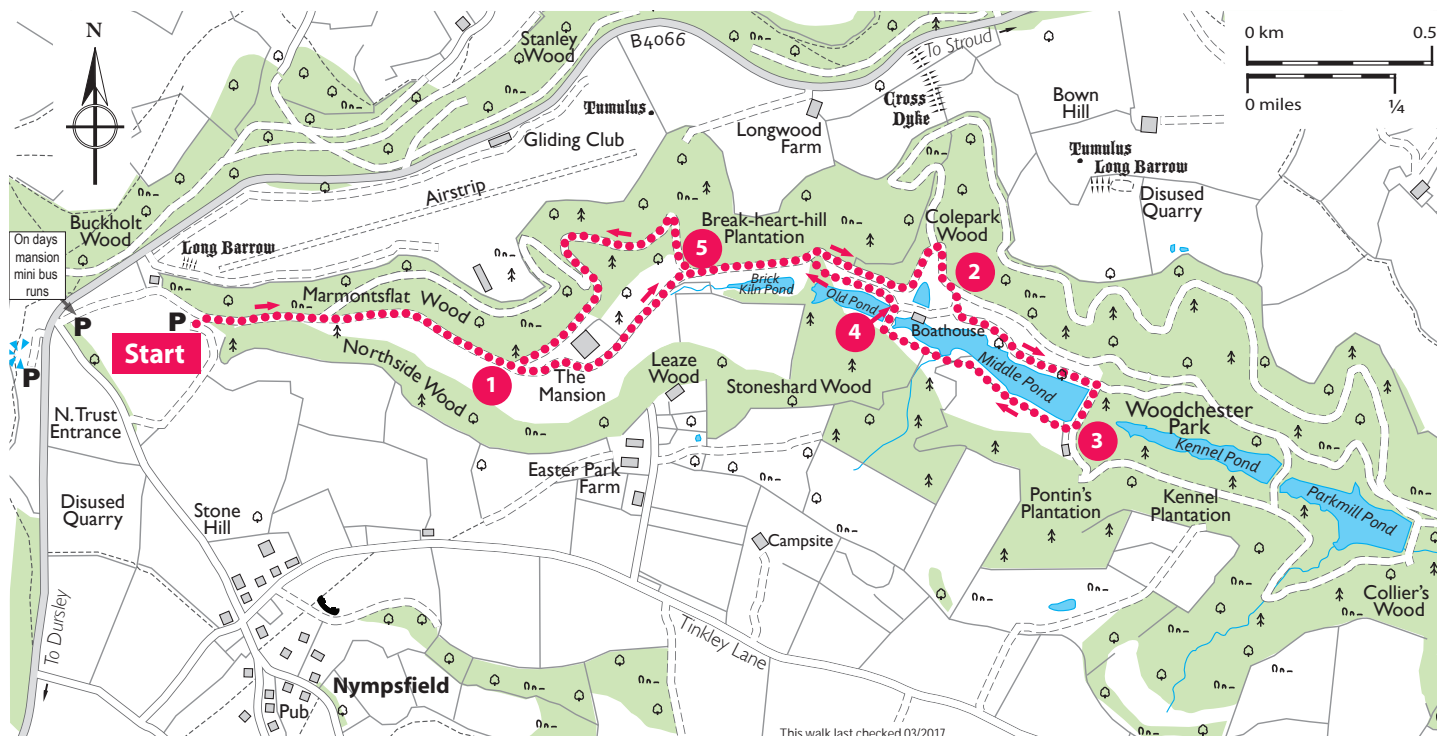


Miles Without Stiles

Woodchester Mansion and woodland walk



The Boathouse Walk passes the mansion and includes parkland, woodland, three of the ponds and the picturesque boathouse.



Distance: 6km/3¾ miles with a steady down-and-up of 209m/686ft. There are some steps. 3/4

Time: 2 hours

Start: Woodchester Park, near Nympsfield on the B0466 between Dursley and Stroud. National Trust car park (£2 for non members). SO 799/014 near GL10 3TU

Refreshments: Rose and Crown, Nympsfield. Toilets behind the mansion when open.

Route: From the car park follow the path down the steps to a track. Turn R and follow the track as it drops to a gate **1**.

Here the track splits; ignore

the track on L and continue straight ahead.

The track bends to the L and Woodchester Mansion comes into view.

Follow the track to the front of the building where the track splits. (If open, the mansion is worth a look inside). Take the R-hand track and follow it around to a gate. Continue along the valley through another gate and straight ahead.

The track follows the edge of woodland to a field gate. Continue as the track turns sharp L in front of conifers, with the boathouse down on your right.

Follow the track for 100m; here the track bends sharply R with a footpath on the L.

Follow the track for another 100m to a junction with a track on the R **2**.

Bear R down the track towards Middle Pond. Where the track turns R, turn L down a less well-defined track through reclaimed grassland to a junction.

Turn R along the track and cross the dam to the far side. Turn R through a gate (pink arrow) **3** to a gate immediately ahead. Go through and follow the R hand fence to the far side and a gate.

Turn R through the gate and follow the path by the edge of the pond to meet steps leading up to the top of the dam of Old Pond.

Turn R past the boathouse

to an information board **4** on the R. Here turn L along a track to a gate. Go through and follow the path to steps leading up to a track. Turn L along the track retracing your outward journey to the gate ahead.

In front of the gate **5** turn R along a track up to the woods. Pass through a gate and follow the track as it turns L and slowly climbs through the wood. The path meanders before it drops to the mansion and close-up views of its rooftops.

Continue along the track down to a junction **1** here turn R to re-join the original track and follow the track back to the car park.

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