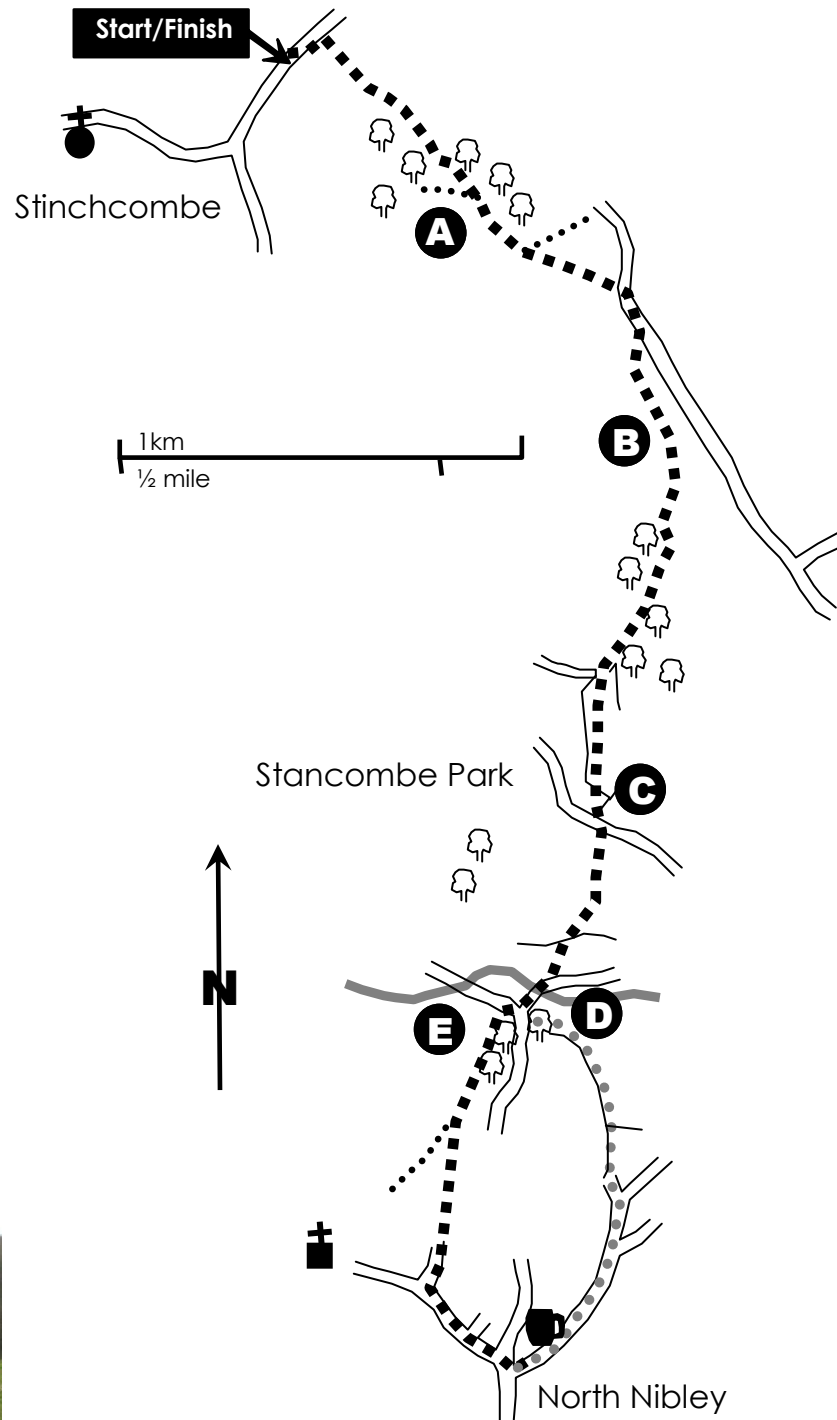


Cross the road out of the village hall car park and turn left. After about 20 metres, there is a bridge path on the right signposted to Stinchcombe Hill 0.5 km. Follow this up to the top. The bridge path goes steeply up hill but is shaded in summer by mostly beech and ash trees.

At the top of the track, there are two waymark posts, **(A)**. Walk between these and follow the track which bends round to the left. (An alternative is to turn right and follow the Cotswold Way signs –waymarks have an acorn carved on them- round the edge of the golf course and hill. This will add at least 20 minutes to the walk but there are wonderful views over Berkeley Vale and the Severn Estuary.) On the original route, after approximately 200 metres, bear right at the sign marking a public bridleway. This takes you across two fairways on the golf course and care should be taken. Carry on along the track to the car park on the right. Cross the car park to the edge of the hill and pick up the signs for the Cotswold Way. There are good views across to the Tyndale Monument and North Nibley on your right. Follow the waymarks for 480 metres along a clearly defined track until you see a finger post by number 2 tee. **(B)**

Turn right down hill and follow a winding and moderately steep path, rough in places, following the Cotswold Way signs. At the bottom, a track crosses the path. Carry straight on across a small concrete patch. Follow this track, until you see a wooden bridge on your left - again this is signposted. Cross it and go through the gate into a field. There are good views on your right of Stancombe Park.

Keep the fence on your right and follow the track to a second gate. Cross the field. The next gate is in the



left hand corner of this field, through a gate onto a lane. Turn left along the lane and almost immediately right at a signpost through a gate into a large field. **(C)** The path is clearly defined and goes straight across the centre of the field to another gate.

