

# *Dursley's Lantern Way*



**For those wishing to walk Dursley's Lantern Way in an anti-clockwise direction the route instructions are detailed below - enjoy the walk.**

From Dursley Market Hall, go along pedestrianised Parsonage Street and turn left up May Lane past the library. Opposite the bus station go left at a barrier by a green metal Cotswold Way post, continue between walls and turn R in a gap in the wire fence, between trees. Go ahead up the worn or mown grass to black metal posts leading to a road; follow this as it twists right and left. At the junction opposite Weavers Close go R steeply up into woods.

Bear up L and continue to climb, avoiding all paths on the right. Remain on this track and at an obvious clearing with fewer, larger trees on more level ground the path curves to the right following the hillside. At a path crossroads, metal posts and chain, go ahead to a green vehicle barrier and turn left onto the road. Beware of traffic for the next stretch. Pass a turning to the right signed Waterley Bottoms and after about 100 metres find a stile at the top of a bank. This is Breakheart Quarry. Go briefly ahead to an information board and follow the waymarked public footpath round to the right, then following the quarry perimeter. Just after the Visitors' centre on the right and other buildings on the left, bear slightly right at a wayposted junction past another information on the right to a stile. Keep ahead alongside the fence of a small reservoir, over another stile into an open space with excellent views over Waterley Bottom. This route is not marked on maps as a public right of way but is used with the landowner's permission. Head to a gate and stepless stile in the far left corner, go left along the stoney track to a road, cross with care and immediately right parallel with the road. At the next junction of paths, go right, crossing the road again, to a kissing gate next to the entrance to Ashen Plains campsite, where refreshments and toilets may be available in high season.

In the corner of the rough area behind the camp block, go into the wood. The route for the next mile is tricky but very well signed. Follow public footpath signs, which mostly avoid the private broad track. At public path junctions look for the Lantern Way stickers, which usually favour turnings to the left and eventually return you to the main track. This brings you to a kissing gate onto a road. Turn left onto it and proceed a very short distance to a more main road, the A4135. Go left along it, using the verge where possible, into another minor road.

Cross this with extreme care to find, behind the signpost for Golf Course, a gap in a woven fence. This is another permissive route not shown on maps or digital route-finders.

Enter the wood and follow the twisting but clear path through light woodland. At a path T junction (signs for the Sculpture and Play Trail) go down R down wide steps into a clearing with many sculptures and bear L to a display board (Twinberrow Woods). As you face the board see a path down below the bank. Take this to the right and down to the gated entrance to Whiteway water plant. Cross the busy road with great care and take the signposted footpath which goes along the bottom of the wood. After about half a mile look out for a metal gate on the left and about 80yds further on bear left down a narrow path; the bottom is steep and can be slippery so take care here. On reaching the lower path turn R in the cutting. You can continue on this path along the bottom of the wood avoiding all turns up right. For better views across the valley step L out of the cutting and follow a fainter path closer to the boundary fence. Both footpath and bridleway converge eventually and soon you arrive at an obvious fork. Go down left to emerge below Rowden House and swing R.

After a few metres take the wooden stile on the L and continue down over 4 more stiles. At the 4th turn sharp R and go up through 2 fields to a house. Pass between the house and the sports field and go down to the road. Go L along the road for 200yds and turn R up the hill to a footpath on L (opposite Stouts Hill entrance). Go between the high wall and hedge into the field and continue, with stream on left to a bridge. Cross this L and go straight up Uley Millennium Field aiming for the black plaque on a raised stone. Leave the field through gates and go straight to 'The Street'.

Bear R and take the footpath beside the shop to a stile. You can go straight ahead up the field or, for a gentler ascent, and the official waymarked route, go right for a while then up left by a church wall on the right. There is a contoured path running across just below the wood. Both routes lead to a wooden gate into the wood; go up to exit at a field gate. Continue ahead through a cutting in the rampart of Uley Bury and turn right on level ground which leads to another gate. Go right through the trees to find a road. Turn left and admire the view from the bench erected by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. In the distance you should see a distinct block of upland: the Black

Mountains. The left hand (south) edge is the distinctive shape of the Sugar Loaf, above Abergavenny. (If you can see hills beyond this then they are the Brecon Beacons.) The right hand (north) edge is the steep slope of Hay Bluff.

