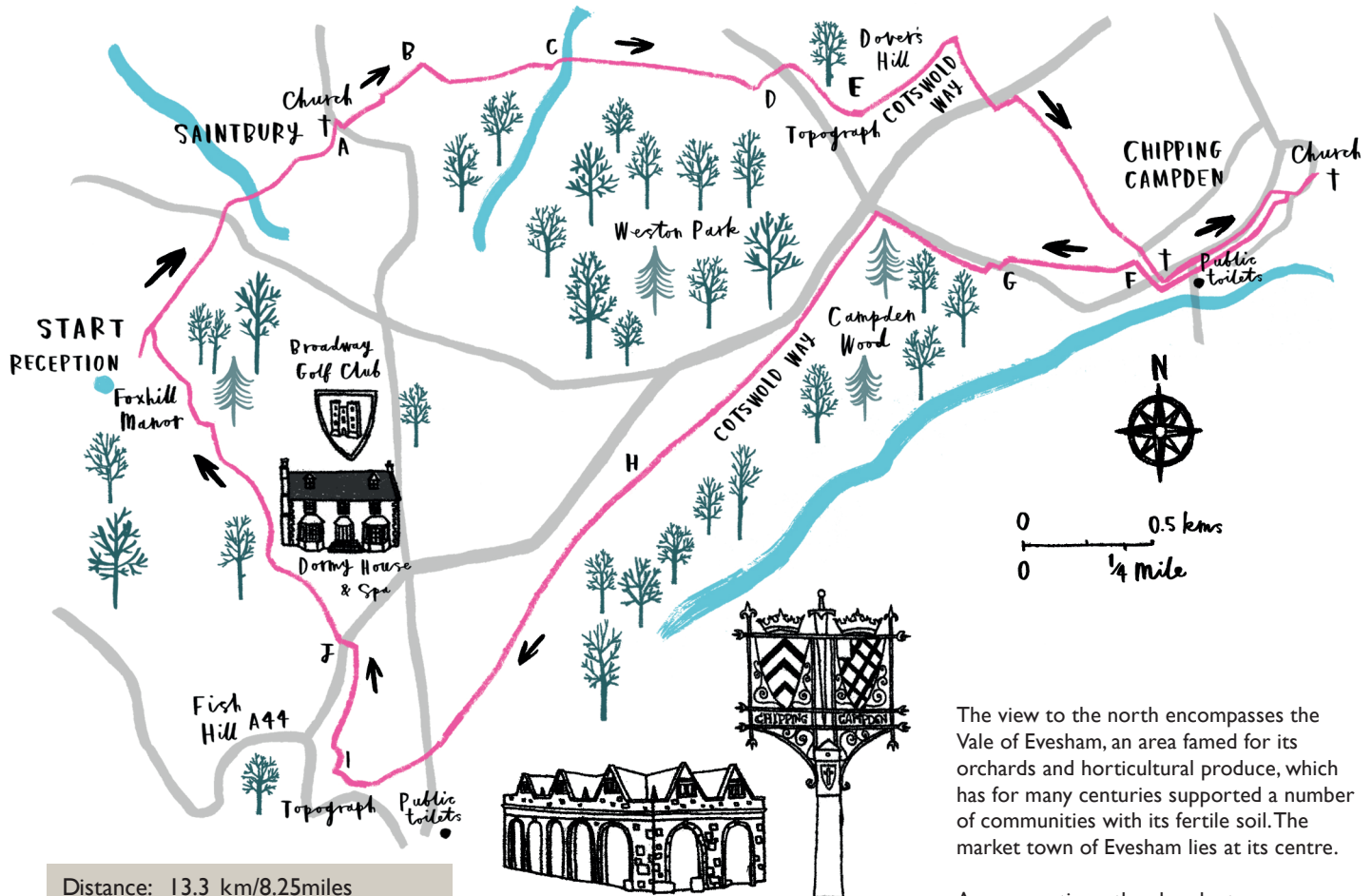


Walk to Chipping Campden...

Walk 4 Open views en-route to Chipping Campden, returning along the Cotswold Way.



