where needed, creating new routeways – footpaths and bridlepaths.

4.3 Protecting and Promoting GI in Cam

This report sets out an evidence base of existing GI in Cam and through steering group and wider community consultation, also establishes principles and projects that secure

protection and promote the enhancement of the existing green infrastructure, and identify opportunities and means of creating new, high quality green infrastructure.

Local Green Infrastructure Corridors (LGIC)

LGICs are linear elements of GI, linking local sites and delivering connectivity of assets between and within different parts of the parish.

LGIC1: River Cam – Following the line of the River Cam, this is a key component of the GI of the parish, providing important habitat. This corridor is also the setting for the Cam, Dursley and Uley Greenway – a traffic free 8km route that will link to National Cycle Network Route 41. GI opportunities here include:

- Encouraging the implementation of management regimes and practices to manage habitats
- Promoting the role of River Cam as reinforcing local distinctiveness and providing a setting for the settlement and potentially for any new development
- Promoting and support the establishment of the Cam-Dursley Greenway, the 8km non-vehicular route is a key local project that runs along the LSC.

LGIC2: M5 Green Edge - The M5 forms an edge to the west, where it is visible when not screened with trees belts and bunds. GI opportunities here include:

- Reinforcing the existing extensive hedgerows and significant embankment planting – a key linear habitat asset
- Addressing any gaps, such as one to the south west end by Woodend Lane flyover

LGIC3: Dulkan Brook – a vegetated tributary to the River Cam proving key habitats. GI opportunities here include:

- Conserving the riparian corridor of habitats and vegetation along the brook
- Ensuring the crossing points of the Brook are well maintained to enable walkers to cross the tributary which dissects the land here.

LGIC4: Elstub Lane - A 'Safe Route to School'. A lane that links to Woodfield Junior School and connects to the built settlements and provides a key safe and non-vehicular walking route to the school. GI opportunities here include:

- Promoting access to this green route reducing the need for travel by car
- Strengthening links to the countryside for the school commuters
- Conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the linear route

LGIC5: Halmore Lane – A bridalpath, edged with a mature tree belt forms the north eastern boundary of the parish. GI opportunities here include:

- Protecting the setting of the working mill – a locally important heritage asset
- Improving the condition (overgrown in places) of the ancient routeway which provides excellent off road connectivity to the Railway Station from 'Outer Cam' reducing the need for travel by car.
- Conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the linear route,
- linking the north of the parish through an off-road route to the key asset of the AONB in the south and Cam Peak

LGIC6: Cotswold Way – A nationally important route, that takes in the conical and distinctive local hill of Cam Peak, affording views across the parish and beyond. GI opportunities here include:

- Promoting non-vehicular routes that provide access to this key parish asset, especially from the north west of the settlement.

Local Snickets (S)

Varied and extensive, snickets in Cam provide important links between housing areas and key local facilities, enabling people to move quickly and efficiently through the built area – it can take the same time as a car (10 minutes) to cross from one side to another if 'one is familiar with the snickets' (Stroud Valleys Project Map). Four key local snicket routes have been identified on the GI strategy map. The **identification and promotion** of existing routes together with new connected routes should focus on identifying connections between employment areas and residential areas and the creation of 'time-efficient', safe and aesthetic movement corridors. New development should link into the network of local snickets and extend. A map of the snickets has been produced by the Stroud Valleys Project and a copy is in the appendix.

Local Footpath Loops (LFL)

Cam Parish enjoys an extensive PRow network linking across the parish landscape. As with above, identification and promotion of existing routes, highlighting historic assets (such as the ancient stone stiles) together with identifying connections to key local assets (such as Cam Peak) will be a key tool in making the surrounding landscape more accessible. The Parish Council is also aiming to further increase the accessibility of key PRow routes through the replacement of stiles with kissing gates in key areas. Three existing routes have been highlighted as 'Local Loops'.

Along these Loops the condition of hedgerows should be reinforced and improved through conservation management and gap planting, introducing hedgerow trees where appropriate.

New development should extend and link into the existing PRow network, and identified key routeways, or 'Local Loops'. The four identified routes (included in Appendix 3) are:

LL1 – Stone Stiles Heritage Loop
LL2 – Cam Peak Link
LL3 – Winterbotham Heritage Loop
LL4 – Lantern Way

Kissing Gates

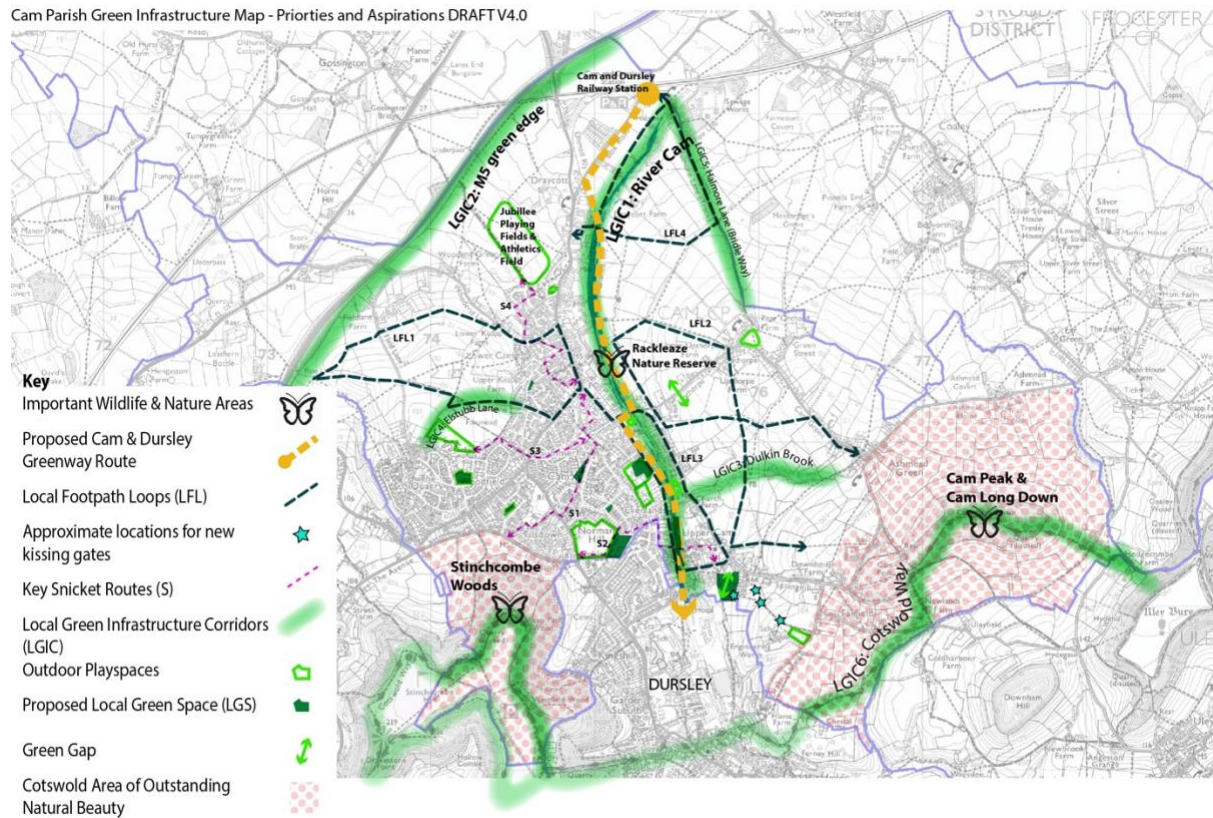
For the wider PRow network, there is also a local aspiration to replace, in some areas, stiles with kissing gates in order to make the paths more accessible as the stiles can be difficult to climb over.

