

Walk No 2

Wotton, Brackenbury Ditches, Tyndale Monument, Westridge Woods (4¼ miles)

Leave the top left-hand corner of The Chipping, between some bollards beyond the grass area, turning right at the road. When you reach the main road go straight across and up a steep track. This becomes a road (Merlin Haven); it ends in a footpath which leads onto another road. Follow this around to a T-junction. Turn left, and in a few metres turn right up a tarmac path (Little Acre) between cottages to reach a road. Turn left and immediately take the first turning right (Westridge Road). At the end of this, take the path to the right of a large house and through a kissing gate. Pass through the field, keeping slightly right, and through a kissing gate into a very long field. Walk the length of this until it narrows and becomes a track between the edge of the wood and a hedge (alternatively, enter the wood at this end of the field and walk along the bottom until the other path enters the wood at the far end). Continue along this track until you reach a kissing gate way-marked with a yellow arrow and dot, which leads into the woods on the right. Cross this to reach a track just inside the wood and continue in the same direction as before for about 50 metres until another, narrow, steep path climbs diagonally up to the right. This starts opposite a small gate on the left (private). Climb this path to reach a wide track at the top of the hill.

Turn left onto this well-signposted path (the Cotswold Way) and follow it through Westridge Woods (a National Trust property). Keep left of a conifer plantation. The well-used route passes Brackenbury Ditches, a prehistoric camp, on the left opposite another conifer plantation. You will eventually reach an old gate beside a large stone on the ground.

From here, walk between beech trees into a large field. Follow the way-marked fence on the left to reach the Tyndale Monument, from which there are fine views. This structure commemorates William Tyndale, the translator of the Bible into English, who may have been born at North Nibley, the village at the foot of the hill.

Turn sharp right at the Monument and walk around the outside of the big field, skirting an old quarry and turning right when you meet a path coming up from North Nibley. This pleasant ramble will bring you back to the gate. Fifty metres beyond this at a junction of tracks, take the third exit from the left (the Cotswold Way is the right-hand route). In 50 metres cross diagonally left over a wider track, then continue on this path, crossing two drives, until you reach the Cotswold Way. Turn left and continue along it.

After 125 metres, turn 90° left beside a line of conifers, until another track junction in 100 metres. Here, turn 90° right onto a track beside a wood. When the wood ends go ahead on the track to a road. Walk down the lane almost opposite for 400 metres. Just past a pair of houses on the left, cross a stile on the right beside a gate. Keep right down the field and continue on the obvious path to the right around the outside of a housing estate. This path eventually reaches a road beside an old chapel (the Tabernacle).

Go straight ahead down the road, noting the almshouses to the left. At the crossroads go straight across and turn left at the next junction. In a few metres turn right up Market Street to The Chipping.

