

Blaisdon circular walk 1.

Woodland, vines & views

A moderate walk through field, woodland & country lanes with some steep inclines & a couple of stiles. Allow 45-60 minutes approx. 2 miles.



START : Red Hart Inn car park OS Sheet 162 map **reference** 703169

PLEASE NOTE THE CAR PARK IS FOR PATRONS ONLY –

alternative parking is available at the village hall just past the beer garden 2nd drive on the right.

1. On exiting the car park TURN LEFT.
2. At the end of the footpath BEAR LEFT along the lane.
3. Just after the memorial STRAIGHT AHEAD is the gatehouse, go through the black door & follow the drive up to lead you past the lamp post to go through the steel gate & up the path on your right.
4. You will soon reach another gate, enter & cross the field to reach the church.

MEMORIAL the memorial was dedicated on 1st January 1920 to villagers who lost their lives in the first World war, John Bullock, Owen Bullock, Edgar Dowding, Harold Jones, Oliver Jones, Fredrick Parslow & George Hopkins.

After the second World war names of villagers & Salesian school attendees were also held in memorial here, Edward Dowdall, James Langrell, William McNamara, Ronald Bowkett & Brendan McGurk

COWS? if there are cows in this field you can take an alternative route to the church – double back to the black door & turn LEFT pick up the footpath just past the red telephone box. At the end of the path turn left & cross the road to ascend the lane up to the church.

St Michaels & all angels CHURCH believed to date back to the 13th century, was rebuilt after the village fire of 1699. A plaque recording the fire can still be found inside the church.

5. With the church on your right continue along the gravel track. On the left you will pass the Old Laundry – now called st Michaels cottage. On the right is one of the few remaining Blaisdon plum orchards in the area.

INFO The Blaisdon plum is a smaller sweeter version of the Victoria, it was discovered by Blaisdon resident John Dowding

6. At the end of the orchard take a left & follow the track, you will see a small vineyard on your left

BLAISDON WOOD VINEYARD Planted in May 2018 with 3 grape varieties: pinot noir, chardonnay & bacchus. It is hoped to have a first crop of pinot noir in Autumn 2019, aiming to have something drinkable by late Spring 2020.....then if successful expansion and who knows!?

7. As you walk up the hill take a breather & turn around to take in the view:

On the right you may be able to see the supports of the Severn bridge, with the river winding through the valley.

The Cotswolds hills stretch out in the distance, the lonely hill to your left is Robinswood Hill in Gloucester, you may be able to see the city scape, - better viewed in the evening when the lights illuminate.

8. At the five bar gate climb the stile and take the path on your LEFT.

9. CONTINUE through the woods for about 1km

10. Once you have passed the conifer plantation ahead is a sign indicating "PRIVATE No right of way" take the path upwards to the RIGHT

11. At the top take the LEFT at the junction.

12. The track will now take you down hill, (around 1 km)

13. on reaching the open ground make your way to the gate where there is another stile taking you onto the velthouse lane, where you turn LEFT.

Just after passing the stables you should get a magnificent view on the left of Blaisdon Hall.

14. The lane will take you back to the memorial where you can trace your steps back the pub.

BLAISDON HALL built in 1874 by an iron master. In 1930 the hall passed into the hands of the Selesian Society – a roman Catholic religious order dedicated to the development of the young, especially the disadvantaged. They created a school of agriculture & trade for disadvantaged boys from around the country, many from orphanages, who made Blaisdon there home. Today regular old boy reunions take place and are attended by many former pupils. The hall was sold in the 1980's to Hartpury agricultural college, and later into private ownership.