Green Gaps

A Green Gap situated in Upper Cam, comprising of the proposed Local Green Spaces Littlecombe Meadow and Street Farm, is identified on Map 8 for protection going forward. Street Farm Field was subject of Planning Appeal ref. S14/2438/FUL 16.08.16, where the Planning Inspector identified the area (along with the adjacent Littlecombe Meadow) as 'a pleasant green wedge or gap separating the older and new, contributing to the village-like character of Upper Cam'. The Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (Potterton Associates, 2018) also identifies this Green Gap as 'very sensitive' forming a 'very important buffer zone between the main area of Cam and the AONB'.

A second Green Gap between the main settlement of Cam and the outlier, Upthorpe is also identified for protection going forward due to the important role in providing a space between the two parts of the settlement contributing to the distinct sense of place to 'Outer Cam' (reference Cam Parish Design Statement 2018 / Stroud District Landscape Sensitivity Report 2016).

Map 8 – GI Priorities and Aspirations



Appendix 1: River Cam Survey 2018

NB photos stored in evidence folder

The River Cam practically splits the village into an eastern half and a western half. Most of the built up area is to the west and the open land lies to the east. The river flows almost due north so this survey was started at the southern end.

At the village boundary the path of the river passes along a man-made channel through the newly-built Littlecombe estate. The banks are steep and quite high (about 8m) and are managed by a contractor on behalf of the residences of the estate. (Photo 1) The banks have small trees, mixed vegetation and grass. They are home to a variety of wildlife and birds. The river is sufficiently clean to support a number of varieties of fish, which have attracted otters, herons and kingfishers. Numerous cats from the estate take a heavy toll of the small mammals and birds.

The banks are too steep to provide any form of leisure activity although dogs use the stream to cool off and play. Along this section there is a drop of several metres resulting in a series of rapids through purpose-built rock filled channels. This creates a pleasant babbling noise (photo 2) and a reminder of the use of water power for the mills which were located in this area. There are four bridges in this section and a footpath along both banks (photo 4). These make the river very accessible and allow the public to enjoy the riverside amenities.

The river passes under Church Road (photo 5) and flows past a small housing development on the east bank and an open field on the west (photo 6) before it enters a series of fields, which are narrow and long as they follow the old railway line and the road called Everlands. The banks in this section are shallow and overgrown with small trees, shrubs, nettles and brambles (photo 7). The fields act as a flood plain and are not well tended. The river still supports fish and there are signs of rabbits, foxes and badgers. Roe deer and muntjac deer have been seen in this area. The area is too overgrown to allow any activities along the river except at the end of the fields near the Scout hut, where there are signs of children playing and making dams (photo 8). This area has great potential for providing a public open space with a riverside walk and cycle way. Once past the scout hut the river passes under the old railway line and enters a small development of seven houses and the land becomes privately owned. The gardens of these houses straddle the river and the banks have been reinforced to prevent erosion. The residents report sightings of fish and other water creatures (photo 9).

The river then enters a culvert as it passes under Cam Mills before emerging into a deep channel before it flows under Station Road (photo 10). Once again the banks are overgrown with bushes, nettles and brambles – these are periodically cut. On the other side of the bridge there is a pub (The Railway Inn) on the east bank and a factory on the west (photo 11)

The river then proceeds through the Rowley region of the village. On the west side there are houses and gardens so the land is privately owned. On the east there are open fields (photo 12). Unfortunately the space between the river and the field is an overgrown wilderness which has seen little maintenance (photo 13). In some areas the residents have used the space as play areas (photo 14). There are no bridges and footpaths to allow public access so this stretch of the river is not utilised. It has the potential to provide a pleasant riverside walk as the old railway line is not part of the fields.

In the centre of the village the river flows very close to the supermarket on the west bank. Behind its car park there is an area of wetland – Rackleaze – managed by the Gloucestershire Trust between the shop and the river (photo 15). The river flows some way (60m or so) from the car park with the old railway and open fields to the east. It then passes through a short stretch of a field with a wide area of weeds and shrubs on each bank (photos 16 & 17)

Moving downstream there are houses on the west bank and the old railway line and fields on the east side. The east bank is covered in shrubs and brambles but is sufficiently wide to be capable of developing into a path and cycle way. Further down the river flows through the Lower Mill site where access is not permitted before it flows past the derelict area where the flour mills stood.

