



The Fish

Walk to Chipping Campden...

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

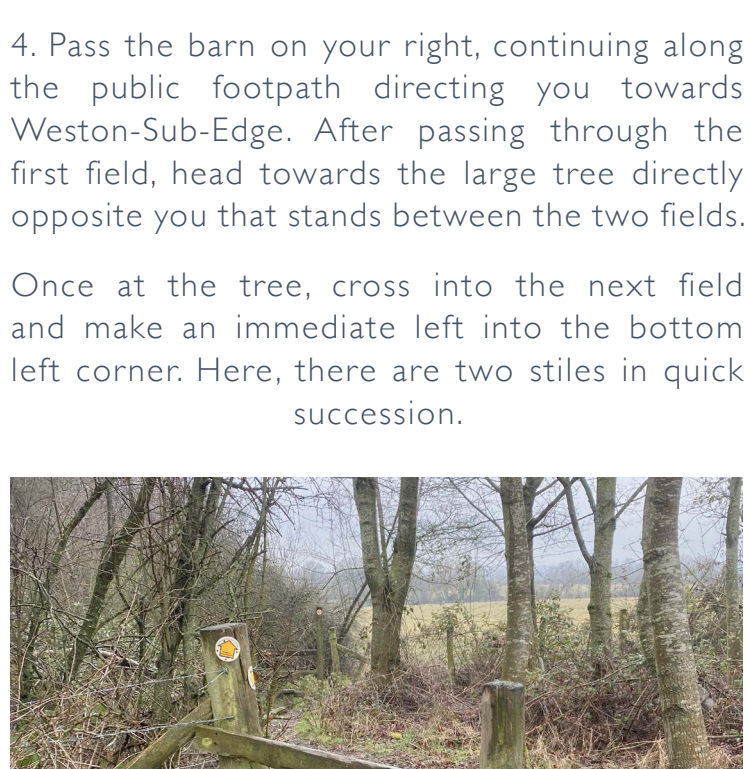


Distance: 13.3km/8.25 miles

Ascent/Descent 325 metres/1,067ft

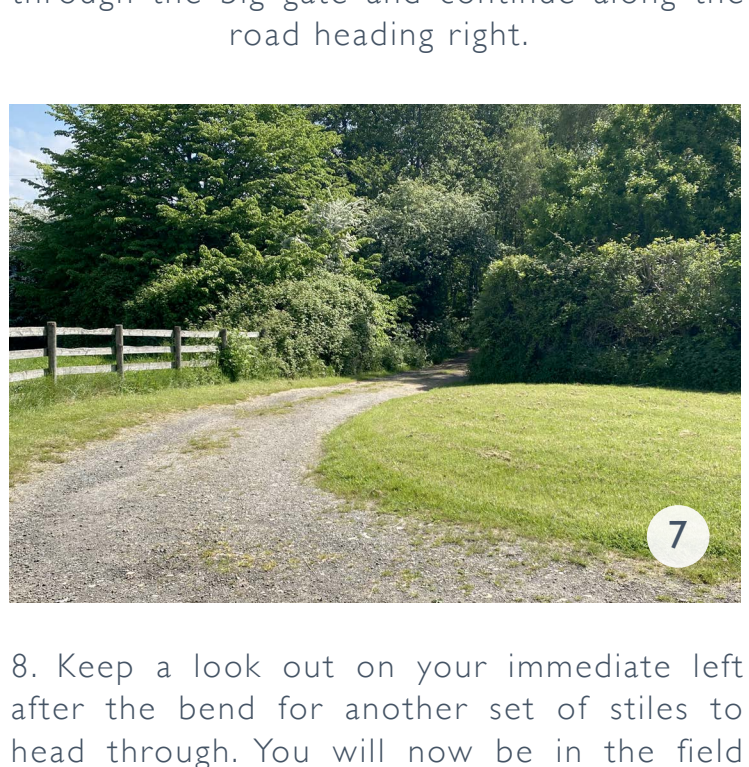
The walk takes you to Saintbury Church, a local landmark before heading to the lower slopes of Dovers Hill, home of the Cotswold Olimpicks. Follow the Cotswold Way into the beautiful town of Chipping Campden, with fine architecture and plenty of places to eat. The route climbs out of the valley before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

1. Starting at the Lodge, turn left and follow the road up towards the barrier: Head past the barrier and head along the drive away from the estate.



