



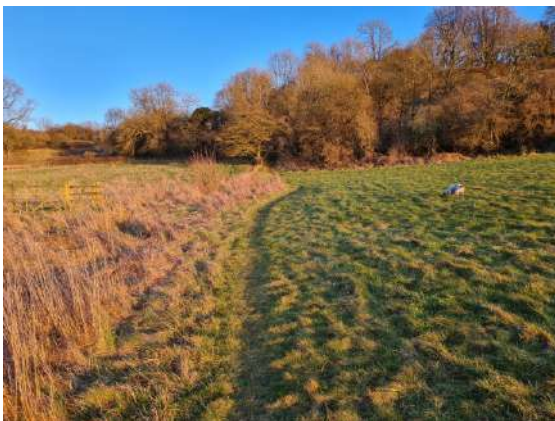
DRYHILL CIRCULAR WALK

Approximately 1 hour

Above Dryhill is the Crickley Hill Country Park and there is a pathway between the two. The circular walk that we have featured has some spectacular views, an ancient woodland, an Iron Age fort, a Roman Villa, a cafe and a pub. The pathway is generally free draining but it may be best to use good walking shoes or wellies. Take a credit card for the refreshment stops or pack a picnic.

START YOUR WALK

Walk back along the main driveway a very short distance until you see a galvanized metal pedestrian gate on your right side and just above you. This gate is signed "Public Path to Crickley Hill". Start your gentle climb up the grassy trail keeping the fence line to your left side. Now you are following the footsteps of Ivor Guerne the celebrated local poet and composer who lived at Dryhill in 1917. Half way up this hill you will notice a spring feeding a white cattle trough. This is the source of the water which fed the Roman Villa in this field and we have found coins here dating back to 76AD. Continue to the top left corner of the field where you will see a "Kissing Gate".



As you pass through the gate the trail splits right and left (the right hand trail, climbs the Crickley Hill escarpment and eventually leads to a quarry car park with cafe). Take the left fork and start climbing gently until you reach some wooden steps. Walk up these 30 steps and head to the top of the escarpment until you come to a T-Junction (the left path takes you into the woods planted by a Edward Adrian Wilson ,the famous explorer from the Scott of the Antarctic expedition). The trail passes by a neolithic burial mound believed to date back to 2000BC. This trail eventually meets Greenway Lane and by turning downhill at that point, you can arrive back to the Dryhill driveway.



However, for our featured walk, please take the right hand trail and complete your trek up some stone steps, past a wooden post with a small red sign "Crickley Hill Walks" and onwards to the top of the escarpment. You will then see a pedestrian gate in a wooded area. The ancient beech trees here follow the line of The Cotswold Way, a long distance national hiking trail. As you pass through the gate, the track presents two options, straight ahead and right (the right path takes you on a short-cut to the quarry car park, cafe and Visitor Centre). Take the prepared trail straight ahead from the gate and into the woodland beyond. Avoid any right turns and keep the Cotswold stone wall on your left side as you gradually meander slightly down hill. As you approach a pedestrian gate place you dog on a lead.

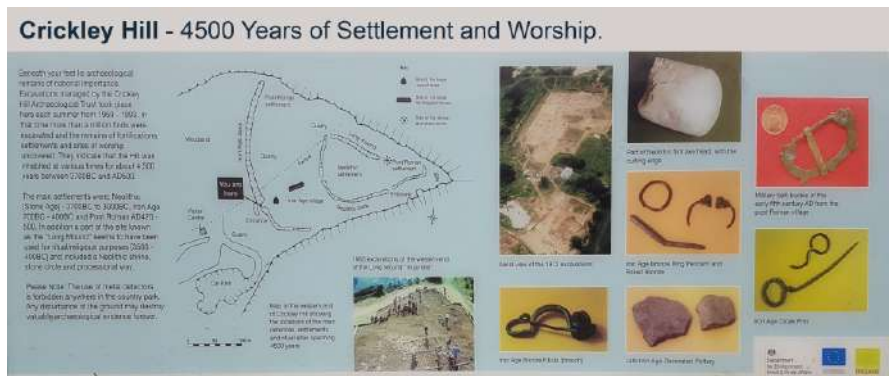
Pass through the gate and turn right on the gravel track which leads to a tarmac access road into the Country Park. Cross this small tarmac road and continue with the Cricket Ground on your left side until you reach a large field gate. Proceed through the gate and the path splits left (to the dog friendly Air Balloon Pub - caution crossing the busy road!) and right towards the base of the wooded hillside.



As you curve around to the right you will see a large field gate into the woods. You can release your dog and climb the trail to the top of the hill where it meets the access road. Pop your dog on the lead and take the left hand tarmac pavement which eventually leads to the Crickley Hill Visitor Centre, WC, information boards and cafe (with outside tables and benches) for some light refreshment. As you leave the cafe to the downhill side, you will notice a small wooden gate on the left side. As a small detour (5-10 minutes) this gate will lead you to some amazing vistas, a view point information board and the site of the Iron Age fort with historical information boards.



Once you have seen this site return back to the original gate outside the cafe. Through the gate, turn left and downhill into the old quarry which has a base of tarmac. Walk across the tarmac, towards the left hand Pay Station and beyond to the far left corner of the quarry. This quarry is believed to have supplied the stone for Dryhill in the 17th century and was used until the early 19th century to supply stone for houses in the Cheltenham area. At the far left corner of the quarry is a small gate, pass through and note an excellent viewing point with a bench, a great place for a panoramic picnic. Re-join the tarmac trail briefly until it turns into a rocky path which winds downhill on the site of the old rail line used to extract stone. Head down to a large gate (place your dog on a lead), turn right and follow the tarmac farm track to the right until you see a large field gate in front of you. Pass through the gate (avoid taking the farm track to the left side which is private) and re-enter the Country Park.



Walk ahead until you see three gates - take the far left one into the field and keep the hedge line and fence on your right. You will pass through another pedestrian gate and into a big 20 acre field above Dryhill - again keep the fence line a few metres to your right. Half way along the field you will notice a slight rise in the ground: this is Dryhill Roman Villa dating back to the first century AD.

<https://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/rchme/ancient-glos/pp5-6>

Continue to the far fence line, then turn left, downhill to re-join the original path back to Dryhill.

We hope you enjoyed your adventure!