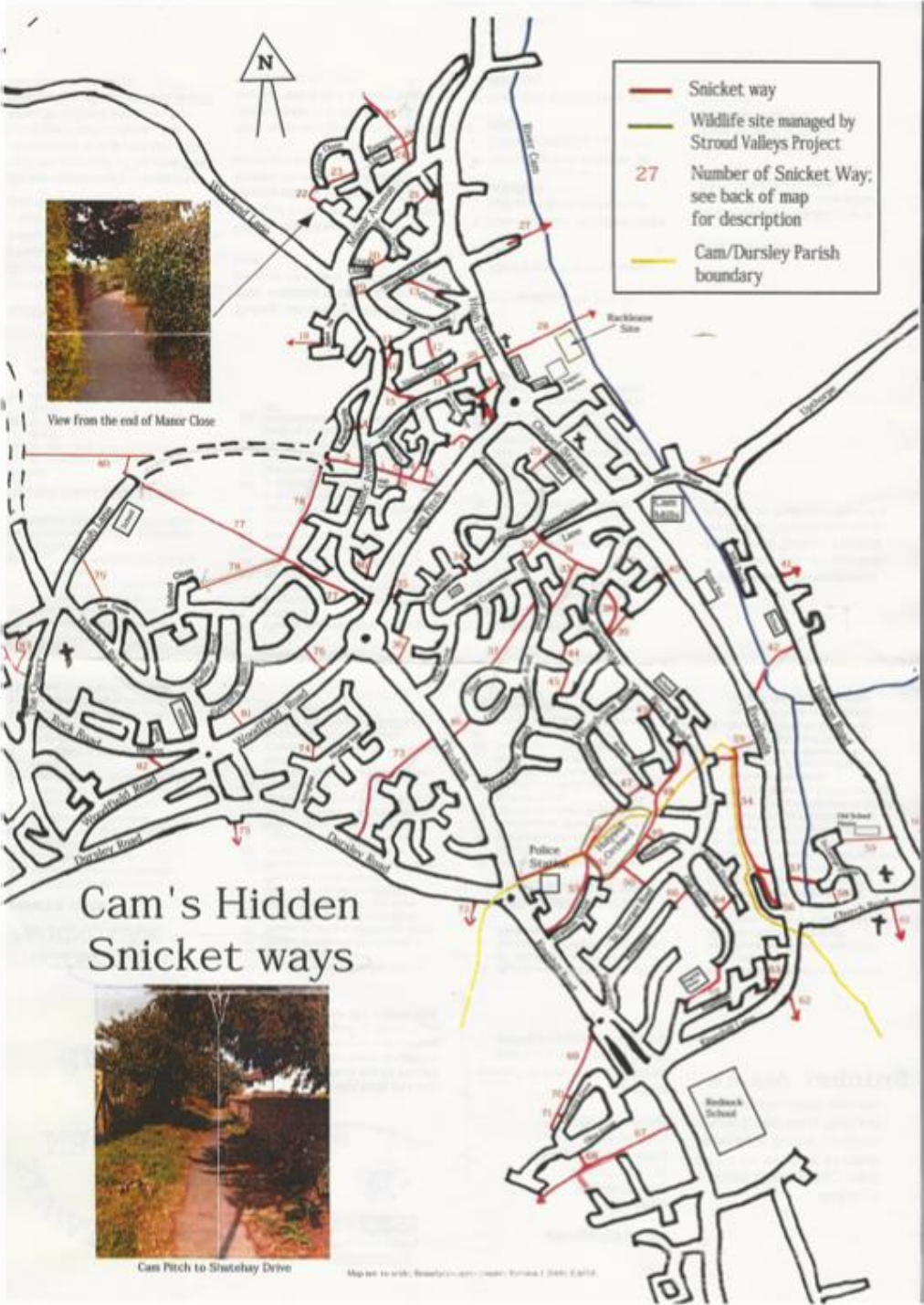
It then flows through the small industrial estate where there are units close to the west bank and open fields on the east (photo 18) The river is quite shallow, slow flowing and no more than 3m wide (photo 19). It then passes under an old railway bridge (photo 20)

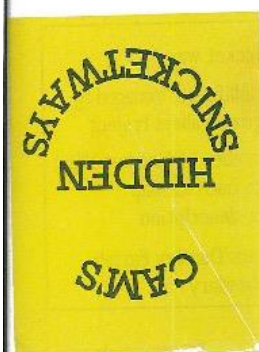
and flows through open fields in a north easterly direction away from the railway line. The river flows a three or four feet below the fields on each bank, both of which are covered in shrubs, brambles and weeds (photos 21, 22 & 23).

Nearing the village boundary it turns north and tumbles over weir (photo 24) before passing under a bridge and leaving the village. Residents report an abundance of wild life in this area although otters have devastated the fish population. They report that the water is sufficiently pure to be able to be used as drinking water.

In conclusion much of the river banks are poorly maintained and the narrow strip of land on each side is covered in shrubs, brambles and weeds. There are trees along several stretches which block the view and overhang the river. The potential for developing the river as an amenity to include a walkway and cycle track is very plausible but ownership and development would cause problems.

Appendix 2-Snicket Map – front and back





SNICKET WAYS AROUND CAM

LOWER CAM

1. Cam Pitch to Manor Avenue
2. Manor Avenue to Blind Lane
3. Cam Pitch/ Blind Lane to St. Bartholomew's Close
4. Cam Pitch/ Blind Lane to St. Bartholomew's Close 2
5. Blind Lane to Withy Way
6. Blind Lane to High Furlong
7. Cam Pitch to St Bartholomew's Close
8. Cam Pitch to Shutehay Drive
9. High Street to St Bartholomew's Church
10. High Street to Shutehay Drive
11. Shutehay Drive to Nasse Court
12. Nasse Court to Knapp Lane

52. Holywell Road to Tilsdown
53. Kingshill Road to Snicket 52 (Holywell Road to Tilsdown)
54. Everlands to Everlands near Church Road
55. Birch Road to Snicket 54 leading to Everlands
56. Everlands near Church Road to Snicket 54 leading to Everlands

UPPER CAM AND KINGS- HILL

57. St. George's Close to Everlands
58. St. George's Close to Church Road
59. St. George's Close to Hopton Road
60. Hopton Road to footpaths leading to Uphorpe, Cam Green, Ashmead Green and Cam Peak

HISTORY

Historically Cam's mills were major employers. For 800 years a network of paths has been used to walk from the edge of the parish to the mills and the churches.

As the community has grown, and the number of houses has increased, the paths are still used by local people. But now, they have become tar-mac paths, alleys or SNICKETS between buildings.



This leaflet was made possible by volunteers from the Cam Wildlife Group with the help of the Stroud Valleys Project and kindly supported by the Local Heritage Initiative and Vale Vision.

13. Morris Orchard (Knapp Lane to Woodend Lane)
14. Manor Avenue to EVELANDS
15. Manor Avenue to Shutehay Drive
16. Manor Avenue to Knapp Lane
17. Manor Avenue to Knapp Lane
18. Start of footpath no. CCA41 to Field Lane at Spark Hill
19. Manor Avenue to Woodend Lane
20. Steps Close to Beyond Drive
21. Beyond Drive to Everside Lane
22. Manor Close to Jubilee Close
23. Jubilee Close to Jubilee Avenue
24. Everside Close to Everside Lane
25. Everside Lane
26. Everside Lane to Draycott Crescent
27. Courthouse Gardens to footpaths number CCA34 (Draycott), CCA35 (Uphorpe) and CCA36 (Halmore Lane)

61. Church Road to Dursley (footpath CDU 11)
62. Kingshill Lane to Rednock School and Littlecombe Development
63. Kingsdown to Kingshill Lane
64. Acacia Drive to Oak Drive
65. Oak Drive to Kingsdown
66. Oak Drive to Kingsway
67. Kingshill Road
68. Olive Grove to Snicket 67 leading to Stinchcombe Hill
69. Kingshill Road to Lawrence Grove
70. Lawrence Grove to Snicket 69 leading to Kingshill Road
71. Lawrence Grove to Snicket 69 leading to Kingshill Road
72. Footpath leading to Stinchcombe Hill

Today, we are less familiar with walking routes. Many people use their cars and walk less.

Often, local knowledge is restricted to the immediate area where one lives, whilst little is known about areas a few streets away.

This map can help you reclaim these ancient footpaths and can be used as a handy guide to walking in Cam.

