



## **FRIENDS OF COCK ROAD RIDGE**

### **Walk 3 - Circular walk from Cock Road Ridge**

#### **to Overscourt Wood – about 8¼ miles**

1 Park in Westons Way (BS15 9RR). Walk along Westons Way, passing The Old Plough pub on the right, to Cock Road and turn right. Cross the road when it is safe to do so and continue on up the hill.

2 Just past the second bus stop on the left turn left into Hollyguest Road. Walk down the road and turn left at Bay Tree House into Hollyguest Lane. At the bottom of the lane turn left through the gate onto Cock Road Ridge.

*Cock Road Ridge is owned by South Gloucestershire Council who cut the grass and empty litter and dog bins, but is managed by the Friends of Cock Road Ridge.*

3 Go past the information board and take the right fork to the pond.

*The pond was constructed in 1989-90 on the site of an old house to replace the original pond which is now buried below the ring road! The pond is fed by water being pumped from an old pit shaft next to the allotments. The main shaft is approximately 152 metres deep with a diameter of 1.4 metres and was backfilled in 1967-70 by the National Coal Board.*

*Ahead you will see the Great Oak tree which is thought to be one of five oaks planted in a line along the lower edge of the ridge by one of the early Kings of England, this being one of the remaining three.*

4 Follow the path straight past the Great Oak and across the field. When you reach the band of trees leave the main path and turn left into Steps Wood. Pass the old cider apple orchard on the left and continue up the steps.

5 At the top of the steps take the middle path towards a white house passing the old Quarry (now wooded) on the right.

*This large hole in the ground was excavated to obtain Blue Pennant stone to build the old coal pit Engine House which can be seen on the left in line with the houses.*

6 Leave the made up path and carry on to the right of the information board. Keep on the right hand path until you reach the tree trunk carving.

*The carving is one of a pair, the other one being in Overscourt Wood. The oak tree came from Overscourt Wood and the work was commissioned by the Forest of Avon and funded by a grant from South Gloucestershire Council to create a link between two parts of the Forest of Avon. During the winter when the leaves have fallen, another sculpture can be seen at Overscourt Wood. The wood carver, Yousef, is from Ghana and was helped by local youth groups. See what you can spot on the carving.*

7 Continue down the hill to exit Cock Road Ridge onto Wraxall Road. Turn left up the hill and cross the road at the traffic islands. Walk down Grimsbury Road and turn right to enter Kingswood Remembrance Park which was created in 2010. (OR, if you have dogs with you, continue straight

down the road to the main gate to Grimsbury Farm. Dogs are not allowed on the Farm. Continue the walk from the \*.) Follow the tarmac path in the Remembrance Park and after a short distance turn left down the footpath to Grimsbury Farm.

*This city farm is managed by the Friends of Grimsbury Farm who now run a café in one of the old barns. The café may not be open on a Sunday but the toilets usually are. There are animals and birds to see and a children's play area.*

8 Turn left and follow the path around the farmhouse and walk down the drive to the road. *What can you spot on the wood carving to the right of the main gate?*

9 (\*) Turn right into Baden Road. At the end of Baden Road take a left turning down a footpath. Turn right using the underpass and continue until you meet the A420 at Warmley. Turn right.

10 Cross the road at the next set of traffic lights and turn left. Almost immediately, turn right to go around the memorial garden. Follow the road around and turn left opposite Britton House into a more major road – Stanley Road.

*Britton House was formerly known as Stanley House when it was the offices of Warmley Rural District Council. The council offices moved in 1950 and Stanley House was managed as a training centre for the handicapped by Frank Britton. When the training centre moved to Mangotsfield, Stanley House was extended and re-opened as a residential care centre for disadvantaged people and renamed Britton House in recognition of the services rendered over the years by Frank Britton and his staff.*

11 At the large triangle of grass turn right into Chapel Lane and then left into Norman Road.

*The large red brick building occupied by Kier Western, Building Construction Contractors, at Chapel Lane used to be an old flour mill.*

12 Maintaining the same direction, cross a small bridge over the dramway and you will come to an open grassy space.

*The dramway was constructed to convey coal from the coalfields at Coalpit Heath to the River Avon at Keynsham. The dramway route also connected with Westerleigh, Mangotsfield, Siston, North Common and Oldland Common.*

13 Turn right and keep to the right past a large twin-gabled house. Go through a kissing gate into Warmley Forest Park.

14 Turn left and continue on this uphill path which goes through a wooded area. After about five minutes the path opens out onto a field. Pass through the kissing gate in the far left corner.

15 Keeping to the right hand hedge you eventually come to a path through a hedge with a large rock beside it. Once through the hedge take the right hand fork and maintain direction to reach the road (Siston Hill). Turn right and follow the path round the right hand bend as far as Brook Farm.

16 At first there is a footpath but when you reach Brook Farm you will have to walk with care beside the very busy road. Cross where you can as you need to take a footpath on the left. This is close to a bend and is also the entrance to Mill Farm. Walk up the rutted concrete drive, over a cattle grid and continue to a choice of paths and take the first on the right. Go through a gate into a

wooded area. Bear right and follow the path keeping the hedgerow to your right. You may then have to carefully unhook an electric fence using the handles provided. Please replace the hooks.

17 The path opens out and you are now following Siston Brook on your right. The path goes through a couple of large fields. Keep the hedge and brook on your right. Go through a kissing gate in the corner of the field by a footpath sign and continue through the woods.

18 When you come to a fork in the path take the right hand path over the wooden bridge. Follow this path around until you come to a large metal farm gate on your right. Get over the gate, cross Siston Lane with care and go through the gate opposite by the 'Welcome to Overscourt Wood' sign. Bear right up the grassy slope to the right of the power line post and towards the right hand gap in the clumps of trees. Go through the gap in the trees on the right and you will come to Yousef's other tree carving and two seats.

### **The return journey**

19 Retrace your steps to the last gate, cross the road and go through the gate opposite, turn left and walk along the path parallel to the road. At the fork in the path keep left and follow the path around the plantation. Take the small path off to the left over a wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left.

20 Follow the path around until you come to an electricity pylon. Keeping the pylon on your left, walk around it turning left at a T-junction, and then look for a small gap in the right hand hedge. Go through the gap and come out into another plantation. Turn left.

21 When you come to a place where paths merge take the left hand path. Proceed to the kissing gate and then to the road (Webbs Heath).

22 Cross the road and take the footpath opposite by the large gate. Keeping the hedge on your right proceed to the next kissing gate. Walk diagonally over the field to the next gate – there may be horses in this field.

23 The next field slopes downhill and the gate is in the left hand corner. Maintain direction with the hedge on the left to reach another gate and a small bridge.

24 You are now back in Warmley Forest Park. Follow the path around the pond on your left to a gravel path which goes uphill for a short way. At a T-junction turn left and then left again. Pass a skate-board park on your right.

25 Cross the car park in front of the Scout Hut and proceed to the main A420. Turn right. There are public toilets here and a café at the old Warmley Station.

26 Walk down the main road and cross at the second set of traffic lights by the Memorial Park. Turn right and then turn left into Baden Road. Go through the underpass and turn left up the slope along the continuation of Baden Road.

27 Pass Grimsbury Farm on the left, cross the road and take the right hand turning into Staverton Way. Follow this pedestrian path around and as you come to the end of it you will see a road to your left. Cross this road and take the lane opposite which is called Lower Cock Road. Follow the lane, which becomes a footpath, until you reach Westons Way.