

## Cleeve Common Self-Guided Walk 1 – Family Circular

**Start point:** Quarry Car Park

**Nearest postcode:** GL52 3PW – please note this is for the golf club. To find the quarry car park drive past the golf club car park straight up the track. Cross the cattle grid and turn left. Do not park anywhere else on the common.

**Suitable for:** Primary aged children and above

**Length:** 3.6km (2.3miles)

**Terrain:** One steep but short incline to the trig point, several gentle inclines and declines throughout the walk.

**Dogs:** Well behaved dogs are welcome on Cleeve Common. Between April – November sheep graze the common so dogs must be kept on leads or under close control. A herd of Galloway Cattle graze the common year round but are rarely found on this route. Please pick up after your dog anywhere on Cleeve Common. There are poo bins at the car park and at two other points along this walk.

**Refreshments:** Cleeve Hill Golf Club is open to members of the public year round. For more information, please visit [www.cleevehillgolfclub.co.uk/Restaurant/](http://www.cleevehillgolfclub.co.uk/Restaurant/)

### **What to take with you:**

- Dress for the weather and be prepared, the weather on Cleeve Common can change quickly and it is usually a few degrees cooler and much windier up here than on lower ground.
- Drinks and snacks
- Binoculars if you have them
- Camera
- Phone – Rangers Phone number: 07756 828 458
- Dog walkers make sure you have poo bags and a lead
- A sense of adventure!

1. From Quarry car park, turn left at the entrance past the Cleeve Common map board.  
Stop and take a look to see how big Cleeve Common is, on your walk today, you will explore just a tiny section of the common!

2. Continue down the path. Opposite the Golf Club take the left hand fork in the main track that leads slightly up hill.

3. Stay on the track and soon the path flattens and the views to your right open up for you to enjoy.

You can see Bishops Cleeve first and behind that the Malvern Hills.

4. On the grassy slope ahead, you will see some grey/white stones (depending on how recently they have been painted!). These mark the edge of the quarry. Head towards these stones. You will have to first carefully navigate around the top of another quarry pit.

5. Walk straight up the grassy hill, keeping the white stones on your right and the golf green on your left.

In Spring this is a fantastic place to first hear and then see Skylarks, their song is like a sky high disco! In winter look out for crows and gulls.

6. Pass some gorse bushes on your right hand side.

Look carefully at the ground near the bushes. Can you work out what small furry animal lives here? Clue: their home is called a warren, and they leave behind lots of poo!

7. Soon you will see a bench ahead. Walk towards it and maybe enjoy a well-earned rest when you arrive.

The view has changed a bit now; can you see Cheltenham Race Course down to the left?



8. Re-join the path and head towards the next bench you can see – the climb is almost over now!

Can you find a date on the bench? What is it celebrating?

9. From this bench, take a left fork behind the golf tee to the trig point. Trig points mark high points and are usually concrete pyramid structures.



This is the second highest point (317m) on Cleeve Common but offers the best views. So time for a group selfie! If you use social media add #trigpointchallenge and #CleeveCommon.

The highest point, can be seen from here, just by the radio masts. There it is a whole 13m higher at 330m!

10. Wander over to the toposcope map which points to lots of different places you can see from here.

Can you find Gloucester? On a clear day you might be able to make out the cathedral tower.

11. Back at the trig point turn your back on the radio masts and lone beech tree on the horizon and carefully skirt the golf tee and green. Keep between the wooden posts to make sure you keep out of the golfers' way. Once you pass tee 9 you will see a rutted track a few metres ahead. Join this track and turn left to walk along it. The view below will be on your right.

This is a great place to spot late autumn fungi as you walk along. How many different types can you spot?



12. The grassy track you are on eventually joins a main track, you will see some old sheds on your left. Turn right, away from the sheds, then in approx. 40m turn left to pass behind the 8<sup>th</sup> hole. To your right is a deep valley called Dry Bottom and to your left is the golf green.



13. Keep going straight ahead on this track, you will be able to see a fork up ahead, take the lower right hand wiggly fork.

We have a herd of Galloway cattle on Cleeve Common and we need to provide water for them. On the track, can you find any clues as to how we get water to them?

14. As you continue, you will pass between gorse bushes on both sides

In spring and summer gorse is covered in bright yellow flowers, get up close to the flowers and take a sniff – be careful not to prick your nose! Can you smell coconuts?



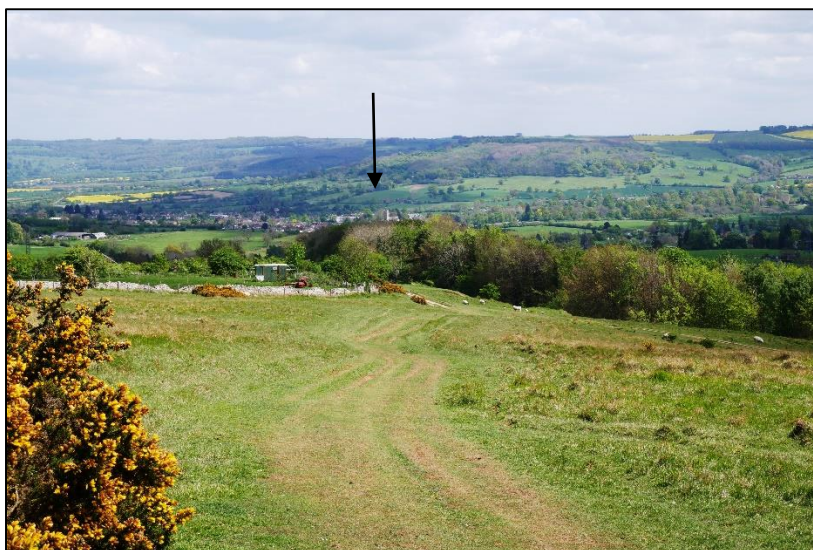
15. As you emerge from the gorse bushes pass a windswept hawthorn bush on your right and a track joining from the left. Don't take this, instead carry on straight up the grassy mound for views across to Winchcombe.

