

MAISEMORE CIRCULAR WALK ROUTE DESCRIPTION

START at the Village Hall where car parking is permitted or outside the Church. Please do not park in the passing bay in the avenue.

WALK down the avenue to the stream which flows under the road at the bottom of the slope.

FACING westward, with the lake behind you, go into the field and follow the grass strip beside the stream, to the far side of the field. Watch for traffic as you descend the steep steps, cross Old Road and climb the steps on the other side.

FOLLOW the grass track, with willow trees and a large pond on your left and continue alongside the stream, through three fields, until the track turns sharp right. (At this point you can turn left, cross the stream and by crossing the main road follow the path to the top of Overton Hill, beyond Overton Farm.) The corner of the field marks one mile of the walk.

FOLLOW the grass path towards Old Road, pausing to take in the panoramic view of Gloucester and the Cotswolds beyond.

TURN left and walk along Old Road for about ¼ mile, passing Maisemore Apiaries - or stopping to buy honey - and continue past other houses. 1.5 miles walked.

AFTER the last house on the right (The Bungalow), turn right into a field entrance and follow a farm track down the right-hand side of the hedge to the far side of the second field. Here, you are standing on the crest of a "blue" limestone escarpment, with spectacular views over the Severn Valley, from Bredon Hill in the North to Birdlip and Robinswood in the South.

PROCEED along the ridge with the tall fence on your left, (2 miles walked). The view takes in Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Gloucester (Cathedral).

NOW go through two kissing gates, (so called because the gate kisses the posts on either side). PLEASE latch them. You are in a sheep pasture, formerly a deer park, so PLEASE keep dogs under strict control. This is High Redding Hill and the view now includes the Malvern Hills to the North and the Forest of Dean to the West; also the South Cotswolds (Nympsfield and Uley).

WALK along the brow of the hill and down the steep slope to the third gate which brings you onto RAGMANS ALLEY.

LATCH the gate and turn left. Then cross the lane and the stream. This is a major flood relief channel. It also harbours a wide variety of plant and animal life. N.B. A high flood completely submerges the bridge and all the fields in front of you.

FOLLOW the path down the right-hand side of the hedge. (2½ miles).

At the river bank, you meet the SEVERN WAY. To the left it proceeds upstream to Ashleworth Quay and on to Tewkesbury.

Turn right and proceed downstream through four fields, all overlooked by Maisemore Park - the large white Regency house on the bank to your right.

THE river branches at Upper Parting. The left or East Branch flows past the old Tar Works and on to Westgate Bridge. The walk follows the West Branch towards the south of Maisemore Weir. (3½ miles).

CROSS a stile into an enclosure over the flood gate. (The gate protects the land from high river levels - but not from flooding). The weir is the highest point to which normal tides reach.

HIGH tides form a wave, well-known as the SEVERN BORE. It is usually broken up by the weir, but exceptional ones can overtop it, reform and continue to Tewkesbury Weir. At the top of the tide, all is still and the weir lies under a mill pond.

LEAVE the enclosure by a second stile and bear left, following the river. Do not take the stone track up the slope.

CROSS a stile into a small field. The stile is probably on the line of a Roman Road, which forded the river and rose through a cutting on its way North to Worcester.

FOLLOW the cliff-top down and turn right, with a stream on your left until you reach a stile and meet a road (The Rudge). The Severn Way follows The Rudge (left) to the A417. There the White Hart Inn serves excellent meals and bar snacks.

THE walk crosses The Rudge and then a small footbridge and climbs steps onto the bank of the Maisemore Court Lake.

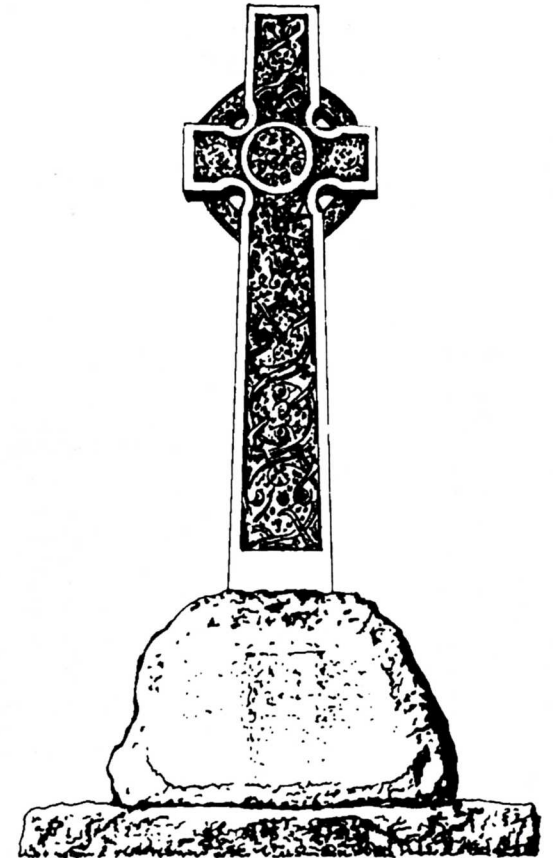
TURN left along the lakeside path, Here you will see ducks, coots, geese (domestic and Canada) often swans and many other birds. Often Old Gloucester cows graze on the opposite bank. Beyond that stand Maisemore Court and The Steadings Business Centre.

AT the end of the lake, you reach, once more, the Coronation Avenue of Lime trees planted in 1953 to celebrate the coronation of our queen.

YOU have covered about four miles

MAISEMORE PARISH COUNCIL is indebted to Mr. Stan Gidman, who researched the route of The Maisemore Circular Path, greatly assisted the Diversion Procedure which created it, and who prepared this guide.

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