

5. King's Stanley: 5 mile circuit

The routes are very clear on the ground and very easy to follow. There are kissing gates, slopes, livestock, and probably mud. Only alternative (1) has a step-over stile.

From the **car park** turn right, past the post office. Look out for lovely old buildings as you pass along Castle Street.

Continue on the road, past Marsh Lane, into **Woodside Lane**, uphill past Woodside Farm and Blackbird Cottage to the end of the surfaced road and onto a footpath, which is frequently wet. By a signpost, look left for **steps** up a steep slope to a kissing gate. There is now a choice:

1) Turn left through the kissing gate for the **Cotswolds Way**. This section may be muddy in wet weather. Cross a cow pasture and a step-over stile into the **Stanley Woods**.

2) An alternative is to continue up to the top of the steps, then left onto a track running through the woods, parallel to the Cotswolds Way. This track is above the spring line so it is always dry. There are bluebells along this track in spring and it will rejoin the Cotswolds Way in about 500 metres.

3) Another alternative from the top of the steps is to bear right up a steep slope to the **permissive bridle path** and turn left, past the gliding club, which has a café.

Follow your chosen route towards **Selsley Common**. There are several paths downhill if you want to shorten the walk. These have step-over stiles.

Near to the kissing gate where the Cotswolds Way joins Selsley Common is "Jackdaw Quarry" or Leigh's Quarry, an interesting geological feature. Follow the seats across the Common visiting **the Toots** and the **topograph**. "The Toots" have a very dubious link to Druids. Ancient Britons had an early routeway that linked the Humber to the Severn, and passed across Selsley and Uley tumulus. In the distance is **Ebley Mill**. In 1830 it had 5 water wheels powering 71 looms. The original mill dated from 1299 and was on the north side of the canal. Ebley Mill processed corn and then cloth for the Marling family.

The views are superb and there are many wildflowers among the cow pats.

You may want to bear left for Selsley's famous church or need to bear right for "the Bell".

Continue left along the road for **Middleyard & King's Stanley**. The weary can catch a no.14 bus back to the car park.

