

Winchcombe to Sudeley Castle

OS Landranger Map 163

Grid ref: SP 025285

Distance: 2 miles (3.2km)

Time: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Start: Back Lane car-park
(charges apply)

Leave Back Lane car park via the far corner access into Cowl Lane. Turn right and follow the road to the High Street. Turn right and follow Abbey Terrace until you see Vineyard Street on your left. Carefully cross the main street and continue down Vineyard Street (also known as Duck Street), over the bridge spanning the River Isbourne and up the slope to the entrance of Sudeley Castle A. Continue ahead along the drive, passing the unusual Almsbury Lodge (1).



Walk down through the avenue of lime trees to the bridge over the lake. Carry straight on along the driveway, passing the children's play fort on your right towards the car park. Follow the drive and pass in front of the tree and continue on to the car park (2). Go through the gate and turn right along the road, until you reach the gatehouse.



Turn left and carefully cross the road into Rushley Lane. (Be careful of traffic along here). Follow the lane past Laundry Cottage, taking in the views across the valley to Winchcombe.



Eventually the lane turns left at the junction with Stancombe Lane. Follow the road as it turns left and walk down to the main Broadway Road and then turn left.

(3) From here there are two options to return to the town centre.

Option 1: Just before the bridge, go through the gate on your left and follow the surfaced path alongside the river. At the far end of the third field go through the gate and walk along the alley between the cottages to Castle Street (4).

Turn right and follow road over the the bridge and uphill to the High Street. Carefully cross the road and turn left to the end of the shops and turn right into Cowl Lane and follow this to Back Lane car park.

Option 2: To stay on a hard surface follow Broadway Road back into town with its variety of different style houses. Follow the road into Winchcombe, go past North Street, continue ahead into High Street until the end of the shops. Here turn right into Cowl Lane and follow to Back Lane car park.

Points of interest

Sudeley Castle

Katherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII, is buried in the chapel which contains her marble tomb. During the Victorian period much of the castle was restored by the Dent family.

River Isbourne

Allegedly, the only river in England to flow north for its entire length. It emerges from a spring on Cleeve Common and joins the River Avon.

Cotswold Gateways

Cotswolds National Landscape has worked with local communities to create ten new Cotswold Gateways locations, from which people can follow walking and cycling routes to explore the surrounding countryside of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development



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