

Ralphs Rambles

A WOODLAND WALK IN CHIPPING CAMPDEN

I'm a regular dog about town in the Cotswolds, and I love going for walks in Chipping Campden. It's a beautiful town, surrounded by wonderful woodland with lots of things for me to sniff out and discover. I'm sure that your owners will like walking around Chipping Campden too – there are lots of brilliant shops, art galleries and places to eat to stop off at.

Chipping Campden is just a 15-minute drive from Stow-on-the-Wold – if your owners put the postcode GL55 6AW into their sat-navs, they'll reach the Market Square in Chipping Campden, where there is plenty of parking.



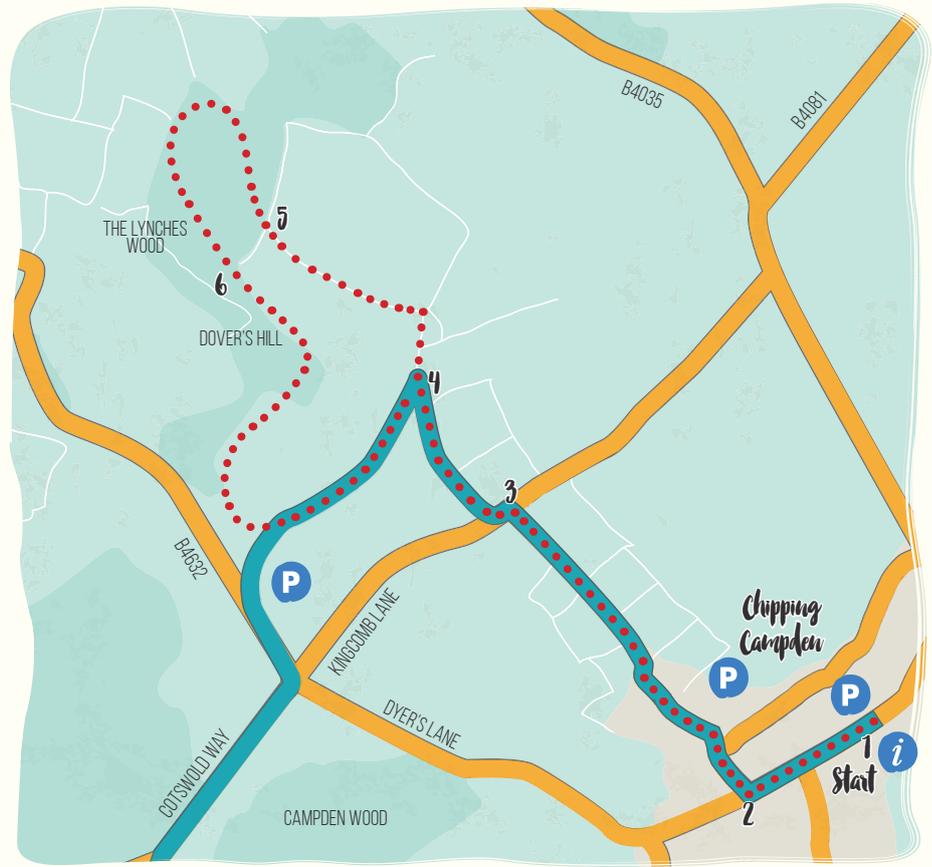
WALK DISTANCE

4 and a half miles
(Shorter version: 3 miles)



WALK TIME

Allow up to 2–3 hours
(Shorter version: 1–2 hours)



1 Start opposite the tourist information centre at the Market Hall, the official start/end point of the Cotswold Way. Continue down onto the narrow footpath, and you'll spot a war memorial on your right. Veer to the right of the red phone box and continue along the Cotswold Way.

2 Turn right just after St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church and continue straight on to the next Cotswold Way signpost. Turn left and go up Hoo Lane. The track will get a bit rough, but keep going – just make sure your owners are wearing the right footwear. After half a mile, go through the gate at the top onto Kingcomb Lane.

3 Carefully watch for traffic, then turn left and walk along the lay-by for 100 metres. Then, turn right opposite a Cotswold Way signpost to cross the road safely. Keep going along this footpath and you'll soon reach a kissing gate, leading onto Dover's Hill.

4 After the kissing gate, leave the Cotswold Way and follow the bridleway on the right.

To take the shorter route, turn left and follow the bridleway to the viewpoint at the end. To get back to Chipping Campden, just retrace your steps.

When you get back to town, walk down Sheep Street and you'll reach The Old Silk Mill. Your owners will love the shops, and the Campden Coffee Company is a very dog-friendly café!

However, if like me, you'd like to see a bit more of the Cotswold countryside and stretch your paws a bit further, then tell your owner to keep following these directions.

Leave the bridleway and follow the fenceline until you reach a gate on your right. Enter the woodland, taking the left-hand path. At the end of the wood, turn left downhill towards a kissing gate. Head onto the hillside and follow the path (there are lots of signs) straight on with the fence at your right. Then, continue downhill to the next set of woods.

5 Go through the kissing gate into Lynches Wood. Take the trail to your left, ignoring the footpath on your right – but watch out for mud if it's been raining or you'll be a mucky pup! At the bottom of the woods, curve to the left and carry on uphill, taking the steps. At the top of the steps, turn right and take the path to the kissing gate.

6 Pass through the gate and you'll be in some

fields. Follow the rough track straight uphill, bending around to the right by the waymarker. The arrow on it will point you through the middle of the field – keep going all the way past the pond until you reach the signpost near the end. Then, turn left and climb up to the top of Dover's Hill. Once your owners have had a rest, follow the edge of the hill back down and around to the bridleway you walked along earlier. Then find your way back to town for a well-deserved treat!

If your owners aren't as confident at following their nose home like you or me, they can put the postcode GL54 1AF into their sat-navs and you'll be back at The Old Stocks Inn in no time.

I hope that you and your owners enjoy your walk – if your owners take some photos along the way, get them to post them on Instagram with the tag [#oldstocksin](#) so I can see how you get on!

Happy walkies,



THE OLD STOCKS
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