

A circular walk from Godshill taking in Appuldurcombe House

IW INDICATOR



DISTANCE



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- 1 Start at the public car park (free) opposite "The Griffin" public house, where there is also a bus stop.
- 2 Leaving car park, turn left along main road. Turn right across cattle grid onto tarmac farm lane (GL44). Proceed along path with rolling fields on right. Continue past farm where path will climb gently uphill and soon the arched gateway to Appuldurcombe Estate will appear. This is "Freemantle Gate". Pass through gate (right hand one) and after 100 yards, a signpost indicates path to left GL44. This is marked to Wroxall. This route will give you very good views of Appuldurcombe House much better than the more direct path (GL47) "to Appuldurcombe". Follow clear path downhill across fields through two gates to come to a road which leads to the House. Cross this road to footpath exactly opposite (GL45). Follow this path across field for fine views of House and



garden. This Eastern part of House is roofed and windowed, but is unfurnished. The rest is a hollow roofless shell. On reaching boundary fence, turn hard right to follow path round to main entrance and car park. The House and grounds are in the care of English Heritage and there is an Owl & Falconry Centre on the site.



- 3 Continue the walk along GL47 at the upper side of the car park. This will take you back to Freemantle Gate. Turn left immediately after going through gate (GL49) The path follows the Northern boundary wall of the Appuldurcombe Estate below gat cliff. Continue until you come to a high stock fence and gate. Turn right to follow path GL58 to Sainham. The high fences are a relic of a deer farming venture which has now ceased. Continue on this path which is generally downhill to Sainham Farm. At this point turn hard right past converted barns. Path will lead into a beech copse which is a mass of bluebells at the end of April/beginning of May. On entering copse take left hand path downhill. At bottom go through gate out of wood into a quiet meadow. This will bring you alongside the extensive garden of "The Griffin" with its maze in the shape of a griffin. You now have the choice of refreshment in the pub or a cream tea elsewhere in the village.

Binoculars are handy for birdwatching and the extensive views on this walk (when it's clear!).

- 4 Godshill has much to offer the tourist. The 14th century church which rises above a group of picturesque thatched cottages, contains a unique medieval mural. There are plenty of gift shops, tearooms, two public houses with restaurants, museums, gardens and also a model village. There is a useful information board in the car park.



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