

Walk No 1

Wotton, Tyley Bottom, Ozleworth, Newark (6¾ miles)

This walk starts from the Parish Church. Follow the Stroud road away from the town, and take the first right (Manor Lane). From the bottom of this a path leads left. After a few metres it turns sharp right into a factory yard. Cross this yard and go over a footbridge; turn left and follow a path beside the stream. This joins a road; here turn right and follow a path beside the waterway (Cotswold Way). On reaching a lane turn right and almost immediately turn left to continue on the streamside path. Walk beside the stream until the path leads onto a lane. Leaving the Cotswold Way here, turn left for a few metres, then right just beyond a red brick Pumping Station. Walk up a drive signposted to Tyley Bottom.

After 250 metres a signpost in the hedge on the right points to a narrow path on the left, which leads to a stile. Beyond this, keep to the right of the next field beside Coombe Lakes (which are large mill ponds) to reach a stile beside a gate. This leads onto a bridleway. Turn right here.

Follow the main track up Tyley Bottom – an empty, isolated valley of great scenic beauty – until after about 1 kilometre it goes through a metal gate. The public right of way goes straight ahead at this point.

Follow the track through another metal gate, then keep parallel with the stream on the right. Cross a footbridge over a small tributary stream in a very boggy area, keeping on until you reach a small gate. Beyond this cross another wooden footbridge. Turn left, to continue with the stream now on the left, to reach a way-mark post where the path turns 90° to the right.

Follow the bridleway marker posts (blue arrows) across the valley up towards an obvious gap in the woodland on the far side. When you reach the trees at the top of this clear space, turn half left, through a wooden gate, on a muddy, zigzag path up through the wood. On reaching the top edge of the wood go through another wooden gate and straight up the hill, to the right of an indeterminate boundary, until you reach a gateway on the left. Beyond this follow a track up the hillside to a gate, which leads to another track and shortly reaches a lane. The Ozleworth radio/TV beacon is prominent to the right.

Turn right, then in 50 metres left, into a lane. Follow this for 200 metres, then turn right up a track to Sawcombe Farm. Keep to the left of the buildings and continue downhill on the track, which veers slightly right through a gateway and opens out into a valley below the wood. Pass through three long fields, taking care not to lose height.

In the third field, aim uphill towards the top right-hand corner, where a way-mark post will be seen beyond a stile. Cross the stile and follow a track round to the right, cross a stile and continue downhill to a lane (a few metres left of this point is the gateway to Ozleworth Park with its mansion and Norman Church, which has a unique hexagonal tower).

At the lane turn right, then keep left at a fork. Pass Fernley Farm on the left. The lane leads past the entrance lodge of Newark Park, a National Trust property open to the public at certain times of the year. At a road junction turn left, then in 300 metres turn left again onto a track signposted as the Cotswold Way.

For a shorter walk skip to the Short Route Return

Taking the Cotswold Way, pass through a gate, just beyond a way-mark post, into a field and continue downhill, but when the Cotswold Way turns hard left at a circular cattle trough to follow the contours of the hillside, leave it and carry on down the hill and through a gate. Continue downhill through another gateway, keeping the fence on the left. After passing through a hedge gap, cross the field diagonally to reach a track in the far corner, close to a wire fence. This is known as Cuckoo Lane. Follow this sunken path downhill to a road.

Cross the road with care and go down the lane opposite for 100 metres and turn right over a stile by a gate. Walk diagonally across the middle of the large field, past an isolated tree, to a stile at the end of a terrace of five cottages. From this follow the obvious path and cross the end of a road to a stile. From here a tarmac path beside a board fence leads over a footbridge. Continue along the path, turning left uphill, just short of a road end.

Aim 45° right up the hillside and follow the path to the left of a hedge. When you see a fence up the slope to the left go up to it onto a track, which is known as Brown's Piece. Turn right along this to reach a road and then go straight ahead to the main shopping street. Turn right, then, keeping left at the Falcon Inn, follow the road into Church Street. At the end of this cross the road half right and take the tarmac path to the left of some railings. Follow this, keeping left, to a gateway into the churchyard. Turn left to the road in front of the Parish Church.

Shorter Route Return: Those who chose the short route should follow the route now described:

To shorten the walk, continue along the lane with fine views to the right of Tyley Bottom and the escarpment. Carrying on down the hill, pass a farm entrance on the left, and in another 250 metres turn right at a Cotswold Way signpost and follow the steep bridleway down to reach a drive. Turn left for 20 metres to Coombe Lane, then turn right down the hill until, in 150 metres, there is a stile on the left, where the outward route is rejoined. Cross the stream and follow it back to Wotton.

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