

## 10 Leisure Walks of Discovery

# A Boot Up THE COTSWOLDS

Rodney Legg

England's archetypal walking country, through lush valleys and up across limestone downland, the Cotswold Hills are delightfully peppered with warm honey-stone architecture. These houses inspired William Morris to form the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Its churches, built on wool-wealth from sheep, are without equal.

Fascinating information panels provide anecdotes and facts about the places you will see. All routes have been checked out on the ground and use rights of way or cross public access land. Many of these paths are incorporated into recognised long-distance trails, several of which we sample.

Direction, distance and terrain are described in detail for a series of ten circular walks varying in length from five to 12 miles. They are graded for the degree of difficulty, so you know what you are letting yourself in for, and numerous refreshment points provide ample opportunity for pit-stops. They are designed to suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area – its people, its history, and its working landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. The ten walks are:

Broadway Tower and Village • Stanton and Snowhill  
Moreton-in-Marsh and Longborough • Hailes Abbey  
and Farmcote • Guiting Power and Sudeley  
Adlestrop and Chastleton • Bourton-on-the-Water  
and the Slaughters • Cold Aston and Notgrove  
Chedworth and Fossebridge • Bibury and Abington

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the area.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

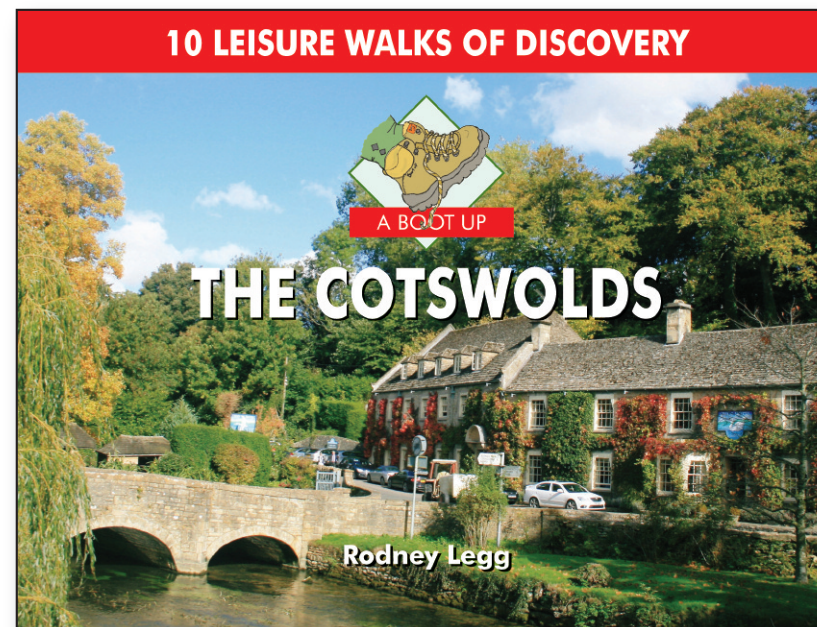
**Rodney Legg** is a prolific author and historian who has published hundreds of country walks. Nationally he is active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990 until 2009.

### HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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# A BOOT UP THE COTSWOLDS



Yanworth



Chastleton House



Ablington



Bourton on-the-Water



Cloisters tracery, Hailes Abbey

**1** Broadway Tower and Village

(E) in 125 metres. Follow the right-hand side for 175 metres and then continue straight ahead with the boundary to your left for 150 metres. Continue straight ahead up the steep sheep pasture, and keep re-crossing the spring line, to the woods on the upper slopes in 600 metres.

**7** Turn left (NE) up the road and approach the other side of the wood in 75 metres. Turn right (S) into the trees and walk the length of the wood – keeping its boundary

**8** Turn left and then right to cross to the other side of the main road. Then turn sharp right (SW) down the hillside with the A44 in the hollow to your right, to skirt **Armlay Bank** woods in 175 metres. Bear left in the next field. Walk the length of this and the following field – **Cung Farm** is National Trust land – to reach **Broadway Tower** in 800 metres. Pass a stone memorial to

**2 Stanton and Snowhill**

Exquisite chocolate-box architecture on a 5-mile circuit

Stanton is a picture-perfect Cotswold village with single streets on a characteristic curve. It is packed with sixteenth and seventeenth-century buildings. The perpendicular church, dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, has Norman remnants,

medieval glass from Hailes Abbey, and a stylish shop. Its Victorian ancestor was Sir Brian Compton who designed the gallery, woods, wood screen and stained glass. Snowhill, the next village up the valley, clusters around the intact and delightful Tudor Manor House which was given to the National Trust by antique collector Charles Wade in 1951. Since then the trust has acquired nearby fields and coppiced woodland plus 43-acre Piper's Goose in 1991. The setting for the ancient house was brought into the twentieth century by World's commissioning of an Arts

**2** Stanton and Snowhill

**Level:** 100m  
**Length:** 5 miles  
**Terrain:** Softly sloping, some steep and steep  
**Park and Start:** In Stanton village, in the High Street near the junction, between Stanton Court grounds and 1416-wood Old Manor Farmhouse.  
**Start ref:** SP 060 343  
**Refcodes:** W113 716  
**Public Transport:** Not exact.  
**Website:** www.stantonandsnowhill.org.uk  
**www.visitcotswolds.org.uk**

Example of a double-page spread.