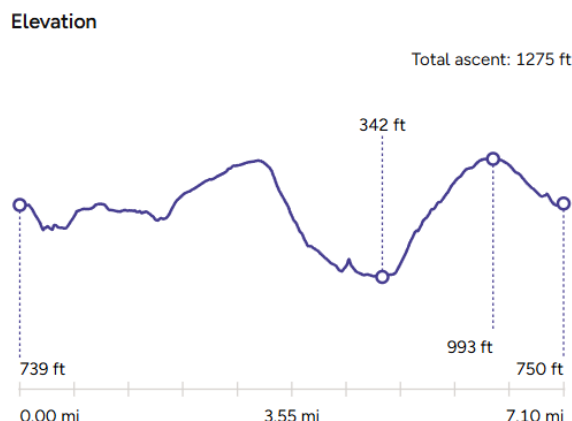


The Snowhill Arms, Snowhill Pub Walk

Snowhill, Stanton, Shenberrow Hill - A Cotswold Education packed into 7 miles

OVERVIEW

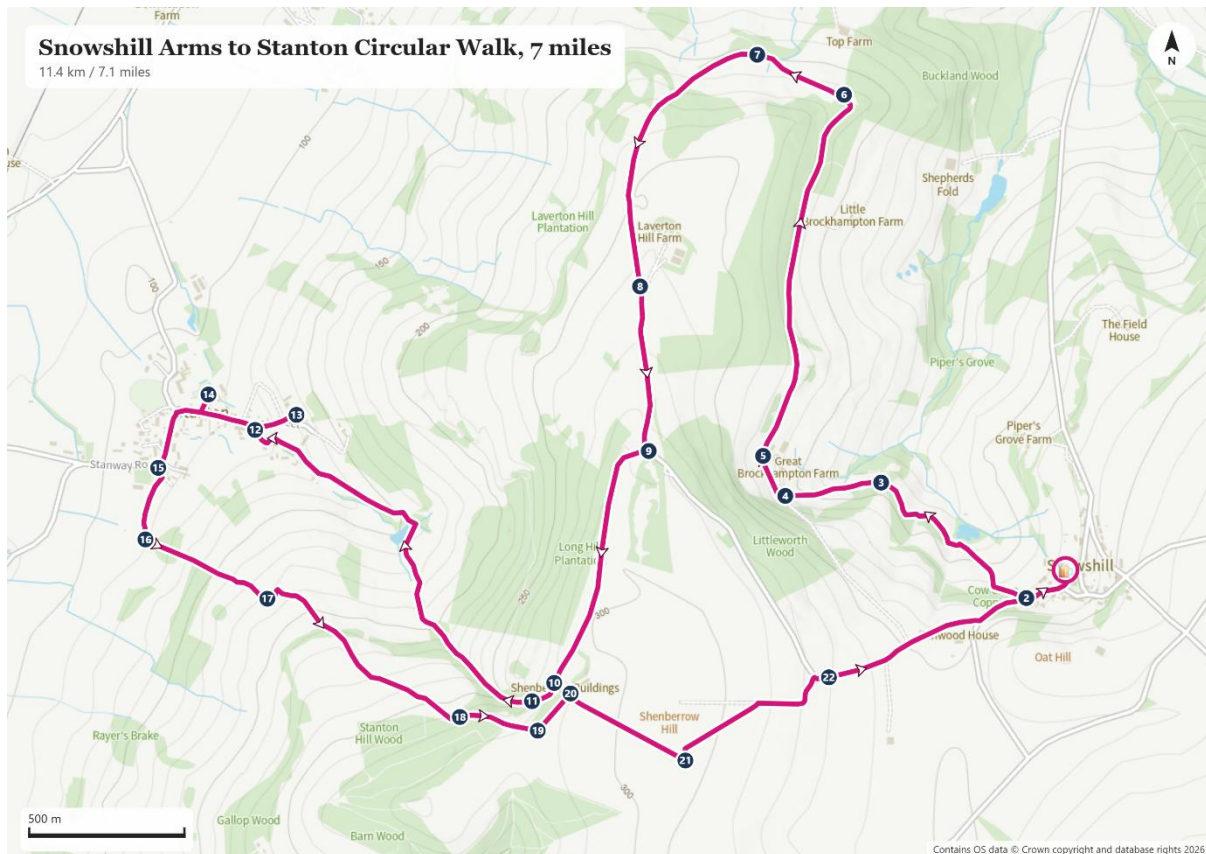
This is a Cotswolds education in miniature — upland solitude, escarpment drama, vale openness, and village contrast. Leave Snowhill along quiet lanes and field paths to join the Winchcombe Way, where you immediately sense Snowhill's height and exposure. Join the Cotswold Way towards the escarpment, where the Vale of Evesham appears — vast, agricultural, almost continental in scale. This is the moment you understand why Snowhill feels remote: the drop is steep, the separation real.



