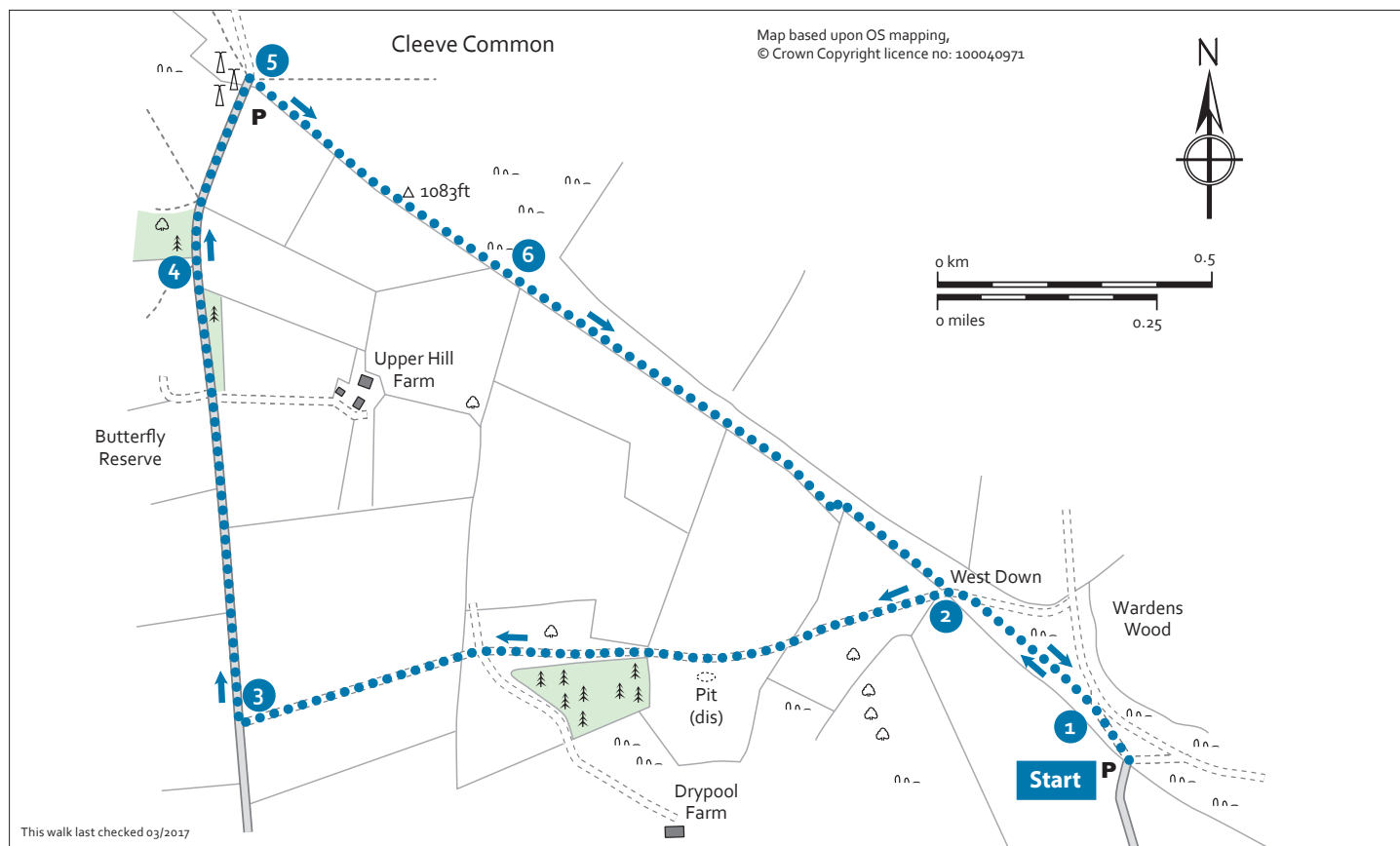


# Miles Without Stiles

## West Down, Drypool and Cleeve Hill



This invigorating circular walk offers stunning views from the highest point of the Cotswolds and opportunities to visit Cleeve Common and a nearby Butterfly Reserve.



**Distance:** 5 kilometres/  
3 miles (2 hours) with ups and  
downs of 73m or 240ft

**Start:** West Down car park,  
2½ miles (4km) north of  
Andoversford, approached  
from Whittington to  
Syreford Road or from  
Brockhampton SP010/235

### Route:

Go through the gate on the left  
which brings you on **1** to a  
narrow strip of Cleeve Common  
called West Down.

Walk alongside the wall on the  
left hand side.

After 250 metres turn left  
through a gate just before a  
power transmission mast,  
signposted bridleway and 'The  
Sabrina Way' **2**. This is just  
before the power lines. Follow  
the track for about ¾ of a mile  
(1.2km) descending into the top  
of the Drypool Valley and  
climbing up to the road. **3**.

Turn right on the road which  
leads you to another entrance to  
Cleeve Common beside the

masts.

Halfway to the masts you pass  
the Bill Smylie Butterfly Reserve  
on your left. **4** You are at  
liberty to wander around the  
paths of the reserve with its  
stupendous views and its  
abundance of flowers typical of  
unimproved limestone  
grassland. The best time to see  
butterflies is in the middle of a  
calm, sunny day in late spring  
and in July and August. After  
visiting the reserve return to the  
road and turn left.

At the end of the road go

through the gate **5** on to  
Cleeve Common and turn right  
along the wall.

This brings you to an Ordnance  
Survey pillar which marks the  
highest point of the Cotswolds -  
1083 ft, 330 metres. This was the  
location of the first Cheltenham  
Racecourse at the beginning of  
the 19th century.

The return route follows the  
wall/fence, **6** which eventually  
brings you to the top of West  
Down and along the narrow  
strip of land back to the car  
park.