

Walk 5 (one hour)

Roger Lindley (My Favourite Walk Competition winner 2008)

My Favourite Walk; Scenery, solitude & history, a bit of everything!

A walk of approximately 2 miles (3.2km), along quiet lanes and paths. Boots advised in wet weather.

Starting at The Cross (24), walk up Star Lane (to right hand side of The Cross Inn). After passing the last cottage look out for a large concrete cylinder on the right hand side of the road. This is a remnant of the Bristol Outer Defence Line constructed during the Second World War to protect the city and port from land attack from the east. The block would have been placed in the road as an anti-tank measure.

Walking further up the lane you will see a World War 2 pillbox (28), again part of the Defence line. After walking 'round the bend' pass a stony track on the left and climb the wooden stile immediately next to the track. Follow the well-defined path and enjoy the panoramic views that open up as you cross one field, climb the stone stile and cross the next field to another stone stile.

Turn right onto a bridle path for approximately 100 yards before climbing yet another stone stile into a field on the left. Follow the edge of the field past a number of sloe bushes; these usually have a good crop of berries each autumn for making sloe gin. Climb yet another stone stile, this time turn left onto the bridle path. The path, which can be muddy after heavy rain, drops down to Nags Heads. At the stream, pass through the gate and up to the road (45). Immediately opposite is the former Nags Head Inn (44).

Turn left and pass through Nags Head hamlet before turning left down towards Avening Court. At the bridge, pause to look through the 'peephole' on the right hand side for a wonderful view of the stream and the cottage gardens. After this there is a short climb up the lane that then bears to the right before sloping gently down the main road. Look out for Old Hill (29-33) which was the original road to Minchinhampton. Turn left up Hampton Hill, back to the starting point.