28. High Street to footpath no. CCA36 leading to Halmore Lane or Uphorpe (CCA35) passing the Rackleaze site

SUMMERHAYES, EVER- LANDS, NORMAN HILL

29. Fairmead/ Orchard Close to Chapel Street
30. Station Road to Uphorpe
31. Fairmead to Woodview Road
32. Spouthouse Lane to Winterbotham Road
33. Winterbotham Road to Snicket 31 (Spouthouse Lane, Fairmead, Woodview Road)
34. Fairmead to The Delkin
35. Delkin Road to Cam Pitch
36. Norman Hill Road to Tilsdown
37. Winterbotham Road to Tilnor Crescent

TILSDOWN, WOOD- FIELDS, THE QUARRY

73. Tilsdown to Dursley Road
74. Tilsdown Close to Springfield
75. Footpath leading to Stinchcombe Hill
76. Woodfield Road to Frederick Thomas Road
77. Cam Pitch to Elstub Lane
78. School Close to beginning of Elstub Lane
79. Elstub Lane to The Crapen
80. Elstub Lane to Field Lane
81. Severn Road to Woodfield Road
82. Woodfield Road to Rock Road
83. Westend to The Quarry
84. Westend to The Quarry
85. Orchard Leaze to The Quarry
86. Manor Avenue to May Evans Close

The map will help you to :

- Find a quick walk around Cam
- Spot wildlife (snicket ways are excellent havens for wildlife)
- Relax (green relaxes us both physically and mentally).
- Improve your fitness by walking

Snicket (snicket) n.
narrow pathway or alley leading from one place to another, which may have walls or hedges on either side; Old English *snican*, to creep

If you would like to know more about Cam's wildlife or help to maintain it, please contact:

Shirley Welsh
Chairman
Cam Wildlife Group
31, The Quarry
Cam, Dursley
GL11 6JA
Tel: 01453 843 849

38. Woodview Road to Woodview Road
39. Woodview Road to The Croft
40. The Croft to Everlands
41. Hopton Road to Cam Green (Footpath no. C60)
42. Everlands to Hopton Road
43. Ryder Close to Birch Road
44. Nordown Close to Lewside Close
45. Nordown Close to Marlstone Road
46. Tilnor Crescent to Tilsdown
47. Ryder Close to Holywell Road
48. Birch Road to Bramble Drive
49. Maple Close to Snicket 48 (Birch Road to Bramble Drive) through Holywell Orchard
50. St. George's Road to Snicket 48 (Birch Road to Bramble Drive) through Holywell Orchard
51. Bramble Drive to Snicket 52 (Holywell Road to Tilsdown) through Holywell Orchard

If you have any comments about this map, please contact Stroud Valleys Project on 01453/753358 or e-mail: info@stroudvalleysproject.org

Did you know?

It can take 10 minutes in a car to drive from one side of Cam to the centre.

It takes the same time to walk if one is familiar with the snickets.

Appendix 3 - Identified key routeways, or 'Local Loops'

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 correspond to a survey of their condition, carried out by Dave Street. These numbers are not linked to your OS map.

This leaflet is dedicated to the memory of Dave Winton, 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 1012 1:25 000



The walk starts outside the hub of Cam's village life, the Arthur S. Worthington 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 foot foot path (FF) sign and turn at the concrete bollards onto Blind Lane. This is a wooded lane where you may see traffic some for blind song. Walk to the end, cross the road and continue up the lane. STONE STILE (S1) is on your L, at the junction with the Tarnac Lane.

Map Ref: 745 002

These stiles have been re-erected, when the foot path 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 stood either side of the path.

Carry straight on, up-past, The Quarry and Stockhouse.

Take FF 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 the walk.

At FF crossroads turn R. Follow the track keeping ditch/fence 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 Pitch is to your R, and the railway line 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 S1 (S1).

Map Ref: 740 005

This S1 is in poor condition. Some years ago an MEB vehicle hit it. I wonder which came off worse. Lichens 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 FF through the gap in the hedge, turn R and enter Field Lane. S1 (S2) 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 history 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 - laid to sleep. Home to so many happy 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 "garden" 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 S1 (S3).

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 FF 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 S1 (S4).

Map Ref: 736 006

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







Dursley Welcomes Walkers

Circular walk from Dursley Town Centre A 3 mile circular walk visiting St. George's Church Cam and Cam Peak

Leave Dursley Pool/Sainsbury's car park by the steps at the right of the Pool and enter The Knapp. Continue straight along The Knapp towards Redneck School, conspicuous by the Sedum roof, one of its many sustainable, eco-friendly features. At the end of The Knapp turn right down the road to pass through a large metal gate and follow the path to a road. Turn right, and right again into Lister Road. At the end of the houses go down left to a wooden footbridge that crosses the River Cam. Follow the footpath as it bends right, then left, around a terrace of houses and continue ahead to a road.

Cross the road and enter St George's churchyard. The tower and other parts of the building date from the C14th and the church usually is open. Follow the path around the church on the left side; ahead of you is the former Cam National School building. Turn right along the road for 20 yards to a fingerpost pointing left by a cream cottage. Go up, through the metal gate, and bear right up the field to another metal kissing gate. Here ignore the first gate on your right and go up 10 yards to the next one. Through this gate go left up two fields on roughly the same line to enter a plantation and continue through this, on the obvious path, to a road. Cross with care.

Ahead of you is Cam Peaked Down, frequently called just Cam Peak. To the left is Cam Long Down. You have a choice of three routes here.

A) Bearing right, follow the footsteps straight up the Peak. It is as steep as it looks but you will feel proud of yourself as you enjoy the 360 degree panorama. When you have gazed long enough, and got your breath back, go down the grassy slope left, towards Long Down, to a fingerpost.

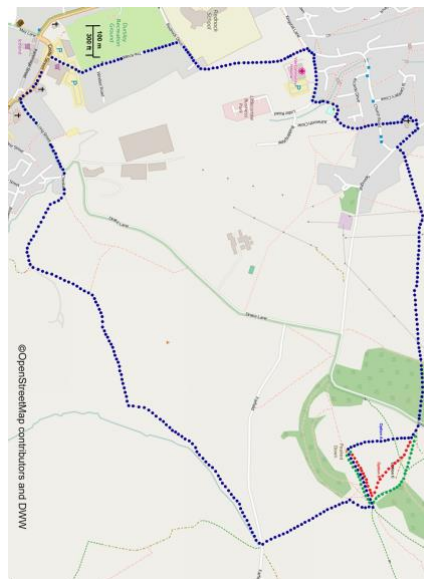
B) Go ahead up the more gentle slope to the grassy shoulder and then right up to the Peak. Come back this way to the fingerpost.

C) Go up the track ahead and swing left before the house then enter the wood into a cutting, which often is extremely muddy, to reach a fingerpost at a crossroads of paths. Take a detour right, up the Peak and its view, if you wish.

From the fingerpost the walk can be extended by visiting Cam Long Down and returning to this point. However, this route continues ahead, following the Cotswold Way and abundant signs. Go down the path, turn right and in a few yards left to descend a field.

