Swineford Circular

Starting at Swineford Picnic Site on the A431 Bath to Bristol Road

this walk ascends the Cotswolds Escarpment to offer stirring views

of the surrounding landscape including the Avon Valley, Malverns

and Brecon Beacons. The route passes through the unspoilt and peaceful villages of Upton Cheyney and North Stoke. A section of

the route follows the Cotswold Way, a designated national trail

the South. After following the escarpment edge around the

extending from Chipping Campden in the north to Bath Abbey in

Distance: 5 miles
Walking Time: 2¹/₂-3 hours
GRADE: Moderate/Hard 4

Maps:

Explorer 155

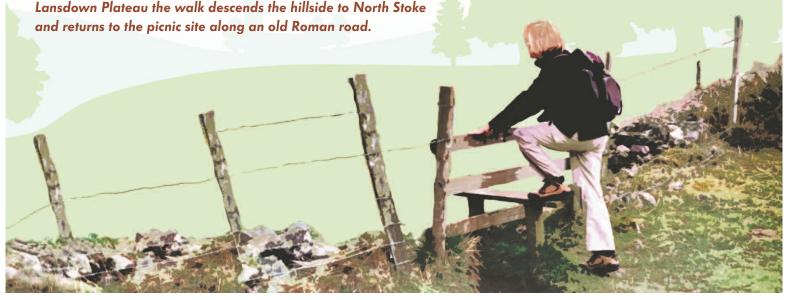
Bristol & Bath 1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath 1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref:

ST 692 693



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus

On Mondays to Saturdays the 332 Bristol to Bath service runs from Bristol Bus Station, with outward and return journeys at hourly intervals. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the 632 service operates along the same route at two hourly intervals. The 319 Cribbs Causeway to Bath service also passes through Swineford at hourly intervals on Mondays to Saturdays. The route goes via Parkway, Downend, Staple Hill, Kingswood and Bitton. There are no services on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Leave the bus just past the Swan Inn, Swineford. Ask the driver if you are unsure where to get off. Walk back past the pub and along the track sign posted to the picnic site.

We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.firstgroup.com or by calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

Swan Inn, Swineford Tel. 0117 932 4489 Upton Inn, Upton Cheyney Tel. 0117 932 3101

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

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PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Swineford

Key

CP

The village of Swineford developed near the point where a small tributary of the Avon crosses the old Roman road from Bath to Bristol. In the past the village has been known as Swinshed and Swynesheved. Legend has it that Swineford is where Prince Bladud herded his pigs across the river and the mud provided a cure for his leprosy and that of his pigs.

The picnic site has been created on the site of an old iron foundry, which was originally water powered. The watercourse for the foundry can still be seen in its channel in the south-east part of the site.

car park

public house

circular walk

other paths

Hanging Hill

Most of the land below was part of Kingswood Chase, an old hunting Forest. The golf course and the buildings of Tracy Park are prominent to the right and, to the left, are the buildings of Coldharbour Farm near a clump of trees. Stones of an old burial chamber are in the field to the right. Running down from Wick is the Golden Valley - the valley of the River Boyd. There used to be two coalmines in this valley.

The Upton Inn, Upton Cheyney



Take the public footpath next to the house on the right. Follow the path up a rough track, through a bridlegate and uphill to the crest of Hanging Hill.

Whilst resting after your climb take the opportunity to admire the panoramic views to the Malvern Hills and Brecon Beacons. Note the Ordnance Survey Triangulation Column, at 235m above sea level. From this point the walk joins the long distance Cotswold Way path.

Little Down - Iron Age Hill Fort

At the point where the walk leaves the Cotswold

Way, if you look back higher along the track to

the left, you will see one of the ramparts of the

Iron Age Hill Fort on Little Down. This is a type of

fort known as a promontory fort and it has a ditch

only on the side bordering Lansdown Plateau. Due

authorities believe that the fort was never actually

'Stoke' means secondary settlement - usually of

was given to Bath Abbey by King Kenulf of Mercia

and remained their property until the dissolution of the monasteries when it reverted to the Crown and was split up. North Stoke church is well

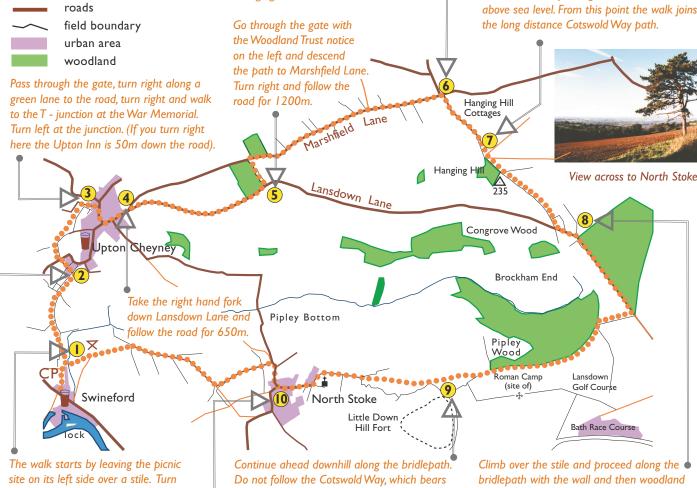
a religious nature. The Manor of North Stoke

to the unfinished state of the ditch some

occupied.

North Stoke

worth a visit.



right and follow the route on the map.

Enter a narrow track over a stile on the left, between the houses. Follow the track to the road. Cross the road, go past the bench and through the kissing gate. Bear right with the hedgerow and then wall to your right. Head to the highest part of the field where there is a gate in the right corner.

left at this point. Follow the track to North Stoke Church and begin walking into the village.

●Turn right shortly after passing the post box set in the wall. Follow the track and bear to the left past the stables (ignore the track and stile on the right). Following the Byway sign, walk along the track (old Roman road) to its end. Follow the path across two fields back to the picnic site.

to your left. At the end of the wood turn right along the bridlepath following the Cotswold Way waymarker.

