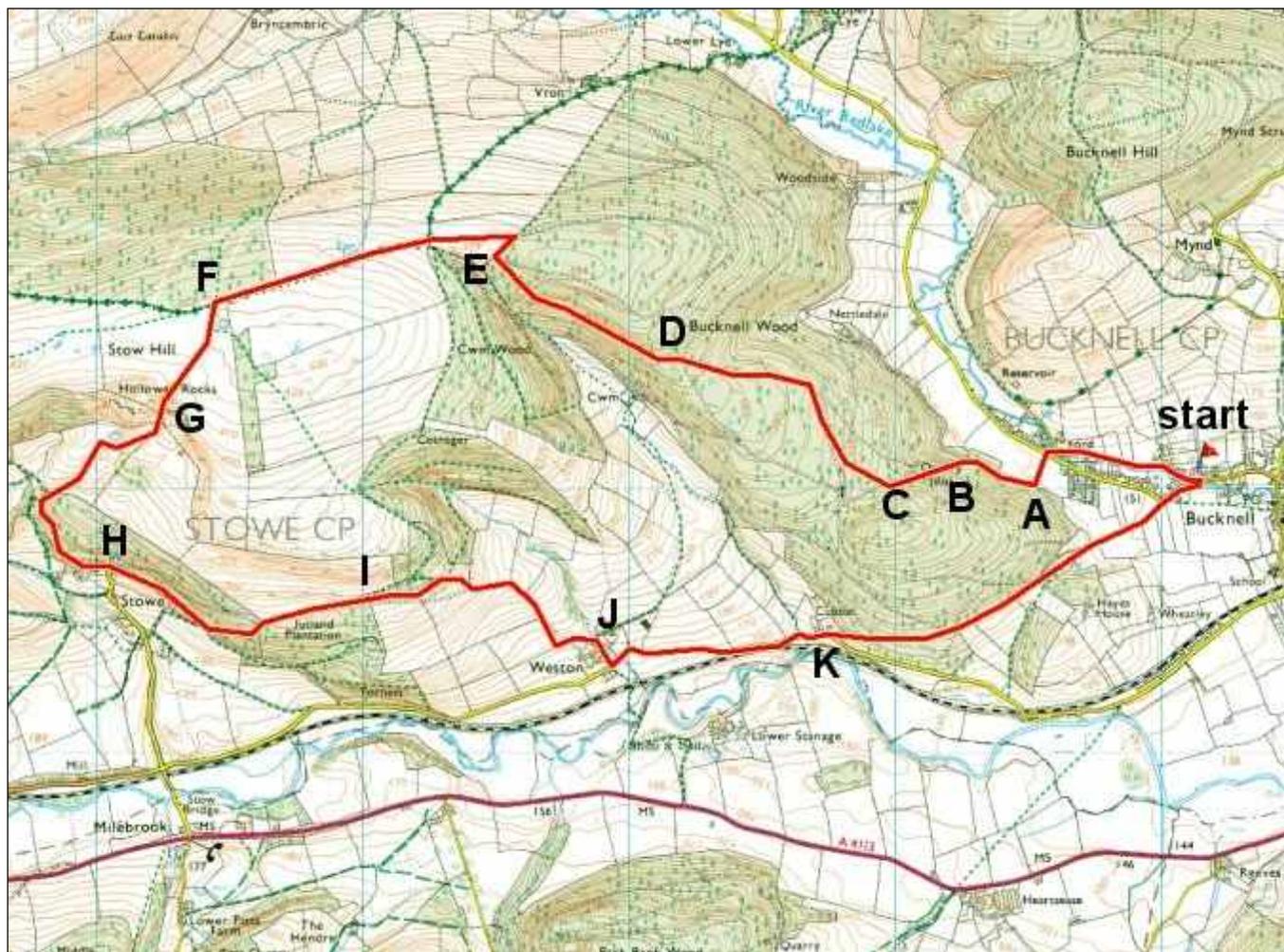


Walk 4 (6¾ miles) - Bucknell Wood - Stowe Hill - Holloway Rocks -Weston

Starts with a gentle climb through woods, then continues as an easy walk over a grassy hilltop with wonderful views of the Marches hills



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Leave the Baron at Bucknell and turn R onto the Chapel Lawn road, then R again into Bridge End Lane. With the river Redlake on your L, walk as far as a house called "Seabridge". Turn L and take the footbridge over the river, then cross the road and walk along the unmade track ahead. At the T-junction turn R. You are now entering Bucknell Wood, which is host to fallow deer, numerous species of birds and flowers, and a rich diversity of fungi in autumn.

