

Commons Pub Walk 5.3 miles

Catch the bus to Minchinhampton market square opposite the wonderful Grade 2 star Market House to start the pub walk into Stroud. Walk past the War Memorial towards the newly refurbished Crown Inn. The pub was closed back in 2013 and had several owners until finally reopening late in 2019. They have a good selection of beers on hand pump.

Leave the Crown and turn left to walk up past the Church onto the Great Park, an open area of grassland where cows and horses roam freely in the Summer. Turn left onto the tarmacked private road and walk along by the wall parallel to the road for quite a way crossing one road. When you reach where the wall turns left just after a driveway continue straight across the common towards another corner wall. Cross over the road just before this and then walk with the wall on your left until you see a building up a drive in the distance. Head towards this being careful just before you get to the road you have to cross as there is a golf tee on your right. This building is the Old Lodge which was at one time the club house for the golf club. This pub is a foody one but has a good bar/lounge room for drinkers with up to four beers on hand pump.

Moving on heading across the golf course towards Amberley, if you are a golfer it's towards the fifth green, if not head towards the building you can see on the left of the reservoir (the raised area with a fence around it). On reaching the road turn left down the hill past the school. At the crossroads you will see the Amberley Inn. This is an impressive old building.

The next offering is in the same village. Turn left out of the Inn and then left again and take the footpath which runs between the pub and the road to the heart of the village. Where the path forks keep to the right hand one and cross over a road which will lead you to the Black Horse. This is a pleasant pub with a beer garden. The conservatory and garden have breathtaking views over the Woodchester Valley. A wonderful place to sit and meditate while enjoying the vista.

When you leave the pub if you look to the left you will see a gravelled pathway, walk along this and when it ends keep going across the common in the same general direction parallel with the road on your right and keeping any buildings on your left. When you reach the road turn left and walk down to the Bear of Rodborough standing impressively on the roadside. This is a beautiful old coaching inn with a vineyard, manicured lawns and a garden seating area. Inside the rooms are impressive and welcoming whether you are there for a pint or a wedding.

After if you wish to take a quick detour to Winstone's Ice Cream factory, cross over the road and turn left and the right to follow the track down.

If you wish to carry on don't cross the road but go across the top of the hill road going down and then across the common behind the houses. Keep on this footpath with houses on your right and a hill going down on your left, Keep on this path keeping to the right hand forks until you will see Rodborough Fort in the distance. This was built as a folly in the 1760's, but is now a residential property. Again on this section the views are fantastic you can see the River Severn and the Forest of Dean beyond. Just before you reach the fort take the path downhill and when you reach the road turn right and then left over a cattle grid to reach the Prince Albert. This is a previous Stroud CAMRA pub of the year, it has a bohemian feel with a good choice of ales with five on hand pump. They also have a reputation for live music and attract some top bands.

Walk on down the hill to reach Stroud and if you could squeeze another one in call at the Clothiers Arms. This is a roadside pub with a large child friendly garden /play area that is popular with families. Turn right and follow the road back towards town and the bus station.

Scan this QR code for a map of the route

