

The Welcombe Obelisk, Stratford-Upon-Avon

(Re-walked 5th July 2017)

Distance: 5 miles
Map: OS Explorer 205
Starting Point: 211557 (Free Car Park off A439)

From car park walk towards the river and turn right onto tarmac path towards Stratford. Continue on path until opposite the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Turn diagonally left and walk towards the road. At the large crossing area, use two pedestrian crossings to walk towards the large bridge and then the smaller bridge which crosses the canal. Turn right down onto the canal towpath and follow it to reach bridge 68. Cross the canal bridge and then go under it. Leave the towpath, walk up the slope and turn left. This is the busy Warwick Rd. After about 200m take the left fork into Welcombe Rd. Continue straight ahead, up a gradual slope, ignoring any side roads. Where Welcombe Rd. swings left, cross over and take a public footpath on the RHS, passing through a kissing gate (KG). Continue ahead over grass land. At the end of the second, wider meadow pass through a hedge gap about 15m from RH hedge. Go ahead to a five bar gate beside a KG. You are now entering the Welcombe Hills and Clopton Park Nature Reserve. Continue ahead with woodland on the left. The incline will increase. Aim to take one of the higher paths, keeping the Welcombe Hotel on your right. Keep climbing, staying about 40m from the wall as it veers to the right. At the end of the wall turn right. The obelisk is directly ahead, so aim for the stile and walk up to the obelisk. Enjoy the views! Keeping the gate in the fence around the obelisk behind you, walk ahead to another gateway. Pass through this & in about 10m go through a KG in the hedge on the left. Turn right immediately and climb slope beside wooden fence and hedge. After about 70m veer left and walk beside more fencing and woodland. Bear right and when you see a wooden bench, turn left behind it. Follow the line of electricity poles (and join Monarch's Way). Continue down the slope and leave the Nature Reserve through a metal gate. Carry on along this path, and, after passing The Well House on left, bear left through a KG next to Clopton Tower. Walk across the field to the right towards houses and a KG which takes you behind the row of houses. This path leads into Maidenhead Rd. Continue down this road for about 800m to a canal bridge on left. Turn left here to join the canal towpath. After two sets of locks go under bridge 68. Take a sharp left, cross the bridge and join the towpath on the other side. Continue to the next bridge, climb up to main road and then retrace the route to the car park, looking for a glimpse of the Welcombe Obelisk on the hill ahead.

