

## Winchcombe Club Site – Langley Hill

Camping and Caravanning



### Route Summary

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This pleasant six-mile walk starts at the Club Site and takes you across fields and streams to Langley Hill where you can find panoramic views across the Cotswolds. And there's a decent pub-stop en route too.

### Route Overview

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Category: Walking

Length: 8.830 km / 5.52 mi

Last Modified: 12th September 2017

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 12th September 2017

### Description

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From the north-east corner of the Club Site next to the road are footpath signs both through the site itself and along the eastern side, heading south away from the road and marked the Winchcombe Way. Take this one, at first along a track and then across three fields before a footbridge over a stream.

Watch out for red kites with their distinctive forked tails and buzzards with their square-tipped wings. In spring, skylarks sing loudly overhead. Just beyond the footbridge, we noticed five deer hidden in a tall crop. Startled, they leapt away as we watched in awe.

At a field gate (1) turn right on to the Wychavon Way and proceed along a track to the steam railway line. Trains puff and whistle regularly along this line, especially at weekends. The church spire comes into view with a backdrop of three attractive low hills.

Climb over a stile before a short tunnel (2) takes you under the line and into the pretty village of Gretton (3). After 200m you reach the main street and on the right, there's a convenient bench for your morning coffee.

Beside it is a lovely thatched cottage of Cotswold stone and Tudor beams.

About 100m to the right across the road, a sign for the Winchcombe Way sends you up Duglynch Lane. After 200m a footpath sign points to 'Langley Hill 1 mile'.

The path turns left, then right past attractive gardens – you are still on the Wychavon Way. Go through a metal gate stile keeping a barn on your left. Two more stiles lead to some wooden steps at the top of a field.

Climb these and turn around to take in the view back across the campsite, the village of Alderton and hills in the distance.

Heading south again over a track and slightly uphill, markers guide you on to Langley Hill.

The footpath continues uphill between two areas of woodland to another metal gate stile where it bears left (4). Markers guide you slightly up and east along the hill. After half a mile, in a corner of the field there's a junction of paths at Abbots Leys (5).

At this point, before you descend to the north, take a couple of minutes to divert 50m to the right through a gate and a further 50m to a wonderful view of Winchcombe. If you're lucky you might spot a steam train at Winchcombe station, to the left.

Return to the junction of footpaths and follow the one marked 'Gretton 1 mile' down the hill to a wood (6). Follow the path through the mixed woodland, emerging alongside a lane on your right. When the path meets a wooden stile go on to the lane and follow the path on the other side.

A sign seems to point you into a drive but in fact the path is 50m further on (7). Travel east before passing between horse paddocks to a track turning left (8). This leads north to the main street in Gretton (9) where turning right for half a mile on the roadside path you arrive at The Royal Oak – just outside the village (10).

The Royal Oak is a fine country inn with plenty of outside seating in a beer garden complete with lovely views. The steam railway runs by the bottom of the garden, close to a children's play area. Inside is a stone-floored bar and a magnificent conservatory with antlers on the wall.

A huge log burner sits in its centre. Real ales on offer include Mad Goose, Trelawny, Butty Bach, and Boon Doggle. The sandwiches cost about £8 but include salad and fries. There's a children's menu and lunch is served until 2.30pm.

When you leave the pub, turn left and after 100m take a footpath to where the railway disappears into a tunnel. Go over this and after some scrubland (11) cross two large fields heading north-west until you meet the path you were on earlier (1). It is now a further mile back to the Club Site.

## Waypoints

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### Start

(51.99087; -1.98919)



From the north-east corner of the Club Site next to the road are footpath signs both through the site itself and along the eastern side, heading south away from the road and marked the Winchcombe Way. Take this one, at first along a track and then across three fields before a footbridge over a stream.

**1** (51.98028; -1.97983)

At a field gate turn right on to the Wychavon Way and proceed along a track to the steam railway line. Trains puff and whistle regularly along this line, especially at weekends. The church spire comes into view with a backdrop of three attractive low hills.

**2** (51.97328; -1.98715)

Climb over a stile before a short tunnel takes you under the line and into the pretty village of Gretton.

**3** (51.97180; -1.98821)



After 200m you reach the main street and on the right, there's a convenient bench for your morning coffee.

Beside it is a lovely thatched cottage of Cotswold stone and Tudor beams.

About 100m to the right across the road, a sign for the Winchcombe Way sends you up Duglynch Lane. After 200m a footpath sign points to 'Langley Hill 1 mile'. The path turns left, then right past attractive gardens – you are still on the Wychavon Way. Go through a metal gate stile keeping a barn on your left. Two more stiles lead to some wooden steps at the top of a field. Climb these and turn around to take in the view back across the campsite, the village of Alderton and hills in the distance.

**4** (51.96375; -1.99347)

Heading south again over a track and slightly uphill, markers guide you on to Langley Hill. The footpath continues uphill between two areas of woodland to another metal gate stile where it bears left. Markers guide you slightly up and east along the hill. After half a mile, in a corner of the field there's a junction of paths at Abbots Leys.

**5** (51.96085; -1.98640)





At this point, before you descend to the north, take a couple of minutes to divert 50m to the right through a gate and a further 50m to a wonderful view of Winchcombe. If you're lucky you might spot a steam train at Winchcombe station, to the left.

Return to the junction of footpaths and follow the one marked 'Gretton 1 mile' down the hill to a wood.

**6** (51.96462; -1.98702)

Follow the path through the mixed woodland, emerging alongside a lane on your right. When the path meets a wooden stile go on to the lane and follow the path on the other side.

A sign seems to point you into a drive but in fact the path is 50m further on.

**7** (51.96979; -1.98821)

Travel east before passing between horse paddocks to a track turning left.

**8** (51.96997; -1.98500)

This leads north to the main street in Gretton...

(51.97145; -1.98668)

...where turning right for half a mile on the roadside path you arrive at The Royal Oak – just outside the village.

**10** (51.97285; -1.98063)



The Royal Oak is a fine country inn with plenty of outside seating in a beer garden complete with lovely views. The steam railway runs by the bottom of the garden, close to a children's play area. Inside is a stone-floored bar and a magnificent conservatory with antlers on the wall. A huge log burner sits in its centre. Real ales on offer include Mad Goose, Trelawny, Butty Bach, and Boon Doggle. The sandwiches cost about £8 but include salad and fries. There's a children's menu and lunch is served until 2.30pm.

When you leave the pub, turn left and after 100m take a footpath to where the railway disappears into a tunnel.

**11** (51.97294; -1.97568)

Go over this and after some scrubland cross two large fields heading north-west until you meet the path you were on earlier. It is now a further mile back to the Club Site.

