

Pudding Hill & Flaxley Abbey

(2-3 hours walk)

A walk over fields with great views of the Severn from the top of Pudding Hill. Also, a pretty stream that comes from St Anthony's Well. You may see some wild watercress growing in the stream. Some hills to climb, several stiles and some muddy fields near the stream.

Information for dog owners: You will need to lift your dog over the stiles. You will walk through fields of sheep.

From the car park go down the path past Wren and Robin Cottages. The path joins a more substantial track after a few minutes walking. Follow this path down to the road. Turn left onto the main road and then take the second road on the left where it is signposted to Flaxley.

Follow the road past a house on the left and opposite a green corrugated iron clad outbuilding you will see a footpath sign pointing up the hill to your right. Take this path (it can be a bit overgrown here in summer but is usually passable).

Follow the footpath as it skirts the edge of the wood at the top of the hill with Abenhall Road to your right below. At the top of the hill through the woods is Welshbury Hillfort, which you can take a detour and climb up to visit, but my walk skirts the edge of Welshbury woods to a stile.

[Welshbury Hillfort: The final form of Welshbury hillfort is consistent with a 'developed' hillfort dating to the Middle Iron Age period from c.300 BC, although some elements of the entrance construction have been paralleled with later Iron Age examples c. 100 BC - 50 AD. Welshbury hillfort and associated earthworks have been subject to a detailed survey by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England which has identified a sequence of landscape features dating from at least the Bronze Age to the beginning of the Roman period. You will come to a point where you can either keep going around the hill or cross a fence into a field via a stile.](#)

Cross the stile and then keeping to this edge of the field carry on down the hill through the fields / orchards. Be sure to close all the gates behind you as you go. You should get some wonderful views of the Severn and South Gloucestershire beyond. In the last field you will be able to see Flaxley Church and Abbey below you. Cross this field diagonally to the stile. Go over the two stiles onto the road and cross over.

At the point where a private road leads to Flaxley Abbey there is a footpath sign and a stile. Cross over and make your way to the gate on the other side of this first field. Keep going until you find yourself alongside a stream. At the end of the drive before reaching the road there is another footpath sign pointing you across the next set of fields. Follow the sign. There are several stiles out of the field up onto the forest track beyond. I recommend the first one as there is a horrible boggy area to cross if you keep going.

Whichever stile you take you will find yourself on the Forestry Commission track at the foot of Shapridge Hill. Turn left and follow to the barrier at the end of the track. Turn right and go up past the dog exercise field on your right. Turn left at the next cottage, up the steep hill. At the top you will find yourself back on Shapridge Common.