



A Littlebeams ramble via The Rollrights and Salford to Chipping Norton



Great Rollright-Rollright Stones-Little Rollright-Salford-Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
Explorer Map 191: "Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton". Website www.littlebeams.co.uk

Time and Distance: about 5½ mls./9 km. Ascents: 65 m. Descents: 100 m. Approximate time excluding stops: 2 hrs 15 mins. Allow 20-30 minutes to visit the Rollright Stones. Overall estimated time, 3 hours.

General Description: The walk crosses open countryside, with fine views despite very little climbing. It visits the prehistoric Rollright Stones with their legends of treachery and witchcraft, and the pretty Cotswold hamlet of Little Rollright. For over 4 miles, the walk follows the 66-mile long D'Arcy Dalton Way which links Wormleighton in Warwickshire with Compton Beauchamp, Oxfordshire. Our route is well waymarked throughout and much of the walk follows grassy bridleways or paths. In wet conditions there should be only the odd short muddy stretch, but beware of one or two very slippery stiles (there are eight or nine in all).

Access: Great Rollright and Chipping Norton are on the Stagecoach 488 bus route (Banbury-Chipping Norton). If coming by car, it is possible to park in Great Rollright and after the walk return by bus from Chipping Norton (a 9-minute ride), or drive to Chipping Norton and catch the 488 to the start of the walk. After a morning walk, either variant will give the option of ending with lunch in one of "Chippy's" many pubs and restaurants (or having fish and chips or another takeaway). In Chipping Norton, use the free car park off New Street. Go up the hill to the top of New St. and turn right: the bus stop is a few yards along on the right.

To view or download a 488 bus timetable and a map of Chipping Norton, go to www.littlebeams.co.uk and follow the links to Littlebeams Rambles ("Walks") and the Rollrights walk page.

Bus stop at The Green in Great Rollright village: start of walk. (map ref. SP322312). With green on right, walk N. up road (Hemplands) to end of village. At crossroads, turn left (W.), signposted Long Compton and Little Rollright. Walk on right. Follow rd for about 500 yds: it descends into a dip then climbs again. Half-way up, where visibility is good, cross to left.

At top, turn left (WSW) onto path signed "D'Arcy Dalton Way". At end of woodland track go straight ahead along field margin; continue ahead to line of trees bordering **A3400 road (1¼ mls/2 km)**. On arrival, bear left and skirt trees for a few yards to reach steps in corner of field. Cross road using steps on both sides.

After crossing road, fork right into field and continue ahead, crossing two fields to reach Brightwell Farm. Straight ahead over two stiles. Pass through a coppice and at end, climb two more stiles. Immediately, leave D'Arcy Dalton Way, turning right (NW) along field margin to reach first of Rollright Stones, "The Whispering Knights". Information panel. Continue ahead to road but do not leave field. Turn left along grassy track inside road hedge to reach King's Men Stone Circle. Just before reaching it, on right is an exit onto road, with information panel. After visiting circle, use this exit, and cross road to visit solitary King Stone.

Retrace steps along track inside road hedge and pass Whispering Knights to regain D'Arcy Dalton Way. Here, turn right (SW) and go straight ahead across field. Do not descend hill down grassy field margin. On far side of field continue ahead then descend; church of Little Rollright appears. At bottom of hill, reach narrow metalled road in **hamlet of Little Rollright (2½ mls/4 km from start)**. Cross road and bear left to follow narrow path between hedges, now heading S. There is no further real change in direction until arrival at Salford. Following waymarks, leave hamlet behind. Short ascent to two metal kissing gates on Manor Farm. Continue ahead across slope, with Chipping Norton visible across valley to left (E.).

Further on, discs on right, on posts of field gate, indicate we go through and turn left along other side of hedge. (If you miss discs, no matter, the track you are on will lead you to Salford). Follow path through wood ahead and emerge over stile, crossing fields and more waymarked stiles: bear left across last field in front of Rectory Farm house to reach edge of **village of Salford**. Descend Roses Lane; at bottom of hill, footpath sign to left reads "Chipping Norton, 1½ miles" (measured on map, distance rather less). (**4¼ mls/7 km. from start**). Optionally, turn right and continue a few yards to village pub, The Black Horse, opposite Village Hall.

From Chipping Norton footpath sign, walk E. to leave Salford and D'Arcy Dalton Way, passing between buildings of Village Farm. Follow clearly defined track, then path (the Shakespeare Way) straight ahead, gaining height until town of "Chippy" appears over ridge. Follow path to bottom of hill, over two access roads. Cross footbridge over stream and go up slope onto Recreation Ground. Exit onto New Street, climbing hill past Baptist Church. Cross road back to **Chipping Norton New St. car park (5½ mls /9 km.): end of walk**.