2

Commonwood Lane

Using Commonwood Lane, Sherston 35 & 18, Luckington 35, Alderton Road and Sherston 19.

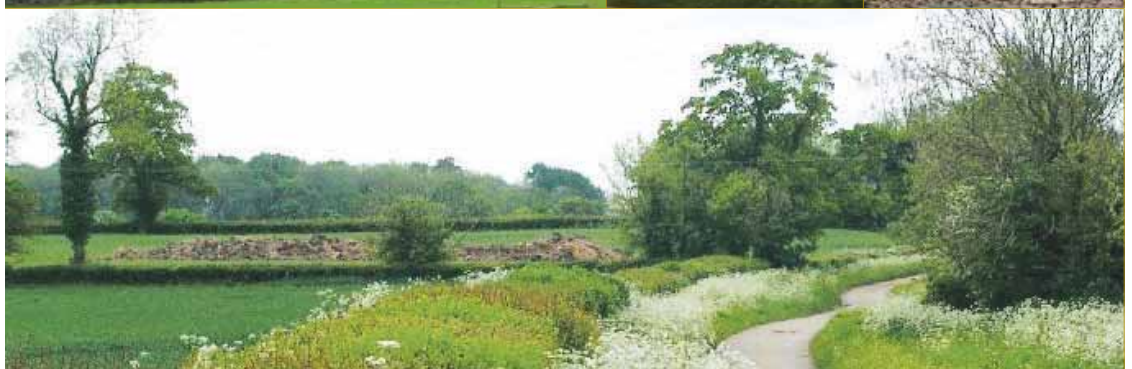
4 miles - *a lovely walk along two very minor lanes, a short section in the middle cuts across fields, which can be muddy at times. There are pleasant views across to Luckington and Didmarton on a clear day and some fine old Cotswold buildings on the route.*

Go towards Malmesbury and turn right beside the Rattlebone Inn down Noble Street, going past Grove Road, to the bottom of Tanners Hill (named after the tannery that used to be by the stream). Over the bridge where the road bends left, turn right up Thompsons Hill and then turn left onto Commonwood Lane. Go over the crossroads leaving Sherston behind. There now follows a long level walk southwards with meadows and farmland on each side.

After 3/4 of a mile the lane bends right towards Commonwood Farm. Continue straight ahead onto the signed byway (SHER35), a broad track which shortly passes the gateway and tree-lined drive to Lordswood House on the left. The hedgerows here are over 300 years old and are rich with many wild flowers. About 220 yards after the gateway turn right off the track, though the kissing gate onto SHER18 and continue west over the first field with the hedge on your left. This field is currently a meadow with many wild flowers in abundance. Head for the kissing gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Go through this kissing gate and over a small board bridge just after the kissing gate, taking care to avoid the drainage ditch sometimes hidden by undergrowth to your left. Continue over the next field, again with the hedge on your left, and through the next kissing gate. After the third field go through the kissing gate in the top left corner and continue into the fourth field where the path now becomes LUCK35. The footpath veers away from the hedge at the dogleg kink. Head for a large gap in the hedge on the far side of the field and go through it into the fifth field. Here the path leads towards a new barn conversion straight ahead of you. Pass to the right of the building where the path then joins a broad track and there is a lovely view on your left of Alderton Church.

This track leads to a final gate onto Alderton Road. Turn right and head north back towards Sherston. You can soon see the church tower of Sherston in front of you on the horizon and on a clear day there are pleasant views across to Luckington and Didmarton on the left.

After some 650 yards the lane bends right and there is a wooded copse visible in the field on your left. If you are quiet you may see deer here using the copse for cover. Carry on along this road, cutting off the blind corner by using SHER19 on your left. Then pass Widley's Farm, a beautiful Georgian farmhouse and garden, and a little further on is a lovely Cotswold barn dated 1749 - ironically called 'New Barn'! Continue across the Luckington/Malmesbury crossroad, then head down Thompsons Hill to reach Tanners Hill where it is a short climb back up to Noble Street and left to the High Street.



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Commonwood Lane

Alderton Road

SHER 35

SHER 18

SHER 19

SHER 20

LUCK 35

LUCK 53

Hill House Farm

Commonwood Farm

The Stables

New Barn

Widley's Farm

Widley's Gorse

Manor Farm

The Grove

Works

Vineyard

El Sub Sta

Track

Drain

Weir

GP

PO

Sch

PW