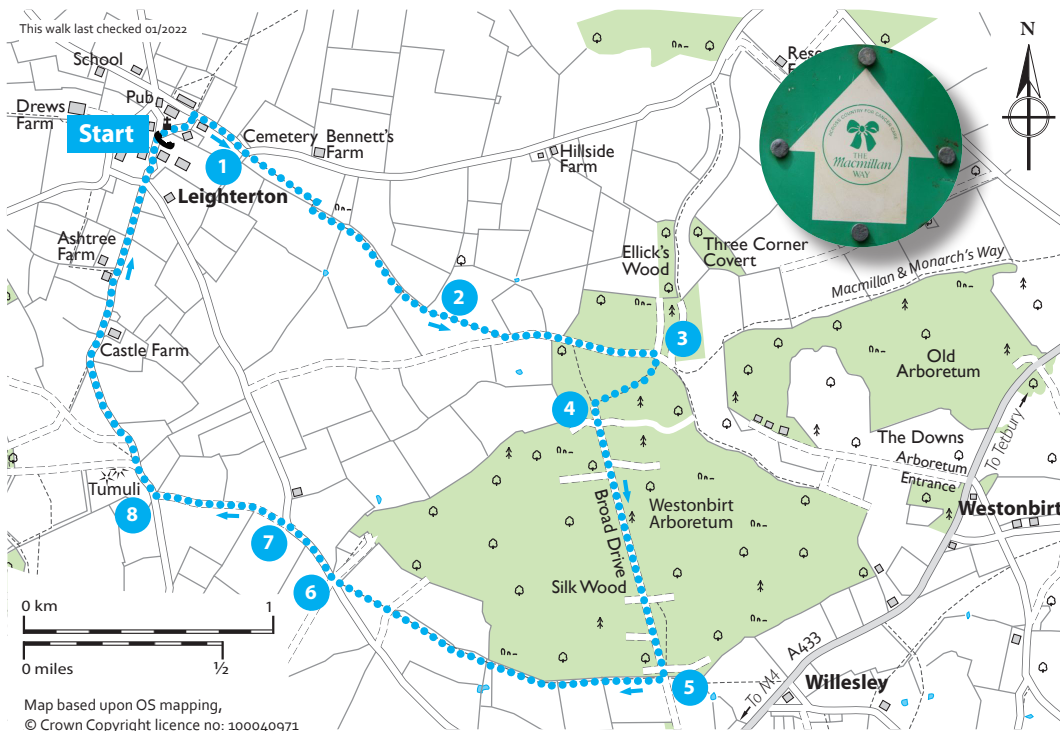


Walks With Stiles

Westonbirt Arboretum



This pleasant walk over Gloucestershire farmland includes a public path through the main drive of Silk Wood in the National Arboretum, which is worth a visit at any time of year.



Please note

You are not permitted to leave the public right of way along Broad Drive.

In order to visit the National Arboretum, visitors must pre-book a ticket via:

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum



Distance: 7.8 km/4¾miles with a gentle down and an up of 85m/278ft, and a few stone stiles.

Time: 2 hours

Start: Leighterton, on a minor road signed from Westonbirt on the A433 3 miles SW of Tetbury. Park considerately in The Street, between the church and the bus stop. ST 824910 or postcode GL8 8UY.

Refreshments: Royal Oak at Leighterton.

Route: With the church on your L take the narrow walled lane that winds past houses to a T-junction. Turn R along the lane out of the village past the cemetery.

Where the road turns L **1** go through a gate into the field ahead and follow the

path, which gradually curves towards the wall on the R. Go over the stone stile and carry on alongside the wall (now on your L) gently downhill over two more stone stiles.

Where the wall turns L **2** take a diagonal line to your L downhill across the grass (the path may be faint) leading to a wooden stile in the shallow valley. Walk ahead along the valley through a metal gate onto a wide woodland track. Carry on for 400m, and where the track bears L take the path ahead to a wide gate with a "Welcome to Westonbirt Arboretum" sign leading out to a grassy area **3**.

Go through the gate and immediately turn R over a V-stile with steps. You'll see a green Macmillan Way

sign. Bear R and climb into the woods on a winding path (sometimes faint) following the green signs. At a 90-degree L-turn sign you drop down out of the wood, cross a track and go up the hard surfaced drive opposite **4**.

This is Broad Drive, the showpiece of the arboretum, which slices through Silk Wood for 1,100m. Walk to the end (ignoring all L and R turns) and leave the wood through the gates ahead **5**.

Immediately turn R over a crumbly stone stile and follow the yellow arrows through a series of kissing gates in fields alongside the wood. You'll soon pass the telltale signs of a badgers' sett on the R. Do not disturb!

(If you meet some low wire fencing in the fields, you can cross safely by holding the blue plastic sleeve that protects you from the mild electric shock which keeps the cattle in place.)

After the third kissing gate, where the wood boundary turns R, go straight ahead over a low stone stile with a hedge on your R to reach another kissing gate. Cross the track and head across the field to a tall pine tree in the corner. It leads you onto a metalled road **6**.

Turn R and walk on the road for 250m. When it bears R **7** take the farm track on the L for 400m and then drop down to a quiet lane **8**, turn R and follow it for approx 1 mile (1.6km) to the village. Soon after the duck pond you're back at the start.

There's much more about Westonbirt on the next page.

Westonbirt Arboretum

A tree isn't just for Christmas



The arboretum is at its busiest for the magnificent autumnal colours and again during the Christmas illuminations. But Westonbirt has much more to offer visitors throughout the year.

The 16,000 trees, native and imported, make a constantly changing spectacle; and spring brings a procession of wild flowers, magnolia, rhododendron and azalea.

There are 17 miles of paths where you can stroll on your own, join seasonal guided walks or just sit and take in the sights and sounds of Westonbirt.

Redwings and fieldfare visit in the winter, and nuthatches, tree-creepers, tawny owls and swallows nest in the trees and outbuildings. There's a special bird viewing area in the Old Arboretum.

Every month of the year Westonbirt offers a range of special events, concerts and other activities. You'll find them all in the action-packed calendar



39.0870
Quercus robur
Adopted for Matthew,
Oliver & Thomas Rayment
Nov 2006
Europe.
Fagaceae Asia Minor. N. Africa

Westonbirt opens at 9am - 5pm all year except Christmas Day

Admission from 9am to 4pm and closes at 5pm

Dogs are welcome on The Downs on a lead and permitted off lead in Silk Wood, which makes up around two thirds of the arboretum.

Bored? We're never bored at Westonbirt!



Forestry England offers special activities for youngsters during school holidays, like Big Bug Hunts, Tree Potions, Water World, Wooden Wonders and Trees for Tree Travellers.