



# Welcome to the Go Outside New Year Cleeve Common Trail!

Follow the directions and answer questions to make your way around the Common and learn a little about its history.

Start from the Quarry Car park ( some fun facts, map and answers overleaf).

1. Exit the Quarry via the entrance leaving the car park behind you. Turn left and go past the Conservation Area board, before taking the first left hand fork heading up the hill. This path will split again, keep to the left-hand side (the right is for the Cotswold Way).
2. Follow the left edge of the quarry crater and then round over the top in a clockwise direction. Watch out for the edge! As you round the top of the quarry you should see a line of white stones ahead of you which is where you need to head to next.
3. Carry on past the white stones, and follow the track with the golf green on your left and views of Bishops Cleeve on your right until you get to a bench
4. Re-join the path and head up the hill. Take the left fork behind the golf tee up to the stone pyramid (trig point). This is the second highest point (317m) on Cleeve Common but offers the best views so time for a selfie! If you use social media don't forget to add **#GoGloucestershire**, **#CleeveCommon** and **#trigpointchallenge**.
5. Stand with your back to the trig point (the pyramid) and head towards the lonely tree.  
If you would like to cut your walk short and start heading back now, skip to direction #9". However, if you would like to continue our route to the Radio Masts, please carry on
6. Looking out across The Common, you should see a group of radio masts. Head over to them.
7. Can you spot where the animals grazing on the hill used to go for a drink? From the gate by the radio masts, bear half right and cross 250m over to the Dewpond on your right.
8. Turn around and go back towards the Masts. At the masts turn right and follow the path along the edge of the common, with the wall on your left.
9. Head down the slope towards the two trees which touch to make an arch.
10. Continue past the benches and follow the path and along the edge of the escarpment. You will cross over two small mounds, which continue off to your right and arc round in a gentle curve.
11. Follow the Cotswold Way, again passing through the old fort walls. Enjoy the fantastic views of the Cotswolds along the way.
12. Continue along the Cotswold Way path back up towards the golf club and quarry car park .

You have successfully completed the Go Outside New Year Cleeve Common Trail!

If you would like to receive future Go Outside Challenges including new routes we have planned, head to [www.go-outside.co.uk](http://www.go-outside.co.uk) and sign up to our newsletter

## **Puzzle 1:**

What 6 letter word should you always take home with you if you are walking in the countryside?

Hint: It sounds a bit like "Glitter" but is not nearly so pretty...

## **Puzzle 2:**

What 4 letter sport is played on the Common?

Hint: FORE!...

## **Puzzle 3:**

What five lettered animal races at the world famous sports ground you can see from here?

## **Puzzle 4:**

How many km away is Sugar Loaf?

Hint: Is there a map nearby?...

## **Puzzle 5:**

Finish the quote 'Love & be yourself, others will...?'

Hint: Have a look at the memorial plaques around the tree - can you spot the quote on one of them?...

## **Puzzle 6:**

How many Scheduled Ancient Monuments are on Cleeve common?

Hint: When you reach the masts, have a look at the conservation area information board...

## **Puzzle 7:**

What three lettered animal can you see watching over the dew pond?

## **Puzzle 8:**

Do you know the name for the two trees?

Hint: This 5 letter answer is another word for siblings with the same birthday...

## **Puzzle 9:**

On your walk today you have been inside a very ancient "castle" used as a defence for people in the Iron Age. Do you know its 4 letter name?

Hint: It begins with 'F'...

### Did you know.....?

- Cleeve Common was once covered by dense woodland but was cleared by man around 6000 years ago to make room for farming. There is evidence that man has been active on the hill through the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period until the present day.
- The rocks of Cleeve Hill were laid down in the mid Jurassic period, about 170 million years ago. You can find fossils of animals and plants in the scree slopes including bivalve molluscs like Oysters, Scallop Shells, sea urchins, ammonites, snail shells and corals. However, no dinosaur remains have yet been found.
- The first golf course was set out on the lower slopes of the Common in 1891. The original clubhouse dates from 1895 and today is the grey chalet next to Rock House behind the Rising Sun Hotel. You will see it at the end of your walk.
- The first organised Flat race meeting in Cheltenham took place in 1815 on Nottingham Hill, with the first races on Cleeve Hill in August 1818. The racecourse was moved to Prestbury Park, its current venue, in 1831. Steeplechasing became established in nearby Andoversford from 1834 and moved to the present course in 1898.
- From the top of the Cleeve Hill you can see the Malvern Hills, The Welsh Black Mountains, the Severn Bridge and the tower of Gloucestershire Cathedral. On an exceptionally clear day you can even see Winsford Hill on Exmoor, Somerset, over 90 miles (140km) away!
- The lone beech tree is 100 years old and is believed to be the highest tree in the Cotswolds at 330m above sea level.
- The dew pond was restored in 2000 as experiment in a traditional way of providing drinking water for grazing. The original dew pond could date back to the Iron Age or be as recent as the 20th century. Before restoration the pond was just a depression in the ground (often mistakenly thought to be a bomb crater).
- The Iron Age Fort dates back to 500BC and provides the first direct evidence of habitation on the hill. It has now been partially quarried away, but what remains gives an impression of the scale of the fort. Sitting on the edge of the escarpment, it would have been visible for miles around, as much as symbol of power and wealth as a defensive structure.