Cross the road, bearing right, and walk between the fence and the stream into fields where the yellow lollipop signs are there to guide you. You will ascend after 400 yards to a metal gate and go right following Cotswold Way signs through more fields to walk down a private road. At the bottom turn up left into Long Street by the fine metal fingerpost. Ahead of you at the top of the road is Dursley Town Hall (1738). A right turn will take you back to the start at the Dursley Pool/Sainsbury's car park.

Circular walk from Dursley Town Centre A 3 mile circular walk visiting St. George's Church Cam and Cam





Cam and the Winterbothams



A 2 mile local history walk on pavements and footpaths exploring the parts of Cam and Upper Cam associated with the Winterbotham family (See 12 points of interest described in the text and indicated on the map on the back page).

The Winterbothams were one of the most influential families in Cam during the late 19th and early 20th century. They made their mark not only on the community and the economy but also in terms of the many buildings associated with their business and charitable work which still stand today. The family no longer owns the local Mills which have been part of WSP textiles since 2011.

Start the trail at Tesco Car Park in Cam; proceed on foot to the High Street, turning right to see the Arthur S. Winterbotham Memorial Hall ¹ on your right, after a row of shops. The Hall dates from 1937 and is a memorial to the son of Arthur B. Winterbotham. Leave the Hall and turn left, retracing your steps back towards Chapel Street where the circular part of the walk begins. The trail is 2 miles long and takes just over an hour.



Inside the Winterbotham Hall

At the end of Chapel Street, on the corner of Spouthouse Lane there is a building which to all intents and purposes looks like an ordinary house. This was at one time a coffee house named the 'Welcome Tavern' ², constructed in 1896 through the initiative of Emily Page Winterbotham. Emily was born in 1866 and grew up at Norman Hill House. During her life she gained a reputation as a philanthropist and a leader in the temperance movement. A plaque on the side of the building gives her initials; EPW.



Cam Welcome Tavern

The facilities at the Welcome Tavern were aimed at countering the negative influences of over indulgence in alcohol and emphasised the constructive use of leisure time. A library, skittle alley, games room, concert room and temperance café were all provided alongside an ongoing programme of Temperance Meetings and a much needed 'Girls' Club'. For further information on the Welcome Tavern and the Temperance Movement in Cam see the articles by David Evans

in the Dursley Lantern for 2004 and 2014, available from Dursley Heritage Centre.

Continue the route, crossing Station Road into Everlands. On the opposite corner to the Welcome Tavern stands a pebble dash house, once the local Post Office ³ and, in the 1881 census home to George Steele, postmaster, photographer and assistant



Cam Mills aerial photograph

overseer at the Mills. Shortly afterwards, the impressive former office building of Cam Mills ⁴ can be seen on the left with the names of Hunt and Winterbotham both evident in stone relief. Thomas Hunt arrived in 1857 and took over what had formerly been known as Corriet's Mill, a five storey building dating back to 1815 which has since been demolished along with its clock tower. Thomas Hunt was in debt to Mr Lyndsey Winterbotham of the bank in Stroud, who in 1859, sent his son, Arthur Brend Winterbotham, to safeguard his interests and thus the partnership of Hunt and Winterbotham began.



In the subsequent decades Cam Mills ⁵ expanded and business flourished. New buildings were constructed, some of which are still standing and can be seen as you continue to make your way along Everlands with the Mill on your left. Cam Mills became noted for a range of products as

business developed in the later part of the 19th century. Not only were the famous scarlet cloths for military tunics and hunting jackets woven here but so were greys and blues for beaver hats, tweeds for suits and bagatelle cloth. In 1892, on his death, Arthur Brend Winterbotham's two sons, Arthur Strachan and Herbert inherited their father's enterprise with Arthur taking over the worsteds and Bertie the woollens. The former office boy, Clifford Hill, who joined the firm in 1911, later wrote of how Arthur and the worsted designer 'Pa Wise' created a cloth known as Indian Whip which was widely and profitably used in the uniforms of many of the officers in the First World War.

The Mill building flanked by cherry trees was constructed during the Second World War using hollow bricks in order to save on vital materials. It was requisitioned for the duration by the Admiralty and added felts for shell casings and tank linings to the Mills' output. Nowadays the Mills exclusively produce tennis ball and billiard table cloth.

Opposite the mill buildings is the cricket pitch ⁶ which was laid out as such in the 1920s on the initiative of Herbert Winterbotham who became its President and provided a team coach plus boots and flannels for the players.

His brother Arthur played for Gloucestershire three times under the captaincy of W.G. Grace and opened the batting for MCC at Lord's in 1866. The Winterbothams generosity to their workforce did not extend to them being able to watch cricket during working hours. Those weaving sheds dating from the Winterbotham period have no windows on the side facing the cricket field. From this point, looking beyond the cricket pitch you can see the trees which once lined the drive to Norman Hill House, the family home of Arthur Brend Winterbotham. The house is no longer standing. For further information on Norman Hill House visit www.dursleyglos.org.uk



Norman Hill cricket team

As the trail continues along Everlands it runs parallel with the former railway track on your left, which once connected Dursley and Cam with the railway network at Coaley Junction. Cam Mills had its own siding which was made redundant in 1959 when Cam Mills began to use road transport for both raw materials and finished products.

As you continue towards the end of Everlands, just past the disused footbridge ⁷ take the footpath which emerges in St George's Close. Turn left here and eventually right, taking another footpath adjacent to tall hedges which leads into the churchyard of St George's ⁸. At the point where the path divides with the right hand fork leading to the church porch are two Winterbotham graves. A memorial in a pink coloured marble shaped like Cleopatra's needle commemorates Emily Page Winterbotham and her husband Hiram Hague. After the death of her parents, Emily and her husband continued to live at Norman Hill House. Emily died in 1932 when she was knocked down at Sandpits by a lorry on her way home from a Mothers' Union meeting. Adjacent to this memorial is the gravestone of Emily's elder brother, Arthur Strachan Winterbotham. The grave of Thomas Hunt who died in 1888, is in the nearby graveyard of Cam Congregational church should you wish to divert to see it.

Continue towards the iron gate exit from the churchyard with the former National School building on your left. Turn left along Hopton Road, passing Church Farm and eventually Cam Hopton School. Shortly before the junction with Uphorpe, note eight semi detached villa style houses on your left. These were built to house the managers at Cam Mills ⁹ as it prospered at the end of the 19th century.

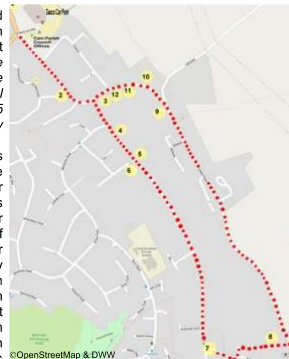
Continue down the hill into Station Road. On the right hand side there are some iron gates and a flight of steps which are disused and in a poor state of repair. These once led to the Winterbotham Memorial Gardens ¹⁰, which were laid out in terraces with a pavilion at the top and fine views across the valley. These public gardens commemorated Herbert Winterbotham and

his wife Blanche and were constructed in 1937, although Herbert had died in 1925. There is an article about the Winterbotham Memorial Gardens in the 2015 edition of the Dursley Lantern.

