

STEP INTO THE COTSWOLDS WALK **NINE**

Whichford, Warwickshire



Summary

Wonderful Cotswold countryside incorporating the villages of Whichford and Ascott make this a perfect little circular 2.5 mile walk through the South Warwickshire part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This walk forms part of the 'Step into the Cotswolds' series of walking routes. Look out for these waymarkers along the route. →



Walk information

Start/End Point: The Norman Knight, Whichford

Grid Reference: SP315347

Distance: 2.5 miles

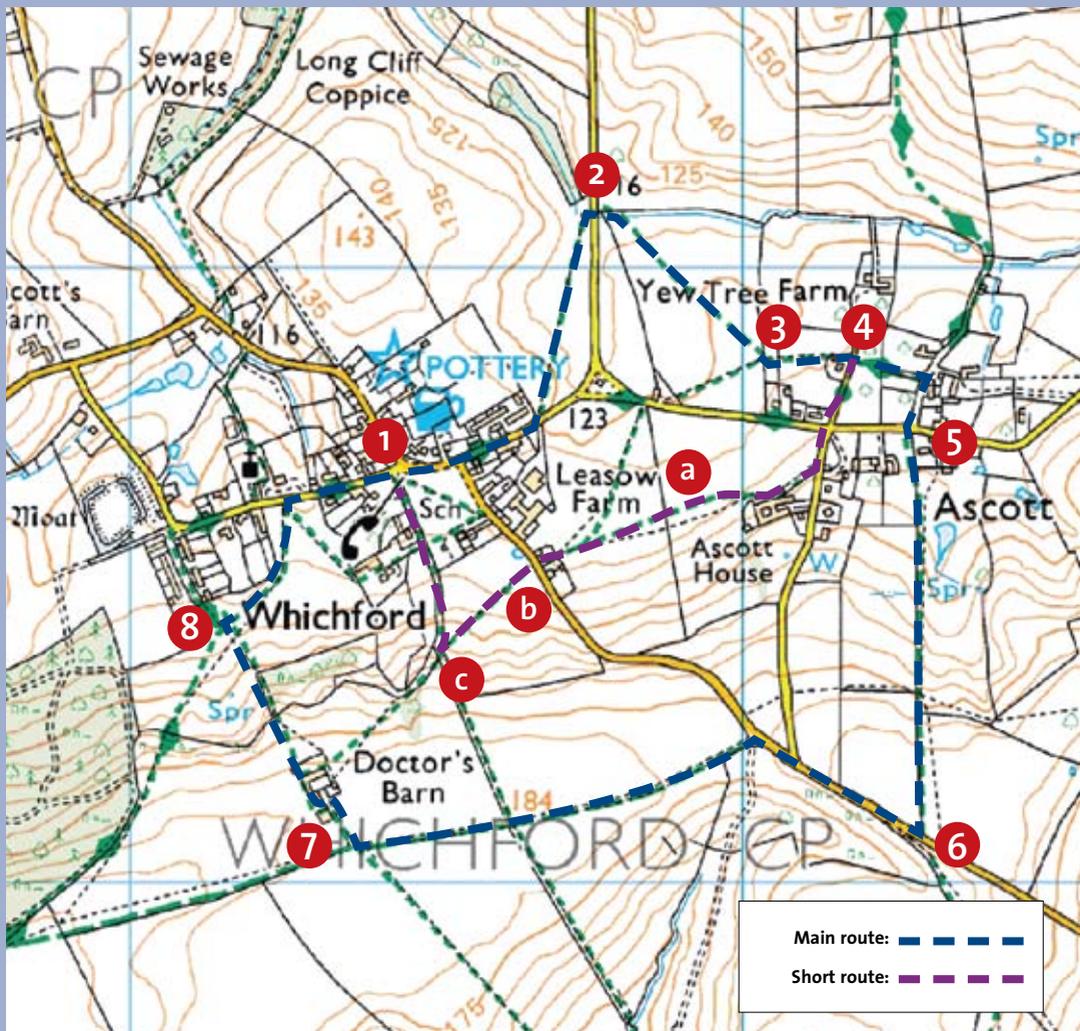
Terrain: Gently undulating

Parking: Around village green close to The Norman Knights

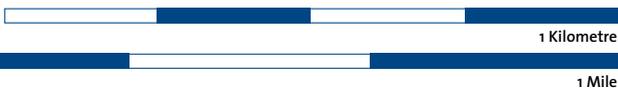
Public Transport: Details of bus services can be found in the 'Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport' leaflets available from the Cotswolds Conservation Board (Tel: 01451 862000). You can download the leaflets from: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk. They are also available at most Tourist Information Centres and libraries.

Public toilets: None

Refreshments: The Norman Knight



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1 From the Norman Knights walk down the lane leading to Ascott. By the last house on the left go through a kissing gate into a field. Bear right across the field and, after crossing a stream go through a gate and across a lane.

2 After going through the gate into Bright Wood turn right and re-cross the stream. Follow the path cross the next field to a kissing gate.



- 3** Walk straight ahead across a garden and two horse paddocks. Follow the edge of the next field to emerge onto a narrow lane by Murton Cottage.
- 4** Continue straight ahead along the edge of a small field and garden wall to another lane. Turn right and follow this lane up to a junction.
- 5** Cross the road and through a wooden pedestrian gate. Follow the path between a fence and hedge to a wooden kissing gate. Turn right and follow the hedge line on the left through 3 gates to the top of the hill.
- 6** Turn right and follow the road downhill for approx 150m. Turn left and follow the farm track straight ahead for approx 300m, bearing right just before reaching a hedge.
- 7** Turn left at the end of a Dutch barn then right alongside some old stone barns. At the corner of the last barn continue straight across the field to a kissing gate. Continue down the hill towards a gate leading into a street.
- 8** Just before reaching this gate turn right and follow the edge of the field leading to the round beside Whichford House. (Turn right here to visit the church). Turn right to return to the village green and Norman Knights.

