

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome



Walk Number 1

## Sudeley Castle circular walk

A short circular walk taking in pretty Vineyard Street and the private road to Sudeley Castle, following Rushley Lane to the outskirts of Winchcombe. Return along the path by the River Isbourne to Castle Street and the town centre. Alternatively follow the main road into Winchcombe.

Distance: 2 miles

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: An easy, fairly level walk.

Start/finish: Back Lane car park - £1 all day. Toilets 20p in car park.

Refreshments: Winchcombe



the road, until you reach the gatehouse.

Turn left, crossing the road into Rushley Lane and follow this quiet lane past Laundry Cottage, taking in the lovely views across the valley to Winchcombe. Eventually the lane turns to the left at the junction with Stancombe Lane. Follow the road to the left and walk down to the main Broadway Road and then turn left.

From here there are two options to return to the town centre:

Option 1 - If you prefer to stay on a hard surface follow Broadway Road back to town. As you enter



the centre of Winchcombe you pass two teasops displaying "Walkers are Welcome" signs. Past these you meet North Street and you can either turn right into North Street or continue ahead into High Street. If you enter North Street, after approximately

250 yards turn left at the crossroads and Back Lane car park is 100 yards on your left. If you continue along the High Street turn right after Cats Whiskers (hairdressers) into Cowl Lane and follow this to Back Lane car park.

Option 2 – Just before the bridge, go through the kissing gate into the field and follow the footpath alongside the River Isbourne. You will pass through three fields, crossing two small bridges. At the far end of the third field go through the kissing gate and walk along the alley between the cottages to Castle Street. At Castle Street turn right and follow the road over the bridge and uphill to the High Street. Carefully cross the road and turn left to the Cats Whiskers (hairdressers) and turn right into Cowl Lane and follow this to Back Lane car park.

### Points of interest

**Almsbury Farm** – undergoing restoration. The barn is a listed building, an example of medieval architecture.

### Sudeley Castle

Katherine Parr the sixth wife of King Henry VIII is buried in the chapel which contains her marble tomb. During the Victorian period much of the castle was restored by the Dent family.

### River Isbourne

The only river in England to flow north for its entire length. It emerges from a spring on Cleeve Common and joins the River Avon. *Copyright Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome*

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 and follow 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 up the slope to the entrance of Sudeley Castle.

Go through the entrance, passing an unusual lodge. Walk down the hill through the new avenue of lime trees to the bridge over the lake. Carry straight on along the drive, passing the children's play fort on your right until you reach the car park. Go through the pedestrian gate towards the castle then turn left. The footpath takes you behind the visitor centre and on to the car park exit. Go through the pedestrian gate then turn right up