

STEP INTO THE COTSWOLDS WALK EIGHT

Brailes, Warwickshire



Summary

Wonderful Cotswold countryside incorporating the village of Upper Brailes and circling Brailes Hill make this a perfect little circular 4.5 mile walk through the South Warwickshire part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This walk forms part of the 'Step into the Cotswolds' series of walking routes. Look out for these waymarkers along the route. →



Walk information

Start/End Point: The Gate, Upper Brailes

Grid Reference: SP302398

Distance: 4.5 miles

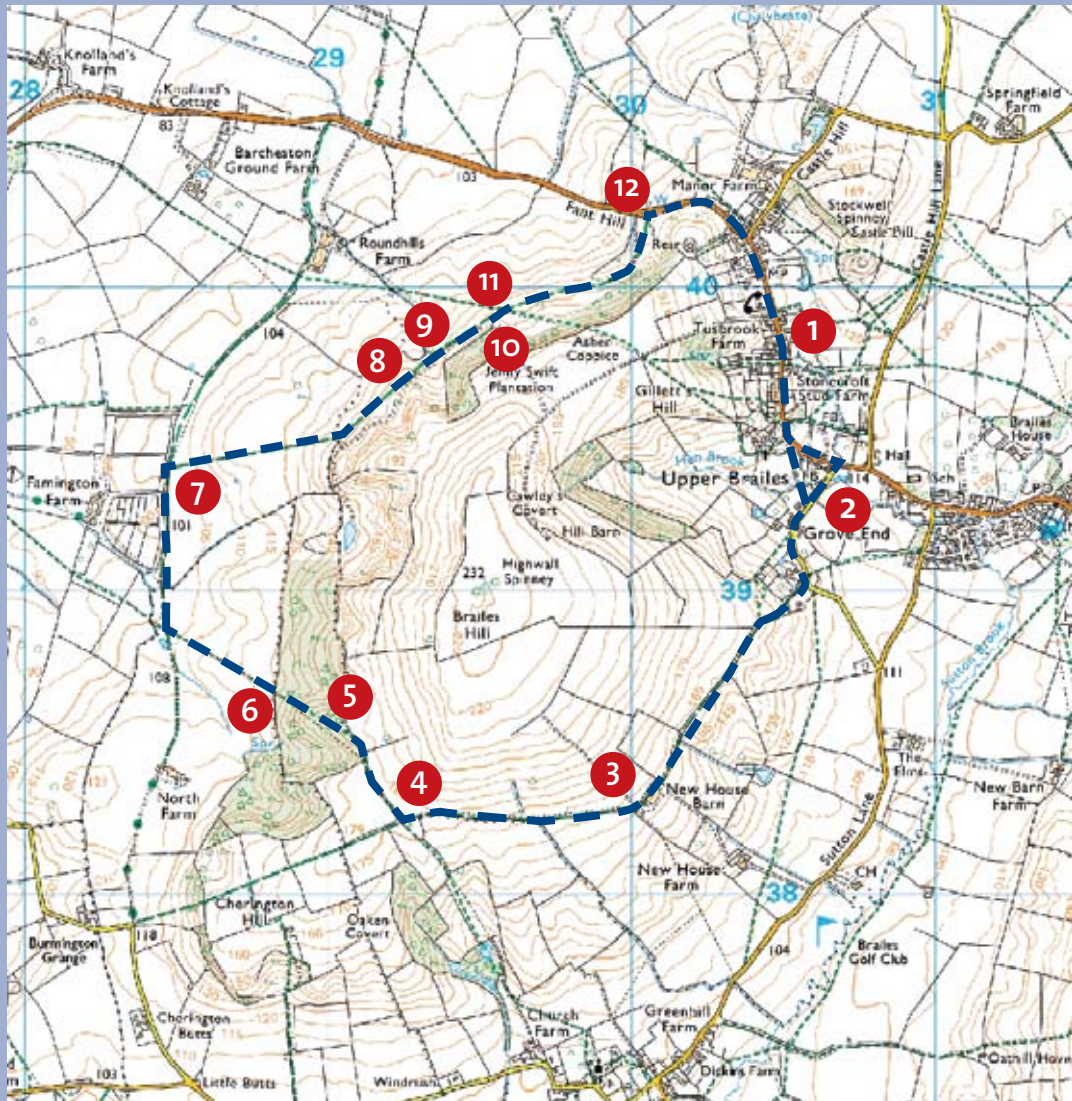
Terrain: Gently undulating with one steep climb