There is a difficult step on the far side of the gate. The next waymark post is straight ahead. Turn right at the post down to the next gate. Go downhill diagonally to another gate which takes you onto a lane. Turn right. **(D)** Follow the lane across the stream and up to the main road, approximately 150 metres. **(E)**

Cross the road, taking great care, and follow the sign-posted track uphill to North Nibley. At the top of the track carry straight on. Playing fields are on your right and there is a view of Nibley House. At the T junction turn left along The Street, until you come to cross roads. The Black Horse is across the road on the left hand side.



The village shop is further down on your left.

When you are ready to return, turn left out of the pub (or shop), walk down the street and then bear left after 370 metres when the road forks. When you reach Hunts Court on your left, you have a choice of a shorter (and easier) walk or a longer one that climbs up Stinchcombe Hill to Drakestone Point.

For the shorter walk, turn left into Hunts Court through the gate and go over the cattle grid. Follow the sign-posted path down the drive and, after 30 metres, turn right through a gate onto a footpath. It goes alongside a house and garden wall.

At the end, climb the stile and, keeping the hedge on



your left, cross the field to a second stile. Go downhill, keeping the hedge on your left, and you will see a stile into a wood in the

bottom left corner of the field. Climb the stile and go through woods over a bridge over a small stream and then up steps to a main road. Turn right. You are at **(E)** on the original route and can retrace your steps to Stinchcombe.

Alternatively - for a longer route home - carry on past Hunts Court and Forthay House and take the left fork towards Crowell Brook.

The road descends and after a further 280 metres, and before the road begins to climb, take the lane to the left (signposted with a footpath sign) opposite a house. (If you want to avoid an overgrown and boggy path, don't turn down this lane. Instead, stay on the main road going up hill. Turn left and, after a further 450 metres, turn left again and follow the road to point **(D)**.)

Follow the lane and, just before you reach the Mill House at the bottom of the drive, take the path on the right through a kissing gate. Follow the path, keeping the hedge on your left and the steep field on your right. Keep the fence on your left and go through an opening over the bridge over the little stream. Carry straight on in the same direction - the ground is quite boggy and path not well marked and rather overgrown. There are three ash trees on the left. Follow the path uphill to a stile which exits onto a lane. Turn left and, after 170 metres, turn right onto a footpath at the Cotswold Way signpost, opposite two houses **(D)**.



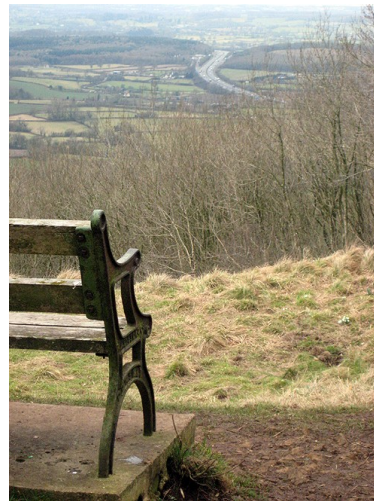
Go uphill and through a kissing gate. Follow Cotswold Way signs, turning left at the marker. Continue to follow the Cotswold Way through two



fields to a lane. **(C)** Turn left and follow the lane as it meanders downhill and past Stancombe Park to a sharp bend. Continue on the lane, now going up hill for a further 160

metres. Take the footpath on the right over a stone stile (the footpath sign is on the left.) If you pass two cottages and the entrance to Stancombe Park, you have gone too far.

Climb through the stile and follow the path along the edge of the field to a metal gate. Go through the gate into a field and turn right at a 45° angle to start up the incline. Go between two concrete posts and then bear diagonally left up the incline. The path is not clearly marked but look for a wooden stile, which is very wobbly, leading into woods.



Go over the stile, turn right and keep right. Follow the path up to an intersection, cross the path and head up and slightly left. After about 10 metres, turn right onto a small and very steep and slippery path where 'H162' is painted in white on a tree. The path brings you up to the viewpoint at Drakestone, where there is a wooden seat and

wonderful views down the Severn Estuary. Walk to the left of the seat and follow the path past the concrete Tubbs memorial seat to the triangulation point. Continue left along the edge of the hill past the stone shelter and following signs for the Cotswold Way. Stay on the edge of the hill until you reach the bridle path leading down to Stinchcombe **(A)**. Follow this down to the bottom. Turn left and the Village Hall is a short distance further on the right.



Walks around

Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village

8

This walk is varied, taking you through wooded areas and across farmland. It rewards you with wonderful views of the Berkeley Vale and the Severn Estuary and allows you to explore the attractive village of North Nibley. Most of the way is clearly marked as it follows the Cotswold Way.

Walking shoes should be worn as the paths up and down Stinchcombe Hill are steep, uneven and slippery in places. It is suitable for dogs but livestock may be in fields.

The route to North Nibley should take you about 70 minutes. You are offered three different routes for your return journey. Retracing your steps, or taking the first option given, are both shown on the map and each should take 60 - 70 minutes. A longer walk, including climbing up to Drakestone Point, will probably take you 1½ hours. Note that it is not shown on the map inside. The hill up to Drakestone Point is very steep but you are repaid with glorious views.

Start: Stinchcombe Village Hall

Refreshments: North Nibley: The Black Horse Pub (children and dogs welcome) and village shop.



THE BLACK HORSE