

Fighting for English history in Churchill

Churchill, which sits beneath the Mendip Hills, is a traditional English village which Sir Winston Churchill said was exactly what Britain should be fighting for during the Second World War. And he should know – Churchill’s ancestors lived in the village 300 years ago.



How to get there

Start at map ref:
458604 (OS 154)

Car:

Park in the lay-by on the A38 shortly after the turning to Lower Langford.

Bus:

The walk could begin in Langford Road instead, accessed via service 121 from Weston-super-Mare to Wrington or Bristol

Lower Langford is the first port of call in this circular route.

From the lay-by on the A38, walk past Wyndhurst Farm and look for a stile into a field. Enter the field and cross it diagonally right, towards a stile in the top corner.

Head straight across this next field and keep to the left edge, next to the wire fence. It can get very muddy so take care.

Near the end of the field, on your left, is a wooden gate in the fence. Climb over here and go over the next wooden gate straight in front of you.

This leads to a footpath running between rows of trees and a stream on your right. You will come out by greenhouses into a gravel driveway which leads out onto Langford Road.

Turn left here. There is no pavement so take care and make yourself as visible as possible to traffic. You will

pass University of Bristol buildings and Wyndhurst Farm.

At the end of the road, go straight over the mini roundabout, passing St Mary’s Church on your left. Follow the A38 towards Churchill, passing a turnpike sign dating from 1837. The public footpath then begins just underneath a big road sign.

Follow this footpath between the houses, turn right at the t-junction, then follow it out into Pudding Pie Lane. Turn left, going past Churchill Primary School.

At the bend in the road, turn right into Ladymead Lane. The public footpath continues into a field on your left, through a metal gate.

Go across the field, keeping to the right edge. In the corner is another metal gate. Follow the yellow waymarker and walk around the edge of the field.



Just after the corner is a gap in the hedge and a wooden bridge. Cross this and continue ahead over the next field, keeping right. At the top, continue on through a gap in the hedge to the next field.

Turn left onto a farm track and follow it to the end. The footpath starts again immediately on your right, around an electricity station. From here go through the gap in the hedge ahead of you.

Continue straight ahead through two fields, heading towards the brow of Windmill Hill. Exit through the metal gate at the top, continue ahead, then exit through the next metal gate. These gates have been restored thanks to the Ramblers organisation.

You are now at the brow of the hill, with views towards Churchill on your left. Continue straight ahead, across the hill, until you reach a footpath. Go through the gate and continue on the path.

Continue ahead through the field, watching out for grazing animals. Go through the next gate, turn left and head to the gate in the corner.

Cross the next field, veering slightly right towards the gate, and go through the old kissing gate next to the fence.

This leads out onto Front Street. Turn left and walk towards the crossroads. You will pass the Post Office, which is also a tea room, along with pretty cottages and Churchill Methodist Church.

The church was built in 1880 by local businessman Sidney Hill as a memorial to his wife. Both are interred in a mausoleum at the front of the building.

At the end of the road is the Grade II-listed jubilee clock tower, built in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. At the

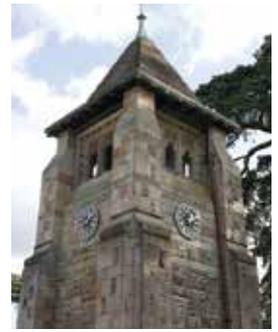
clock tower, cross the A368 with care and go up the public footpath directly opposite.

Follow this path uphill and then turn left at the yellow waymarker. Watch out for thorns.

This path leads out onto Skinners Lane, opposite a pub. Turn right and follow the lane (The Batch) uphill.

After the two cream-coloured houses there is a stile in the hedge on the left, which leads downhill across the field. Keep veering left and exit at the field at the bottom, which leads onto the A38.

From here, you can walk directly back towards your car along the A38 or join the footpath opposite for a walk into Dolebury Warren.



Route information

Distance:

Just under 5 miles

Difficulty:

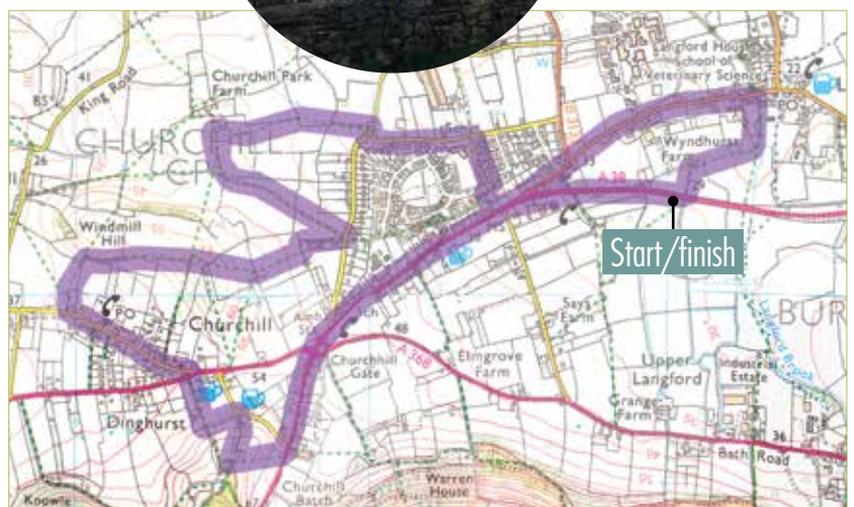
medium/hard – some stiles and hilly parts. The walk crosses fields which can get water logged and very muddy in wet weather, so it is recommended that it is completed during a dry spell, or wearing wellies.

Duration:

approx 2-3 hrs

Map:

This walk straddles two OS Explorer maps – 154 and 141



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This walk meets two routes around Lower Langford and Dolebury Warren which were previously published in the October 12 and December 08 issues of *Life*. See these, and all other walks from the magazine, at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks