

GINNY'S COUNTRY WALKS



WIDBROOK
GRANGE

CHIHUAHUA STROLL

Distance - 2.5 miles one way

Duration - 1 hour

Difficulty - Easy

Starting off at Widbrook Grange Hotel, leave the main farmhouse and turn right into the gravel car park and out into the back field. At the end of the field there is a small footbridge. Cross the foot bridge and head through the farmland on the diagonal path to the right.

- When you reach the path along the back of the field continue to the right and follow the path until it connects to a road. This road will take you to the bridge over the canal. Cross the bridge and enter onto the canal path. Go north west along the canal until you reach Bradford Lock.

- At Bradford Lock cross the road back onto the canal towpath and continue for a further half mile past the back of the Tithe Barn as far as the swing bridge.

- Cross over the canal on the wooden footbridge, follow the short path into a field, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through a gate into the next field and climb diagonally left up to the metal gate and into Becky Addy Woods.

- Follow the clear path as it meanders gradually upwards through the woods. Where it joins a road, at a bend, turn left uphill for about 100 metres then turn right along a driveway between houses. This becomes a narrow path.

- At the end turn left uphill on the tarmac track, then right at the top onto a road. Follow this for about 200 metres

and look for a footpath sign on the right to Freshford.

- Turn off right here, downhill, then after a few metres bear left. At the next bend go through the metal gate into a field of newly planted trees (Woodland Trust's Avoncliff Wood extension). Continue downhill, diagonally left towards the river.

- Go through the gap and turn right to climb a few steps onto a tree lined path. At the end continue straight on to Avoncliff, past Ancliff Square (former workhouse, now houses). Go under the aqueduct, turning back up right onto the canal towpath.

- To make it a circular walk you can follow the canal path back to where you originally entered it and retrace your steps back to Widbrook Grange.

- Or you can cross the aqueduct and find the station car park on your right. Take a train back into Bradford on Avon and walk or take a D1 bus from there.

JACK RUSSELL WALK

Distance - 3.5 miles

Duration - 1.5 hours

Difficulty - Easy

Starting off at Widbrook Grange Hotel, leave the main farmhouse and turn right into the gravel car park and out into the back field. At the end of the field there is a small footbridge. Cross the foot bridge and head through the farmland on the diagonal path to the right.

- When you reach the path along the back of the field continue to the right and

follow the path until it connects to a road. This road will take you to the bridge on the right over the canal. Cross the bridge and enter onto the canal path. When entering the path from the bridge, go left along the canal and you will cross under a bridge.

- Continue on the canal path and you will see the narrowboat marina on your right.
- Further down the path there will be an entrance to Widbrook Wood Nature Reserve on the left. Dogs must be kept on lead in the reserve. It is a great natural spot with lots of trails in the wood and out to the River Avon.
- Once you are finished enjoying the wood, find your way back to the canal path and return the way you came.
- At the bridge you can either continue under it and return the way you came, or walk up to the bridge, cross over it and make your way to Widbrook Grange which will be on the right.
- Another great option if you would like to stop for refreshments is to pop into the Boathouse Pub which will be on your left.

LABRADOR TRAIL

Distance - 6.3 miles

Duration - 3.5 hours

Difficulty - Moderate

Starting off at Widbrook Grange Hotel, leave the main farmhouse and turn right into the gravel car park and out into the back field. At the end of the field there is

a small footbridge. Cross the foot bridge and head through the farmland on the diagonal path to the right.

- When you reach the path along the back of the field continue to the right and follow the path until it connects to a road. This road will take you to the bridge over the canal. Cross the bridge and enter onto the canal path. Go north west along the canal until you reach Bradford Lock.
- At Bradford Lock cross the road back onto the canal towpath and continue for a further half mile past the back of the Tithe Barn as far as the swing bridge.
- Cross over the canal on the wooden footbridge, follow the short path into a field, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through a gate into the next field and climb diagonally left up to the metal gate and into Becky Addy Woods.
- Follow the clear path as it meanders gradually upwards through the woods. Where it joins a road, at a bend, turn left uphill for about 100 metres then turn right along a driveway between houses. This becomes a narrow path.
- At the end turn left uphill on the tarmac track, then right at the top onto a road. Follow this for about 200 metres and look for a footpath sign on the right to Freshford.
- Turn off right here, downhill, then after a few metres bear left. At the next bend go through the metal gate into a field of newly planted trees (Woodland Trust's Avoncliff Wood extension). Continue downhill, diagonally left towards the river.

- Go through the gap and turn right to climb a few steps onto a tree lined path. At the end continue straight on to Avoncliff, past Ancliff Square (former workhouse, now houses). Go under the aqueduct, turning back up right onto the canal towpath.

- Don't cross the aqueduct but head to the left back to Bradford on Avon. Follow the canal path until you reach the Tithe Barn. Turn off the canal path just before the barn and head straight across the field, past the play area to the River Avon and pick up the river path there.