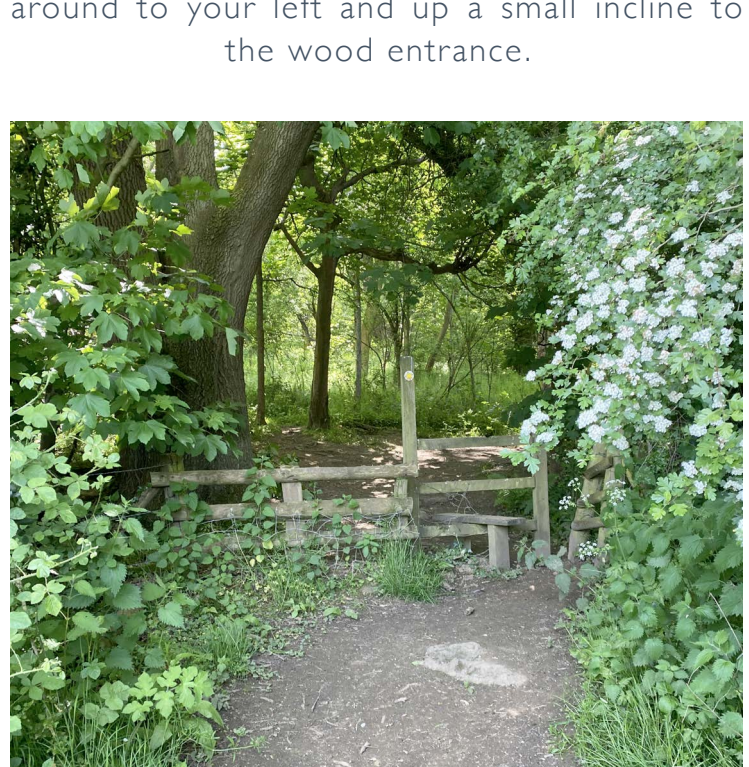
Notice the corrugated effect in the field below you, this is 'ridge and furrow' and is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since. It was also during this period that the Cotswold's became well known throughout Europe for the quality of its wool. One of the main breeds of sheep was the 'Cotswold Lion', famous for their long, golden, shaggy coats.

2. Continue along the public footpath, crossing the road, heading towards Saintsbury Church which should be visible with its tall spire. Follow the path heading towards the Church, keeping the fencing on your left, where a kissing gate is before the Church entrance.

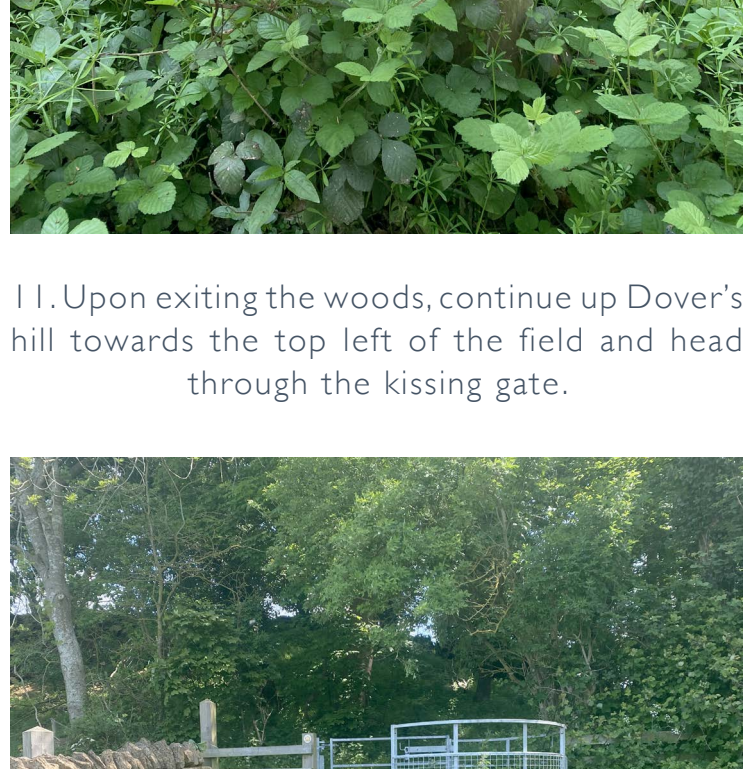


This Medieval church has a tall and slender spire, which can be seen from all around and is a notable landmark. The building's earliest known feature is a sundial considered to be 11th Century. Unfortunately, due to its deteriorating condition, it was closed as a parish church in 2010 and now belongs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

3. Go through the gate and turn left, leading down the path that connects to Buckle Street/ the road. At the junction, turn right to head up the hill for 30 metres before heading through the stile in the hedge on your left.



