

Three Crowns to Little Somerford

No 7 in a series of picturesque walks round Brinkworth, starting at the 3 Crowns. This is a one-way walk to link with the local bus service (details below) to return to the 3 Crowns

For more walks see www.brinkworthwalking.wordpress.com

- A moderate walk for novices and families with many stiles, muddy paths and good views.
- OS Maps Explorer 169 or Landranger 173. 3 miles, 2 hours approximately.
- Respect other people and property, keep to the paths/bridleways and leave gates as you find them
- Leave no trace and keep dogs under control – especially where there are cattle, sheep and horses.

We hope that you enjoy this walk. We welcome comments and feedback (both positive and negative) at brinkworthfootpathgroup@gmail.com

From the Three Crowns, the walk runs in almost a straight line by the railway to Little Somerford.

Turn left down School Hill, then take the 1st right opposite the school playground (un-named). At the bottom, go through the field gate & follow the path along the backs of the Railway Cottages gardens via 2 gates and 2 stiles into a long thin field. Keeping the railway hedge on your left, continue through gateways & stiles & over a slight rise to a stile where the field hedge diverges from the railway hedge.

Cross this stile to follow the path between 2 hedges for some way to the next stile. This section may have an abundance of nettles and other growth. The stile at the end is a bit awkward (high) to cross.

Once past this section, the route is a pleasant ramble through open fields with broad views & sites of passing trains. Continue now by the right-hand hedge going via a gateway, a stile & another gateway to then find the gate through the hedge, approx. 100m on the right. There is a footpath sign nailed to the right-hand gatepost.

Go through this gate & left then through the gateway directly ahead. Walk right round this field to the far-right corner to cross the stile & bridge over the ditch diagonally through the hedge. Now walking with the hedge on your left, to cross the stile in the low wooden fence and, ignoring the gateways on to the left, keep along by the hedge to the far-left corner & stile – well guarded by brambles & nettles.

The next stile has a pair of wooden sleepers over the ditch, the right-hand one is part-rotted. Cross the field ahead between the 2 great oaks in the middle to the stile, then diagonally left to the far corner & through the gate. Keeping to the hedge on the right to go through the next gate & straight ahead for 50m to cross the hedge over the stile and then head for the cottage in the distance by the railway.

The final stile is to the right of the cottage gardens & has been renovated. Once across this, turn right along the road & on to the bus shelter in the centre of Little Somerford.

Busses back to the Three Crowns (service 99) depart at 0702, 0744, 0908, 1008, 1208, 1408, 1608 and (not Saturdays) 1821. **No service on Sundays.** Correct December 2022, any updates can be found at <https://bustimes.org/services/99-malmesbury-wootton-bassett-swindon> .

