

## Winchcombe to Langley Hill and Wood Carving

OS Landranger Map 163

Grid ref: SP 025285

Distance: 4.5 miles (6.5km)

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Strenuous. Steep climbs

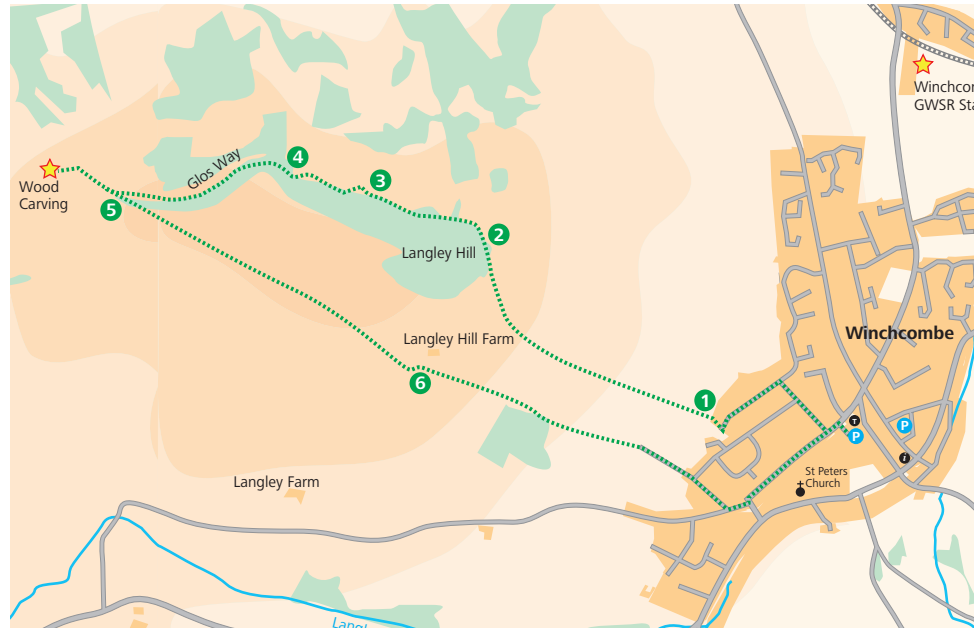
Start: Back Lane car-park (charges apply)

Leave Back Lane car park by the road entrance, turn left and then right into Barnmeadow Road. At the end of the road turn left into Orchard Road. Go straight on, then turn right into Knottes Close. In approx 25 metres turn left in front of a row of houses to a kissing gate, leading into a field (1). Go through the gate and follow the path straight ahead through a field gate and on to another kissing gate on the far side to the right of some tall poplar trees.

Go through and cross the farm track and take the path opposite. Go over a footbridge, through a kissing gate and enter a pasture. Head straight up Langley Hill towards a field gate and kissing gate situated in the far left hand corner. Please be aware there are often cows grazing in these fields. Go through the kissing gate and head straight up again, keeping just to the left of the highest point, to a field gate and a stile. This is a good spot to rest and admire the view behind you.

Continue straight uphill until you meet a path coming in from the left (Gloucestershire & Winchcombe Way). Follow this path uphill to a wooden marker post and kissing gate in the top right hand corner of the field. The path takes you diagonally across this field. You will see a ruined barn on the right, then another marker post and a wall. Follow the wall uphill, as views to the Vale of Evesham open up to your right. Go through a kissing gate to reach a track (2).

Continue straight on to meet two field gates ahead. Bear right through gate on the right leading downhill, then turn immediately left along the path to a kissing gate. Go through to re-join the original track and continue to your right, following signpost for 'Far Stanley' along the grassy track around the hillside.



Stay parallel to the trees on your left and bear left to a waymarked post (3) to follow the Gloucestershire Way. Pass through a field gate and continue ahead, signposted to Far Stanley, ignoring a path that leads up the escarpment on your left.

The exact route of the path through the rough pasture then becomes unclear, but follow roughly the same level. The path goes slightly downhill, levels out past a small pond on the right, and then passes a boggy area on the left (there are several springs in this section, often creating muddy patches in wet weather). The path then rises towards a waymarked post before a gate signed 'Stanley Farm' (4). Carry straight on through a narrow ungrazed area for approximately 500 metres to meet a post and wire fence on your right. Follow this to a track which is a bridleway (5).

Turn right down the track towards a field gate. Go through, and at the bottom of the slope is a junction of paths. Turn left through the field gate signed 'Stanley Farm' and a sign to Cleeve Hill. Follow the wire fence on your left until you reach the wood carving, the Langley Drover, of a shepherd and what was his dog.

Retrace your steps through the field gate and up the hill. When you get back to the junction at (6), carry on up the bridleway between bushes. Pass through a field gate, then keep to the right hand edge of the field and join the grassy track ahead.



Follow this and join a stoney track (can be wet after rain), noticing the good views of Cleeve Hill on the right.

After about half a mile (0.8km), you will meet a junction of tracks near farm buildings. Continue forward and down the hill on the track, ignoring the bridleway going off to the right. The track passes through a farmyard (7) before reaching the tarmac surfaced 'Harveys Lane'. Descend the hill for about half a mile (0.8km), admiring the view of Winchcombe and its surrounding hills. Ignore Abbots Leys Road on the left and continue downhill until you reach Langley Road.

Turn left, then at the junction and straight on along Back Lane to the car park.

*Working in partnership with Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome*

## 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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