

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

Purton Parish has a network of 146 Footpaths and 21 Bridleways, totalling 46 miles (73.6 Kilometres). The Footpaths Team is a group of volunteers who are responsible for maintaining this network; this includes keeping the pathways clear, mending stiles and kissing gates and checking paths have clear signage.

Alongside our Footpaths Team we have a Ramblers Group who also help to maintain footpaths within the Parish of Purton

If you are interested in joining the Footpaths Team, or to report any problems with Footpaths in the Parish, contact the Council on 01793 772646 or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk. Please also contact us if you are interested in sponsoring a kissing gate to replace a stile. A sponsored gate can have a plaque in memory of a loved one.

COUNTRY CODE FOR WALKERS

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and 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

REPORTING OF PROBLEMS

While you are out walking and you see any problems with the paths, stiles or kissing gates then please report these to the Parish Council by email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

It is always a good idea if you go out for a walk to take some secateurs with you, so that you can trim back any brambles that have overgrown onto a path, stile or kissing gate.

All Walks in this series are accessible by following public Rights of Way (RoW), as indicated on the accompanying maps. However, walkers should be aware that the exact route on the ground may not always be on the RoW shown on the map. For example, a farmer may have provided a stile some metres away from its correct location. In addition, individual farmers may put in place a temporary diversion across any of their fields depending on the time of year and the needs of their livestock/crops. Walkers are requested to respect such deviations and report to the Parish Council any that are not clearly signed or accessible.

A map showing all the Public Rights of Way in the Parish of Purton is now available to look at in Purton Library and copies can be purchased at the Parish Council Office.

The Walk Leaflets are produced by the combined efforts of local walkers and historians. Watercolour sketches are original work by Christine Gill and Paul Dempsey. Maps reproduced by kind permission of the OS on behalf of HMSO © Crown copyright 2007.

All rights reserved. OS Licence number 100038603.

Relevant OS maps for this walk:

OS Explorer 169 and OS Landranger 173.



Walks in and around the Parish of Purton

(Updated 2017)

Walk 5 CANALS AND RAILWAYS

This Walk Leaflet is one of a series intended to update the Walk Booklets previously published in 2002 (Book 1) and 2007 (Book 2). All the details of previously published walks are being checked and enhanced and some new Walks created.

WALK 5. CANALS AND RAILWAYS

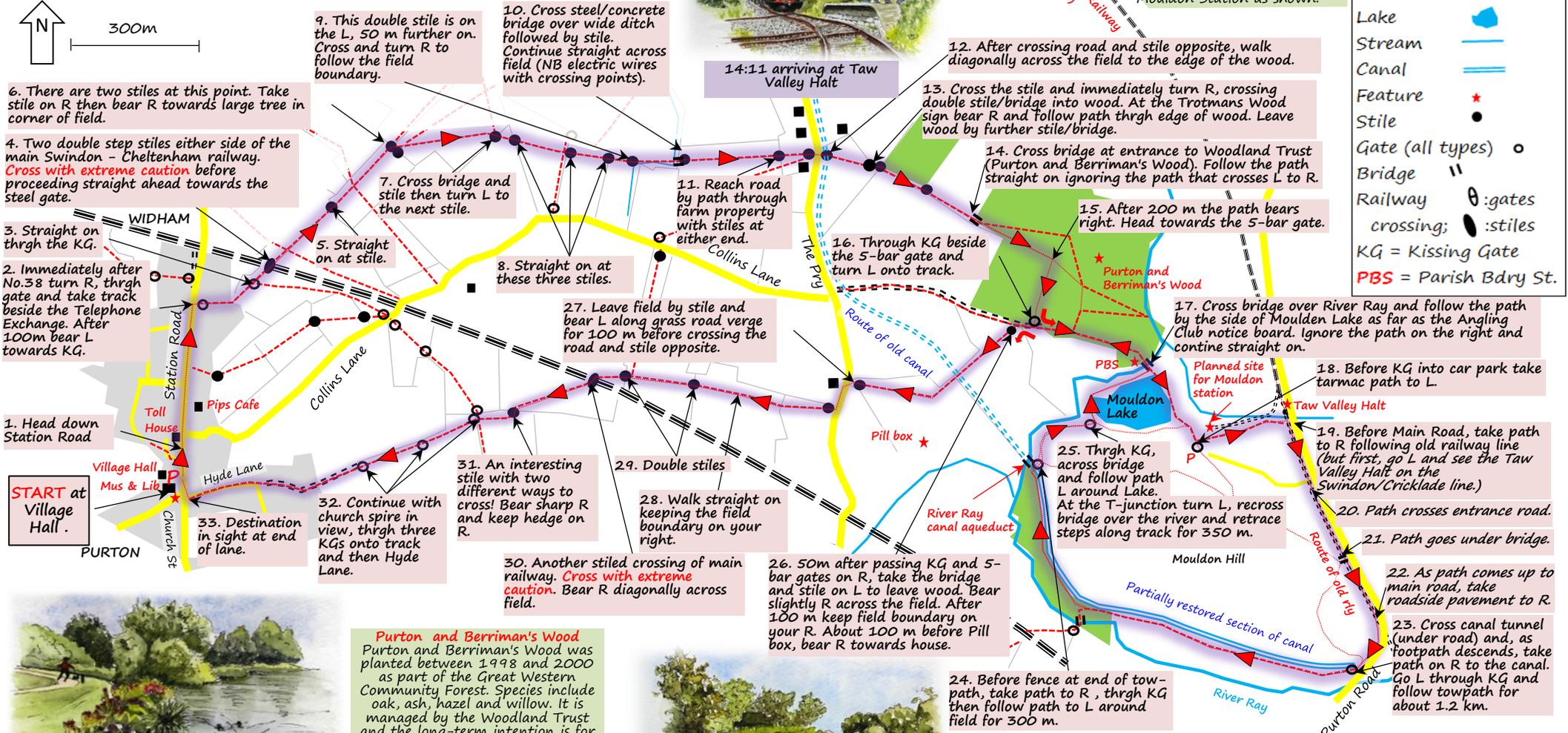
Distance 8.2 km (5.1 miles)
Stiles 30 **Total Ascent** 50m
Conditions Mostly fields. Some woodland
Refreshments Pips Café
Parking P Village Hall (check restrictions), or street parking