Short route:

- 4** Turn right and follow the lane to the cross roads. Continue straight ahead then turn right through the entrance to Ascott House. Follow the drive past the front of the house then through a gate into a field.
- a** Continue across the next two fields before passing between two cottages and onto a road.
- b** Cross the road into the field and bear left up the hill to a waymark post.
- c** At the waymark post turn right and follow the bridleway down to the village green.

This walk is part of a visitor payback scheme called 'Step into the Cotswolds' and has these waymarkers along the route. →





Points of interest

Whichford

Whichford is a very popular area for walkers and there are golf courses, fishing lakes, swimming pools, tennis courts and riding stables nearby.

The name of the local pub, The Norman Knight, reflects the history of the village. "Wicford" is recorded in the Domesday book, and Sir John de Mohun and the Knights of Dunster held the manors, the church and the castle here until about 1340. The castle is now long gone, but the earthwork and moat, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, can still be seen.

Whichford Pottery

Whichford Pottery is a family-run pottery established in 1976. All pots are made entirely by hand on the premises and visitors are welcome to watch how an inert lump of clay is transformed into a beautifully crafted flowerpot. You can also visit their courtyard

Cotswolds Conservation Board

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Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Cotswolds is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful areas in England – the quintessential English landscape. It is the largest of 38 AONBs in England and Wales, protected by Government since 1966 as being of great value to the nation. This ensures the very features that attract people are there for future generations to enjoy.

The natural qualities of the Cotswolds AONB are unique. Limestone gives the Cotswolds its distinctive, unified appearance, visible everywhere in walls and buildings. It is a place of immense diversity: rolling landscapes with breathtaking views, river valleys, picturesque villages and pastures. Ancient beech woodlands and limestone grassland with rare flora alternate with broad swathes of arable fields, and the landscape is sprinkled with remnants of its past such as Iron Age hill forts, Neolithic burial chambers, Roman villas and Bronze Age stone circles.