At the bottom lies Stanton, a village of immaculate stone houses, clipped lawns, and cinematic symmetry. It is beautiful — undeniably — but feels carefully preserved, as though maintained for a period drama. The ascent back up Shenberrow Hill is broad and open, a steady climb that returns you to the high wolds. The contrast with Stanton is striking: from carefully preserved perfection to elemental upland in minutes. Snowhill reappears suddenly, tucked into its high bowl of fields and stone. And at its centre, the Snowhill Arms offers exactly the welcome you want after such a walk — warm, genuine, and rooted.

Start/Finish	Snowhill Arms, Snowhill, WR12 7JU				
Parking	Car park at the pub, limited parking in the village.				
Grid Reference	SP 096 338				
What3Words	///surpasses.farms.niece				
Distance	7.1 miles / 11.4 km	Time	3 hrs	Ascent	1275 ft / 390 m
Paths/Terrain	Lanes, field paths, gravel tracks				
Difficulty	Moderate – some steep ascents.				
Public Transport	Broadway is nearest bus stop, 2.5 miles away.				
Toilets	Pubs in Snowhill and Stanton				
Other Pubs Nearby	The Mount Inn, Stanton is in a picture-perfect position above the village. Try the Plough Inn at Ford – it has a historic interior.				

DIRECTIONS



1. The Snowhill Arms sits opposite the green and church on the road through the heart of this quiet village. Follow the village road with the pub on your right and the church on the left. Round a bend to pass the newly renovated Oat Hill Farm on your left, and a few metres further along, just before you reach Oat Hill Coachhouse, follow a footpath on your right that drops downhill from the road on a concrete cobbled driveway to start the trek to Stanton. (Waymark #2)
2. Follow this strangely cobbled track down to a gate. There are ducks on the pond to your right, but the footpath markers guide you to the left here before the gate, along a field fence. Follow this grassy path as it heads towards woodland, and follow the footpath signs gently uphill through the woods, to the left.
3. The path soon leaves the woodland and opens out into fields with lovely views across the valley towards houses on the hill above. You'll see the path, and the gate to aim for uphill ahead of you.
4. Leave the field through a wooden footpath gate onto a gravel drive (waymark #5). Turn right. There's a fork in the track immediately – the OS Map suggests the right of way is to the right, but that has a determined Private Driveway sign. The easier option is to the left to loop around Great Brockhampton Farm.
5. From here, continue straight ahead. This route soon becomes the Winchcombe Way, arriving from the right. Continue straight ahead on the farm track, easy walking now above the valley with good views of Snowhill on the opposite side.

