

Kingscourt and National Trust Woodland

Approx 3 miles

This walk goes through the National Trust woodland on paths which are well walked and clear but not all public rights of way. The National Trust has very kindly given permission for the walk to be published with these inclusions.

Leave Church Green by Church Road turning left onto Southfield Road. At the junction, turn right onto Selsley Road and continue down the hill (the best pavement is on the right hand side until you are over the bridge) to the A46. Turn left here, continue in the direction of Stroud and cross the road at Scott's crossing to the Old Fleece.

Take the road between the Old Fleece and its car park (Rooksmoor Hill). Continue past Rooksmoor House on the left and Old Spot and Brewery Cottages on the right.

Immediately after the last house on the right, there is an option to take the footpath up the field to Rooksgrove. These directions will take the road route.

Follow the road up the steep hill. This isn't a race, stop as many times as you need to. Unfortunately, there aren't any open views to provide a good excuse to pause. Take the first turning on the right leading to the King's Head. Pass the pub and continue round the valley through Kingscourt to Rooksgrove where the footpath up the field emerges.

Continue a few metres to join the road above Kingscourt on the edge of the common and turn right. Go ahead with occasional views of Woodchester on the right. Keep following the road, (the bends on Bear Hill can be seen below), until the road bends round to join Bear Hill after crossing the cattle grid.

Go straight across (with care) towards Rodborough Manor, turning left along the path keeping outside Spinney Bank with the wall on your right. After about 100 metres, go through a wooden gate into the woodland. This is not the public right of way - that leaves Bear Hill further up and joins our path later. Stay on the path at the same level, ignoring the paths to the right. At this point you can follow the National Trust posts. At the top of a rise, a path joining from the left at a post, is the right of way which then goes forward on our path.

The path goes round the head of the side valley with the remains of an old wall on the right. Continue on the main path, ignoring turnings to reach a wall ahead. The path to the left is the right of way going up towards the common. Ignore this and go through the gap in the wall and downhill to join a lower path.

Turn left onto this path, curving round to the right, then coming close to the edge of the wood and continue until the path splits at the head of a small valley. Keep right, below the building, shortly with a fence on the left. (Views of Woodchester to the right if the trees permit). At the end of the fence, continue on the path to pass through a gap in the wall to the right of a 'bridge'. Turn right immediately between the walls and cross the stile into a field.

Head straight across the field on a line slightly left of the church towards trees at the bottom left hand corner of the field. Cross the stile and stream. This can be muddy but it no longer matters! The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have provided a walkway which bridges the difficult area. Take the path straight on uphill and cross the field heading towards the church (when a street light comes into view, adjust your line to head for this) to a squeeze stile in the corner by Manor Drive.

Cross the A46 with care and turn right. Go onto the cycle track at Birds Crossing turning right. Continue over the bridge and up to Pauls Rise. Turn left on the road, go uphill and right onto The Garden and keep left on the path leading to Southfield Road. Cross to Church Road and return to Church Green.