16. You will see ahead and slightly to the right the perfect bench for a snack stop!

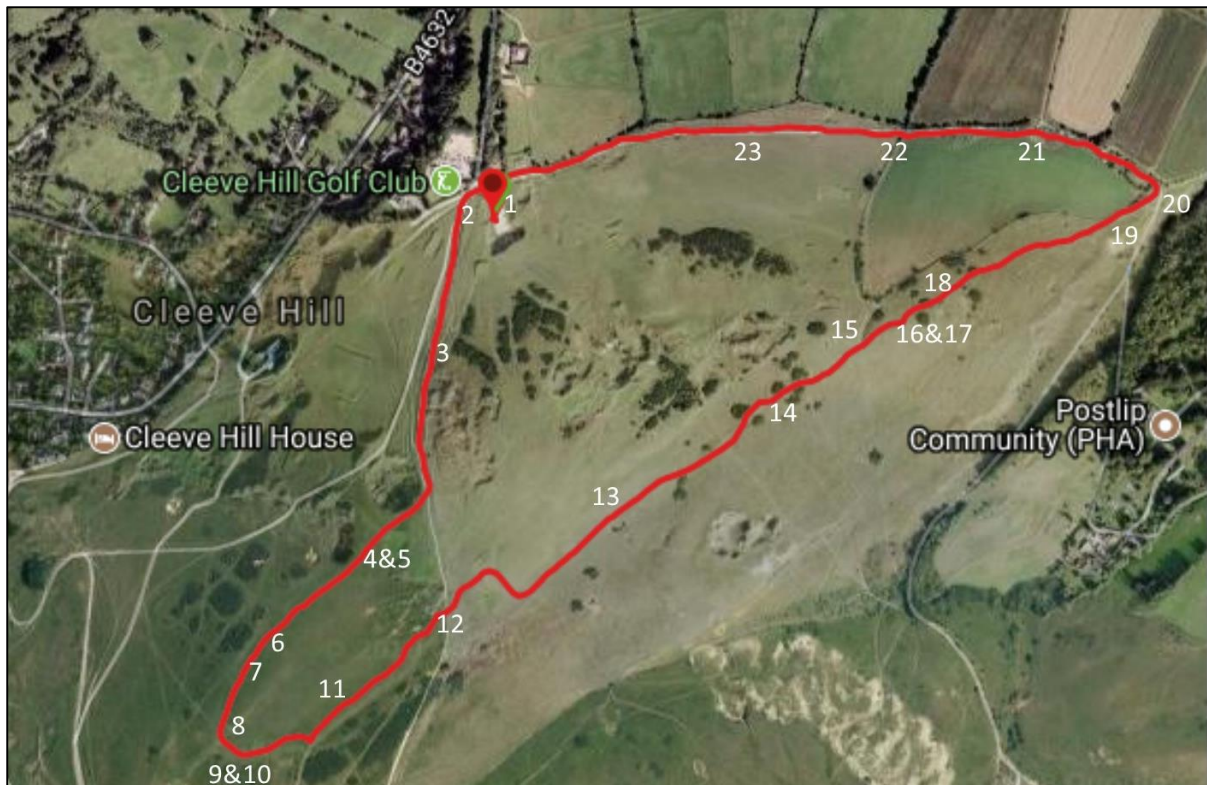
17. For a longer walk you can head downhill here and follow the path to the right along to the Washpool and Watery Bottom which is the next valley over.

As the name might suggest this valley has a stream, the source of the River Isbourne, running down it. If you lift your gaze, you can also see the Radio Masts again where the highest point of the Cotswolds is.

18. Once refreshed, to start making your way back, take the grassy path behind the bench downhill between two gorse stands. Winchcombe (shown by the arrow in the photo below) should be straight ahead.



19. As you come downhill the grassy path turns into a more established track. Continue on this track to the left, with the dry stone wall on your left hand side.
20. Continue straight on this path and you will join the Cotswold Way footpath by a field gate. Can you find the Cotswold Way marker on the gate post?
21. Pass through the field gate, being sure to close it behind you, and keep on the Cotswold Way ignoring all side paths and slowly heading up the slope. This path is in a natural sheltered tunnel. In spring and summer it is a great place to spot butterflies, beetles and bees collecting nectar from flowers, and in the autumn and winter the hedgerows are a haven for small birds.
22. Pass through another field gate and back onto the common.
23. Keep heading up, up, up and you will find yourselves back at Quarry Car Park.



The golf club is open to the public for refreshments including hot and cold lunches, cakes and snacks. Pop inside or enjoy a seat in the garden!

We hope you enjoyed this family walk, the first in our self-guided walks series. If you have any feedback or amendments, please get in touch at [info@cleevecommon.org.uk](mailto:info@cleevecommon.org.uk)

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[www.cleevecommon.org.uk/](http://www.cleevecommon.org.uk/)