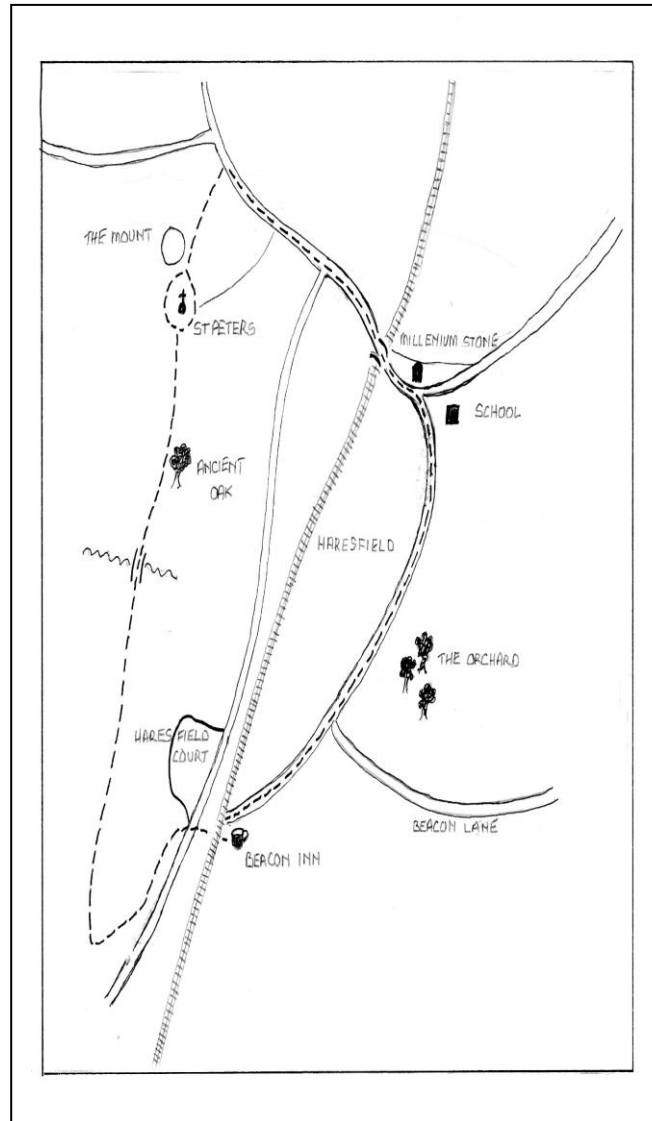


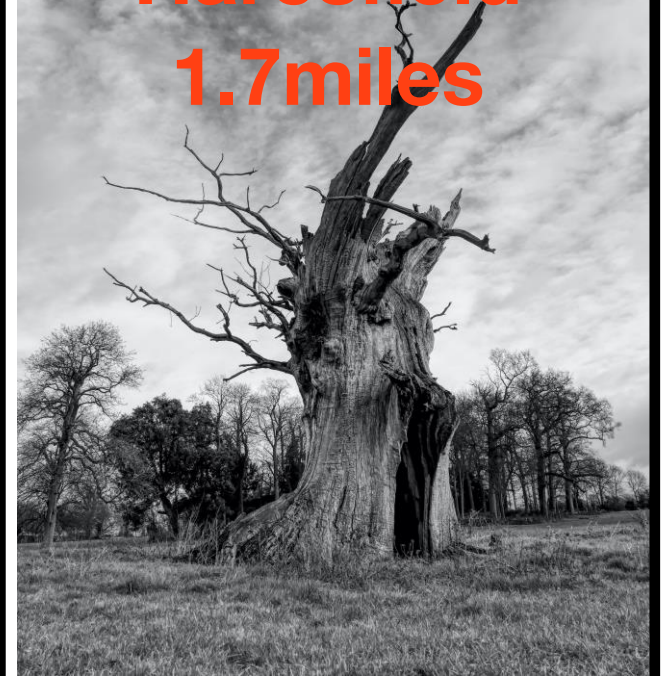
7. As you come to the end of the field, you will cross a foot bridge over a small stream. Cross this and then turn half left to follow the field boundary. You will come to a crossing with a track to your left. Ignore this track and continue to follow the field boundary straight ahead. You will come to another footbridge. Cross this and again continue to follow the path with the field boundary on your left. You will be heading towards a small pylon where the hedge on your left will suddenly disappear. At some point you should be able to see the spire of Standish church.

