

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome



Walk Number 6

Winchcombe's Roman mosaic walk

A circular walk visiting a Roman mosaic floor.

Distance: 5.3 miles/ 8.6 km

Duration 3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Start/finish: War Memorial, Abbey Terrace, Winchcombe. Grid ref: 025282

OS maps: Outdoor Leisure 45, Landranger 163

Refreshments: Winchcombe

Ascent: 460 feet/ 140 metres



Katherine Parr's resting place.

With your back to Lloyds TSB, head towards St Peter's Church, turning left after about 40 metres into Vineyard Street. Cross the River Isbourne, head up the slope and where the road bends to the right, keep ahead to enter the grounds of Sudeley Castle, passing the castellated Almsbury Lodge on your left.

Follow the main driveway, crossing the lake by the bridge. Continue gently uphill and after approximately 150 metres take the footpath on your right through a gate. Pass a play area on your left. Keeping ahead pass through a metal kissing gate and bear right diagonally across the field following the way marked posts.

Pass through a kissing gate in the corner of the field, bear right to cross Beesmoor Brook by a concrete bridge and after about 15 metres, and before reaching the road, turn left onto a footpath.

Cross a stile and bear slightly right, moving away from the brook, to walk

gently uphill towards a wood. Cross a stile and follow the path with the wood on your left. Cross a small stream and walk through the middle of a large open field. At a junction with a good wide track, turn left, continue downhill and bear to the left over a stone bridge, proceeding ahead to pass between the abandoned buildings of Waterhatch Farm.

Continue ahead as the path ascends Cole's Hill. For a while the path becomes tarmac, eventually reverting back to its former state. From here there are wonderful views towards Winchcombe, nestling beneath Langley Hill, and Sudeley Castle.

Towards the top of Cole's Hill, continue to follow the path as it veers left. Stay on the path but note a solitary house set well back on your right hand side. At a dry-stone wall corner (048255), turn left to enter woodland down a muddy track. Take care and follow the pathway as it meanders down through the woods. As the path begins to level out, look out for a path on your left that will take you about 15 metres off the route and lead to the Roman floor mosaic, protected beneath a small corrugated tin roof and some plastic sheeting held in place with stones.

After viewing the mosaic, replace the sheeting and stones and then return

to the main pathway.

Leaving the woods, walk along a grassy path enclosed by small trees and at a fork, bear right towards a stile. Cross this and keep ahead over an open field towards trees. Climb two stiles to pass through this narrow belt of trees, walk across the next field, aiming for the far left hand corner.

Bear left through a metal gate and continue along the path on your right, soon passing a small reservoir on your left. Where a track bears sharp right towards farm buildings, pass through a metal gate on your left and continue ahead in the same direction but with the hedgerow now on your right hand side.

Sudeley Castle is now clearly visible ahead. Cross a track and climb a stile straight ahead then, bearing left, walk across the open field to pass the castle on your right. Upon reaching the main driveway, bear left to retrace your steps back into Winchcombe and the start of the walk.

Points of interest.

Almsbury Lodge: Built by the Dent family in 1893

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

Waterhatch Farm: Now abandoned. Interesting stone barn with bed brick arches amidst more modern structures.

Roman mosaic: Small mosaic situated in Spoonley Woods and all that remains of a once impressive Roman villa. Discovered in 1882.

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