



**St Oswald's Church, Lower Peover**, is a rare timber-framed church (with later tower) in a pretty village setting with cobbled lanes and an old schoolhouse.



**Holford Hall** dates back to the early 1600s. Like Hulme Hall, it has a scheduled moat crossed by a historic bridge.



**Hulme Hall** is a moated house dating back to the 15th century. The moat is spanned by a Grade II\* listed bridge that also has 15th-century origins.

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THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM THE

# GOLDEN PHEASANT



PUB, DINING AND ROOMS

- Holford Hall (3 miles: fairly easy)**  
A farmland walk to a historic moated house.
- Holford Moss (4 miles: fairly easy)**  
Woodland walking through an intriguing brinefield landscape to moated Holford Hall.
- Lower Peover (8 1/2 miles: moderate)**  
Over the fields to a pretty village with a gentle farmland return via two historic houses.

**NB** As of 2024, Booth's Bridge over Peover Eye near Plumley is closed to traffic long-term. It may be possible to cross on foot but, if not, a diversion is available via Back Lane – [see map](#).

## Holford Hall (3 miles: fairly easy)

*Allow 1–2 hours. Field paths may be muddy after rain.*

**1** From the front of the pub, turn right along the road. **2** Opposite the second property on the left, turn right onto a footpath by a stile and follow the wooden fence to the far left-hand corner of the field. **3** Beyond a gateway, bear left along the field edge and cross a stile and footbridge in the far left-hand corner. **4** Continue along the left-hand side of the next field to a stile by a gate into a lane. **5** Turn right past a house, then left. **6** Cross Booth's Bridge (see note above) and continue up the lane, ignoring a footpath on the left after 200m. **7** Pass the entrance to Moss Farm on the right, then take the next track on the right, over a cattle grid (with a sign for Keeper's Cottage). **8** Follow the fenced track across a couple of fields and into the wooded approach to the house. **9** Keep right of the house and pass through a gate into a track. Ignoring a track off to the left after 50m, stay on the track between fields to a junction. **10** Ignore the left-hand track heading towards the woodland, bearing right to another junction of tracks. **11** Carry straight on along an unsurfaced track to the right of a ditch, parallel to the edge of the woodland away to your left. **12** At the end of the field, climb a wooded embankment to a railway bridge. Ignore the steps down to the left and cross the railway. **13** Bear right over a stile and descend into fields. Head left across the field to pass through a gap in a belt of trees. **14** Follow the right-hand edge of the field until you meet a track. **15** If you wish to omit the there-and-bank diversion to Holford Hall, turn right and jump to step **18**, otherwise turn left. **16** Follow the track across a field past a series of ponds, to a junction of tracks at the end of the woods on the left. To view the hall, moat and bridge, turn right. **17** Return the same way, turning left to recross the fields that you passed earlier. **18** Stay on the track, which winds between hedges to the gates of a house. **19** Take the path on the left and cross the bridge over Peover Eye. **20** Follow the drive out to the road in Plumley village. **21** Turn left past the entrance to Moorcroft on your right. **22** By Maltkiln Farm, turn right into Yewtree Road. **23** Keep left past a hedged wood, then turn left into Hawthorn Road. **24** Take a narrow path on the left between the first and second houses, then continue out to the road. **25** Cross and turn right over the railway bridge back to the Golden Pheasant.

## Holford Moss (4 miles: fairly easy)

*Allow 2 hours. Field paths may be muddy after rain.*

Follow the [Holford Hall](#) walk as far as step **8**.

**9** Just before the house, take the footpath on the left, which runs along the garden fence and then into Holford Moss. **10** Follow the winding path through the bracken woodland to a footbridge and

stile into fields. **11** Follow the hedge ahead to a gate, then continue along the second field to a gate into a short, hedged lane that leads to the roughly surfaced drive to the Ineos offices. **12** Continue straight on at the junction of service roads, past the buildings on your left and continue between brine pumps until you reach a mini-roundabout. **13** Turn right past Langford Farm and continue to and past another farm on the right. **14** Continue to the right of a trailer storage area until, beyond a gate, you reach a track next to the railway. **15** Turn left, then shortly right to cross a level crossing. **16** Follow the surfaced path beyond, with the wooded Plumley Lime Beds on your right. **17** Follow the path right, and past a gate at the end of Ascol Drive, still with the woodland on your right. **18** Continue past spoilheaps from the lime beds on your right and ignore a kissing gate on the left as you approach Holford Hall. **19** At a path junction our route turns right, but a short diversion ahead goes to a viewing platform for Holford Hall. **20** Returning to the junction, head east past the end of the wood and through a gate into fields. **21** Pass a couple of ponds and continue until a path and hedge join from the right.

