

Wincle Circular Walk

An enjoyable 4 mile circular walk from the village of Wincle.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	6.5 kms / 4 miles
Time	Allow 3 hours
Start	Wincle village Grid Ref 964 653
Map	Explorer Outdoor Leisure sheet 24
Terrain	Field paths, tracks and stony paths. Muddy patches in winter. Some steep gradients.
Barriers	12 stiles, slopes
Toilets	None
Contact	01270 686029



Route Details

This walk passes through beautiful countryside. The Shell Brook valley is particularly beautiful and very remote. Deer can be heard rutting in this valley in autumn when the trees turn magnificent shades of gold and rusty brown. In the depths of the valley the Shell Brook itself cuts deeply down into the Millstone grit. The Gritstone Trail crosses this valley but this walk joins the Gritstone Trail well above the little brook and away from the valley floor.

The feeder canal once supplied water to Rudyard Lake but now appears very over grown and seems not to be used for this purpose any more. It now makes a great wildlife haven with attractive wildflowers along the embankments.

The River Dane (image above) originates high on the moors near Axe Edge and flows through Wincle and Danebridge, and down onto the Cheshire Plain below the prominent hill called Bosley Cloud. Once used by industry for powering mills in Congleton and nearby Gradbach, today it provides water for the Wincle Trout fisheries.

Directions

1. Park considerately and safely in Wincle village. Walk uphill away from the river, passing the Ship Inn on the right of the road. Shortly after the pub take the footpath on the left across the field. Cross a driveway into the next field and continue uphill through a narrow strip of woodland then cross another field to the road.
2. Turn left on the road and, at Wincle Grange Farm, take the footpath directly ahead between a barn and the Farm house. Do not take the footpath turning sharp left which leaves the road just before the farm buildings.
3. Having passed between the barn and the house, go through a field gate and then over a stile into a field. Follow the track across the middle of the field to a stile at the side of a fieldgate. Continue across the next field over the brow of the hill and down to a waymark post at the right hand end of a line of trees. Cross one further field until you reach a stile at which there is a t-junction of footpaths. Nettlebeds Farm will now be on your right handside.
4. Cross the stile and turn left along the field edge. Continue to follow this path across the fields to reach a stile on the edge of a wooded track.
5. Cross this stile and turn right following a footpath that shortly joins the Gritstone Trail. Continue ahead passing the ruined building called Dumkins and follow the Gritstone Trail along the Shell Brook valley to Barleighford Bridge on the River Dane. Cross the bridge and follow the road up to the stone bridge over the overgrown canal.
6. Turn left at the bridge leaving the Gritstone Trail and follow the feeder canal with the River Dane to your left below you. Follow the feeder canal to where it starts on the River Dane.
7. Cross the River Dane by the footbridge and turn right to walk upstream following the Dane Valley Way back to Wincle.