

Swan Walk 2: Wells-Dinder circular walk – 4.3 miles long and takes approx. 2.5hrs. Includes a steep climb, steps, stiles and possibly some livestock at certain times of the year. The red text identifies points of interest to look out for.



Standing on what was the drawbridge, with your back to the beautiful 13th century Bishop's Palace, turn right and walk over to the viewing area beside the moat. From here you can see a little window on the side of the gatehouse. **1) If you look carefully you can see the metal bell beneath it that the swans here on the moat have been ringing for food for almost 150 years.** The large swan floating on her nest on the water, was one of sixty swans here in Wells during 2012, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Walk around the moat until you see fields ahead of you.

Leaving the moat behind you, walk ahead past the stone marking the way to Glastonbury Tor, through two adjacent gates and into the Palace Fields ahead of you (a 13th century hunting ground favoured by King John for its deer). Walk along the tarmac path through two fields and two gates. **2) If you glance to your right you will see Glastonbury Tor in the distance.** Glastonbury and surrounding area is a land steeped in myth and legend and is also thought to be the site of the first Christian church in England. Once through the second gate, walk downhill a little way to cross a busy road. Pass through the wooden kissing gate that greets you at the other side.



Dinder Church



3) Walk straight ahead and keep your eyes peeled for a pillbox nestled beneath a tree. There are many defensive structures along the Mendip Hills left over from the Second World War. Once through the wooden kissing gate carry on through the next field to the metal kissing gate, then cross the track in front of you and climb over a stile into the next field. Head across it, keeping the large tree ahead on your left, and then cross the stile. You are now heading towards the village of Dinder. Follow the hedge line until you see a post ahead marked 'Dinder'. Cross the little bridge and go through the kissing gate. Turn left and head through two fields emerging from the kissing gate to cross the playing fields. **4) There is a children's play area here.** Turn left into the pretty village. **5) The church is well worth a visit,** before turning left up Sharcombe Lane.

Keep going up along the road until it turns into a track and soon after you will see a turning to your left marked King's Castle. **6) Take a short detour along this track for about 100m to see some tank traps on your right just after the corner.** Retrace your steps and carry on up the steep hill, through a large gate until the track levels out. Now turn left and cross the field, aiming for the gate in the trees ahead. About 100m after the gate you will emerge onto Lyatt, an area once used by iron age settlers. **Their hill fort was nearby in King's Castle Wood.** Follow the track towards the woods and continue as it takes a sharp left down a hill and pass through the gate at the bottom. In years gone by this route into Wells was used by those trying to avoid paying the tolls! With King's Castle Wood on your right, and Wells Golf Course on your left, carry on for 800m until you pass a farmhouse and buildings on your right. Just after the house cross the stone stile on your right into the field. Aim for the far right corner and then follow the hedge line on your left for approx. 400m (you are skirting the old quarry). Pass through the kissing gate and follow the track through the woods for 50m until you emerge from the woods into a field. **7) Walk straight ahead and keep a look out above the tree line for a glimpse of the top of the pinnacles of Wells Cathedral.** The path begins to go downhill. Walk through the gate ahead of you into Tor Woods and follow the path and steps down to Tor Lane at the bottom. Areas of the wood have been quarried over the centuries so do take care. **8) You can see a lovely view of the east end of the cathedral from Tor Lane.**



Turn left and walk 20m along the track to the busy road. Cross over and walk through the gap to the right of the large gate ahead of you. **9) As you walk along keep an eye out for the mosaic set back in the grass on your left.** This tells the story of the dragon that terrorised locals during the 13th century (it loved eating children and sheep). It was slayed by Bishop Jocelyn, but not before it had warned that if it was not honoured every 50 years, it would come back to life. The mosaic was made by local children in 2001 to show the dragon it had been remembered! **10) Take a few steps towards the moat and enjoy a view of the waterfall,** just some of the water emerging from the springs that give Wells its name. Keeping the moat on your right, retrace your steps back to the Bishop's Palace.

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