6. Pass through a wooden footpath gate, and then as the path forks, go left after a few yards, then straight ahead on a stony track offering extensive views of the Vale of Evesham to your right.
7. At a junction in the tracks (waymark #7), leave the Winchcombe Way as it makes its way north west towards Buckland, and instead keep left to follow the Cotswold Way heading south. The route here is a gentle but steady uphill on distinctive paths.
8. Eventually, pass through a wooden gate to the side of Laverton Hill Farm and continue straight ahead. Near Shenberrow Farm a number of footpaths seem to converge. Our route is to the right – over the cattle grid of Shenberrow Farm (waymark #9), to follow its driveway slightly uphill on an arc. We're continuing to follow Cotswold Way signs all the way to Stanton.
9. Continue on this route, passing Shenberrow Farmhouse, to your left (waymark #10). Continue on the route straight ahead, and then a downhill section begins offering some relief! Follow the route all the way downhill signposted for Stanton.
10. The path arrives in the picture-perfect village, and at the first junction, our route is to the left, to proceed down the 'High Street' in the direction of the church. You'll soon understand why this immaculate village was used in episodes of Sherlock Holmes. Note, however, before continuing to the left, that you should turn right at this junction to head up to The Mount Inn – even if just to see the views from its terrace (waymark #13)!
11. Follow the road down through the village. The church is set slightly away from this main street – it's a building that seems to reflect the village's long association with estate stewardship and architectural preservation. Just beyond the village cross, turn left and follow this village road to the point it starts to bear right to exit the village (waymark #15). Instead, at this bend continue straight ahead to follow the Cotswold Way as it passes between two yew hedges.
12. Follow the Cotswold Way to cross a field. At the exit (waymark #16), now take the left-hand route (blue bridleway markers). This is the start of the uphill return towards Snowhill, back up the Cotswold escarpment.
13. Continue to a marker post towards the top of the hill, and go left to pass a series of gates, then through a wooden gate, and soon a right-hand turn, to continue to the top of the hill. Still following the blue markers, on field paths now.
14. You will spot a Toblerone-shaped stone on your left – you're on the correct line - and continue uphill through the meadow. Pass through a metal farm gate, and continue into the next field on a distinctive path to another gate in hedgerow. (there are two gates in the hedge – you need the right-hand gate).
15. The route across the field continues gently uphill towards woodland, which you enter via a metal gate, still following blue signs. Continue ahead uphill on a clear path on the woodland fringe. The path opens into a clearing. There are a number of footpaths arriving/leaving here, but continue straight ahead, up to a metal gate onto a farm track (waymark #19). Congratulations – you've just climbed the Cotswold escarpment!
16. Continue towards the barn of Shenberrow Farm. At the barn (waymark #20), turn right onto the bridleway, to start to head directly to Snowhill. It runs gently uphill to the side of a field initially, and finally plateaus to mark the start of the descent to the village.
17. Continue, to then pass through a metal gate to join a farm track. Turn left (waymark #21). You'll clearly see the footpath markers a little way in front of you. Turn right here and

continue on established paths. Leave the field and follow the fence line to the left-hand side.

18. At the road bear right, and follow it all the way into Snowhill, eventually passing Oat Hill Coachhouse as you arrive back in the village.

NOTES

A deeper story of Snowhill, Stanton and the high Cotswolds

To walk from Snowhill is to step into a landscape shaped long before the Cotswolds became synonymous with honey-coloured cottages and weekend escapes.

The high ground here has always been a little different: exposed, colder and separated from the valleys below. Snowhill is one of the clearest expressions of that upland character. At around 1,000 feet above sea level, it is one of Gloucestershire's highest villages, and its position helps explain both its character and its name.

The village is recorded as Snauesill in the Domesday period, followed by forms including *Snauzilla* and *Snoweshulle*; the name derives from Old English *snaw*, snow, and *hyll*, hill. The local conservation appraisal records the traditional observation that snow can remain in the folds of the hill long after it has disappeared in the Vale of Evesham.

It is an evocative name for an evocative place.

Yet Snowhill was never completely cut off. Archaeological evidence points to prehistoric activity in the area, and the settlement lies close to the course of two prehistoric trackways. More importantly, its medieval history connected this tiny upland community to a much larger world.

In 821, King Coenwulf of Mercia gave the manor of Snowhill, together with its tithes and chaplaincy, to St Mary's Abbey at Winchcombe.

That is a remarkable connection when you look at Winchcombe today.