Distance: 13.3 km/8.25 miles
Ascent/Descent 325 metres/1,067 ft

The walk takes you to Saintbury Church, a local landmark, before heading to the lower slopes of Dovers Hill, home of the Cotswold Olimpicks. Follow the Cotswold Way into the beautiful town of Chipping Campden, with fine architecture and plenty of places to eat. The return route climbs out of the valley before a fairly level walk to Fish Hill, followed by some panoramic views over Broadway.

From The Lodge, turn left and walk towards the barrier across the road. Go past the barrier and follow the drive with views of Willersey to your left. Notice the corrugated effect in the field below you, this is 'ridge and furrow' and is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since. Ahead of you is the spire of St Nicholas Church in Saintbury.

At the end of the drive carefully cross the road and take the footpath opposite over a stile. Bear right towards a kissing gate on the opposite side. Go through and enter the next field, heading to the left of the church spire. Follow the path over the field

to a wooden fence where you turn right and follow the fence as it turns left towards the church. Continue to a kissing gate and go through to meet a path heading for the church entrance.

This Medieval church has a tall and slender spire, which can be seen from all around and is a notable landmark. The building's earliest known feature is a sundial considered to be 11th Century. Unfortunately due to its deteriorating condition it was closed as a parish church in 2010 and now belongs to the Churches Conservation Trust.

Here turn left and follow the path down to the road A. Turn right up the road for approximately 30 metres before turning left through a gap in the hedge. Follow the path over a stile and past a barn on your right to meet another stile entering a field. Continue ahead with the fence on your left for approximately 150 metres, where you meet a post directing you left over a stile into the adjacent field. Cross and turn right to continue in the same direction with the fence now on your right.

The view to the north encompasses the Vale of Evesham, an area famed for its orchards and horticultural produce, which has for many centuries supported a number of communities with its fertile soil. The market town of Evesham lies at its centre.

As you continue, the church at Weston-Sub-Edge appears in front of you.

Continue towards the far side. Fifteen metres before a field gate, turn right over a stile B and follow the path by the edge of the field, past a badger sett and pond on your left to reach another stile.

Cross two stiles in quick succession and bear left to follow the left hand side of the field to the far side; over another stile beside a field gate and continue straight on following the hedgerow on your left to a stile. Go over the stile to meet a track; continue straight ahead over a stream and directly in front of you is a stile between two field gates C.

Go over and follow the right hand field boundary to the far corner to cross a stile and footbridge. Here turn right and follow the stream aiming for a signpost up ahead. The signpost is situated beside a track with a house to your right.

Continue up the slope aiming for the top right hand corner. You may wish to stop a few times to rest and look back at the views with Bredon Hill to your left and the Malvern Hills in the far distance.



Walk to Chipping Campden...

Look for a wooden structure which hides some steps up to a kissing gate; go through and continue straight on with a fence on your left to reach two gates allowing access through the hedge. On the opposite side continue straight on up towards a house ahead to reach a gate.

Go through and follow the fence on your left; turn left at the end D and continue ahead to a kissing gate on the far side. Go through and cross the next field to a kissing gate beside a road. Carefully cross the road and go through the kissing gate opposite; you are now on the lower slope of Dover's Hill.



Turn right and follow the path up to the topograph. Here each year the famous Cotswold Olympic Games are held. At the topograph turn left and walk along the level grassy area with the hedgerow on your right.

The path continues along the right hand boundary for approx 500m to an old Ordnance Survey trig pillar with a plaque "Dover's Hill" on your left; after another 50m take the path on your right through a kissing gate E.



Follow the path to a road. Cross the road and turn left following the verge of the road for approximately 70 metres before turning right down a path signposted the Cotswold Way.

Follow the path down to join a lane; continue down the lane to meet a junction with Back Ends F. Bear slightly right and continue to the next junction with a church on your left. Turn left and follow the road into the main street in Chipping Campden. Here you will enjoy exploring Chipping Campden with its shops, eating places and plenty of history.

Retrace your footsteps to the junction of Hooe Lane with Back Ends F; here turn left along Birdcage Walk to meet a residential road. Cross over and follow the driveway between the houses opposite to enter a field via a kissing gate. Bear 45° right and cross the field towards a field gate and cross a stile. Cross and follow the short track to meet a road G.

