

Cross the road from the village hall car park, turn left and follow the path down The Avenue to the Yew Tree pub. Cross the road to the pub, keep the pub on your left and follow the path into The Quarry. (The road sign is on the left side of the road, after the pub.) Stone from the old quarry was used to construct some of the older buildings in Stinchcombe.

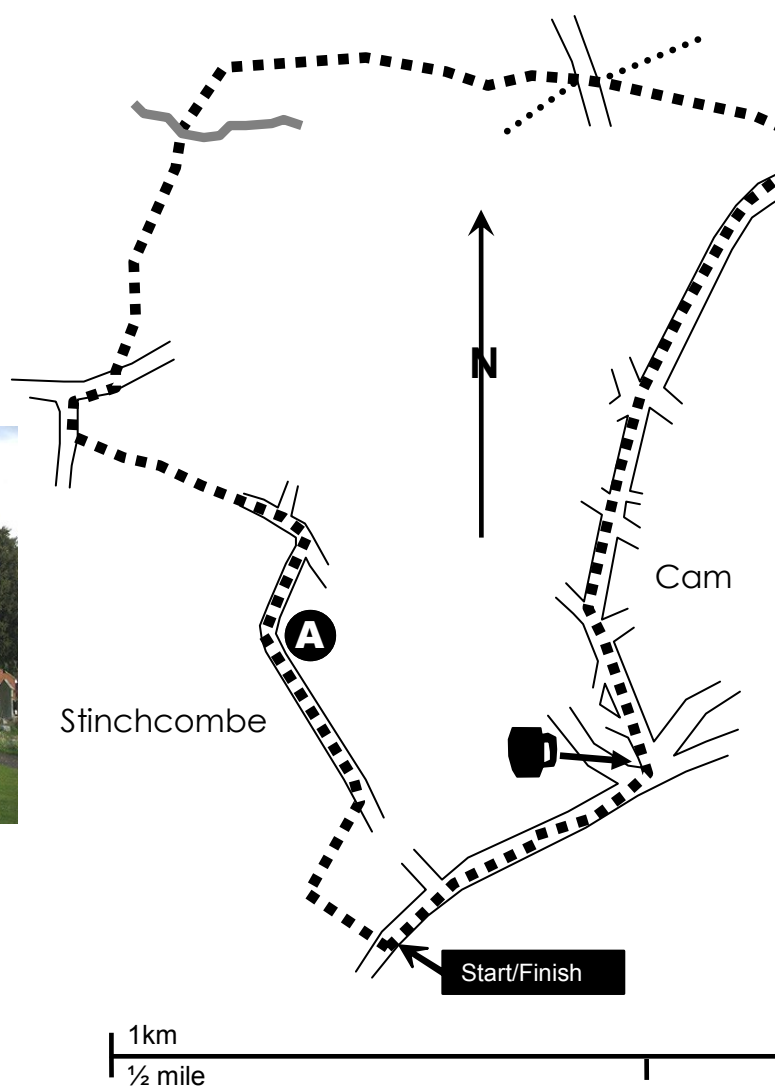
Keep going straight on. You will pass the small stone United Reform Church



on the right. Shortly afterwards, the road name changes to Elstub Lane. Carry on past the school entrance as the road narrows to a car's width and is signposted to Lower Cam and Draycott. Continue on the lane and you will see views of the river and the hills behind. As you start to descend, take the track to the left marked with a green footpath sign.

At the end of the lane, in front of the house gate, take the path to the right of the house and then go through a kissing gate into a field. Keep left. After 60 metres/65 yards, take the path through the hedge on the left via another kissing gate.

Continue along the path and into a field, aiming slightly to the right of the barn. Directly after the



barn, follow the path as it bears to the left and through into another field. Turn right. Within 40 metres/44 yards, cross the road and follow the path over another stone stile and into a field. Keep to the right and follow the path across the field.



About 20 metres/22 yards prior to the corner of the field, there is a narrow path climbing up to the right. Follow this path into the trees to another stile and into a field.

Stay to the right and follow the path across the field and over a further stile into the next field. There are often cows in these two fields. Rather than staying to the right, it is possible to cross the field on the left-hand side, ending up at the gate by the troughs. However, this is a muddier route.

Again stay to the right and cross the field. The next stile is slightly down to your left. Go over the stile and then



turn left and descend, aiming for the large metal gate to the right of the water troughs. Climb the stile adjacent to the gate and follow the lane past a barn.

The lane leads to Tait's Hill road. When you reach the road, cross carefully. Turn right and follow the path to cut the corner, into the lane leading to the small industrial estate.

Within 50 metres/ 55 yards of the junction with Tait's Hill Road, there is a signposted footpath on the left leading up through the trees **(A)**. Take this, rather than the footpath which goes diagonally across the field. However, if you find that

the path up the hill is very muddy and you want an alternative route, *follow the directions in italics on the last page*. It is a longer walk - it will add 1.9 km/1.2 miles - and will take you back to the village hall via the church.

If you are not adding in that extra loop, walk up the steep path. It is used by horses and can be muddy and rutted. The bridleway is part of the old Berkeley to London road which continued up and over Stinchcombe Hill.

The path emerges onto a lane. Follow the lane past Clovergate on your right to the top of the rise and then

turn right down the bridleway with the rugby pitch on your left. This takes you



past the Rugby/Cricket Club. A game may be in progress: take time off to watch and admire the backdrop of Stinchcombe Hill. If the bar is open you may be able to buy a drink.

Follow the track to the end and turn right back to the village hall.

Alternative route from **A**

If you are taking the longer route, go over the stile and follow the footpath diagonally up the field to the large ash tree and stile. Cross over the stile and then follow the path across two fields with

stiles, keeping parallel with the M5 and taking in views of the Berkeley Vale and across the River Severn to the Forest of Dean. There may be cattle in the fields.

When you come to a gate ahead with no stile, go through (making sure you shut it!), down the slope and over another stile and up to the iron gates. Take the stone step through the wall to the left. Then, turn left up the road to the War Memorial with the church in front of you. Turn left and proceed up the road.

45 metres / 50 yards past the first farm gateway, take the footpath on the left, go up the bank and over stile. There is a steep access to this stile. Proceed diagonally up the field (there may be cattle here) to the gate/stile. At this point, pause to look back at the view down towards the church and the lower part of Stinchcombe. Sometimes this gate is open and at other times it is closed. Please leave it as you find it and continue diagonally. Keep the barbed wire fence on your right and carry on round to the corner of the field and past the Millennium Oak, complete with plaque at ground level. This commemorates its planting in 2000 as one of Stinchcombe's contributions to the Millennium celebrations.

At the end of the field, take the stile to the left and proceed along the edge of fields. Continue over two further stiles keeping the hedge on your right. This takes you to the Rugby/Cricket Club. Take the path down the right side of the rugby pitch and back to your starting point at the village hall.



Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village

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The pleasant walk provides different views of the Severn Vale. It is a mixture of roads and paths that, in places, can be muddy. A number of stiles – some of which are old stone stiles - may not make it suitable for dogs.

Start: Stinchcombe Village Hall

Refreshments: Yew Tree pub or at the Rugby Club, if it is open.



VIEWES OF THE VALE