8. At this point you will see a footpath heading off to your right, one straight ahead and there is a footpath heading across a field to your left. You want to head east on the left-hand path. The path is not always very clear – you want to be heading towards a white and red-bricked house at the corner of the field which you can see as you head across the field. You will reach a metal gate and a stile which you cross to gain access on to the road.

9. Head left along the road and you will see an entrance to Haresfield Court on your left. Almost immediately past this entrance there is a footpath off to your right through some trees which will very quickly take you to a railway crossing, Carefully cross the railway line and you will find yourself back at the Beacon Inn.



A stroll around Haresfield 1.7 miles



A stroll taking in some of the main features of this beautiful village. There are a number of stiles and there are some muddy stretches, especially in the winter months.

1. Begin your walk at the Beacon Inn. Head away from the pub towards the phone box and follow the road northwards through the village, passing the orchard and then the Merryfields Playing fields on your right. After a few minutes you will come to a road junction with the village school on your right. Carefully cross the road to reach the Millennium Stone and flag pole on the green.

The Millennium Stone was unveiled in July 2000. It was designed by local resident Barbara Cook and carved in Cotswold stone by Sebastian Brooke of Miserden.

The flag pole was moved from the school grounds when the new buildings were erected.

2. As you face the Millennium Stone, turn left and continue on the path which crosses the railway bridge. On your right is Round House Farmhouse, timber framed with associated thatched buildings. Round House may be the oldest house in the village. Probably originally a hall house circa 1500 but much altered and enlarged over the centuries. Carefully continue to walk along the road for about 300 meters, past Haresfield House on your left and Holly House on your right until, just before you reach the road junction, you come to a public footpath sign posted on your left. Cross the road and use the foot bridge and then the stile in the hedge to enter the field.

3. Ignoring the footpath signs showing the path to the right, cross the field straight ahead using the footpath markers to guide you through the two horse fences – there are hooks attached to posts which you need to use to get through the fences. You will then come to another stile. Cross the stile and follow the path on your left towards a black metal gate - take the time to read the information board at The Mount on your right just before the gate.

The Mount is a moated scheduled ancient monument. As the site has never been excavated its origins are unknown but it's likely to have been the defended base of the local landowner.

4. Go through the metal gate and turn half right through another green gate towards the church. You can then go clockwise or anti-clockwise around this beautiful church to find the black gate behind the back of the church which leads on to a field at the south end of the church.



St Peter's church is in the centre of the churchyard, take time to look at the monuments. They are a record of some of Haresfield's inhabitants stretching back nearly a 1000 years.

The church has a 12th century core shown by the small lancet window in the north wall and the tympanum over the doorway with its medieval oak door. The building was enlarged and the tower built in the 14th century.

Its location precludes it being left unlocked but call the churchwardens (numbers on the noticeboard in the porch) to arrange for it to be opened.

If you are lucky you may hear the clock strike. It's possibly the oldest working church clock in the county, installed at the end of the 17th Century.

5. Go through the gate and go straight ahead across the field towards a stile on the other side. Take a slight detour to your left as you reach this stile to admire the ancient oak, but bear in mind that this is not a right of way so ensure you return to the footpath after you've spent some time at the oak.

This is a sad but still magnificent remnant of an oak tree planted 700 years ago. Until recently part of it was still growing. Other trees of this age can be seen on Mount Lane planted to mark a land boundary.

6. Cross the stile and carry on straight ahead across a field, which can be muddy at times. On your left is Haresfield Court, the residence of the owner of the Haresfield estate until it was converted into apartments. The core is late 17th century, what is visible from the path are the enlargements of 1893.