Swindon/Cheltenham Railway
 The "Golden Valley line" from Swindon to Cheltenham was originally built as the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway in the 1840s. Purton railway station was opened in 1841, in Widham, but was closed in 1964. Within Purton parish the railway is crossed by 6 bridges and 1 level crossing for vehicles and by 8 level crossings for walkers.

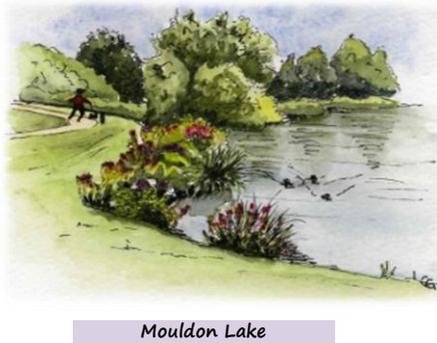
Swindon to Cricklade Railway
 The Swindon to Cricklade Railway was part of The Midland & South Western Junction Railway running from Andover to Cheltenham. It was independent of GWR when it was built in the 1880s. Services closed before WW2 and much of the line was lost. In 1978 a Preservation Society was formed and currently a 2.5 mile section has a regular weekend service with steam and diesel. The Taw Valley Halt is currently the southern limit of this service but there are plans for a Mouldon Station as shown.

KEY	
Road	
Track	
Railway	
Right of Way	
Large building	
Village housing	
Wood	
Lake	
Stream	
Canal	
Feature	
Stile	
Gate (all types)	
Bridge	
Railway crossing	
Stiles	
KG = Kissing Gate	
PBS = Parish Bdry St.	



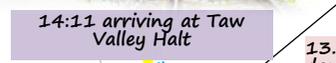
Purton and Berriman's Wood
 Purton and Berriman's Wood was planted between 1998 and 2000 as part of the Great Western Community Forest. Species include oak, ash, hazel and willow. It is managed by the Woodland Trust and the long-term intention is for the wood to develop into mature, native, broadleaved woodland with a healthy canopy of trees and an understorey of woodland shrubs. In 2010 a group from the village celebrated the 10th anniversary of the wood by planting a variety of native seeds and bulbs and fixing bird and bat boxes to several trees.

North Wilts Canal
 The 8 mile North Wilts Canal was opened in 1819 to link the Wilts & Berks Canal (at, what is now, Fleming Way in Swindon) with the Thames & Severn Canal just north of Cricklade. The route required a number of tunnels and aqueducts, one of which can be seen on this walk. Initially the major trade was coal and grain. The canal first became profitable in the 1840s when it was used to transport construction material for the GWR but then fell into decline as railways took over. The last boat went through the canal in 1911. The Wilts & Berks Trust hope to eventually restore the complete 5 mile section from the Purton Road tunnel (Point 23 on walk) to the Thames & Severn Canal.



Aqueduct taking the old North Wilts canal over the River Ray

Mouldon Lake



14:11 arriving at Taw Valley Halt