

Miles Without Stiles

Minchinhampton 1



A walk across the Common, skirting hillside villages and enjoying panoramic views towards the Severn and the Golden Valley.

Distance: 8 kilometres/
5 miles (2½ hours) with ups
and downs of 144m or 472ft

Start: Car park - situated
at the back of the Market
House, Minchinhampton,
in Friday Street.
SO 872/007

Route:

Starting at the Market House, built in 1698 by Philip Sheppard, cross into Bell Lane ① and follow the church wall on the right as it bends round to Minchinhampton Common.

Turn left and follow the private road alongside the Common. Keeping the wall and houses on the left, cross Dr Brown's Road ② and continue along the path with the Bulwarks on the right. These Iron Age earthwork ramparts sweep in an arc across the Common, partially surrounding Minchinhampton. The path bends left and as it passes the last large house with an impressive iron gate (Westfield) follow the path straight ahead to a roadside house (Windmill Lodge). ③

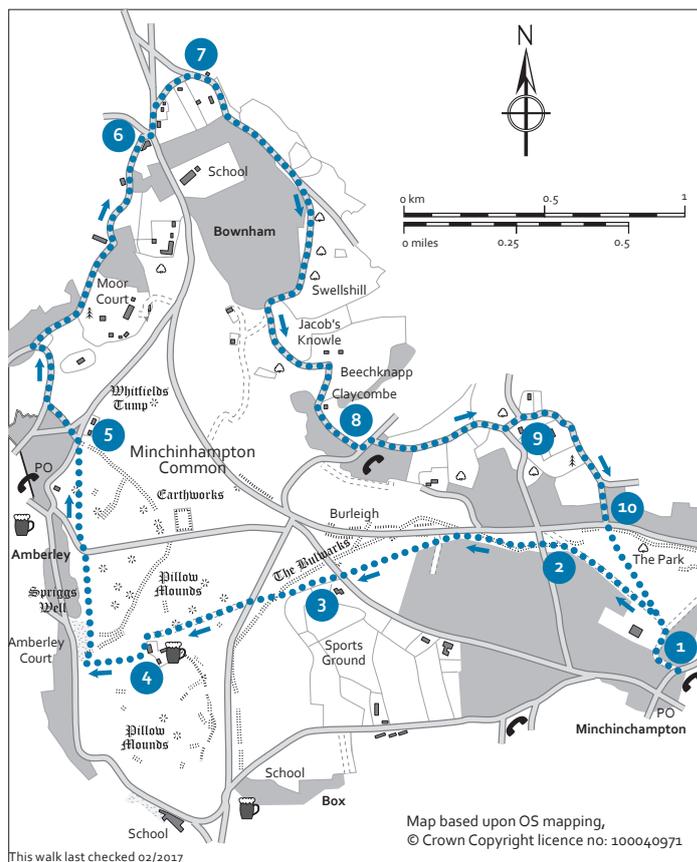
Continue roughly along the same line to The Old Lodge Inn and Minchinhampton Old Course Golf Club, now visible from this point, with a minor

road leading to them. ④
The Old Lodge has been an Inn since the 18th century, and from 1899 housed the Golf Club within it. The present Clubhouse was built in 1984.

Pass between the Inn and clubhouse and follow a line of telegraph poles to the edge of the Common (40 metres to post 1). Turn right and follow the path crossing a road above the Amberley road sign. At the seat overlooking the school and the Amberley Inn, turn half right to the War Memorial. ⑤

Pass between the Memorial and 'Springhill' house and follow the road straight ahead downhill. Take the right-hand fork (ignoring all forks to private houses) and at the T junction, turn right. This winding road leads through Houndscroft to the Bear Hotel. ⑥

Turn right up to the main road and cross to the other side. Turn left, and shortly, just past roadside cottages, turn right down a public byway to Winstone's Ice Cream Factory. ⑦ This award winning family business was established in 1925; it is a popular site for tourists, locals and a welcome refreshment stop for walkers.



Continue right along the attractive minor road to Burleigh ignoring all roads that are 'no through roads' ⑧, cross diagonally into Burleigh Lane and continue until reaching a road junction at Burleigh House. ⑨

Continue past the house along the right-hand road (Love Lane) with a blue road traffic sign. At the next V junction take the road to the right leading back to the Common. ⑩

Cross the road and head half-left back to the Church, now visible from this point. Retrace the route back along Bell Lane to the Market House.