

Snowhill Manor to Littleworth Wood

Grade

Moderate

Distance

3½ miles

Time

Approximately 1¾ hours

OS Map

Explorer OL45

Contact

01386 852410

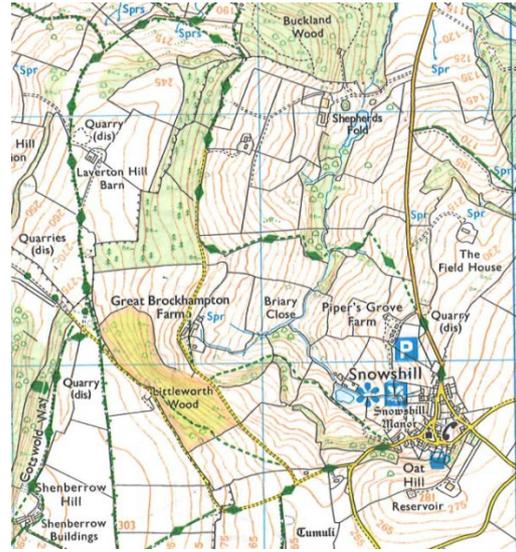
Parking & Facilities

National Trust car park or the parish car park when the property is closed

Tea Room & Toilets are available in the Manor and Garden grounds (please note that these are beyond the pay barrier). Check the website for opening times

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/snowhillmanor

 ***A robust walk with stunning views over to the Malvern Hills where the path meets the Cotswold Way***



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Terrain

There are some fairly steep climbs and very muddy areas so robust footwear is required all year round. Some of the walk is on uneven and often slippery ground. Dogs are allowed on this walk but must be kept on leads where livestock are present (there are no stiles).

Things to see

Stunning views across to Snowhill Manor and Garden



Archaeological features including a Victorian hydraulic ram system



Ancient Woodland with rich flora including early purple orchids



* The walk starts at the kissing gate at the top of the drive at the main entrance to Snowhill Manor & Garden. Cross the field diagonally, heading for 3 large ash trees in a row and continue to the gate straight ahead. Parallel with the trees you may be able to make out the earthwork remains of parallel banks and a ditch, possibly forming a medieval enclosure. The field is peppered with yellow meadow ant hills making the ground very uneven.

* Pass through the next kissing gate and head diagonally downhill across the field. Notice the remains of a Victorian watercourse, comprising a hydraulic ram system which once pumped water up to the lavender farm. An old fruit orchard can be seen towards the bottom of the field and there are newly planted oak trees amongst the older oaks, field maples, ash, crab apples and hawthorn. There are many landslips in these fields so be aware that the ground is very uneven.

* Pass through the waymarked kissing gate (notice the old stone stile to the right) and walk down the steep track towards a wooded area, bearing to the left.

* Continue through the 5 bar gate where you will come to a small stream on the edge of Piper's Grove Wood. It gets very muddy here. Cross the stream and keep left until you get to a gate into an open field. Don't go through this gate but turn right keeping the ancient hawthorn and hazel hedgerow on your left. Continue to follow the hedgerow line as the land rises to meet an open field.

* Pass through a five bar gate and continue to climb up through open fields, keeping to the left. This is quite a steep climb so you might want a breather halfway up. Turn to look back the way you came and look slightly left towards Broadway Tower, Middle Hill House and The Rookery. On a clear day the pause is worth it as the views are wonderful.

* Follow the fence line to the top of the slope and turn right at the metal kissing gate opposite Brough Wood. (For a shorter walk turn left towards Great Brockhampton Farm; follow the track and then take the path through the gate as you pass the last of the buildings on the left and continue downwards across the fields. The next gate takes you through some woodland and another out into more pasture land with a small stream / boggy area. Follow the line of the farm track on your left up towards a metal gate. Continue to the top and then turn left back into the village).

* Follow the track with Brough Wood (private) on your left for some distance until you reach a metal field gate. This is a good place to admire the views across to Bredon Hill and the Malvern Hills. Continue through the gate and after about 10 yards bear left through the kissing gate. Cross the field until you reach another kissing gate.

* Go through the kissing gate and bear left, passing through a 5 bar gate to join the Cotswold Way. Follow the main track and ignore the stile to your right. Pass through another metal field gate and

keep following the track for approximately a mile as it climbs upwards. Keep following the Cotswold Way signs, ignoring any tracks branching off. On a clear day you will be able to see across to May Hill and the Welsh Hills, including Skirrid Fawr and Sugar-Loaf (all managed by the National Trust).

* Continue along the track until you get to the point where the Cotswold Way turns right across a cattle grid. Ignore this path and continue bearing to the left along the original track (now a small road) as it slopes down. A National Trust sign for the entrance to Littleworth Wood will appear on your left. This ancient semi natural wood is made up of coppiced hazel and standards trees predominantly of ash, oak and field maple. It is managed by the National Trust Ranger and Cotswold Wardens.

* Pass through the kissing gate and follow the main track leading across the top corner of the wood, ignoring any branching tracks along the way. During the spring the wood is full of bluebells, ransoms and other wild flowers such as wood anemone and early purple orchid. If you are lucky you may see a silver washed fritillary from late June until the end of August. As you reach the edge of the wood the remains of an old quarry can be glimpsed to the right. To the left by the kissing gate there is an area marked by hurdles to protect the meadow saffron growing there.

* Pass through the kissing gate at the edge of the wood, noting the large stone and low wall from the original boundary and entrance. Cross the open field diagonally towards the metal kissing gate near the bottom right-hand corner. Some of the best views of Snowhill village and Broadway Tower can be seen here.

* Pass through the gate and turn right and then almost immediately left at the T-junction. On the left is Sheepscombe house (note the multi-coloured sheep in the field!) and in the field to the right is a Bronze Age cemetery comprising several ploughed out round barrows, now only tended to by sheep. Continue along this road until you reach the main road into the village.

* Turn left onto the village road and follow it down, past the Church of St. Barnabus and the Snowhill Arms pub. Soon you will reach the boundary wall on the left-hand side for Snowhill Manor and Garden. The house belonged to artist, architect and craftsman Charles Wade who purchased it to house his extraordinary collection of craftsmanship (the entrance is 500 yards down the road where the walk began). On the right-hand side of the road there is a row of National Trust cottages with blue-painted doors. Four of the cottages are let as holiday cottages and they provide a great base for exploring the area.

* Continue to walk along the road and as you reach the brow of the hill you will see the parish car park on your left. Cut through here and pass through the gate into the National Trust overflow car park which will lead you down to where the walk began.