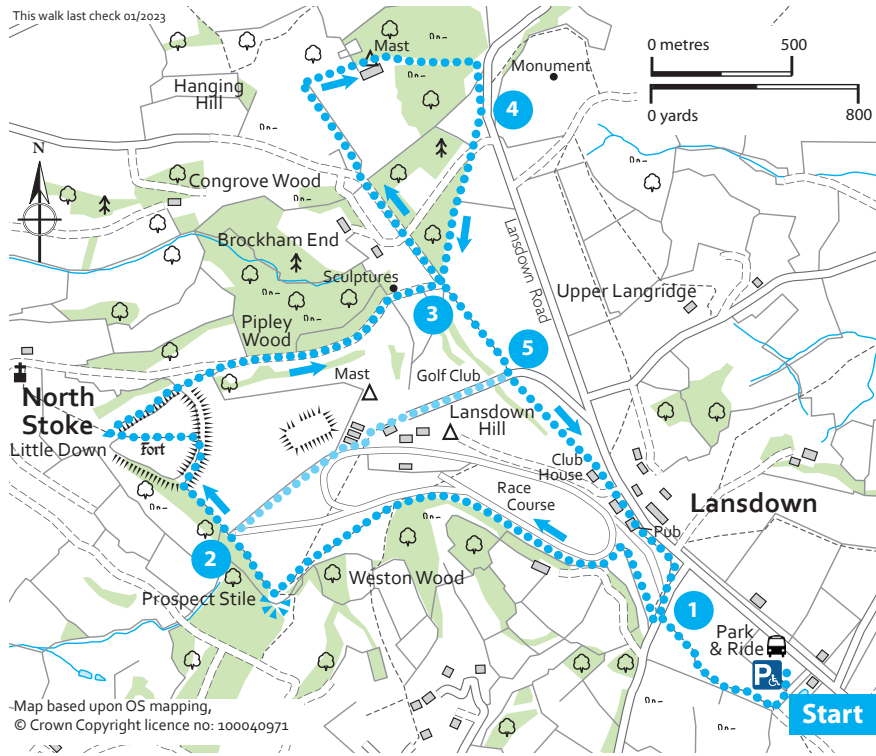


Walk 18 Lansdown on the Level

A mostly flat figure of eight high on the Cotswold plateau, which can easily be shortened to one loop. Striking views over Bristol can be found along the route as it passes through an Iron Age Camp on part of the Cotswold Way, as well as Bath and beyond views from Prospect Stile.

Route



From the back of the car park, head towards the toilets and other single-storey buildings, pass by the right-hand side of these under a small group of trees until you meet the tree line ahead of you on the field boundary. Turn right to keep the open playing fields and sports pitches on your right and the trees on your left. Follow this boundary all the way along the edge, enjoying the views to your left between the trees.

Eventually you will meet a wooden gate at a small road **1**. Carefully cross the road and through the metal gate immediately opposite. You are now on Bath Racecourse land, please stay on the public rights of way and do not walk on the racecourse itself. If you have a dog with you, please keep them close by and off the race track, which has a white barrier all the way around it.

At the waymark post, take the path straight ahead across the field. The race track will be on your right and a dry-stone wall will be on your left.

Continue along the path, marked intermittently with waymark posts until a short steep slope. Go up the slope and turn left to skirt close to the edge of the race track. Once around the wide curve the path widens, continue straight ahead, following the way marked route.

Start & Finish: Lansdown Park & Ride
*W3W - harder.they.bother

Distance: 6.25 mile / 10 km with an up and down of 168 ft / 51 m

Slopes: Mostly flat with gentle undulations. One short steep slope on southern loop.

Steps & stiles: None

Terrain: Surfaced and unsurfaced paths.

Transport: Visit travelinesw.com. Lansdown Park & Ride served by buses and parking available for non-bus users for a small fee (online or app payments only)

Public toilets: Lansdown Park & Ride (20p)

Refreshments: The Charlcombe Inn, Lansdown Golf Club.

Rest points: Benches on northern most section.

Dogs welcome: Yes, though playing fields at the start, livestock often in fields and some roadside walking so please be prepared to put them on a lead.

Wheel friendly: Not yet! But we are working to make this an accessible route.

Features on the route: The Cotswold Way, Bath Racecourse, Prospect Stile view point.

Note this is an exposed walk on high ground so it can be cooler than elsewhere, an extra layer is recommended! We also recommend you check the Bath Racecourse website for upcoming race days and avoid visiting on those days. The race course has no racing through the winter months.

Once you reach an open space the waymark post shows two footpaths, take the right-hand path diagonally across the field. Eventually you will reach Prospect Stile View Point. There is a topograph here which points out the main features in the view. From here you will now follow part of the Cotswold Way and can use the Cotswold Way waymark discs and acorns to guide you.

Turn your back on the view, turn left and take the grassy path along the field edge, with the hedge on your left. Ahead you will see a taller white barrier of the race course track. Continue past this until you reach a metal gate at the field boundary.