Parking: On side of road near Gate Inn

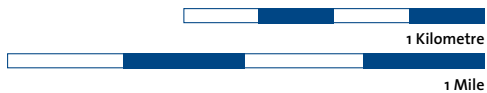
Public Transport: Details of bus services can be found in the 'Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport' leaflets available from the Cotswolds Conservation Board (Tel: 01451 862000). You can download the leaflets from: www.cotswoldsao nb.org.uk. They are also available at most Tourist Information Centres and libraries.

Public toilets: None

Refreshments: The Gate, or the George in Lower Brailes



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Route description

1 From The Gate turn left and walk down the B4035. Where the road bends to the left by a lay by cross the road and go through a metal kissing gate. Follow the edge of the field down to the Hen Brook. Cross the bridge and bear right across a paddock and through two gates onto Henbrook Lane.

2 Turn right and walk up the lane for approx 400m. By the Old Malt House turn right and follow the bridleway up the hill and past some Badger setts. Continue through a gate and alongside the edge of the next two fields to New House Barn.

3 Continue straight ahead past the barns and along the bridleway with the hedge on your left.

4 After approx 800m go through a metal bridle gate and turn right onto a footpath. Go through the field gate ahead and follow the path along the edge of the field. Continue through the next gate and along a track which bears left by a gate in the hedge.

5 Descend the hill to a gate on the right leading into some woodland. Inside the gate, turn almost immediately left, by the waymark post, and follow the footpath down the hill.

6 At the bottom of the hill go through a kissing gate and bear slightly right across a very large field. At the far side of the field turn right onto a bridleway and follow this into the next field.

7 Approx 400m along the edge of this field turn right at the waymark post and follow the bridleway up the hill. At the top of the field turn left, and follow the fence round to a bridle gate.

8 Turn left through the gate and follow the track keeping to the right at a junction. **9**

10 Where the track bears right up the hill keep to the left alongside some Gorse bushes.

11 From the next waymark post the bridleway contours across a large area of rough grassland, descending gradually to a bridge near the corner of the field.

12 After crossing the bridge turn right and carefully follow the road back to The Gate.

This walk is part of a visitor payback scheme called 'Step into the Cotswolds' and has these waymarkers along the route. →





Points of interest

Brailes

Brailes comprises the two villages of Lower and Upper Brailes but is often referred to as one village as the two adjoin each other. Brailes stands among three hills: Castle Hill, Mine Hill and Brailes Hill. At 760ft, Brailes Hill is the second-highest point in Warwickshire.

Upper and Lower Brailes derive their names from 'wood'. The parish church of Saint George is often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Feldon' with *feldon* being an Old English word meaning an area cleared from woodland. The church houses the 3rd biggest and oldest set of 6 bells in the country which to this day still ring to a wonderful sound.

It is thought that the Romans may have built a spa to the north of St. George's church and by the time of the Domesday book it was a well established town of 145 houses and a castle. By the 13th is was a thriving market centre, wealth from which prompted large extensions and re-building of the parish church.

Cotswolds Conservation Board

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The Brailes Three Hills walk

This is an annual event taking place on May Day which involves a six or seven mile walk over the three hills around Brailes, followed by a barbeque on the side of Brailes Hill. It is a very social occasion, which attracts around 1000 people taking part, raising money to be shared equally between Brailes School and Brailes Pavilion.

Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Cotswolds is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful areas in England – the quintessential English landscape. It is the largest of 38 AONBs in England and Wales, protected by Government since 1966 as being of great value to the nation. This ensures the very features that attract people are there for future generations to enjoy.

The natural qualities of the Cotswolds AONB are unique. Limestone gives the Cotswolds its distinctive, unified appearance, visible everywhere in walls and buildings. It is a place of immense diversity: rolling landscapes with breathtaking views, river valleys, picturesque villages and pastures. Ancient beech woodlands and limestone grassland with rare flora alternate with broad swathes of arable fields, and the landscape is sprinkled with remnants of its past such as Iron Age hill forts, Neolithic burial chambers, Roman villas and Bronze Age stone circles.