The modest market town tucked beneath the Cotswold escarpment gives little impression of the power it once possessed. In the Anglo-Saxon period, Winchcombe was an important royal centre, and its abbey became the focus of a substantial landed estate. Snowhill was one of the small agricultural settlements within that wider world. Stanton was another: King Coenwulf had given Stanton to Winchcombe Abbey in 811.

So, the walk from Snowhill to Stanton is, in a sense, passing between two places that were once part of the same medieval landscape.

For the people who lived here, however, the immediate landscape would have been much more important than the politics of abbots and kings. Snowhill developed as a farming village, with sheep and wool central to its economy, while local quarrying provided the stone from which the settlement was built. The old maps show fields, woodland, a sheepfold and quarry immediately around the houses.

It is easy to imagine the small geographical world that this created. House, church, fields, pasture, woodland and neighbouring farms were all within walking distance. Generations of families could live much of their lives within sight of the same ridge lines and fields. The village would have been small enough for the church and the pub to be more than buildings: they were places around which community life revolved.

That continuity is part of what still makes Snowhill feel different.

The medieval manor survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, when it passed out of Winchcombe's hands and into royal ownership. It was subsequently given to Catherine Parr, then passed to Edward VI and Mary I before Mary gave it to Frances Bulstrode in 1557.

But the extraordinary Tudor history of the Manor should not obscure the more important story of the village itself. For centuries, Snowhill remained fundamentally a small agricultural settlement.

The great transformation came much later.

In 1919, Charles Paget Wade bought Snowhill Manor. By then the house had declined into a farmhouse, occupied by tenant farmers for well over a century. Wade saw something very different in it. He restored the building, lived in the much smaller Priest's House, and turned the former farmyard into an Arts and Crafts garden. He then filled the Manor with his extraordinary collection, creating a theatrical world quite unlike anything else in the Cotswolds.

The National Trust now cares for more than 16,000 objects at Snowhill Manor. But Wade's creation is, in many ways, an extraordinary late chapter in the history of a village that had already been here for centuries.

The descent into Stanton makes another part of the story visible.

Stanton is every bit as beautiful as its reputation suggests. Its church is remarkable, its houses are beautifully preserved and its lanes have the almost improbable neatness that makes the village so recognisable.

But the village's present appearance is not simply the accidental survival of an untouched medieval settlement.

In 1906, Sir Philip Sidney Stott bought the Stanton estate, including around 882 acres and much of the village. Over the following decades he undertook an extraordinary programme of restoration and improvement, affecting the houses, church, school and public realm. He even provided the village with a reservoir and street lighting.

Stott didn't create Stanton from nothing — the village is much older than he was — but he played a huge part in determining the version of Stanton that survives today.

Perhaps that explains the difference in atmosphere.

Stanton can feel almost curated: a remarkably complete vision of what an ideal Cotswold village might look like.

Snowhill feels more accidental, more lived-in. Its character seems to have survived rather than been consciously reconstructed.

Neither is more authentically Cotswold than the other. They simply tell different stories.

And the walk makes that difference unusually clear.

You begin high on the wolds, where Snowhill feels tucked into its own landscape. Then you cross the escarpment and descend towards Stanton, with the Vale of Evesham opening out below you. The scale of the landscape changes. The apparent isolation of Snowhill suddenly makes sense.

Then you climb again, via Shenberrow Hill.

The ascent is a reminder that the escarpment isn't merely a pretty backdrop. It is a physical division between two very different landscapes. From the top, the Vale stretches away below, and Snowhill once again feels like the small upland settlement it has been for centuries.

By the time the village reappears, you understand it rather differently.

Snowhill isn't simply a pretty Cotswold village.

It is a small community on the high ground, shaped by farming, wool, stone, weather and centuries of continuity — connected to a great medieval abbey, touched by Tudor history, transformed by Charles Wade, and now sustained by a mixture of residents, walkers and visitors drawn by the extraordinary Manor.

And at its centre, the church and the pub remain.

After a walk that has taken you from the high wolds to the Vale and back again, the Snowhill Arms feels like exactly what a village pub ought to feel like: not an attraction, but a place to come home to.