Station Road crosses both the river and the route of the former railway track and at this point you can get further glimpses of the extent of the Mill buildings on your left. Almost immediately opposite the Railway Inn stands the former Cam Institute ¹¹, built at a cost of £500 raised from public subscriptions in 1871. The Institute was a centre for the education and improvement of workers from the Mills and followed the same principles as the network of Mechanics Institutes which had been growing nationwide. Cam Institute housed reading, recreation and lecture rooms. From the outset anyone could be a member for 6 shillings a year but women were excluded 'the benefit of the Reading and Recreation Room'. Lectures and concerts were open to all at reasonable cost, with special trains laid on for those needing to return to Dursley in the evening. There was also a shop, which continued in business until the arrival of the Co-op stores many decades later.

Past the Institute is a terrace of Mill workers' cottages ¹² (named after the Liberal Prime Minister, W.E. Gladstone), also built in 1871 for the employees of the Winterbothams in Cam. From here, turn right back into the Chapel Street and continue straight until you return to the bottom of Cam Pitch and the entrance to Tesco Car Park.

This leaflet has been produced by Dursley Welcomes Walkers. For more information please contact www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk. We would like to thank Jenny Parsons for the text of this walk and David Evans, Andy Barton and Roland La Porta for the pictures and Cam Parish Council for their support.



©OpenStreetMap & DWW

Dursley's Lantern Way



For those wishing to walk Dursley's Lantern Way in an anti-clockwise direction the route instructions are detailed below - enjoy the walk.

From Dursley Market Hall, go along pedestrianised Paragon Street and turn left up May Lane past the library. Opposite the bus station go left at a barrier by a green metal Cotswold Way post, continue between walls and turn R in a gap in the wire fence, between trees. Go ahead up the worn or mown grass to black metal posts leading to a road, follow this as it twists right and left. At the junction opposite Weavers Close go R steeply up into woods.

Bear up L and continue to climb, avoiding all paths on the right. Remain on this track and at an obvious clearing with fewer, larger trees on more level ground the path curves to the right following the hillside. At a path crossroads, metal posts and chain, go ahead to a green vehicle barrier and turn left onto the road. Beware of traffic for the next stretch. Pass a turning to the right signed Waterley Bottoms and after about 100 metres find a stile at the top of a bank. This is Breakheart Quarry. Go briefly ahead to an information board and follow the waymarked public footpath round to the right, then following the quarry perimeter. Just after the Visitors' centre on the right and other buildings on the left, bear slightly right at a wayposted junction past another information on the right to a stile. Keep ahead alongside the fence of a small reservoir, over another stile into an open space with excellent views over Waterley Bottom. This route is not marked on maps as a public right of way but is used with the landowner's permission. Head to a gate and stepless stile in the far left corner, go left along the stoney track to a road, cross with care and immediately right parallel with the road. At the next junction of paths, go right, crossing the road again, to a kissing gate next to the entrance to Ashen Plains campsite, where refreshments and toilets may be available in high season.

In the corner of the rough area behind the camp block, go into the wood. The route for the next mile is tricky but very well signed. Follow public footpath signs, which mostly avoid the private broad track. At public path junctions look for the Lantern Way stickers, which usually favour turnings to the left and eventually return you to the main track. This brings you to a kissing gate onto a road. Turn left onto it and proceed a very short distance to a more main road, the A4135. Go left along it, using the verge where possible, into another minor road.

Cross this with extreme care to find, behind the signpost for Golf Course, a gap in a woven fence. This is another permissive route not shown on maps or digital route-finders.

Enter the wood and follow the twisting but clear path through light woodland. At a path T junction (signs for the Sculpture and Play Trail) go down R down wide steps into a clearing with many sculptures and bear L to a display board (Wimberrow Woods). As you face the board see a path down below the bank. Take this to the right and down to the gated entrance to Whiteway water plant. Cross the busy road with great care and take the signposted footpath which goes along the bottom of the wood. After about half a mile look out for a metal gate on the left and about 80yds further on bear left down a narrow path; the bottom is steep and can be slippery so take care here. On reaching the lower path turn R in the cutting. You can continue on this path along the bottom of the wood avoiding all turns up right. For better views across the valley step L out of the cutting and follow a fainter path closer to the boundary fence. Both footpath and bridleway converge eventually and soon you arrive at an obvious fork. Go down left to emerge below Rowden House and swing R.

After a few metres take the wooden stile on the L and continue down over 4 more stiles. At the 4th turn sharp R and go up through 2 fields to a house. Pass between the house and the sports field and go down to the road. Go L along the road for 200yds and turn R up the hill to a footpath on L (opposite Slouts Hill entrance). Go between the high wall and hedge into the field and continue, with stream on left to a bridge. Cross this L and go straight up Uley Millennium Field aiming for the black plaque on a raised stone. Leave the field through gates and go straight to The Street.

Bear R and take the footpath beside the shop to a stile. You can go straight ahead up the field or, for a gentler ascent, and the official waymarked route, go right for a while then up left by a church wall on the right. There is a contoured path running across just below the wood. Both routes lead to a wooden gate into the wood; go up to exit at a field gate. Continue ahead through a cutting in the rampart of Uley Bury and turn right on level ground which leads to another gate. Go right through the trees to find a road. Turn left and admire the view from the bench erected by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. In the distance you should see a distinct block of upland: the Black

Mountains. The left hand (south) edge is the distinctive shape of the Sugar Loaf, above Abergavenny. (If you can see hills beyond this then they are the Brecon Beacons.) The right hand (north) edge is the steep slope of Hay Bluff.

From the viewpoint by the bench take the lower, right hand path down. At the fork go left, rising slightly; the path will eventually descend and when you cross another path bear R to walk next to the perimeter fence at the bottom of the wood. Follow this to a lane and go down past cottages to the stile on the right while appreciating the fine view of May Hill conspicuous between the trees and the spire of the Malvern Hills to the right. Cross the stile and continue down. In the third field find a stile behind the first large tree on the left. Cross and go down to the gate. Bear R to a stile across the road and in the field follow the left hand boundary to cross the little stream through gate next to a tree. Turn R and again follow the boundary, with the hedge on your right, ignoring a bridge and go through a gap in the hedge. Now bear L into the far corner to leave this field by stile and tricky bridge and turn L.

You are aiming for a gate in front of the conspicuous new house – how you get there depends on the condition of the field, which can be very muddy. You might be able to walk straight across, or follow the left hand boundary until you can head for the gate.

