

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome



Walk Number 5

Winchcombe to Belas Knap walk

A circular walk with some ascent, heading from Winchcombe to Belas Knap before returning via the Sudeley Valley. Lovely views of the town, Sudeley Castle and the countryside.

Distance: 5.5 miles/ 8.9 km

Duration 2.- 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Start/finish: Back Lane car park, Winchcombe (Grid Ref: 023284)
£1 all day. Toilets 20p in car park.

OS maps: Outdoor Leisure 45,
Landranger 163

Refreshments: Winchcombe

Ascent: 670 feet/205 metre

Leave Back Lane car park via the far corner access into Cowl Lane. Turn right and follow the road to the High Street. Turn right along Abbey Terrace until you see Vineyard Street on your left. Carefully cross the main street and continue down Vineyard Street (also known as Duck Street), over the bridge and turn right through a kissing gate beside the waymark sign for the Cotswold Way.

Follow the path straight ahead (ignore the path on your right after approx 100 yards) until you reach a minor road, Corndean Lane. Turn left and follow the road for



Belas Knap Long Barrow

300 yards and go through a gate on your right waymarked Cotswold Way.

Follow the tarmac drive past the cricket pitch and the horse dressage training area. Shortly after the horse training area go through the kissing gate on your left and follow the Cotswold Way up the hill. Here there are beautiful views back towards Winchcombe, Toddington and beyond.

At the top of the field pass through the gate and follow the road straight ahead signposted

Belas Knap. After 100 yards turn right along the Cotswold Way and up a short steep section through woods until you enter a field. Go through the gate and turn left following the path across and then up the field to a kissing gate. There are lovely views to your left of the Sudeley Valley.

Go through the kissing gate and follow the footpath with a drystone wall and Black Barn Plantation on your left. Continue along the path until you reach a kissing gate and you have arrived at Belas Knap.



View from top of Corndean Lane

Built about 3000 B.C. the barrow is approximately 178 feet long and 60 feet wide, and nearly 14 feet in height. It is a chambered barrow with a false entrance at the larger northern end. There are views across to Cleeve Common and the highest point in the Cotswolds.

Retrace your footsteps back to the road and this time turn right and follow the road. Ignoring the first footpath on your left (after approximately 225 yards) take the next footpath on your left after approx 450 yards just before a copse. Follow the track waymarked as a Cotswold Way circular route down past a cottage on your right. At the signpost turn sharp right and follow the track past the front of the Humblebee cottages. Here there are lovely views across the valley.

The track descends to a farm gate, pass through the gate and turn left following a track leading downhill. Go through a gate and here views of Sudeley Castle and the Chapel appear on your left. Continue along the track towards Newmeadow Farm. At the end of the track pass through a gate and turn left along a quiet lane back towards Winchcombe. The lane passes the entrance to Sudeley Castle before crossing the River Isbourne into Vineyard Street with its quaint cottages.

Alternatively, you can turn off the lane after approx 700 yards from Newmeadow Farm, at Wadfield Grove. Turn right at a fingerpost and continue along a track for approx 50 yards. Cross a small bridge and immediately on your left is a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and follow the path across the pastureland towards Sudeley Castle. Pass through a gate and continue towards a private drive.

Go through the gate and turn left down the drive, passing over a stone bridge by a lake and head towards the gatehouse.

Past the gatehouse you join a lane,



continue straight ahead across a bridge and into Vineyard Street.

At the end of the street turn right into Abbey Terrace and look out for Dent's Terrace on your right, originally alms houses.

Points of interest.

Belas Knap: A long barrow dating back to 3000 BC. The long barrow is approx. 178 feet long, up to 60 feet wide and 14 feet high. This is evidence that man lived in the area 5,000 years ago.

Sudeley Castle: Rebuilt 1440 – 50 on site of a 12th century castle. Queen Katherine Parr is buried in its chapel.

Dents Terrace: Built by the Dent family in 1865.

Vineyard Street: Once also known as Duck Street. During excavation for the new bridge a stump of the towns ducking stool was found.