



# Dursley Welcomes Walkers

**A Circular walk from Stinchcombe Hill (3.5 miles) around the South and West of Stinchcombe Hill including Stinchcombe Church**

**The walk involves some steep ascents and descents that can be very muddy and slippery in wet conditions. There are at least 12 stiles to be crossed.**

Turn left (South) from the public car park on Stinchcombe Hill, along the edge of the hill, with the small stand of evergreen trees on your left. Pass several small marker posts until at the Cotswold Way fingerpost you turn right down into the wood and after 50 yards go down left on the clear path. After about 200 yards, at a path crossroads go down right. This path will follow Hollow Combe as it loops around Stancombe Farm, keeping just above the bottom of the woods. Ignore two paths close together that go up to the right, but on reaching a fork on a descending slope take the upper, right hand path to stay in the wood. Climb steadily through much coppiced trees that give way to predominantly beech trees. On starting to descend meet three paths and take the left hand one that goes steeply down next to the field. Ignore a stile on the left and continue down to a field gate on your right. Turn into the field and go ahead to find a fingerpost and stile in the fence, hidden behind a rounded tree.

The stile leads to a road; taking great care go down the bank to the road and cross – vehicles travel fast here and you are between bends. Cross the road and go left to find a stile by the bus stop.

After the stile descend the field: a kissing gate will be found beneath the middle of 3 large trees. Once through the gate go down through the dip between trees and aim for the bottom right-hand corner of the field. Keep the hedge on your right as you pass through a metal gate then find a pair of gates on the right. Once through these gates go up to the top left hand corner to cross two stiles. Go through the metal gate a few yards on your left, then bear right up the field, past the telegraph pole to a stile on the right. After the stile go into a small wood on the left. Follow the path through the wood, with delightful views over the hamlet of Stinchcombe and the Severn Vale, to emerge by a stile on your left. The house that has been revealed on your right is Piers Court, between 1937 and 1956 the home of Evelyn Waugh, and where he wrote the *Men at Arms* Trilogy and *The Loved One*.

After enjoying the scene cross the stile straight down towards the church and enter the churchyard of St Cyr's church. Having left the churchyard go down Echo Lane, signposted towards Berkeley Road, to the metal gates of Clingre Farm on the right. Go through the gap in the wall, then over the stile and up to the wooden gate and stile ahead. Turn right over a second stile and into a small plantation; go up through the trees on a path that stays to the right hand side of

the plantation and arrives at a stile. The path continues straight ahead through two fields, then turns left towards the rugby/cricket clubhouse and a wooden stile. After this stile turn right over another one. Go straight up the side of the playing field to the corner of the stone wall where a gap allows you to reach the road.

Cross the road, turn left and at the finger post turn right up the bridleway. Follow this up the hill to the golf course. On reaching the golf course, and level ground at last, stay on the same broad path until it turns sharply left. Continue straight ahead until, after a few yards, you will see the path across the course, leading to the car park from which you started the walk.