To make this walk shorter, you can start to loop back from here **2**. Turn right and walk along the edge of the field with a white metal barrier on your left, this later becomes plastic before stopping at a muck heap. *Continued on next page.*



Walk 18 Lansdown on the Level

You will have the race track on your right until you meet a metal field gate with a pedestrian gate next to it.

Go through the gate and onto the hard standing around the stables. Follow the tarmac drive around the buildings, with a fence on your right and through a parking area. Pass in front of the main entrance into the Racecourse.

Turn right to walk carefully along the main drive, taking care of golf being played on both sides, until you reach a gate, do not go through the gateway, instead turn right onto the grassy path. Now pick up the instructions from after point **5**.

To continue on the longer route, go through the gate and follow the path along the edge turning right at the end, following the Cotswold Way signs and staying on the edge of the field. The path then turns left and onto a raised path between two fields. You are now in the centre of what is believed to be an Iron Age Camp, most likely a stock enclosure.

The path starts to head downhill to meet a field gate with a metal pedestrian gate next to it. Pass through the gate and continue downhill with far reaching views in front of you towards Bristol and the River Severn. At the waymark post take a sharp right, keeping the views on your left until you meet another field and pedestrian gate. Continue straight through onto the grassy track, then when it meets a stoned track, bear right onto it to head uphill towards another gate with a bench next to it. Go through the gate and onto the track beyond, which runs along the edge of the golf course. Pass Piplely Woods on your left and Piplely Barn on your right. Shortly after you will see a small collection of sculptures made from scrap metal by David Michael Morse.

Continue along the track until you meet a crossroads in front of a dry-stone wall. From here you can return by turning right and following the directions from point **3**. Or, to add on another smaller loop, turn left staying on the Cotswold Way.

Follow the bridleway straight up the edge of the golf course. There will be a small wood to your right. Just beyond the end of the wood there is a metal field gate with a permissive bridleway sign on the wall near the end that opens. Go through the gate and bear right to the field boundary. Head along the boundary in a straight line all the way to the gate on the other side. Go through the gate for more vast views over towards Bristol.

Turn right and follow the path along, with views on your left until it dips down and then up slightly to meet another field gate. *Along this path you will see coloured posts commemorating the English Civil War Battle of Lansdown fought on 5th July 1643.* Go through the gate and follow the fenced in path until it opens out onto a minor road. Turn right and follow the tarmac up to a metal gate on your left, opposite the Avon Fire & Rescue Service entrance.

Go through the gate and follow the path through an area of scrubby grassland, which runs parallel to a minor road on your right. At the end go through the wooden gate and onto the minor road. Take care as you follow it round to the right. You are now going to leave the Cotswold Way, so ignore any further waymarks you might see for it. Stay on the road as it then bears left.

Just before you meet the main road (Lansdown Road) look for a path on your right **4**. Take the path following the most trodden route diagonally across the field to a gap in the wooden fence. Go through the gap to cross a track and then pick up the path on the other side, passing a small parking area and a fenced off area of hardstanding on your left.

Take the path along the edge of a woodland, with a drystone wall on your left. Follow this path all the way back down to where this loop started at a crossroads and turn left.

3 Walk in a straight line along the edge of the golf course on a grassy path until you meet the driveway in to the Racecourse. Cross the drive **5**. Follow the grassy path down towards the golf club car park and buildings. There will be a line of trees on your right and a green on the left until you pop out in the corner of the car park.

Carefully cross the golf course car park, passing in front of the clubhouse, which is open to all for refreshments, until you reach the grass area on the other side. Follow the grassy track across this meadow which contains two noticeable prehistoric round barrows which are both scheduled ancient monuments. *The field is called Fair Field and is where the annual Lansdown Fair was held (though it must have been across a bigger area) with the sales of horses, cheese and the like as well as boxing matches and games.* Go through the gate and follow the path round the corner and for a short distance parallel to the main road, with a fence on your right.

Carefully cross the Charlcombe Inn car park (or stop in for a well deserved drink!) and look for the tall finger post in the corner beyond the building entrance. Go through the metal gate and back on to the Racecourse land. Take the path to the left of the sign and walk parallel to the wall, with the race track on your right. Follow the curve of the track round along the boundary of the field, away from the main road, until you find the metal gate back onto the minor road which you entered by **1**.

Carefully cross the road to the gate on the other side and then retrace your footsteps around the playing fields and sports pitches back to the start.



Thank you to the heritage lottery who funded some of the accessible gates on this route.

In addition to promoting walking, Bathscape runs the annual Bathscape Walking Festival each September and a series of weekly walks throughout the year.

If you enjoyed this walk, why not try another and explore another part of the Bathscape?

There are 19 walks in total ranging from 1 mile up to the 20.5 mile Circuit of Bath (which can easily be walked in sections).

The self-guided walking guides can be found on the Bathscape and Cotswolds National Landscape websites.

*W3W stands for What3Words, which is an alternative way of specifying precise locations. You can use the W3W app or website for free to see these locations on a map.