Cross the lane, take the left of two footpaths over the stile beside the house and aim for Coaley Church tower to leave the field through a gate. Continue down to cross a stile and bear L into the corner of the field to cut between the houses into Coaley village. Go right through the village for a third of a mile. The Fox & Hounds pub may be open at weekend lunchtimes, and near the village hall the shop may be open too at key times.

Continue past the school and at the corner of Pinnells End Lane take the stile into the field and go ahead, over the next stile and down the field to the gate in bottom R hand corner.

Go through the gate, over the stream and bear R up to an obvious gate in the hedge. Here, take the path that goes ahead rather than the one more to the right, going over several stiles and bridges until you come to a broad byway. This is Hainmore Lane. Go straight over into a field (going right along the byway would bring you to Cam and Dursley railway station and buses into Dursley). Follow the path along the right hand boundary and keep on this line through tree fields and 3 metal kissing gates. At the bottom right-hand corner of the 3rd field turn L up the field keeping the hedge on your right. Go over the wooden stile into and through a young plantation, continuing up the right hand side of the field and through 4 wooden gates to the road in Uptonrize.

Turn R and after 30yds go L up steps between houses, at the signpost for Cam Church. Crossing the stile bear R up to the wooden gate. Turn R, cross the stile and turn diagonally left. Now contour round the gentle hillside until you can proceed through a gateway in the hedge before you and straight ahead to a wooden stile next to the largest tree opposite.

Over the stile, look to your right to a stone and wooden stile into a field. In this field bear L and head to the left of the 3rd telegraph pole to find a way down through trees to a bridge over Dulkyn Brook. Negotiate the steps and muddy slopes here with care. As you come up into the field after crossing the Brook see ahead of you a clear path through 2 fields towards houses. Follow this straight line to go through a kissing gate to the road at Upper Cam.

Turn L and follow the road round to the right. 30 yds after St. George's Close go R on a signposted footpath that continues over the road, through trees, over a former railway line to another road. Bear R a few yards, over the road, and up a path to pass through a metal fence. Bear R up the grassy slope and continue to the road. Go L, cross the road and after 300yds come to a signpost pointing R down steps. Find a path just beyond the steps and turn L for 20yds then take the path R leading to a gap in the hedge and some steps.

Continue on this path with a hedge on your right to a car park and road. You are in Sandpits.

Go uphill along the road ahead and turn L between 2 houses, signposted Public Footpath Stinchcombe Hill. Climb up between fields, ignoring a stile, then L on the second of two turnings, a wide path that winds around the lower slopes of the hill. After 400yds fork L down past the corner of a field and continue with, on your left, first the field then gardens. At a metal bollard and a junction of several paths, bear up R for 20 yds then left, to continue with houses on your left to emerge after 100yds at a field corner looking over Dursley and beyond to Downham Hill. Go down by the field to a wooden stile, descend over this and pass right of the gardens to cross a stile leading up steps and to the road. Go L down the hill past the Old Spot to the bus station.

Text by John Roberts and David Ashbee for Dursley Welcomes Walkers.

October 2015

Dursley's Lantern Way

According to the Rev Kilvert's diary of 1873, couples on their way to evening services in winter followed a practical though unusual local tradition: "My Mother says that at Dursley, when ladies and gentlemen went out together on dark nights, the gentlemen pulled out the tails of their shirts and walked before to show the way. These were called Dursley lanterns."



Follow the Lantern Way clockwise from Dursley Town Hall through Cam & Coaley to Uley and back to Dursley (about 14 miles)



1 Starting point A From Dursley Market Hall, follow the Cotswold Way sign along the pedestrianised Parsonage Street, left at the Pharmacy into May Lane, right at The Old Spot Inn into Hill Road, and uphill to a left hand bend. Here, leave the Cotswold Way by going right through a kissing gate, then down and back up via steps and stiles, ignoring the loop path to the left. This path can be muddy in wet weather and overgrown in high summer but it affords attractive views over the redbrick houses of one of Dursley's oldest suburbs, built for Lister's workers in the early 20th century.

2 When the path dips down to a broad track on the right by newer houses, go ahead to follow the path with a fence on the

right. Keep to the lower edge of the wood for a while, but after 500 metres, just after a right-angle turn, bear left up to a permissive bridleway to avoid erosion on the lower path. The lower path will suffice with care. At the next junction go right, to drop steeply down to a road just above a busy road junction. Cross here with care to a path between the police station on the right and a sports field on the left. After about 250m ignore a path to the left, but go downhill to a wooden bridge, turn left without crossing it, then next right between houses to emerge on an estate road. Go left for 200m to follow a green waypost pointing right, opposite a postbox. Bear right down a grassy slope and turn left through a gap in an iron fence, to emerge between houses opposite another green way-post. Take this path over the former Cam-Dursley Midland Railway branch line, pass between houses, continuing across road on footpath to come out below an old chapel.



3 Go left on this road, past the entrance to the attractive St George's church, Upper Cam, and round to the left at a junction to find a footpath on the right along the front of cottages. Through the gate bear left across the middle of a large field to a hedge gap, then drop to a line of trees that marks the route of the Delkin Brook. Beyond the bridge take the right of two paths to stile in top corner, then immediately left over another stile to a gate almost opposite. Bear right across rising land to a stile in a fence in the far corner at the left hand end of a row of houses, then another stile on the left to go between houses to Uphorpe (a road). Go right along this road for a few yards to a path on the opposite side. After crossing a drive you will soon be walking with a wooden fence on your left. Pass through a small plantation and down the next field to a steel gate and kissing gate at a junction of 3 paths.



4 Only go left if you wish to visit Cam with its supermarket, cafe, pubs and bus stop. Otherwise, stay in the field you are in, by going right along the boundary. Stay on the same line through 3 fields and 3 metal kissing gates then at a wooden stile come to a broad track going left and right. This is called Halmore Lane. Cross it to a gate and stepless stile (unless you wish to go left to Cam & Dursley Station). Follow this path more or less straight ahead over a plank bridge, through two small fields, to another large field. Navigate between the right hand end of a farm, to the left of a dead tree, to find a gate, often open, then straight up the next field to the top right hand corner. At this stile go to the waypost and stile in the far corner, to emerge at the junction of a through road and a farm lane. You are now in Coaley. Turn right along The Street past school, church, village shop, and the pub. At the time of writing, the pub serves no food and is not open midweek lunchtimes. The shop also has quite limited opening times. **You are now at point B on the map.**

100 yards after the Fox and Hounds pub, follow a green waypost to the left and take the right hand one of two paths from the stile, staying on the same line you were on, navigating by a distant white house/garage gable end. Nearing the left hand field boundary you can find a rusty gate with a tight gap at the side. Through this continue on the same line, navigating now between the aforementioned white house and a newer one to its left. To the immediate right of the new house cross a lane to another green waypost. In this large field aim for the right hand pole supporting the second line of cables then find a stile and rough low concrete 'bridge' over an often flooded ditch. Take care, especially with wet or muddy footwear.



