



03 GLOUCESTERSHIRE PAINSWICK & CRANHAM

▶ Distance: 10 miles/16km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 16

Looking across
Witcombe reservoirs.



PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



CHOSEN BY...
JULIE ROYLE

The Cotswold
Commons and

Beechwoods National Nature Reserve covers 665 hectares, with almost every square centimetre oozing sheer gorgeousness. It's all open access land too, so there is massive scope for exploring away from the footpaths and finding quiet spots to picnic or to simply sit back and lose yourself in contemplation of the surrounding loveliness. Buckholt Wood, Cooper's Hill Wood and Cranham Common are the main constituent parts of the reserve and they're all included in this walk. Once you have left the reserve behind, your return route to Painswick

is mostly along the valley of Painswick Stream, passing some idyllic houses such as Damsels Farm and Tocknells Court. But do allow time to explore Painswick thoroughly too; it's a beautiful town. If you saw the BBC adaptation of J.K. Rowling's *A Casual Vacancy*, you might recognise some of the streets because Painswick was one of the filming locations.

1 Start
Join northbound Cotswold Way, going up New Street then L on Gloucester Street. Soon after Gyde Road, Cotswold Way turns R. Follow for nearly five miles, over Painswick Beacon and through beech woods, then steeply down

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking St Mary's Church, New Street (A46), Painswick, GL6 6UT, grid ref SO866096, bus stops are by church, car park south of it, on Stamages Ln
Is it for me? Woods and pasture, steep in places
Stiles 8

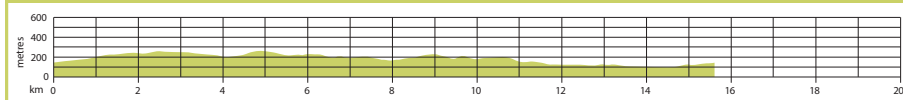
PLANNING

Nearest town Stroud
Refreshments Painswick
Public toilets St Mary's Street, Painswick
Public transport Bus 66, Cheltenham-Stroud via Painswick, daily
Maps OS Explorer 179; Landranger 162/163

Cooper's Hill and R at bottom. Ignore branching paths and keep L at U-shaped junction.

2 5½ miles/8.8km
When woodland on L dwindles to single line of trees, with clear view of Witcombe

GRADIENT PROFILE



03 GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PAINSWICK & CRANHAM► OS Explorer map 179 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DON'T MISS...



Count the yew trees in St Mary's churchyard. There are supposed to be 99 and it is said that Satan will not allow a hundredth to grow – but some reports suggest there are 105. Admire the 17th and 18th-century tombs too; they are among the finest in England.

Reservoirs, turn R, waymarked 'Cotswold Way Circular Walk'. Climb to junction and turn L up holloway then along stony track to road. Ignore path opposite and turn L to another a few metres away. Go forward into Buckholt Wood to an information board then across cycleway to join footpath. Walk to cross-path and turn R, soon descending into valley, crossing brook and climbing to meet track. Turn R, leaving woods to continue across grassland to Cranham. Go straight on, L of village hall. After houses take to common on R, continuing in same direction. At junction, go L. Rejoining road, cross to path opposite, passing L of Cranham School and The Paddock. Turn R at junction. When path goes sharp L, take another path straight ahead. Keep straight on at junction. Join driveway, follow it to lane.

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3 7½ miles/12km Turn R past cottage to take footpath. Descend to Painswick Stream. Cross footbridge and go obliquely L across meadow. Re-cross stream, go through gate, across footbridges, through meadows and past mill to lane. Go straight on, L of Tocknells Court, then through meadows beside stream. Keep straight on at junction, past Mill Cottage, on access road then L across pasture to Damsels Farm. Turn L, following farm access track to lane. Turn L past Damsels Mill then take Wysis Way on R. Turn R at junction, then L to continue on

other side of stream, through dairy pasture, soon joining driveway. Join another path at sign on L. Continue by stream then turn R after stile. Join bridleway and turn L to lane. Turn L then take Vicarage Street to St Mary's Street and New Street. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN
YOUR RATING