

04 GLOUCESTERSHIRE WINCHCOMBE

Distance: 10 miles/16km Time: 4 hours Grade: Moderate







CHOSEN BY... JULIE ROYLE Winchcombe is perhaps the least

spoilt of Cotswold towns, and probably the one that offers the warmest welcome to walkers. This superb walk uses high-quality footpaths - the Cotswold Way, Campden Lane (a former drove road) and the Wardens' Way - for a relaxing circuit from Winchcombe. The Cotswold Way leaves Winchcombe by following the High Street, which is lined with gorgeous buildings, and that is the route described here. However, some walkers might prefer an alternative route. using a riverside footpath which is accessed from High Street via Castle Street. This is

part of a longer trail called the Isbourne Way. It rejoins the Cotswold Way at Broadway Road before Puck Pit Lane.

Start

Walk north on the Cotswold Way, which uses the High Street (B4632), which becomes Hailes Street then Broadway Road. Turn R on Puck Pit Lane. Follow the Cotswold Way to Hailes Abbey then up through woodland and pasture to Beckbury Camp, marked by a group of beech trees and a stone pillar. Walk around the top of the camp (a hillfort) to arrive at a junction with a bridleway (Campden Lane).

24 miles/6.5km

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking High Street, Winchcombe, grid ref SP024282 (buses stop at various places, while Back Lane car park is linked to High Street via Cowl Lane) Is it for me? Cattle/sheep pasture, woodland, arable Stiles 2

PLANNING

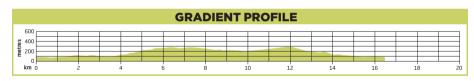
Nearest town Winchcombe Refreshments Winchcombe, plus Hailes Abbey and Hayles Fruit

Farm (farm shop, tea room and restaurant)

Public toilets Winchcombe

Public transport Bus

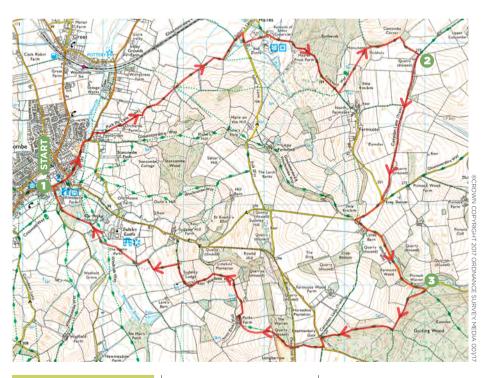
W1/W2, from Cheltenham;
Bus 606 from Cheltenham,
Broadway & Stratfordupon-Avon; Bus T, from
Tewkesbury, connects
seamlessly with W1/W2
at Bishop's Cleeve
connects seamlessly with
W1/W2 at Bishop's Cleeve;
Maps OS Explorer OL45;
Landranger 150/163





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OS Explorer map OL45 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



DON'T MISS...

12th-century
Hailes Church,
opposite the
ruins of Hailes Abbey,
is a charming little
building, older than
the abbey and
notable for its rare
13th-century wall
paintings.

and turn R on Campden Lane. Keep straight on at a junction. Meeting a road, turn L, then immediately R at a Y-junction, signed 'Winchcombe and Andoversford'. Turn next L, on a lane 'unsuitable for motors'.

6 miles/9.5km

After Pinnock Warren enter woodland belonging to Farmcote Estate. Turn R on Wardens' Way, and R again at next waymarked junction. Turn L on meeting road, then R, and immediately R again, still on Wardens' Way. Follow it to Winchcombe, passing Parks Farm and Sudeley Lodge.

After descending the hill from Sudeley Lodge go through a black gate where Wardens'

Way logo is absent, then through a green gate and diagonally across parkland. Take the L branch when the path forks near Sudeley Castle. Shortly join the castle access road which leads to Vineyard Street, which leads to High Street.

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