5 Having negotiated this, don't take the path along the right hand hedge but go diagonally across the field (there may be sheep fencing) navigating to a point slightly left of the large house to reach a gap in the hedge. Through this turn left along the hedge, follow the field boundary round to the right, ignore a bridge on the left, aiming for the large house, to arrive at a gate on your left with 3 waymarks. Go through this gate, turning right immediately, following the right hand field boundary to a stile next to the large house onto a lane known as The Ham.



Slightly to the right and opposite is a stile to the only serious climb since Dursley, but take a breather on it to turn and admire the view. Bear up left to the 4th large tree, a stile and gate. In the next field turn right, go straight over 2 stiles then bear right to a lane below cottages. Go up this lane into the wood and where a bridleway goes left, go right to follow a footpath along the bottom edge of the wood. After about half a mile, climb steeply up to the left to the Cotswold Way. When it reaches a road, take a breather on the seat installed by the Cotswold Wardens to admire the view over the Severn Plain. You are at a favourite dog-walkers' and joggers' spot at the top of Crawley Hill and about to sample the delights of Uley Bury, an Iron Age hillfort.



6 Go through the gate onto the roadside parking area and immediately right through another wide gate. After a few yards the path splits left and right. Our route goes left but if you have time and energy it is well worth going right to do a circuit of The Bury (an extra mile). Assuming you go left, after about 400 metres the main circuit track swings right. You should go ahead on a path down the contours and through the gate directly ahead into wood. Ignore turnings to right and left, descending the narrow path to leave the wood at a gate and continue straight down a field to meet a churchyard wall. Go left only if you wish to: a) visit the lovely Old Crown Inn; b) view or visit the equally delightful St Giles Church; or c) take the infrequent bus to Dursley (mid-morning, midday and late afternoon only). Otherwise go right and take the first left to emerge at the community-run Post Office. Take refreshment here or cross the road to the right and go left along South Street for 100 yards to another Uley treasure, the Prema Arts Centre with its exhibitions and coffee room. **This is point C on the map.**

7 Continue ahead down a lovely footpath that leaves South Street opposite the corner of the Prema Centre and takes you into the even lovelier Millennium Field. Go ahead down the contours, to the right of 2 bridges over a stream. Thence go right along the stream and then away from it slightly to a wooden gate and onto a road near Stoutshill, a grand former school.



With caution go right for a few yards to take a turning on the left signed Shadwell and Elcombe. From this take the 2nd footpath on the right at the playing field sign where the road veers to the left. At the wooden fence take the left of two paths, going diagonally down to a wooden gate then a wooden stile. Go left here, back up the contours, and after 3 field boundaries emerge onto a road and go right almost to where the road ends. Here take a deep steep, often muddy, Restricted Byway to the left up into a wood. For the route through this wood, keep to a broad track, always preferring the right hand, or the middle when there are three ways. There is an unofficial narrower and drier path on the edge of the wood which will connect with the route. Whichever you use, after an iron barrier to the right, a little further on is a wooden stile into fields. Go steeply left here over tree roots: meet an unofficial bridle-way coming from the left. Bear right onto it – it is officially a footpath – and follow it for about half a mile past a chicken farm to arrive at the A4135 road a mile out of Dursley. You can chicken out (!) here if you wish by going right; a pavement appears before long.

8 To continue the trail, cross the busy road with care to a footpath opposite and slightly to the left, to the entrance of a water company plant. Go left up steps (not the concrete ones). The line of the footpath has changed here, so take the obvious track, looking out on your left for the back of an information board. Go up to it, and left, then right up wide wooden steps. All the route here is permissive, not public footpaths, and quite tricky, so look out for the orange Lantern Way markers. If you find yourself on a road, retrace your steps if it is the climbing A4135 crossed earlier. If it is a narrower lane, go left along it. Either way you should emerge where the 2 roads meet.

Go ahead, keeping carefully to the right of the main road, and go down the narrow lane marked 1 in 5. After 50 yards enter the wood to the right at a kissing gate and follow the waymarks for over a mile through what's known as Ashen Plains. At points there are paths off to the left. Avoid them – eventually, after a climb to the right, a waymark will lead you right again through trees to a kissing gate behind a large building in a field. Refreshments may be available here. Go through a kissing-gate onto a broad track and right, to emerge not far from where you were half an hour ago, on the Golf Course road, near the Sculpture Trail.



9 Either turn left onto the road or go into the wood opposite and find a path that follows the road, but for only about 150 metres when you will need to find the next track left off the road. Just before this meets a wood and a steep path down to Waterley Bottom, go right over a gate into a field, a permissive route bearing slightly left to a stile leading into Breakheart Quarry. The path through this Community Project area goes ahead for 400 yards, then right, curving round to a stile on the left leading back to the road you were on earlier.



10 Go left along the road, past a lane signposted Waterley Bottom. Follow the wall to find a track diagonally to the right that enters the wood by a vehicle barrier. Avoid going right, continuing 400 metres to a lovely clearing among large trees. From this there are 3 paths; take the middle one, bearing left, which will gradually, then steeply, drop to a stony route with a cottage on the left, newer houses on right, and a road ahead. You are on the edge of Dursley with a fine vista.

Go down the road ahead until you reach houses - turn left along Harrolds Close. Follow round to the right, then left onto the green below the houses. This was once the site of Dursley Union Workhouse. In the bottom left corner is a gap onto the tarmac path known as The Slade. Go left briefly and you will find everything you need; for pessimists, a doctors' surgery on the left; for the weary, the bus station; for the hungry and thirsty, the famous Old Spot pub. If you do not recognise where you are, turn right past the bus station and library for the Town Centre, pharmacies, cafes and shops, and our starting-point, The Market Hall.



This leaflet has been produced by Dursley Welcomes Walkers. For more information contact www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk

The Countryside Code - Respect, Protect, Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates & property as you find them, follow paths unless wider access is available

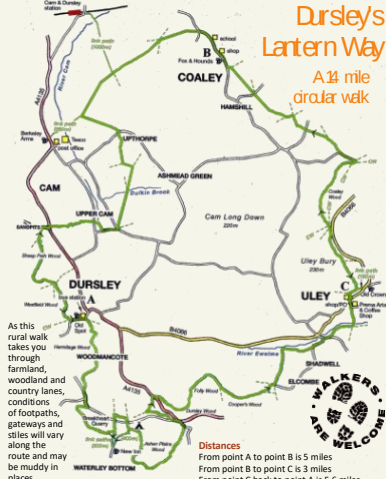
Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

Dursley's Lantern Way
A 14 mile circular walk



As this rural walk takes you through farmland, woodland and country lanes, conditions of footpaths, gateways and stiles will vary along the route and may be muddy in places

Distances
From point A to point B is 5 miles
From point B to point C is 3 miles
From point C back to point A is 5.6 miles

Our thanks to Dave Ashbee for the text and to Fimial Press for the map (for more Cotswold walking maps, visit fimal-press.co.uk)

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