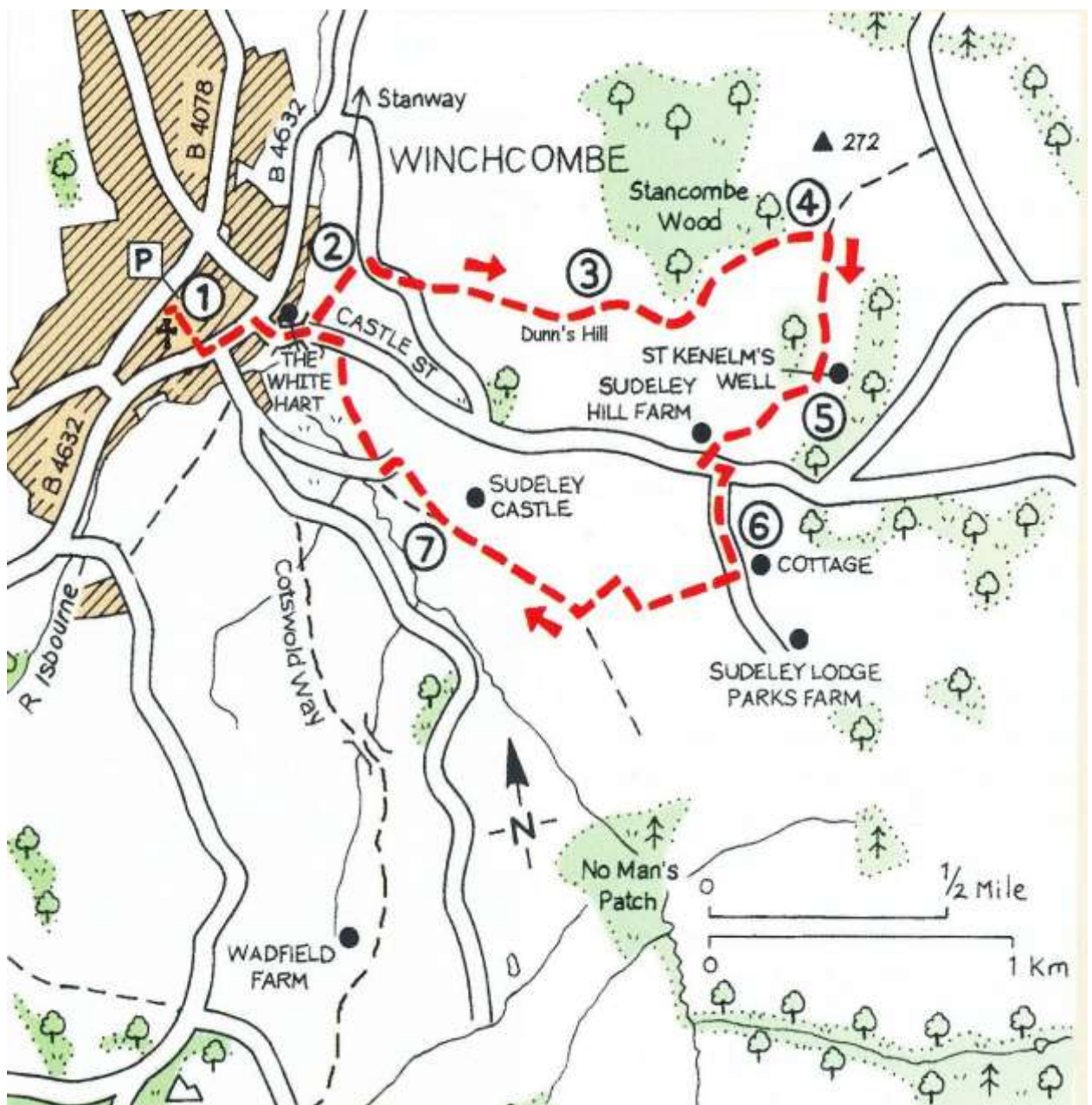


WINCHCOMBE AND SUDELEY CASTLE

A rewarding walk above the thriving Cotswold village of Winchcombe with its fine “wool church”, financed through income from the medieval wool trade. Sudeley (pronounced as “sue-dley”) Castle chapel, at the end of a long drive just outside Winchcombe is the burial place of Henry VIII's sixth queen, Catherine Parr.



1. Leave the long stay car park behind the library by a pedestrian access at its far-left corner and then turn right along Cowl Lane into the town centre. Turn left onto High Street and then go right in front of The White Hart down Castle Street. Soon after crossing a bridge at the bottom, turn left beside Briar Cottage along a narrow alley to a field behind. Strike half right across a meadow, which still bears ridges and furrows, the remnants of medieval ploughing methods.
2. Emerging onto a lane, turn right. At the end of a high stone wall on your right, turn into a field on the left and stride out half right to a gap, about two-thirds the way along the right-hand hedge. Over a bridge and stile, bear left to another stile by a gate. Maintain your diagonal course through a break in the middle of the right-hand hedge until you reach a protruding corner and then turn with the fence up the hill to a stile in the overgrown corner.
3. Now climbing more steeply up Dunn's Hill, strike a beeline across the curve of the left-hand fence to a stile beside a gate at the top of the field. Carry on up by the fence and into the next field then bear half right to a stile in the top corner. Keep ahead over more stiles, until the fence on your left turns away.
4. At that point, swing right down the hill to a stile beside a gate, about halfway along the boundary. A field track leads past a small building protected within a fenced enclosure, marking St Kenelm's Well.
5. Passing into the next field, leave the track, bearing right to cross the field to a stile and gate, some two-thirds of the way down the opposite hedge. Keep going downhill, aiming left of Sudeley Hill Farm at the bottom to emerge at a road. Turn left and then go right along a lane that is signed to Sudeley Lodge Parks Farm.
6. Opposite a cottage, leave right on a footpath falling at the edge of a field. Over a stile, turn right and then left to remain within the field, but leave at the bottom corner. Go forward to a stile on the right and, guided by obvious waymarkers, walk half left, eventually joining a fence to pass Sudeley Castle, which is on the right.
7. Passing through two kissing gates into the park, carry on along a contained path to the main drive. Cross to a gate beyond the lawn opposite and bear half right over open grazing, later crossing another track to leave through a kissing gate in the farthest corner. Back in Castle Street, turn left and retrace your outward steps past The White Hart pub to the car park.

DISTANCE/TIME	3.75 miles (6km) 2h
MAP OS	OS Explorer OL45 The Cotswolds
START	Winchcombe: long stay car park on Back Lane; grid ref: SP 023284
TRACKS	Fields and lanes, 13 stiles
GETTING TO THE START	Situated at the junction of the B4632, Winchcombe is 6 miles (9.7km) northeast of Cheltenham. Park in the long stay car and coach park in Back Lane, which you will find signed from High Street.
THE PUB	The White Hart Inn, Winchcombe, Tel: 01242 602 359; www.the-white-hart-inn.com