Bear left and jump to step **18** of the [Holford Hall](#) walk for directions back to the Golden Pheasant.

## Lower Peover (8½ miles: moderate)

*Allow 3–4 hours. Field paths may be muddy after rain, and stiles may be overgrown. Some road walking, mostly on quiet country lanes.*

**1** From the front of the pub, turn right along the road. **2** Opposite the second property on the left, turn right onto a footpath by a stile and follow the wooden fence to the far left-hand corner of the field. **3** Beyond a gateway, bear left along the field edge and cross a stile and footbridge in the far left-hand corner. **4** Continue along the left-hand side of the next field to a stile by a gate into a lane. **5** Turn right past a house, then left. **6** Cross Booth's Bridge (see note above) and continue up the lane. **7** After 200m, turn left over a stile next to a field-gate. **8** Walk along the right-hand edge of the field, passing above a pond, then cross a footbridge in the hedge with stiles at each end. **9** Turn left and continue in the same direction as before, with the hedge now on your left, then leave the stream and head across the field to a water trough at the end of a hedge. Continue in the same direction to a stile into a lane. **10** Turn right past the entrance to Trout Brook House and continue along the lane for 400m. **11** Turn left into the driveway of The Oak Tree of Peover wedding venue. **12** When the driveway divides, carry straight on (signposted to the Oak Tree). **13** Beyond a house, the driveway curves left; take a track on the right by a concrete block that leads shortly to a footbridge over the M6. **14** Skirt the right-hand edge of a former golf course on the other side, swinging left in the far right-hand corner then crossing a stile in the hedge on your right. **15** Walk along the left-hand side of the field to a stile then continue in similar vein to the B5081. **16** Turn left along the pavement then, after 200m, cross with care into the cobbled lane to Lower Peover. **17** Walk between the old and new school-houses and

take a path through the gate to the right of the lych gate. **18** Walk down to the bottom of the churchyard (past the tall monument to the 3rd Baron de Tabley). **19** Go through a wooden kissing gate into a low-lying scrubby area and follow the winding path until it emerges into a field close to the Peover Eye. Turn left and follow the field edge past a weir and footbridge. **20** Continue along the field edge until you meet a lane, the last section of the path being separated from the field by a fence. **21** Turn right and walk up the lane past Mill Bank Farm and turn right onto a footpath at the bend. **22** Cross two shallow valleys (with stiles at the bottom of each) then climb to a metal kissing gate. **23** Beyond it, turn left and follow the fence. **24** Towards the end of the field, cross to the right-hand side and bear left along an obvious path to a gate. **25** Walk down the track between houses to a lane. **26** Cross straight over into a narrow lane and follow it for 300m, passing a thatched cottage on the left. **27** At a T-junction, turn left for 100m then, just after a driveway on the left, turn right. **28** Head half-left across the field to the left-hand corner, where a hidden stile leads into the next field. Walk along the left-hand edge to another lane. **29** Cross and go through a gate slightly to the left. Walk down the right-hand side of the field. The formal line of the path runs along between two lines of trees on the right, but to avoid boggy ground you may need to follow the raised bank closer to the stream. **30** Either way, in the far right-hand corner of the field, cross a stile and footbridge into a garden. **31** Walk discreetly to the left of the property and continue along Dams Lane beyond, passing the Grade II listed Fallow Cottage after a short distance. **32** Continue to the end of the lane at its junction with the B5081. **33** Cross carefully and turn left along verge. At a crossroads, turn right into Hulme Hall Lane (a no-through road) and walk past some houses before crossing the motorway bridge. **34** Continue past more houses, the bear right as the tarmac road becomes a stony track. The track returns to tarmac as it crosses a concrete service road on the approach to moated Hulme Hall. **35** Beyond the gates of the hall, follow a track to the right of the moat (and its Grade II\* listed bridge). **36** Go through a gate at the end of the moat, then at a junction bear left along a track to meet another of the concrete service roads criss-crossing the brinefield. **37** Go straight over, continuing along the hedged farm track to another gate, beyond which cross another service road and pass under a power line. **38** When the main track bends right, take the unsurfaced track through a gate on the left. This mainly hedged track winds past a small wood to a bridge over a stream into a garden. **39** Walk up the side of the garden and follow the driveway to the right of the house out to the road. **40** Turn left for 100m, then right into Patmos Lane. **41** Ignore a turning on the left and follow the lane for ¼ mile to New Farm, where the road bends left then right (ignore footpaths to right and left). **42** Turn left at a T-junction. **43** After 250m, turn left into a driveway (signposted Keeper's Cottage).

Now jump to step **8** of the [Holford Hall](#) walk for directions back to the Golden Pheasant. For a shorter walk, you can continue down the road over Booth's Bridge (see note above) and retrace your steps.