



Cross the road from the village hall car park, turn left, and turn onto the bridleway at the end of the terrace of cottages. Follow it to the top of Stinchcombe Hill.

The bridle path goes steeply uphill but is shaded in summer by mostly beech and ash trees. It is very uneven and can be slippery. At the top of the track, there are 2 way mark posts, **(A)**. Walk between them and follow the track which bends round to the left. After approximately 200 metres, carry straight on the bridleway, ignoring the Cotswold Way arrow to the left. This takes you across 2 fairways on the golf course and care should be taken.

Carry on in the same direction along the bridleway, joining the tarmac path. Keeping to the tarmac path, walk straight across the golf course, passing a car park on your right and then the golf club and its car park on your left. There are wonderful views off to your right – of nearby Stancombe tucked into the valley and the Severn bridges further beyond.

As you leave the golf course, ignore the road on the left signposted to Dursley. Instead, carry on walking straight ahead along Golf Course Road keeping the high Cotswold stone wall on your right and ignoring any footpath or bridleway signs. Walk along the lane until you reach a road off to the right signposted to Waterley Bottom and North Nibley **(B)**. It's a good distance (just under 2 km).

At the junction, carry on straight ahead on the lane.

After approximately 100 metres, turn right at the public footpath sign **(C)** and climb over the stile. Go straight ahead, ignoring the stile on your right, and walk up the small rise to join the main path. It is a circular path through 'Breakheart Quarry', owned by BNFL but no longer in use. The scrubland of the quarry is a quite different ecology to anything you will meet on the rest of

the walk or, indeed, anywhere else close to Stinchcombe.

Turn right onto the main path, passing through a glade of young birch trees, and follow the circular path. There is a good view of North Nibley, Nibley Hill and the monument to William Tyndale **(D)**. Keep to the path as it becomes rocky and bends to the left. You will pass a group of single storey buildings on your right and then a single storey building close to the path on your left. Shortly afterwards, you will come to a telegraph pole on your left. Leave the circular path here, bearing right onto the path opposite the telegraph pole **(E)**. In front of you, just to your right, is a board providing information about some of the quarry's distinctive flora and fauna.

Carry straight ahead on this path, ignoring any paths off to the left. Go up a small rise. You will see stiles on your left and right and another information board. Go over the stile on your left, walk about 50 metres and go over another stile **(F)**. Carry on in the same direction

and you will soon see a glorious vista over Waterley Bottom. Go straight ahead,



keeping the telegraph pole on your right.

When you reach a wooden farm gate, climb over the stile attached to the left of the gate. In a few steps you will meet a broad track coming in from your left **(G)**. Turn sharp right here to pick up a small path, less visible

than those you have just left. It snakes left through woodland and goes down a steep hill, continuing to zigzag down through a hollow. Take care: the path is steep and can be slippery, particularly when the ground is muddy or frosty.

Near the bottom of the hill, climb over a stile with a yellow marker, exit into a field and carry on down into the valley. People have reported seeing glow-worms in these fields. Follow the fence and line of trees on your left and you will soon see the New Inn to your left ahead of you. At the three large trees (the last of which is an oak), scramble down through the trees and go through the kissing gate to a small lane and the pub.

When leaving the pub, turn right out of the pub onto the small lane and carry on up the hill on a sunken track with trees on both sides. It can feel a bit of a long haul after lunch! Keep following the track as it bears round to the left near the top of the hill, past a footpath sign on your right, until you meet the road. It is Golf Course Road. If you are in a hurry, turn left and walk along the lane back to the golf course and retrace your route across the golf course and down the bridleway back to the village hall.

However, across the road in Twinberrow Wood, you will see a sign for the Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail **(G)**. Many of the artworks have been made by local community groups and funded by local businesses. The trail is worth a detour and routes are signed by blue arrows or other signs. Whilst following the trail, take time to look up and across. You will need to retrace your steps in order to leave the sculpture trail where you entered it.

You are now starting your homeward journey. Rather than continuing back along the road, it is possible to walk on footpaths through the woods. The woods

above Dursley are criss-crossed with footpaths and bridleways and some readers may wish to add further loops to this walk with the aid of an O.S. map, though not all paths are marked.

It is quite easy to walk back partly through the woods by following footpaths running more or less parallel to Golf Club Road on your left. When you leave the sculpture trail, pick up a path more or less opposite to where you entered the trail and follow it parallel, and quite close, to the road. *(If you prefer to go further into the woods, turn right onto the bridleway and then take the left fork which cuts at 45 degrees into the woods through a clump of pines. Carry on where it meets a track coming in from the left. The path bears right and then left through a clearing. Make your way left back to the road. Some of the tracks can be muddy and rutted with vehicle tracks, in part because the woods above Dursley are a popular area for travellers.)*

Once you have passed the part of Golf Course Road with the road signposted off to Waterley Bottoms and North Nibley **(B)**, the remainder of the walk retraces your steps along Golf Course Road to the golf course and down the bridleway to the village hall - unless you wish to add further, much larger loops with the aid of a map.



Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village

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This walk takes in a range of surroundings, with some wonderful views, as well as the new Dursley Play and Sculpture Trail. Though some of the walk is along lanes, walking shoes should be worn as there are also tracks that are steep and slippery in places. There are a few stiles but they should be passable for agile dogs.

Start: Stinchcombe Village Hall

Refreshments: The New Inn is tucked away at the far end of the beautiful valley, Waterley Bottom, and has a delightful garden with some play facilities. It is open for lunch from 12.00 – 2.00, though closed on Mondays, except on weeks containing a Bank Holiday when it closes on Tuesday instead. The landlord welcomes children and dogs.

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