





WALK 4

BURIALS AND BATTLES THE DYRHAM AND HINTON TRAIL

Start Point	The Crown, A46
Distance	6km (4 1/2 miles)
Difficulty	Medium includes two steep sections and uneven ground
Time	3-5 hours
Refreshments	The Crown on the A46 and The Bull at Hinton

INTRODUCTION

The route around Dyrham and Hinton has a rich and often dark history. As well as exploring the landscape around the impressive Dyrham Park our trail passes burials and battle sites which have influenced the course of our island's history. An optional route takes you into Dyrham Park to the Visitor Centre; there is an admission charge for entry into Dyrham Park.

THE ROUTE

- 1 The walk starts at The Crown public house on the A46. Take the lane opposite The Crown and walk towards Hinton, ahead lies Hinton Hill. Turn left along Field Lane (joining the Cotswold Way National Trail) and then right at the farm buildings. Follow the Cotswold Way National Trail along the boundary wall of Dyrham Park to the village.
- 2 On joining the lane turn left into the village of 17th and 18th century houses. Turn off left to visit St Peter's Church, returning to the lane to continue the walk.

Dyrham Park & House

For access to Dyrham Park (now owned by the National Trust) continue along the lane past the iron gates and take the signposted track off to the left. Note that vehicular access is only possible from the A46.

- 3 We leave the Cotswold Way National Trail at this point, turning right at the grass triangle, following the lane past the Old Post Office and Old School House. Turn right at the 'T' junction, signposted to Hinton & Pucklechurch and right again at the next junction. After 30m take the path on the left and follow this through fields to join Cock Lane. Turn right. A 'Cock' was the name given to the extra horse used to help pull coaches and carts up the escarpment.
- 4 At the Cock Lane 'T' junction turn right, and after a short distance take the footpath on the right. Follow the path across Hinton Hill past the fortified remains of the hillfort and near the site of the Battle of Deorham in 577AD. Follow the path across the fields back to Field Lane
- 5 Turn left and then right at the 'T' junction to return to the start of the walk.

SOME PLACE NAME ORIGINS:

Dyrham	Enclosure for deer
Badminton	Farmstead associated with Baduhelm - A Saxon

HILLFORTS AND BURIALS

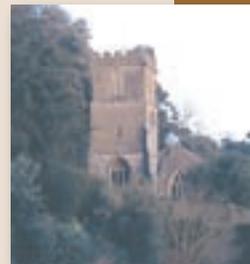
Strategically this section of the Cotswold Edge has always been important and hillforts, sited at the top of the edge were prominent features of the landscape, powerfully visible from the valleys below, sending a message of ownership and authority. The trail passes Hinton Camp or hillfort as you descend to Dyrham village and then crosses the fortifications later in the walk. We know that violence also occurred earlier here; just across the A46 lies a Bronze Age site where archaeologists found the bodies of 5 young men, killed in conflict around 3,500 years ago. Two of them still had the bronze spears that killed them embedded within their skeletons! They may have been killed in a territorial dispute over a land boundary.



Dyrham House

STRIP LYNCHETS

Rather less brutal are the many field banks and “strip lynchets” present throughout the landscape, especially prominent around Hinton Hill. These may date from Prehistoric or Roman times. Strip lynchets were a simple system of terraces created to gain better growing conditions. You will also see the broad mounds known as ridge and furrow created for the same purpose in medieval times. This land has been farmed since prehistoric times and many fields have yielded traces of previous farmers, ranging from flint tools to stone coffins.



BATTLE OF DEORHAM 577A.D.

Hinton Camp is almost certainly the location for a battle of great significance and bloodshed in 577. The advancing Saxon armies from eastern England clashed on this hill with the armies of the Celts or Britons. The Saxon victory here opened the remaining lands of the west of England to Saxon settlement - a key era in the history of the Cotswolds. Judging from the evidence of place names which have Saxon origins, it seems that many rural settlements in the Cotswolds were taken over by Anglo-Saxons at this time. Much of our understanding of the political history and changes in the Cotswold landscape in the middle ages comes from Saxon charters, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and the Domesday Book.

DYRHAM PARK

While Dyrham Park began as an ancient enclosure for deer, the great house in the Baroque style within it dates from the 16th century. The Baroque mansion was designed by Talman for William Blathwayt, Secretary of War during the reign of William III, and built on the site of a former Tudor manor house. William Blathwayt filled the house with his collection of Dutch decorative art. After the Second World War, Dyrham was purchased from the Blathwayt family, for the National Trust, using the National Land Fund in order to retain the unique family collection and as a memorial to the dead of the war. The rolling deer park, complete with its herd of fallow deer, the sweeping drive, the delightful formal gardens and the gracious interior make Dyrham Park one of the National Trust's most popular sites in this area.

The Church of St Peter nestles against the side of the hill above the main house. It is a charming church of the mid-13th century containing a Norman font and medieval features including tiles and stained glass.

Dyrham Park has often been used for films including the Oscar winning 'Remains of the Day'. Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Christopher Reeve and Hugh Grant have all filmed on the estate.

Dyrham Park 0117 9372501 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Grounds are open daily; the house is open April - October, but not on Wednesdays or Thursdays





DYRHAM

Dyrham village is shielded to the north and east by steep wooded hillsides and the walled grounds of the Dyrham Park. Narrow lanes lie either side of the River Boyd, which descends through the village by a series of waterfalls. Many of the cottages and houses in the village date from the 17th and 18th centuries including the 17th century rectory. In recent years Dyrham has changed quite radically from being a feudal hamlet with a resident squire to a commuter village, with good road links to the M4, and to Bristol and Bath.

 **17th Century
Rectory,
Dyrham**