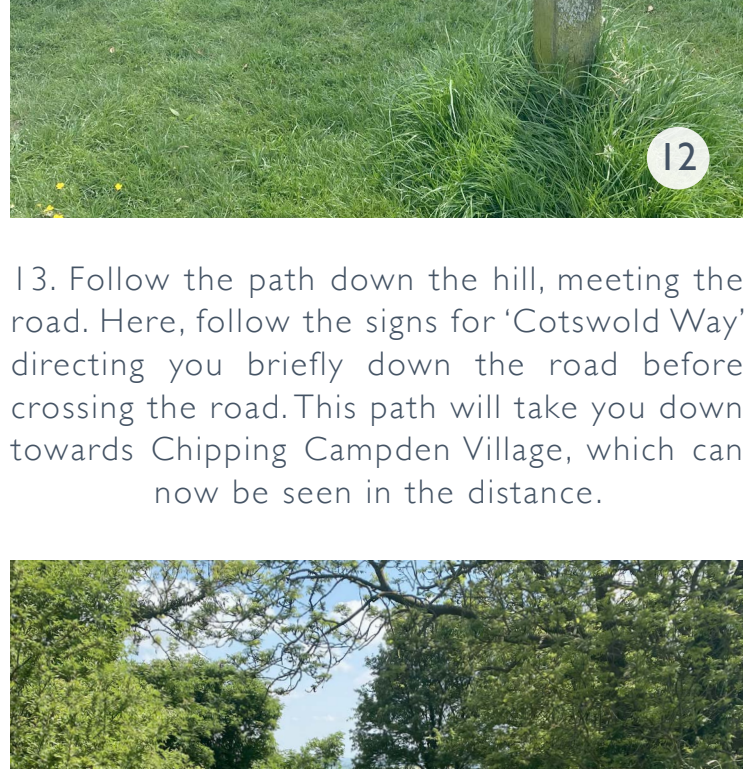
4. Pass the barn on your right, continuing along the public footpath directing you towards Weston-Sub-Edge. After passing through the first field, head towards the large tree directly opposite you that stands between the two fields. Once at the tree, cross into the next field and make an immediate left into the bottom left corner. Here, there are two stiles in quick succession.



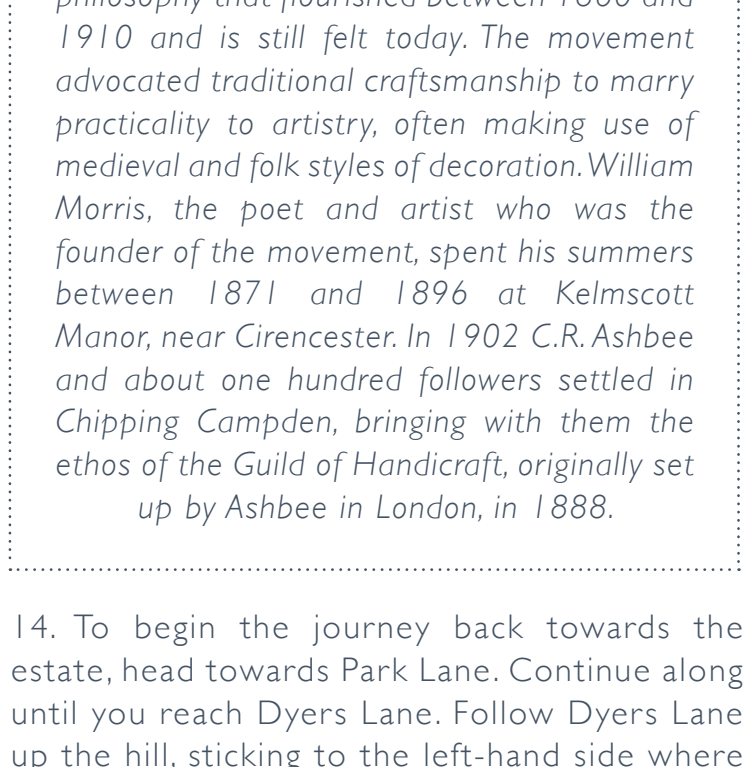
The view to the north encompasses the Vale of Evesham, an area famed for its orchards and horticultural produce, which has for many centuries supported several communities with its fertile soil. The market town of Evesham lies at its centre.

5. Follow the public footpath through the next two fields, keeping the field boundaries on your right.

6. At the third field, head towards the upper left corner towards the next Stile, avoid entering the field below the farm lane.



7. Here, you should emerge on a gravel-like road, follow this round to your right. Pass through the big gate and continue along the road heading right.



