

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome

www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com



Walk 3 Wood carving walk

A circular walk from Winchcombe to the Millennium wood carving on Langley Hill. Ever changing views of the surrounding hills, Vale of Evesham and the wood carving.

Distance: 4.5 miles / 6.5kms

Duration: 2 - 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Steep sections up and down, rough pasture and some muddy sections after rain.

Start/finish: Back Lane car park - £1.00 all day Toilets 20p in car park.

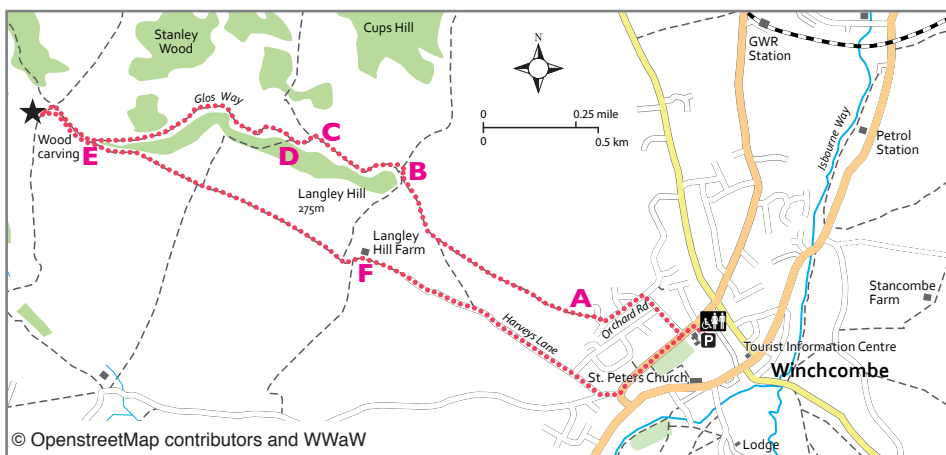
Refreshments: none on route

Ascent: 500 feet / 150 metres

Leave Back Lane car park by the road entrance, turn left then right into Barnmeadow Road. At the end of the road turn left into Orchard Road. Go straight on, then turn right into Knottes Close. In a few metres you will see a metal gate off to the left, leading into a field. **A** Go through the gate and follow the path straight ahead across two small fields until you reach a stile to the right of some tall poplar trees.

Go over the stile, cross the farm track and take the path slightly to your right. This will take you over a ditch; then over a stile into a pasture. Head straight up Langley Hill to a gate in the hedge. Go through the gate and head straight up again, keeping just to the left of the highest point, to a metal gate and a stile in a wire fence. This is a good spot to catch your breath and admire the view behind you.

Continue straight uphill until you meet a path coming in from the left (Gloucestershire & Winchcombe Way). Follow this path uphill to a wooden marker post and a metal gate in the top right hand corner of the field. The path takes you diagonally across this field. You will see a ruined barn on the right, then another marker post and a wall. Follow the wall uphill, as views to the Vale of Evesham open up to your right. Go through a gate to reach a track **B**; continue straight on to meet two field



gates ahead. Go through the field gate on the right leading downhill, then turn immediately left to a gate. Go through to re-join the original track and continue to your right, following the signpost for 'Far Stanley' along the path around the hillside. Alderton Hill and Dumbleton Hill come into view. Stay parallel to the trees, and bear left at a post, **C** to follow the Gloucestershire Way. Pass through a field gate and continue ahead signposted Far Stanley, ignoring a path that leads up the escarpment on your left **D**.

The exact route of the path then becomes unclear, but follow roughly the same level to meet a wooden gate at the end of the area of rough pasture. (There are several springs in this section, often creating muddy patches. From point **D**, the path goes slightly downhill, levels out past a small pond on the right, and then passes a boggy area on the left. The path then rises towards the wooden gate noted above). The gate is signed 'Stanley Farm', and has an out-of-use ladder stile next to it.

Carry straight on through a narrow rough field for about a 500 metres with gradually thinning trees on your left. You will meet a post and wire fence on your right. Follow this to a track which is a bridleway **E**.

Turn right down the track towards a barn, passing through a gate. At the bottom of the slope is a junction of paths. Turn left through the gate signed 'Stanley Farm'. Follow the wire fence on your left until you reach the wood carving of a shepherd and his dog. The placard on the right hand side reads 'This chainsaw tree carving was commissioned by Stanley Farm on a fallen

ash beside the Old Drovers Way to mark the new millennium'. (The carving had taken its toll with the weather and in 2013 the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens carried out some renovation work).



Carving

Retrace your steps through the gate and up the hill. When you get back to the junction at **E**, carry on up the bridleway between bushes. Near the top of the slope, note the excellent view through the trees to Bredon Hill. Pass through a gate, then keep to the right hand edge of the field and join the track ahead. Follow this (often muddy) track, noticing the good views of Cleeve Hill on the right.

After about half a mile (0.8km), you will meet a junction of tracks near farm buildings. Continue forward and down the hill on a concrete road, ignoring the bridleway going off to the right. The road passes a farmhouse **F** and reaches the tarmac surfaced 'Harveys Lane'. Descend the hill for about half a mile (0.8km), admiring the view of Winchcombe and its surrounding hills. Ignore Abbots Leys Road on the left and continue downhill until you reach Langley Road.

Turn left, then at the junction and carry straight on along Back Lane to the car park.

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WWaW hope you enjoy the walk, however the walk is undertaken at your sole risk and WWaW have no responsibility for loss, damage, injury or interpretation. Every possible care has been taken to ensure the information given was accurate at the time of creation.

