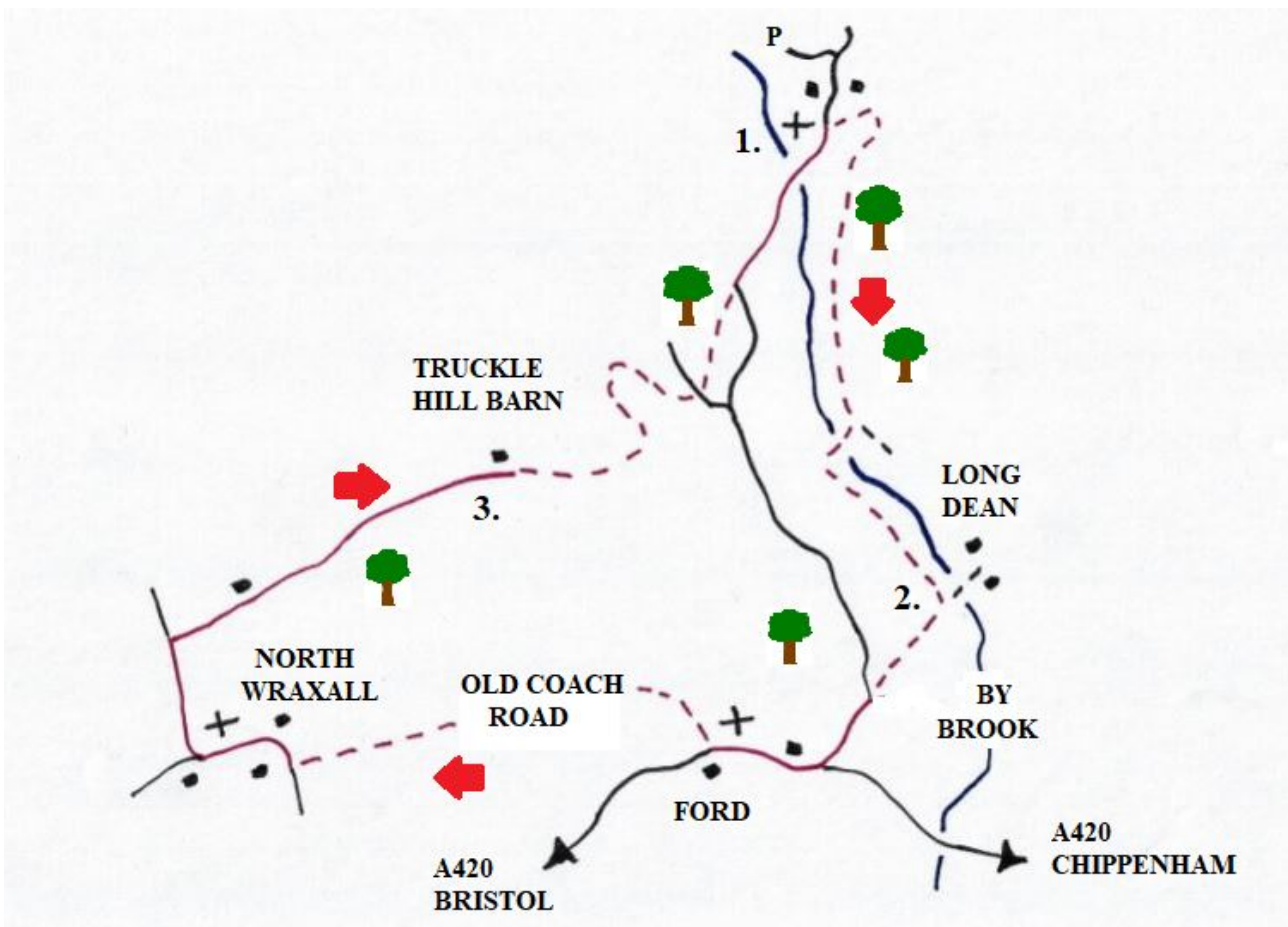


Nigel Vile's Castle Combe Walk



Distance: 7 miles, Time approx 3 - 4 hours

Map: OS Explorer 156 Chippenham & Bradford-on-Avon

Terrain: Several moderate ascents. Muddy paths following heavy rain.

Directions

Getting there: The Visitors' Car Park in Castle Combe lies just off of the B4039 Chippenham to Old Sodbury Road. From the car-park it is a short walk down into the village where St Andrew's Church is located by the village cross.

1. From the church, walk past the Market Cross and follow the road to the left. Shortly, immediately past a property on the right called Trimmels, veer right onto a path that climbs uphill through woodland for 250 yards to reach a junction with a track. Turn right and, in 25 yards, turn right onto a wide path that runs through Parsonage Wood. In just under ½ mile, pass through a gate at the end of the woodland and follow a path downhill for 100 yards to a junction. Turn left and, in 600 yards, look out for a marker post indicating a path

going off on the right. Turn right at this point and follow a path downhill, it shortly bears left, to reach a bridge that crosses the By Brook. Beyond this bridge, follow the path through the bottom of the valley to a footbridge. Continue walking ahead through the bottom of the valley to reach a handgate and junction with a track in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

2. Turn right and follow this track uphill out of Long Dean to a gate, before keeping ahead until the track emerges into an open field. In 150 yards, pass through a gate on the left and follow a footpath across the top of a hilltop field to reach a gate and lane in 350 yards. Turn left and follow this lane down to the A420 in Ford. Follow the A420 to the right and, immediately past St John's Church, turn right onto the Old Coach Road. Follow what becomes a track for $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to reach a lane on the edge of North Wraxall by a bungalow. Turn right and follow this lane as it winds its way downhill and uphill to reach St James' Church. Just past the church, turn right on a lane signposted to Nettleton, Castle Combe and West Kington. In 250 yards, turn right onto a lane and continue for 1 mile to reach a cattle grid before following an unmetalled access road along to Truckle Hill Barn.

3. Just before the barn, pass through a gate on the left, walk across a parking area and garden to a gateway opposite before following an enclosed path that shortly drops downhill to reach a stream in the bottom of a wooded valley. Cross the stream and follow a path on the right uphill to reach a lane in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Turn left and, in 25 yards, turn right onto a footpath and walk through Becker Wood, eventually dropping downhill to join the Ford to Castle Combe road. Turn left and follow this road up through Castle Combe to return to the Market Cross and the church.