

Walks around Almondsbury



£5

Contents

Foreword

- WALK No 1. A 2 mile walk around Almondsbury village
- WALK No 2. A 2.5 mile walk crossing the Parish boundary into Tockington
- WALK No 3. A 5 mile walk through "Rhine" country
- WALK No 4. A 4 mile walk around the village
- WALK No 5. A 3 mile walk centred on Easter Compton
- WALK No 6. A 5 mile walk around Tockington
- Walk No 7. Three walks of about 4 and 6 miles from St Mary's Church, Almondsbury,
- Walk No 8. Two walks of about 3.5 and 2.25 miles from Olveston Village Green
- Walk No 9. A walk of about 2 miles starting near The Swan in Tockington
- Walk No 10. A walk of about 3.5 miles starting from Elberton Church
- Walk No 11. A walk of about 3 miles near Tockington
- Walk No 12. A level walk of about 3.5 miles, starting from Easter Compton

Countryside Code

Notes about maps and general advice:

- 1. The orange 'teardrops' on the maps mark the beginning and end point*
- 2. The numbers in circles on the route are distances in miles from the start*
- 3. All maps have north at the top*
- 4. All routes are circular*
- 5. Further detail, eg field boundaries, can be found at www.outdoorswest.org.uk .*
- 6. Depending on the time of year, paths may be muddy or overgrown. Suitable footwear should be worn.*
- 7. Some fields may contain sheep, cattle and horse. Please be aware, particularly if accompanied by dogs.*
- 8. Dog-friendliness varies by walk. Some have locked gates which may prevent dogs progressing, others have styles that have been made lamb-proof, and in effect dog-proof.*
- 9. This is a hilly area, and walks have paths with varying degrees of steepness. Many have styles and some have locked gates, which all have to be climbed over.*

Foreword

It is my great pleasure to write the introduction to this new book of walks around Almondsbury.

Over twenty years ago Ken and Freda Heavisides from Court View Close published two small pamphlets containing walks around Almondsbury. The Almondsbury environment group of the time and the Parish Council endorsed and promoted its publication. Some of the members of those committees are still in the village and are to be thanked for their vision and hard work.

Many years have passed and some of the walks are changed by growth and pathway changes, but the majority of the walks are unchanged. It was felt that it was a good time to reproduce the booklet adding amendments to bring it up to date.

St Marys Church in Almondsbury has an on going fabric fund which helps to maintain and improve this ancient 12th century building. The proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to sustain the Church fabric.

Our thanks must go chiefly to David and Pat Rayfield who have diligently walked the walks, re-written and assembled the booklet. Sue Beech helped with the production of the maps. Thanks also to other walkers Graham Jeffery, Catherine Jenkins, John Stennard, and Janine Clepham and Moira Trenchard for their help in editing and trialling the walks.

Finally we must thank our sponsors, whose generosity has made this booklet possible.

We hope you will enjoy these trips and that as a village we can enjoy our surroundings and share them with visitors.

Philip Rowe
Vicar of St Marys Almondsbury

Summer 2016

Walk No 1. A stroll around Almondsbury of about 1.5 miles starting at St Mary's Church, Almondsbury.

The walk starts at the lich gate of St. Mary's Church. If you are interested in the history of the Church, you will find booklets for sale on the hymn book trolley just inside the north door. In the porch, you may also be able to pick up a spare copy of the village magazine, 'The Lich Gate', which is distributed free around the village.

Standing at the top of the lich gate steps and looking down Church Road, you will see immediately in front of you a grass triangle with the village pump and a planted water trough. Sadly, the tree that was planted to commemorate the Queen's Coronation had to be removed in September 2015. To your right is the Old School Hall, which now serves as the village hall for Lower Almondsbury, having been re-stored in the 1960s by a group of civic-minded residents.

Walk a short distance down Church Road and turn left into The Pound. On the opposite corner, you will see the village's Community Shop, which was established in 2009 by another generation of civic-minded residents and is staffed by volunteers. The cottage housing the shop was, for many years, the dwelling of the church organist.

The Pound is so called because, in the 18th Century, stray livestock was penned up here until a fine of three old pence (240 to the £) was paid. On your left as you turn into The Pound, you will see the buildings of Court Farm and a buttressed building, which was formerly a barn, and is believed to date back to the 15th Century.

