

The Broughton Gifford Circuit

Distance: 3.25 miles (5.2 km)

Time: 2 hours approximately

STARTING POINT – Atworth Clock Tower (Map Reference 863660)

Proceed up Bradford Road, with the 18th Century Independent Chapel on your left and turn left into Coronation Road. Continue ahead up a grassy track to a stile and gate. Cross the stile into a field which was formerly two called Pennings and Ten Acres. Turn left, walking past the backs of houses in Nursery Close. At the corner, turn right, following the hedge to a gate in the next corner. Go through the gate into the next field called Pieces. Continue straight on, with the hedge on your right, until you see two stiles. Take the left hand stile and enter Little Burrige field. Continue straight on with the hedge on your right. You will cross a small brook and enter the next field called Big Burrige. Continue straight ahead and over a stile near the electricity pylons into a field called Spring Grounds. Walk diagonally across this field (with the pylons on your left). There is a gap in the middle of the hedge which takes you into Calves Meadow field.

Walk with the hedge on your left, passing a small pond. Follow the hedge to the corner and pass through a gate into Murpits field. Keeping the hedge on your right, go under the pylon wires and at the far right hand corner pass through the gate into another field, called Hither Kings. Continue diagonally to the right across this field to the corner and cross over a small bridge to Middle Paddock (now divided in two). Continue straight and cross two stiles to a short grassy track leading to Broughton Gifford Common. (Should you require refreshment turn right and follow the road to the Bell Inn!)

On reaching the lane, turn left and continue to the end just before Common Farmhouse and cross a stile to the right of a gate. The track continues round to the left where there are some farm buildings. There are two stiles in front of you; take the left hand stile into Clover Field. Walk around the left side of this field to a large oak tree in the hedge and over a double stile into Long Ground. Walk diagonally across this field, to the right, to a double stile near a pylon. Enter the next field called Long Broughton. Continue with the hedge on your right to the far end of the field then over a ditch and through a gap in the hedge. You are now in Little Challymead Field.

Keep the hedge on your right continue ahead. Ignore a gate straight ahead, and go through a gap in the hedge slightly to the left and over a ditch into the

next field called Big Challymead. (There should be a stile here which may be re-instated.) There is an old pond on your right (formerly a drinking place for cattle before the advent of troughs). Keep the pond on your right and continue along the field boundary to the far end. Then turn left and head diagonally across the top corner to a gate in the opposite hedge. Enter the next field called Upper Downs and continue in the same direction over a slope to enter Lower Downs through a gate. Carry on with the hedge on your left and passing a small pond on your left, to a stile and onto the tarmac road in Clarks Ground. Turn right onto the road and then turn left off the road, just before the corner of the fenced car park. Keeping the car park on your right, find a concrete slab bridge over a ditch in the corner and cross this and a stile into the next field called Stichings.

Keep the hedge and sports field on your right until you reach a stile. Cross into the next field (Pieces) and keeping the wall on your right, walk round this field to a kissing gate. Go through this into Post Office Lane which leads down to the A365. Turn right at the bottom of the lane to reach the clock tower.