

## THE CONKWELL CIRCLE WALK

By Nigel Vile

### FACT FILE

Distance – 3miles.

Time – 1½ hours.

Start – Hartley Farm Shop (GR 802618).

Maps- OS Landrangers 172/173 or OS Explorers 155/156.

Terrain – A flat and gentle walk.

### THE CONKWELL CIRCLE WALK:

From the Farm Shop, this walk follows quiet lanes and fieldpaths to the secluded hamlet of Conkwell, a former quarrying settlement nestling high above the Avon Valley. A double-track self-acting tramroad, 700 yards in length and with a 1-in-5 gradient, ran down the hillside from the local quarry to the canal. The quality of the stone was poor, however, and the quarry's life short-lived.

Beyond the delightful rural idyll that is today's Conkwell, the walk passes through ancient woodland and across open countryside before reaching Conkwell Grange, a fine horse stud with a national reputation. Fieldpaths and lanes, with fine views across the West Wiltshire countryside, return the walk to the Farm Shop.

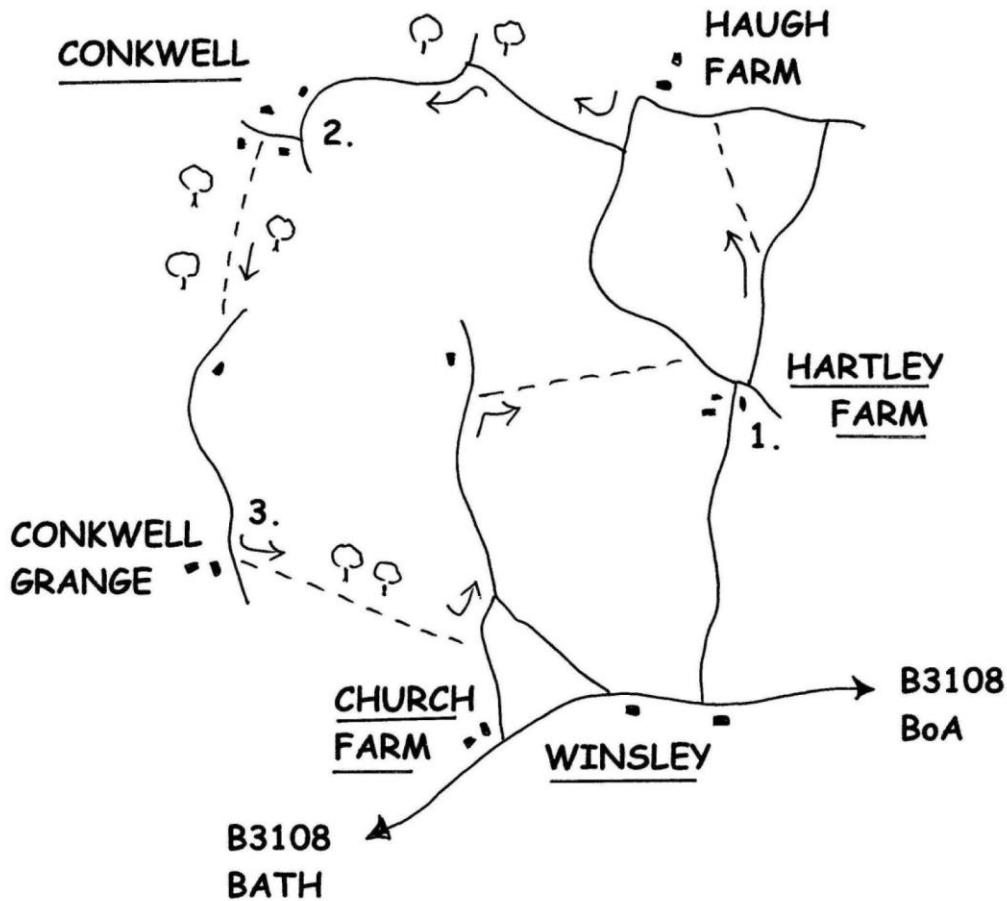
**THE WALK DETAILS: HARTLEY FARM SHOP – HAUGH FARM – CONKWELL – CONKWELL WOOD – CONKWELL GRANGE – HARTLEY FARM SHOP**

### DIRECTIONS: From Hartley

1. Leave the car-park and turn left through a gateway onto a lane. Turn right to a crossroads before turning left along the lane to Haugh and Ashley. In 175 yards, cross a stile on the left before bearing half-right across an open field to a stile in the right-hand field boundary by a telegraph pole. Join a lane and turn left. In 100 yards, keep on the lane as it bears sharply left, a drive on the right leading to **Haugh Farm**. In another 100 yards, turn right along a side lane signposted to Conkwell. Follow this lane for ¾ mile to reach Conkwell.

2. Turn right off of the road to follow a narrow tarmac access road that drops down past a number of properties. Towards the bottom of the hamlet, just above Spring Cottage, turn left and follow a path past properties and into Conkwell Wood. Follow the path through the woodland for 300 yards to reach a road, ignoring a track that drops downhill on the right along the way. Follow the road to the right for 600 yards and, just before a bend by the entrance to **Conkwell Grange**, cross a stile in the wall on the left by a solitary tree.

3. Cross the field ahead to a gateway opposite, just to the right of a small copse, before following the right edge of the next field to a gate in its corner and a lane. Follow the lane to the left for 650 yards to reach a footpath on the right, just before **Parsonage Farm**. Pass through a gateway on the right at this point and walk straight ahead across an arable field to reach a gate in the end field boundary. Join a lane, turn right and, in 250 yards, right through a gateway back into **Hartley Farm**.



Thanks to **Nigel Vile**, Tom's old Business teacher at KES Bath, for his effort on creating this route. He regularly writes recommended walks for the Bath Chronicle as well as having a few of his own very popular walking books published.

*To the best of our knowledge, these directions are accurate and up-to-date. All routes follow rights of way or permitted paths, but diversion orders can be made, and permissions withdrawn. Be sure to take care, and keep dogs on leads, in fields with livestock. All walks are undertaken at the walker's own risk. Neither Hartley Farm nor James Vile will be held responsible for any accident, injury or loss that occurs during this walk.*