

Walk 1 Around Gretton Hill

A circular walk up and around Gretton Hill. Fine views in all directions.

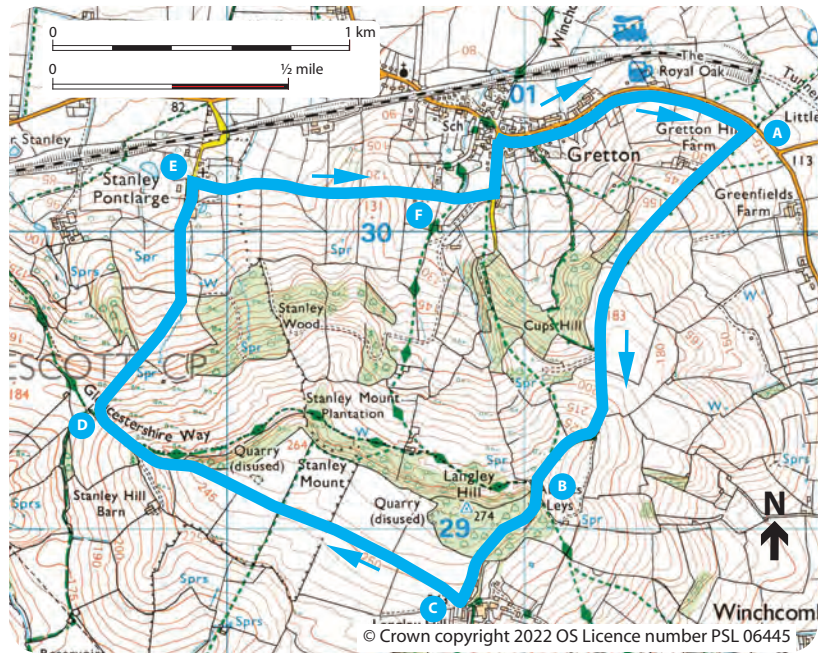
Distance: 6.4 kms / 4 miles

Duration: 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Start/finish Gretton Green

Ascent: 228metres / 750 feet



The walk starts at the village green, which although modest in size did fulfill its function as a gathering place for the village. Just over 100 years ago the village skittle alley was situated where the bench is now.

From here walk up the road past the village hall towards Winchcombe, passing the Royal Oak on the left. After 400 metres turn right onto a restricted byway known locally as Gypsy Lane **A**. The lane ascends between hedges which in spring are filled with bird song. Two paths are passed on the right which both lead back to Gretton. After nearly 1km you reach a gate. Pass through the gate and continue uphill to follow the track that gets narrower and narrower until you reach another gate **B**. Just before this gate a path on the right leads back down to Gretton. Pass through the gate where there is a path on the left (Winchcombe Way) going to Winchcombe. Continue ahead bearing slightly right.

After 500 metres you reach a gate by Langley Hill Farm with the masts on Cleeve Hill in the distance ahead. Go straight ahead past the farm buildings through another gateway. Turn right along a track (By Way) with a silo on your left **C**.

Continue on this airy path for 1km enjoying views over to Cleeve common until you reach another gate. Go on through and as the path gently descends the view to the south opens up. Ignore the path on the right which goes back sharply and go through

another gate. The views on the right include Bredon and Dumbleton Hill. Continue down to a crosstrack with a signpost **D**. *Our route turns right here towards Stanley Pontlarge but it is worth making a short detour to the left (50 metres) to see the sculpture of the Drover.* Follow the bridle way down to Stanley Pontlarge. If you're lucky you may see a train on the GSWR.

Proceed between the buildings and as you reach the church **E** turn sharp right to go through a small gate into a paddock containing a vegetable patch, solar panels and play equipment. Cross through to another gate and follow the path which contours around the bottom of the hill crossing a couple of small bridges and up towards a stile. Cross the stile and continue uphill to another one. Cross the field with views of Christ Church, Gretton on the left and go down to a stile where the path continues between gardens.

Cross straight over the drive down a short section of path into a field. Stay left with the hedge on your left and go down to a bridge **F**. Cross over and fork right, ignoring the path to the left. After 100 metres the narrow path comes out on to a lane. Turn left here and walk down to where it meets the main road with the village green in front of you.