



# THE CONKWELL CIRCLE WALK

By Nigel Vile

## Fact file

Distance – 3miles.

Time – 1½ hours.

Start – Hartley Farm Shop (GR 802618).

Maps- OS Landrangers 172/173 or OS Explorers 155/156.

Terrain – A flat and gentle walk.

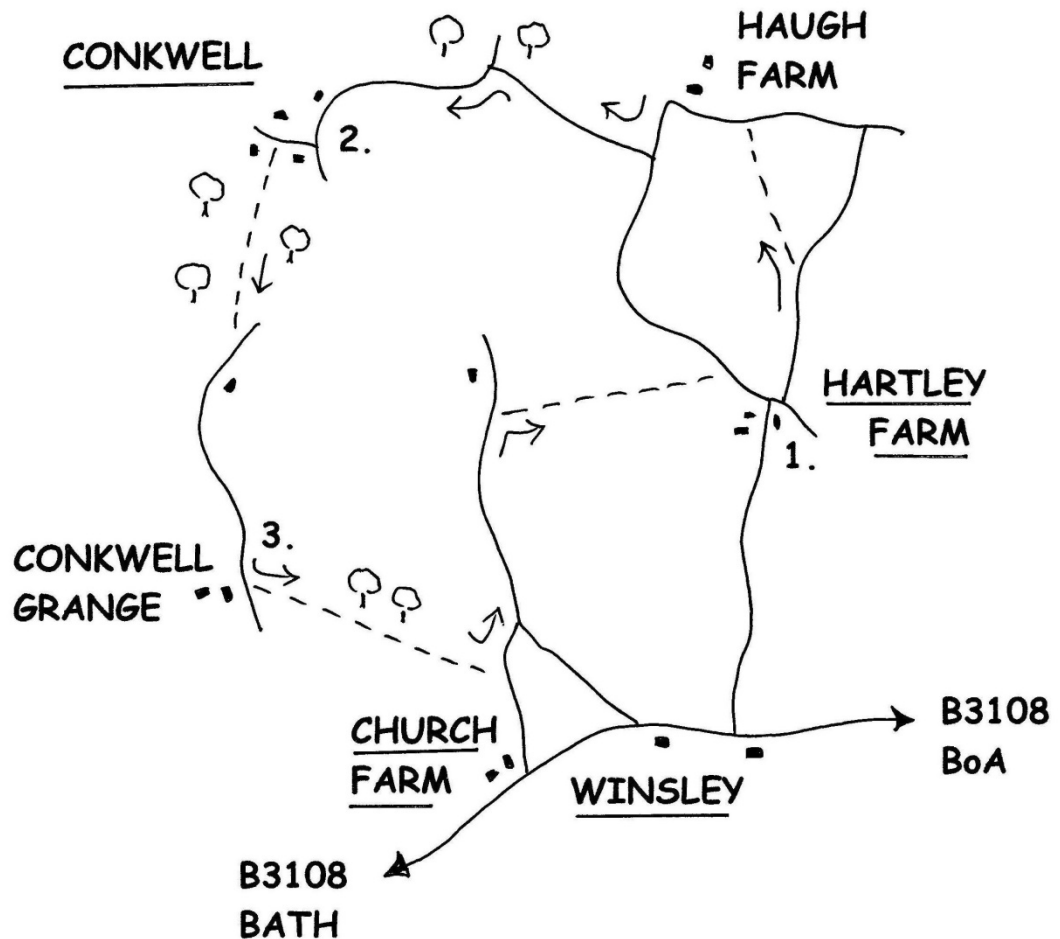
HARTLEY FARM SHOP – HAUGH FARM – CONKWELL – CONKWELL WOOD – CONKWELL GRANGE – HARTLEY FARM SHOP

## THE WALK DETAILS

**Start:** Either Hartley Farm Shop or Church Farm, Winsley.

### Directions: From Hartley

1. Leave the car-park and turn left through a gateway onto a lane. Turn right to a crossroads before turning left along the lane to Haugh and Ashley. In 175 yards, cross a stile on the left before bearing half-right across an open field to a stile in the right-hand field boundary by a telegraph pole. Join a lane and turn left. In 100 yards, keep on the lane as it bears sharply left, a drive on the right leading to **Haugh Farm**. In another 100 yards, turn right along a side lane signposted to Conkwell. Follow this lane for ¾ mile to reach Conkwell.
2. Turn right off of the road to follow a narrow tarmac access road that drops down past a number of properties. Towards the bottom of the hamlet, just above Spring Cottage, turn left and follow a path past properties and into Conkwell Wood. Follow the path through the woodland for 300 yards to reach a road, ignoring a track that drops downhill on the right along the way. Follow the road to the right for 600 yards and, just before a bend by the entrance to **Conkwell Grange**, cross a stile in the wall on the left by a solitary tree.
3. Cross the field ahead to a gateway opposite, just to the right of a small copse, before following the right edge of the next field to a gate in its corner and a lane. Follow the lane to the left for 650 yards to reach a footpath on the right, just before **Parsonage Farm**. Pass through a gateway on the right at this point and walk straight ahead across an arable field to reach a gate in the end field boundary. Join a lane, turn right and, in 250 yards, right through a gateway back into **Hartley Farm**.



**THE CONKWELL CIRCLE WALK:**

From the Farm Shop, this walk follows quiet lanes and fieldpaths to the secluded hamlet of Conkwell, a former quarrying settlement nestling high above the Avon Valley. A double-track self-acting tramroad, 700 yards in length and with a 1-in-5 gradient, ran down the hillside from the local quarry to the canal. The quality of the stone was poor, however, and the quarry's life short-lived. Beyond the delightful rural idyll that is today's Conkwell, the walk passes through ancient woodland and across open countryside before reaching Conkwell Grange, a fine horse stud with a national reputation. Fieldpaths and lanes, with fine views across the West Wiltshire countryside, return the walk to the Farm Shop.