

Selsley Common - There is an alternative start point from South Woodchester above the High Street.

Approx 3.6 miles

Leave Church Green on Church Road, with the school on your right and head for Southfield Road. Turn left. Go to the junction with Selsley Road and take the footpath opposite to the right of Pear Tree Cottage. Cross the top of the field and leave by a gate leading to a path and another gate. Turn right on Church Lane. Take the next turning left between two walls and go through the kissing gate into the field. Turn right and follow the field boundary to a stile into the wood. Go uphill – (the path can be muddy) and over the stile into a field. Keep with the left hand field boundary, cross a stile and go through a kissing gate into another field. Continue ahead. At the crest of the hill, where the path appears to fork, keep left. The right hand path, heading for a gap in the fence is unofficial though sadly more obvious. The path you need goes downhill, across a stream and through a kissing gate onto a track. This is the old route to Selsley.

Go uphill on this track until you reach footpaths to left and right before Stanley End Farm. Turn left over the stile and keep to the right hand boundary up to a kissing gate. Turn left on the driveway and follow the signs which take you on a path to the right of the property. Go through a squeeze stile into a field and keep to the left hand boundary to a squeeze stile then a stone slab in the corner. Turn right on Water Lane. Go over the cattle grid (or through the gate) and continue to Selsley Common.

Cross the road to The Grove and take the path slightly left before the speed limit sign. Follow this uphill to a sunken track and turn left along it. At a wall corner, take the lower path to the right and follow this, forking right again in a short distance. When you can see the other side of the common, the path curves left. Fork right on a less obvious path and as you approach the crater turn right, keeping close to the right hand edge. Follow the path in the direction of the topograph with the hillock to its right. Keep with the path on a line right of the hillock to a Cotswold Way marker post.

If you want to visit the topograph, go up to it and return to the path.

Keep right of the hillock, curving round to take a line in the direction of the buildings (Boundary Court) ahead. Do not drop down the hillside to the right. The path emerges onto the road near electricity pylons. The path is vague at this point but it should be obvious where you are heading.

Cross the road to reach the drive opposite heading to Bownhill Farm. Go over the cattle grid and take the Woodchester footpath to the left going over a stile into a field. The path is not always obvious. Keep to the left hand field boundary except when you need to go round some marshy bits. Cross four fields and go over the stile into the wood. Continue past the houses and through the gateway. Follow the track downhill, keep left at the marker post and eventually reach the stile leading to Bospin Lane. After the first house on the left, take the footpath left and over a stile into a field. Keep left along the top of the field and locate a gate part way down and a stile below. Take a route via these to reach Lagger Lane. Turn right on Lagger Lane, to rejoin Bospin Lane and turn left towards the High Street.

Walkers from South Woodchester could join here doing this part of the walk first.

Before the High Street, turn left on a track in front of Tower House, above other houses. Follow this past the Old Cottage and through a kissing gate onto Tower House Drive. Where the stones on the verge end, leave the drive left on a path near the wall. Cross the driveway to Woodchester House and go through the kissing gate. Stay with the path down and uphill to emerge on Southbank opposite the Church. Turn right and continue back to Church Green.