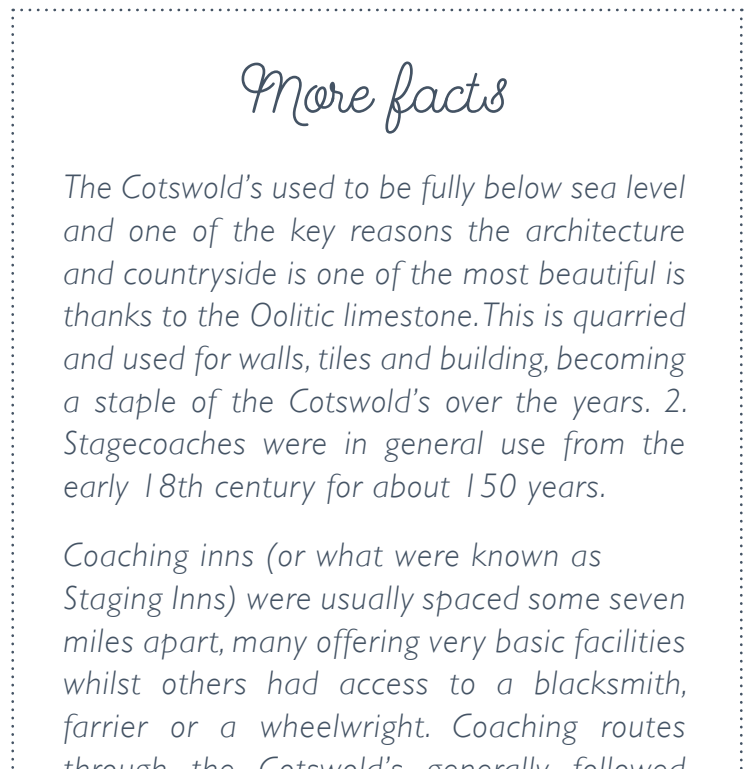
8. Keep a look out on your immediate left after the bend in your stiles to head through. You will now be in the field adjoining St John the Baptist & St Lawrence Church. Follow the public footpath and enter the Church Grounds.



9. Pass through the Church grounds and follow the signs directing you towards the village green (this has playground equipment and is difficult to miss).



10. Continue along the public footpath through the next two fields. When approaching Lynch's Wood, follow the old uppath taking you around to your left and up a small incline to the wood entrance.



Enter the woods and follow the signs for the Cotswold Way Circular Walk (CWCW) when they begin. Please be aware there are some steep steps to climb as you head towards the top of the hill.

11. Upon exiting the woods, continue up Dover's hill towards the top left of the field and head through the kissing gate.

Every year, the famous Cotswold Olympic Games are held here. Dover's 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. Early sports included singlestick, wrestling, jumping in sacks, dancing and even shin-kicking. Since 1966 the Games have been held on Dover's Hill, now including events such as tug of war, gymkhana, shin-kicking, judo, piano smashing, and Morris dancing. The British Olympic Association has recognised the Cotswold Olympic Games as "the first stirrings of Britain's Olympic beginnings".

12. Follow the path upwards and join the public bridge way. After passing through this field, head through the next kissing gate following the signs for the CWCW.

13. Follow the path down the hill, meeting the road. Here, follow the signs for 'Cotswold Way' directing you briefly down the road before crossing the road. This path will take you down towards Chipping Campden Village, which can now be seen in the distance.

Chipping Campden High Street was originally laid out in the 12th century, the curved road following the alignment of the river behind. In the early twentieth century, the Cotswold's 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.

14. To begin the journey back towards the estate, head towards Park Lane. Continue along until you reach Dyers Lane. Follow Dyers Lane up the hill, sticking to the left-hand side where possible and eventually joining the public footpath.

15. Follow 'Cotswold Way' signage, keeping the road to your right - this is one long straight walk back towards Fish Hill Picnic Area.

16. Once at the Picnic area, turn right and head towards the wooded area. Continue along the 'Limestone Trail' path until the public footpath signs show, at which point follow these.

17. You will emerge at the Farncombe Estate Road junction where you can choose to head up the road to Dormy House Hotel or continue on down towards the Fish Hotel and Foxhill Manor.

18. Follow the estate road until you reach the desired destination.

OPTIONAL - If you want a woods walk (and a little rest!) after passing signs for 'The Barnyard' on your right, keep an eye out on your left for our Nature Trail. This scenic route will emerge at the far end of The Lodge car park at The Fish Hotel.

More facts

The Cotswold's used to be fully below sea level and one of the key reasons the architecture and countryside is one of the most beautiful is thanks to the Oxford limestone. This is quarried and used for walls, tiles and building, becoming a staple of the Cotswold's over the years. 2. Stagecoaches were in general use from the early 18th century for about 150 years.

Coaching inns (or what were known as Stages apart), many offering very basic facilities whilst others had access to a blacksmith, farrier or a wheelwright. Coaching routes through the Cotswold's generally followed the Roman Roads, Broadway being on the main route to London from Worcester making it an important staging point.