Point A

Walk along the forest track until you reach a lay-by on your L by a disused quarry. Bear L here and go around the barrier onto a parallel forest track. About 10 yards past the barrier you will see the start of a narrow, sunken and somewhat indistinct leafy path on your L (look for a silver arrow on tree on L).

Point B

This route offers a pleasant alternative to the many stony tracks that criss-cross the wood. Follow this path as it winds up through the trees (ducking under any fallen ones). Eventually you emerge from the trees onto a forest road.

Point C

Cross this road and bear right onto the wide track opposite. Primroses and violets by the side of this path offer an early splash of colour here in spring, before the bluebells take over. The monotony of the closely planted fir trees is later broken to your L by a more open deciduous wood, through which you can just discern the grassy meadows of the Teme valley. As the trees recede, you regain the forest road you crossed at **point C**. This road branches, with one route opposite and the other going off L to a bend, before veering R uphill. Go L as far as this bend, but do not follow the track uphill. Instead, bear L onto a grassy path.

Point D

A few yds further on this path divides. Ignore the L route which drops steeply downhill to Cwm (a building converted into a bat roost). Instead, follow the grassy track on the level round to the R and continue on this wide balcony path, at first on the level and then up two rises. The trees on either side are now older and bigger, and you eventually meet up with a path joining from the R.

Point E

Ahead of you is a wire fence. Just before this fence, turn R onto a barely discernible path snaking up through the trees (keeping the wire fence about 10 yds to your L). You are now nearly at the top. To your L, between gaps in the trees,

you are treated to a close-up view of the iron-age hill fort, Caer Caradoc. A little further on, at a gate, you are acquainted with the same forest road you left at point D. Turn L through the gate and step onto the open grassland of Stowe Hill. This is a favourite place for buzzards, ravens and skylarks. The village of Chapel Lawn nestles in the valley below. Follow the track across the field to a gate opposite. Go through this gate and keep to the track as it continues gently uphill with a wire fence on your R. The path meets the wood on your R (look out for crossbills) and continues to a gate in the field corner, about 200 yards further on.

Point F

Once through the gate leave the main path and bear half L onto open grassland. Walk past a small pool on your L (may be dry in summer). As you crest the hill you will see a track joining to your L, going downhill to an obvious gap. Head for this gap, which marks a steep descent through Holloway Rocks. The welsh town of Knighton is visible in the distance.

Point G

The path zig-zags past an old quarry on your L, before passing through a gate to a wide grassy area. There is a large pond on your R at the bottom of the hill. Follow the main track as it skirts L around a grassy mound and continues on down until you come to a gate by the edge of a wood. Go through this gate and follow the track into Stowe village.

Point H

After passing above Stowe church the path divides into three – take the middle route ahead. The path climbs to pass through the front garden of Hillside Cottage and into the wood beyond. Carry straight on and shortly afterwards fork L up the hill and through the wood. Ignore a path to the R and continue upwards past pheasant rearing pens. Leave the wood by a gate and enter an open grassy area, with the wood on your R and a hill to your L (home to buzzards, ravens and the occasional red kite). Walk along the grass until you come to the end of the wood, where views of the Teme valley begin to open up on your R.

Point I

Ahead of you is a gate – do not go through. Instead, keep L of the gate and walk ahead with the fence to your immediate R. Follow this path as it enters the deciduous wood ahead. After a short while the path veers R and becomes a sunken track. Go through the gate at the bottom and turn L onto a farm track. Down in the valley the meanders of the river Teme are clearly seen. As you approach the farm at Weston, the right of way perversely leaves the main track and skirts round the field below you – please keep to this clearly waymarked route. You rejoin the track lower down where a gate takes you into the farmyard. Go through the kissing gate, down the steps and turn R.

Point J

As you pass through the farmyard, take a moment to view the restored overshot water wheel on your R. Join the road and turn L. Walk along the road until you come to a fork in the road by the entrance to Cabbage Cottage.

Point K

Take the L branch of the fork and follow the track gently uphill through the woods, ignoring any side paths. Pass an open field on your R and, where the fence ends, bear slightly R across the service road and follow the path down to Chapel Lawn road. Turn R at the bend in the road and the pub is regained on your L.