From the viewpoint by the bench take the lower, right hand path down. At the fork go left, rising slightly; the path will eventually descend and when you cross another path bear R to walk next to the perimeter fence at the bottom of the wood. Follow this to a lane and go down past cottages to the stile on the right while appreciating the fine view of May Hill conspicuous between the trees and the spine of the Malvern Hills to the right. Cross the stile and continue down. In the third field find a stile behind the first large tree on the left. Cross and go down to the gate. Bear R to a stile across the road and in the field follow the left hand boundary to cross the little stream through gate next to a tree. Turn R and again follow the boundary, with the hedge on your right, ignoring a bridge and go through a gap in the hedge. Now bear L into the far corner to leave this field by stile and tricky bridge and turn L.

You are aiming for a gate in front of the conspicuous new house – how you get there depends on the condition of the field, which can be very muddy. You might be able to walk straight across, or follow the left hand boundary until you can head for the gate.

Cross the lane, take the left of two footpaths over the stile beside the house and aim for Coaley Church tower to leave the field through a gate. Continue down to cross a stile and bear L into the corner of the field to cut between the houses into Coaley village. Go right through the village for a third of a mile. The Fox & Hounds pub may be open at weekend lunchtimes, and near the village hall the shop may be open too at key times.

Continue past the school and at the corner of Pinnells End Lane take the stile into the field and go ahead, over the next stile and down the field to the gate in bottom R hand corner.

Go through the gate, over the stream and bear R up to an obvious gate in the hedge. Here, take the path that goes ahead rather than the one more to the right, going over several stiles and bridges until you come to a broad byway. This is Halmore Lane. Go straight over into a field (going right along the byway would bring you to Cam and Dursley railway station and buses into Dursley). Follow the path along the right hand boundary and keep on this line through tree fields and 3 metal kissing gates. At the bottom right-hand corner of the 3rd field turn L up the field keeping the hedge on your right. Go over the wooden stile into and through a young plantation, continuing up the right hand side of the field and through 4 wooden gates to the road in Uphorpe.

Turn R and after 30yds go L up steps between houses, at the signpost for Cam Church. Crossing the stile bear R up to the wooden gate. Turn R, cross the stile and turn diagonally left. Now contour round the gentle hillside until you can proceed through a gateway in the hedge before you and straight ahead to a wooden stile next to the largest tree opposite.

Over the stile, look to your right to a stone and wooden stile into a field. In this field bear L and head to the left of the 3rd telegraph pole to find a way down through trees to a bridge over Dulkan Brook. Negotiate the steps and muddy slopes here with care. As you come up into the field after crossing the Brook see ahead of you a clear path through 2 fields towards houses. Follow this straight line to go through a kissing gate to the road at Upper Cam.

Turn L and follow the road round to the right. 30 yds after St George's Close go R on a signposted footpath that continues over the road, through trees, over a former railway line to another road. Bear R a few yards, over the road, and up a path to pass through a metal fence. Bear R up the grassy slope and continue to the road. Go L, cross the road and after 300yds come to a signpost pointing R down steps. Find a path just beyond the steps and turn L for 20yds then take the path R leading to a gap in the hedge and some steps.

Continue on this path with a hedge on your right to a car park and road. You are in Sandpits.

Go uphill along the road ahead and turn L between 2 houses, signposted Public Footpath Stinchcombe Hill. Climb up between fields, ignoring a stile, then L on the second of two turnings, a wide path that winds around the lower slopes of the hill. After 400yds fork L down past the corner of a field and continue with, on your left, first the field then gardens. At a metal bollard and a junction of several paths, bear up R for 20 yds then left, to continue with houses on your left to emerge after 100yds at a field corner looking over Dursley and beyond to Downham Hill. Go down by the field to a wooden stile, descend over this and pass right of the gardens to cross a stile leading up steps and to the road. Go L down the hill past the Old Spot to the bus station.

Text by John Roberts and David Ashbee for Dursley Welcomes Walkers.

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