

Kings Stile – Park Lane Circuit

Distance: 4 miles

Time 1.5 to 1.75 hours

STARTING POINT – Kings Stile, to the right of No 153 Bath Road, opposite the turning into Prospect Fields. (Map Ref ST 867 659)

Cross the stone stile, walk along the grassy track and go through a kissing gate into *Mead Park Field*. Bear left and follow the pathway to the lower edge of the field to a kissing gate approximately 60 yards in from the left hand corner. Enter *Smith's Mead* and continue straight ahead over the brook to a stile.

Cross the stile and enter the next field known as *Monks* and follow the track keeping the hedge on your right. At the first corner, go through a kissing gate into *East Vetchleys*. Turn left here, following the hedge round the field for approximately 50 yards to a kissing gate between two oak trees on your left. This leads to *Cradle Ground* (a very stony field). Continue straight ahead with the hedge on your right.

In the far right hand corner there is another stile. Cross this into *Medleys Field* and walk slightly to your right towards a clump of tall trees. Then aim for Medleys Cottages, and go through a gate to the right of the cottages leading to the road.

Turn right onto the road and walk for about half a mile or so, passing Neston Park House on your left. You will come to the former Estate Lodge Cottage on your right. Pass the cottage and turn right down a wide track. This is Park Lane.

Continue along this track through a gateway and straight on through woodland. After about half a mile and following a left hand bend, the track forks. Take the right hand fork passing the disused old quarry on your left. You will come out into the open with wonderful views straight ahead and the new quarry off to the left. (The whole of this track can be quite muddy.)

Continue straight ahead on the well worn path through a field called *Allotments*. Approximately two thirds of the way through this field, look carefully to your right for a gap in the stone wall (a belly squeeze) which takes you into the adjoining field on the right. Squeeze through into *Long Goss* field. There are fine panoramic views of Whitley to your left and Atworth straight ahead and to the right. In the distance are the Westbury Hills.

Walk straight ahead and at the far side of the field turn right, ignoring a stile in front of you. Walk almost to the end of the field until you reach a kissing gate on the left. Go through this gate and down the steps on the far side. This leads to a field called *Hooks*. Follow the left hand hedge and the path will zig-zag round an old quarry to a kissing gate by the side of three trees.

Go through the gate into *Big Vetchleys*. Turn right and follow the wall under a row of ash

trees until you come to a gateway on the right leading into *Castle Brook*. Walk diagonally to the right, crossing a stone bridge over the brook, until you come to steps in the far corner. These steps lead to a kissing gate back into *Mead Park Field*. Follow the wall on your left to the first corner, then walk ahead to a kissing gate leading to the grassy track. Go through the gate and along the track back to Kings Stile where the walk started.