- Follow the river path all the way to the centre of town and the bridge. Don't cross the bridge but instead cross the road at the pelican crossing. Turn left, then right into Bridge Street.

- Follow the road to the rail crossing and just after this bear off right up into the woods, known as The Strips. The path climbs up gently, keeping the fence to the left; you follow the orange waymarkers of the Inner Circle of The Wheel for a little while now. This fence becomes more substantial further along, follow it to the end when it opens out into a tarmacked area. Turn right up a short hill then turn left onto the tarmac path that runs along the back of houses.

- Just after the small play area on the right the path joins a road, turn left and follow this down and round. At the end turn right then left soon reaching a field. Here you pick up the blue waymarkers of Spoke 3 of The Wheel.

- You now go straight across 3 fields with the River Avon on your left; in the last field you pass the sailing club building. Cross

a wooden footbridge through 2 gates to enter Widbrook Woods (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust).

- Go straight ahead on a wide path which soon enters an open area with a willow pond ahead to the left. You're still following the blue waymarkers. Go straight on, passing the pond, on your left. As you near the river bank look out for the blue waymarkers on a wooden post directing you right to a short climb, then steps to take you up to the canal towpath.

- Turn right back towards Bradford on Avon as far as the first bridge. Don't go under this but turn right up the wooden steps then to the road.

- Cross over the bridge and make your way to Widbrook Grange which will be on the right.

- Another great option if you would like to stop for refreshments is to pop into the Boathouse Pub which will be on your left.

DOBERMAN HIKE

Website: [History Hike](#)

Distance - 11 miles

Duration - 6.5 hours

Difficulty - Challenging

Starting off at Widbrook Grange Hotel, leave the main farmhouse and turn right into the gravel car park and out into the back field. At the end of the field there is a small footbridge. Cross the foot bridge and head through the farmland on the diagonal path to the right.

- When you reach the path along the back of the field turn to the left and follow the path until it connects to Westwood road. Turn left on the road take the second footpath on the right,
- This footpath will connect you to a lane which will connect you to the A366.
- Turn right on the A366 and cross over the intersection of Broadford Road.
- Turn left onto Magdalen Lane. At the end of the lane take the footpath to the right. Continue in that direction and this footpath will end back on the A366.
- Walk a short distance on the A366 and turn left onto Stowford Farm. Make your way to the back of the drive to Stowford Farm Camping. From here you will have access to walk along the River Frome to Farleigh Hungerford.
- When the river path reaches the road, take the road left across the two bridges. Be very careful here, making sure you're walking on the right hand side of the road. After crossing the second bridge there's a pavement on your left, which takes you up the hill to the entrance of Farleigh Hungerford Castle.
- Farleigh Hungerford Castle was once a splendid castle, home to the remarkable Hungerford family, who lived there for 300 years. They were involved in some of the most important events in English history, including the Wars of the Roses, the Hundred Years' War, the Reformation, the Civil War and the Restoration. Hear their stories – full of intrigue, scandal, betrayal, heroism, incompetence and excess – on the castle's free audio tour.
- The castle has a shop selling hot and cold drinks and snacks, and is the perfect place for a picnic.
- Leave the castle the same way you entered it. Follow the footpath sign to the left, down some steps to the River Frome. Follow the path with the river on your right, and when the track turns sharply to the left, go right at a footpath sign to join the Macmillan Way. Cross a small footbridge and a stile. Walk through the meadows, passing through the kissing gates until you come to a road. Go right into Iford, crossing the bridge.
- Iford is a gorgeous village. The manor has terraced Italianate gardens, designed by Harold Peto in the early 20th century. Peto is also responsible for placing the 18th century bronze statue of Britannia perched picturesquely on the bridge.
- Turn right at the manor, following the road uphill until you reach the T-Junction at the top. Walk left along the road, keeping to the verges as much as possible until you reach a sign for a bridle path to Upper Westwood on your left. This bridle path was muddy and overgrown on my visit, so be warned! Follow it into Upper Westwood and go right, following the road through the village.
- Immediately after passing a nursery school on your right, go left, downhill on a narrow lane, and join a footpath on your right. The path forks here, but keep to the one on the right. Go downhill through the trees until you reach another road junction. Walk straight across and keep heading downhill to reach Avoncliff and the canal.

- Avoncliff is a lovely little hamlet, with a train station, a tearoom, a pub and, rather impressively, an aqueduct for the canal, taking boats above the river and railway below.

- Pass beneath the aqueduct and go right to rejoin the towpath with the canal on your right.

- Don't cross the aqueduct but head to the left back to Bradford on Avon. Follow the canal path until you reach the Tithe Barn. Turn off the canal path just before the barn and head straight across the field, past the play area to the River Avon and pick up the river path there.

- Follow the river path all the way to the centre of town and the bridge. Don't cross the bridge but instead cross the road at the pelican crossing. Turn left, then right into Bridge Street.

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