Carefully cross the road and turn right to meet a gate; follow the path through the edge of a wood and emerge in a field. Follow the right hand edge of the field to the top of the field beside a crossroads. Turn left and follow the Cotswold Way along the

edge of the field to reach a stile. Follow the Cotswold Way signs as the path turns right to join a grassy drive.

Follow this for 1.2 kms to reach a track H, continue straight on along the track for a further 400 metres and go through a gap into a field. Cross the field heading for a gap in the drystone wall and continue in the same direction to go through another gap in a wall beside a road.

Cross the road, go over the stile and cross the field to a kissing gate with a mound beyond: another topograph on the top. Here turn right to leave the Cotswold Way and follow the path past the mound and head towards the wood ahead and a Limestone Trail sign. The path splits I; take the right hand path and follow it into the wood.

Shortly, bear left and follow the Limestone Trail signs down some steps into a small disused quarry. Turn right and follow the posts through the old quarry to the end where the path turns left to go up a slope to the top of the hollow. Turn right and follow the path straight ahead ignoring the path off to your left (signposted Limestone Trail).

Follow the path taking care of tree roots; the path turns left down a steep slope to meet a stile by a road J.

Carefully cross the road and take the driveway opposite with the Farncombe Estate sign. Follow the driveway for approximately 250 metres before bearing right and follow the signs to The Lodge, pass a barrier and the driveway descends past Foxhill Manor on your left to a junction with another barrier ahead. Turn left at the junction towards The Lodge and end your walk.

Interesting facts on the walk

Much of the wealth buildings and churches came from the wool trade. In the Middle Ages the Cotswolds was well known throughout Europe for the quality of its wool.



The main breed was the 'Cotswold Lion', famous for their long, golden, shaggy coats. The Cotswolds has some of the loveliest countryside and architecture. The key is beneath your feet, Oolitic Limestone. It is quarried and used for walls, tiles and buildings. The stone was formed when what are now the Cotswolds were covered in a warm sea. Dovers Hill is named after Robert Dover who in 1612 opened the first 'Cotswold Olimpicks', an annual sporting fair that

honoured the ancient Games of Greece. Those early 'Olimpick sports' included singlestick, wrestling, jumping in sacks, dancing and even shin-kicking.

Since 1966 the Games have been held on Dover's Hill each year. Events have included the tug of war, gymkhana, shin-kicking, judo, piano smashing, and Morris dancing. The British Olympic Association has recognised the Cotswold Olimpicks Games as "the first stirrings of Britain's Olympic beginnings".

Chipping Campden High Street is lined with golden Cotswold stone houses. The High Street was originally laid out in the 12th century, the curved road following the alignment of the river behind.

As you admire the buildings look up at the buildings with special features, sundials, timber frames, steeply pitched roofs, stone roof tiles, mullioned windows and finely dressed ashlar stone, all spanning different centuries.

In the early twentieth century, the Cotswolds became an important centre for the Arts and Crafts Movement, an international design philosophy that flourished between 1860 and 1910 and is still felt today.

The movement advocated traditional craftsmanship to marry practicality to artistry, often making use of medieval and folk styles of decoration. William Morris, the poet and artist who was the founder of the movement, spent his summers between 1871 and 1896 at Kelmscott Manor, near Cirencester.

In 1902 C.R. Ashbee and about one hundred followers settled in Chipping Campden, bringing with them the ethos of the Guild of Handicraft, originally set up by Ashbee in London, in 1888.

Coaching Routes

Stage Coaches were in general use from the early 18th century for about 150 years. Coaching inns (or what were known as Staging Inns) were usually spaced some seven miles apart, many offering very basic facilities whilst others had access to a blacksmith, farrier or a wheelwright.

Coaching routes through the Cotswolds generally followed the Roman Roads, even though their firm surfaces had long since crumbled to nothing. Broadway was on the main route to London from Worcester and was an important staging point, with as many as forty establishments offering accommodation at one time.

Fish Hill, situated above Broadway on the steep incline of the Cotswold Edge was on the coaching route. This meant that additional horses needed to be hitched to the coaches before the long pull uphill.

