

Mickleton and the Hidcotes



After a steady climb you'll enjoy great views over the Vale of Evesham, then amble through two pretty hamlets, passing two famous gardens open to the public.

Distance: 6.4km/4miles with a climb of 135m /450ft

Time: 2 hours

Start: Mickleton (near Chipping Campden) in Church Lane off the High Street. Pubs and shops in the village. SP162435 W3W: stopwatch.measures.lamenting

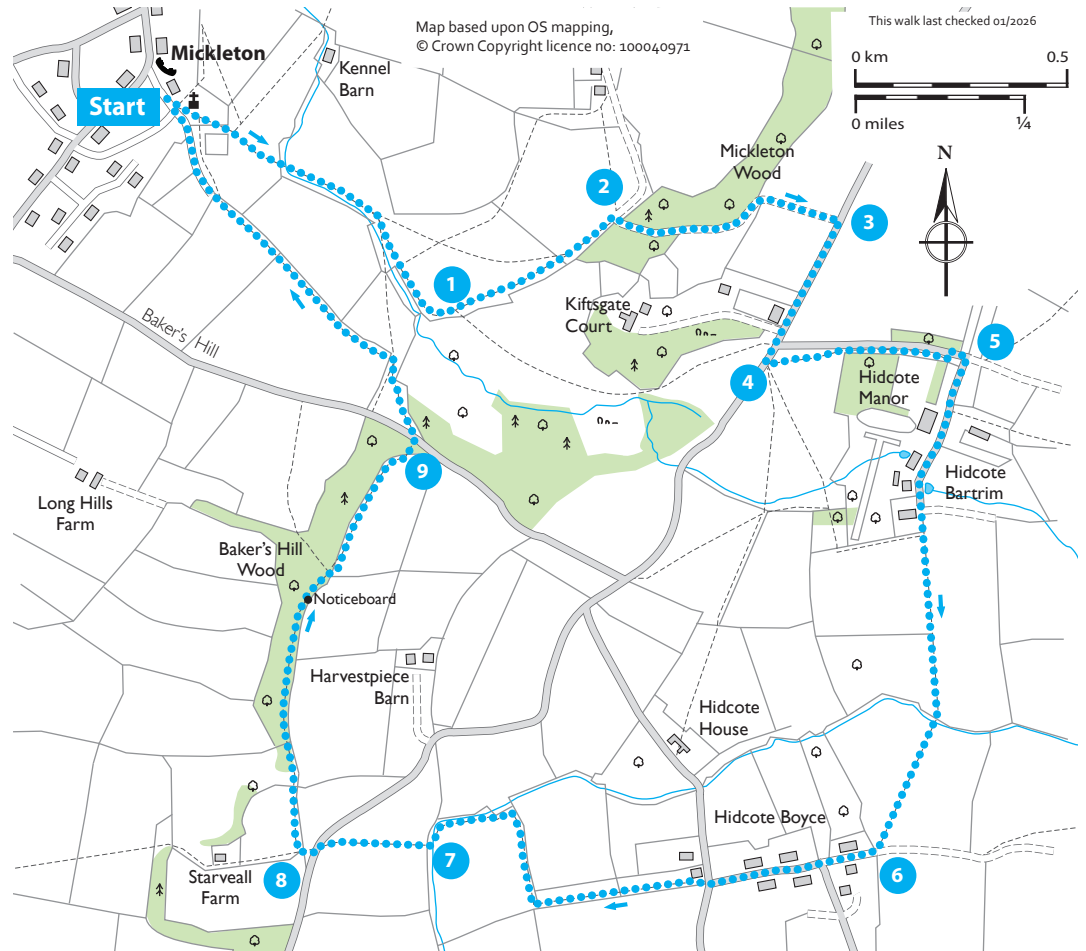
Route:

With the church on your left, go through two gates and bear half right along a grassy path to another gate. Follow alongside a line of trees through two fields.

In the second field, ignore paths off to the right and follow the field edge left and uphill ignoring any paths off right **1**. Continue below a wood to reach a field gate, with wide views including Meon Hill. Carry on to another field gate on your right and **2**. Turn right into the woods through a gate and up a stoney track for 500 metres. At the top turn right by a small barn to reach a road **3**.

Turn right passing Kiftsgate Gardens. Ignore the lane on the left signed Hidcote Gardens, and carry on for 25 metres. then go through a small gate on your left **4** into park land. Bear left on the grass to a gate into the woods and walk alongside the lane.

Go through a gate onto the lane **5** and turn right and quickly right again



onto a lane that passes the Hidcote entrance and through Hidcote Bartrim. Go through a wide wooden gate and where the lane turns right, go to the left over a low stone stile or through a fieldgate. Take the path ahead past a lone tree, down to a wooden bridge and cross to the far right corner of the field to farm buildings in Hidcote Boyce **6**.

Go through a gate and down the lane past a drinking trough, a few cottages and a large sculpture. At a T-junction cross the road, go through

a wide gate and walk between hedges, past a holly grove. Go through a gate and turn right and follow around the field edge towards a hedge in the far left corner. From the corner after 25 metres turn right **7** to cross the stream on a wooden bridge. A field-edge path on the left which brings you to a lane **8**.

Turn left and cross to the barn ahead, and turn immediately right on the 'Heart of England Way' along the escarpment and

into the woods. Look for a noticeboard referencing the 'Belgian Soldier'. At a waymarked post fork right to follow the Heart of England Way. After walking along the outside of the wood take a gate on the left down some steps to reach a road **9**.

Take the gate opposite and you'll see Mickleton church below. Half way down the hill take the gate on your left through a field, into a small wood, and out again through a gate to a field path back to the church.

See the next page for more details about the walk.

Bartrim and Boyce — two hamlets for the price of one



Hidcote Manor

You'll walk past this beech avenue that was planted by Lawrence Johnston after he bought the estate in 1907. He planned the garden as a suite of rooms, each one leading to another of a different colour and style. It is now a popular National Trust property.



Meon Hill, site of an Iron Age fort



Mickleton's church dates from 1200. Worth a visit.

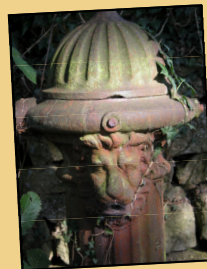
Kiftsgate Court

Here there's the largest rose in England (50 feet high) and a lovely water garden.



And look out for these . . .

The hamlets of Hidcote Bartrim and Hidcote Boyce contain a few surprises. In Bartrim there's a hidden ha-ha* at point 5, then an iron lion with a helmet, and some unusual free range hens. In Boyce the horse trough may have some unlikely residents. Further on don't miss a big sculpture. Was it inspired by Midsummer Night's Dream (Act 5 Scene 1)? Then there's the holly orchard.



* A ha-ha is a ditch that keeps the livestock out of your garden without spoiling the view from the house.