



Turn right out of the Village Hall car park and walk down the right side of 'The Street'. Cross the road which comes in from your right ('Church Lane') and turn right through the pedestrian gate to the right of the main gates into Piers Court. Follow the drive over the cattle grid.

As the drive swings to the left, cut diagonally right across the field aiming for a large oak tree. Continue on the path, which passes just to the left of the oak tree, with the fence on your right. Go through the kissing gate into a small spinney. The path splits almost immediately. Take the right fork through the spinney and exit over the stile, bursting out of the wood for a view of the Severn and the Forest of Dean.

Follow the footpath sign on the stile, going diagonally left over the field and then go through two gates. There are often ponies in these fields, so please make sure that the gates are shut behind you. Continue alongside the fence on the right for a short while and then go over two stiles, continuing to follow the footpath signs on the stiles.

After the second stile, go diagonally left across the field to a gate in the corner of the field. Go through two gates and diagonally left across the field and then over a stile. Walk across the field, hugging the fence on your right. This, and the next few fields and gateways, can be very muddy.

Once you reach the far corner, the path goes straight on but it may be difficult to get into the next field. If so, turn left at the corner of the field, keeping the hedge on your right, and climb over the gate. Turn right immediately to go back to the corner, then left to carry on across the field in the direction you were going, keeping a fence and hedge with a lot of brambles on your right. Go through the gate.

Continue across a narrow field and climb over the gate which is straight in front of you, not the gate on your right. Carry on, keeping the fence on your right. You will meet a wire fence. Turn right and climb the stile in the right corner. Once over, you will catch a glimpse of North Nibley church in front of you.

Carry on in a straight line with the fence and

hedge on your right. Go through the gate and take the diagonal right footpath sign, aiming for the left of the barn at Fortune Farm. Climb the stile and, as you do so, look out for a pair of posts in the middle of the field in front of you. Head directly towards them: they mark the footpath which goes through the field. Go between the two posts but take care as there is an electric fence on either side.

Carry on in the same direction towards trees on the far side of the field, aiming for a cream house in the distance and ensuring that you keep well to the right of the church tower. Climb over a small stile in a gap in the hedge onto a small metalled lane. Turn right to join a bigger lane and then go left. After going over a small bridge, you will soon see the North Nibley village entrance sign. Continue on the lane past Burrows Court on your right.

At the road junction, turn right onto the lane sign-posted Upper Wick and Damery. After passing the 'Isle of Rhé' on your left, take the left fork. Carry straight on at the crossroads towards Bassett Court.

At the no through road sign, carry straight on, going past Bassett Court. Ignore the footpath sign to your right and carry along the lane as it rises gently, eventually reaching a gate into a field. Walk through the field, keeping the hedge on your left.



You will soon get good views of the monument to William Tyndale on Nibley Hill on your left.

Keep hugging the hedge on your left and you will

see a stile in the corner under two large trees. When you reach the corner, ignore the footpath sign pointing diagonally left. Instead, climb the stile on your right under the large oak tree. Walk across the field, keeping the hedge on your left,



and head straight for a stone house. Cross the small brook (no bridge), go past a pond on your left and then

through the gate at the right of the house.

Keep the stone wall on your left and turn left onto the lane, and then right onto a bigger lane. Take care: it can be busy at times and there is no pavement though there is a fairly wide verge.



Bear left at the fork sign-posted to Kingswood and Charfield. After passing Howley Farm and Howley Cottage, ignore the first footpath sign on your left. In-

stead, take the second footpath to your left which cuts across Bradley Farm. It is said that the main route from Berkeley to Wotton went via Bradley Court which was a Dower House, used to

house the widows from Berkeley Castle.



Go through the gate and then diagonally right across the field (a 45° angle) up the

hill, heading for the furthest corner. As you near the top of the hill, head right towards the far corner of the field. The footpath sign and stile are in the right hand corner with the house and garden to the left of them. For the last bit, a gully, fence and bramble hedge will be on your right.

Go over the stile and then walk straight ahead between the two houses on a narrow paved path. Turn left onto the lane and, after 40 metres/44 yards, turn right onto the footpath. Carry on straight ahead on the path. You will pass a large house called Ellerncroft on your right and, if you are lucky, you may see peacocks. You are entering Wotton. As the path becomes a road, continue walking in the same direction, carrying on straight ahead when you reach the junction.

Wotton is an attractive town with several cafés and a wide range of shops. If you don't have to rush home, go straight across the road and meander down the High Street. When you are ready to return, you can walk back by retracing your steps or taking the Cotswold Way (see OS map 167). Alternatively, you can catch a bus by walking to the end of the High Street and bearing left as it becomes Church Lane. At the War Memorial, turn left and you will see the bus shelter in front of you. The bus will drop you at the Village Hall in Stinchcombe.



Walks around

Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village



This is a pretty and varied walk over fields and along lanes, some of which have a 'forgotten in time' quality. The route goes west of the B4060 (which runs from Stinchcombe to Wotton), mainly along contours. So although you will encounter a few hills, none are very high. The walk can be very muddy in parts: walking boots are advised particularly during wet, wintery weather.

Note that the time and distances given are for a linear walk from Stinchcombe to Wotton only. You can walk back to Stinchcombe by retracing your steps or by following the Cotswold Way (see OS map 167). However, it is possible to get a bus back to the Village Hall – useful if you want to shop. At the time of writing, the 309/310 service runs every 2 hours. Ring 0871 2002233 to find out exact times.

There are public toilets in Wotton on Rope Walk, a small lane by the Co-op on the High Street.

Start: Stinchcombe Village Hall

Refreshments: There are several cafés and pubs in Wotton as well as shops where you can buy cold food and drinks to take away.



UNDER THE EDGE
- A walk to Wotton