

Jaimie's Chapmanslade Chicken Chaser Walk No. 1

Cley Hill Walk

This is a lovely walk of about 4 and a bit miles that will probably take around 1.5 to 2.5 hours depending on your pace - it's on quiet tracks and lanes perfect for getting away from it all and enjoying our lovely countryside. Parts of it can be muddy and wet but it's well worth it. It doesn't take you up Cley Hill - but does take you near it. Note that you can make it shorter by cutting through Cory 45 (but you'll miss some of the best bits).

You may see boxing hares near Cley Hill if you're really lucky. You'll probably see buzzards and maybe red kites if you keep your eyes open overhead - and keep your eyes out for lots more... maybe a kestrel. You'll probably see sheep and cows too - but there's not usually any cows in any of the fields you walk through.

For this walk, turn right out of the Three Horseshoes pub car park, head to the phone box and go straight over into Southcroft - there's a faded byway sign pointing up the lane. The recently refurbished south cottage is on your right hand side. Keep going, down the track to the bottom to Dye House farm and the new lake on your left hand side, then head through the big farm gate and bear left up the track (don't forget to leave the gate as you found it) then right through the new metal gate at the top, into the field where you can enjoy the view from Neil's bench.

Now keep going through the field and head on straight up the track (there is a footpath to the right just before the first metal gate which will get you to (Cory 45) that you can cut down towards St Margaret's Church if you fancy a shorter walk. Pick up directions below from St Margaret's church.)

For the main walk go through the metal gate (with a sign that says keep dogs under control) and follow the path straight ahead until you reach Cley Hill farm going through a series of gates on the way. Follow the track and signs through the farm skirting round the edge through a series of farm gates keeping the farm on your left. When you reach the lane follow it around to the right. (You could head left up the footpath for a quick detour if you wanted to go and look at Cley Hill but there is no official route up to the hill from the back - you have to take a long (but lovely) walk around through fields and lanes to meet the track that goes up to Cley Hill from the car park side on the A362).

As you follow the lane leaving Cley Hill behind you pass the farm cottages on your right until you reach the crossroads at Deep Lane. Go straight across to Park Farm heading towards the house and then turn right in front of it to the stile. You can nip round through the gate, but you need to go right into the field with the dung pile and pass that on your left - keeping to the edge of the field with the fence on your left at all times.

Walk through a couple of fields until you come through the field entrance and get to St Margaret's church at the bottom. Follow the road around and pass the church on your right, until you get behind the church to a kissing gate, (you could follow the road here if you preferred - but the walk through the meadow is nice) go through the kissing gate and down towards Divers bridge. Cross over the bridge, over the stile and up to the kissing gate by the lane.

Head left past the post box and keep going straight back towards Chapmanslade. Follow the road keeping the cottages on your right until you see the telephone exchange on the bend.

Head up the footpath to the left of the exchange (it can be muddy) and look out for badger setts as you reach the top. Admire the views over the farm gate to your left, and you'll see a stile on your right - go over it and down the hill - over the stile and up the hill to the farm gate at the back of Green Farm Industrial Estate. Cross over the fence to the right of the gate straight through the industrial yard and if the large metal gates are closed go through the gate within the gate. Turn right at the road (A3098) back down the high street to the Three Horseshoes pub.

Find a map of Chapmanslade footpaths at <http://chapmanslade.org.uk/footpath-map/>.

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