The farm was reputedly the Manor House when the village was the property of St Augustine's Abbey, prior to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. Further on, you might be amused to see that 20 The Pound is named 'Old Shillings', of which there were twenty to the £, prior to decimalisation in 1971.

Walk through The Pound and bear left at the road junction into Townsend Lane. Continue along Townsend Lane for a short distance and past 'Rock House', to the first field gate beyond on the left, where you will see a wooden stile and a footpath signpost. The cattle that frequently occupy the field churn up the ground beyond into a quagmire in wet weather. Turning left over this stile to continue your walk will, therefore, be given as an optional route later (see Optional Route 1).

Continue straight on along Townsend Lane until you reach Knole Close on your left. Walk up Knole Close as far as Church View to reach a flight of concrete steps, which you will see in front of you. Climb the steps, following a footpath running uphill between houses and gardens to a further flight of concrete steps. At the top of the steps, turn right for a short distance to join Over Lane. Cross over the lane to the wide verge on the far side and turn left, with the wall of Almondsbury Garden Centre on your right. The garden centre provides an opportunity for light refreshments.

Continue past the entrance to the Garden Centre, then cross the road to the village war memorial. Take the roadside footpath up Over Lane for a short distance to a sign that reads, "No Horse Riding". Bear left at this point into the trees and, after a few yards, bear right. After walking for a short distance on this path, you will have views of the village school, the Church and, in the distance, the Severn Bridge.

Follow this path through the trees until it joins a 'metalled' path. Turn right onto the path, to return to the roadside footpath at the top of Over Lane and turn left towards the A38 Gloucester Road. After a short distance, turn left over the grass in the direction of a large stone. On this you will see an illustrated plaque that identifies the sights to be seen towards the Severn Estuary – if it weren't for the trees in the way!

This is Almondsbury Hill and the area through which you have just walked is known as "The Tump" (or "Tumps"). Beyond the railings are the vestiges of an old quarry and it is believed that lead was mined in small quantities hereabouts in the 18th Century. Over to your right, on the far side of the A38, you will see a building with a bell tower. This is now a private house, but it was opened in 1892 to serve as a hospital and institute for the benefit of local people. Sholto Vere Hare, a former Mayor of Bristol and a Bristol MP, built it in memory of his wife.

At this point you may wish to take a rest on one of the benches for a few moments. Alternatively, there is the opportunity to cross the Gloucester Road to The Swan and partake of some refreshment there. Whatever your choice, continue your walk across the grass and turn left down Hollow Road. After a short distance, just past No.1 Hollow Road, turn right on a signposted footpath, which leads downhill.

Part way down the path, you will see a drainage gully on the right. The path is known locally as "Soapsuds Alley", since the soapy water discarded by a village washerwoman reputedly used to flow down the gully. After descending the steps at the end of the path, turn left on The Scop and continue past Glebe Fields on your left. On your right you will see a large building, known as the Poor Houses. Now converted into flats, the building was once the parish workhouse.

Turn left at the next road junction into Church Road to return to your starting point at the Church. Before you reach the Church, you will pass (or perhaps not) The Bowl Inn. Extensively refurbished in August/September 2015, the building reputedly dates back to the 12th Century and there are stories of tunnels beneath it leading to the former Manor House at Court Farm.

Optional Route 1:

At the gate and stile beyond Rock House in Townsend Lane, if the area beyond the gate is not too muddy, you may wish to take the public footpath across the field. If so, follow the line of the hedgerow on your left, then walk towards the gate at the far left-hand corner of the field. There is no stile, so you will have to climb over the gate – at the hinge end, of course.

Continue on the path across the next field to a wooden stile, which is to the left of an electricity transmission pole on the far side. Be aware that the short section of path beyond the stile is uneven and badly eroded where it joins the road on Sunday's Hill. Take care when emerging onto the road and cross over to the bus stop to the right. Turn right onto the footpath and continue to the War Memorial and Over Lane, to return to the basic route of this walk.

Optional Route 2:

Instead of turning left at the lower end of Soapsuds Alley, you might wish to turn right to walk up The Scop, taking care, as there is no footway. Continue until you see the turn into Forest Hills in front of you, to the left. Before you actually reach Forest Hills, turn left past the gates of a house named Red Lattice immediately on your left, to take a fenced footpath leading down to a metal gate and a field beyond.

The field is commonly known locally as the Scop Field, but is shown on old maps as Vernall's Field. It was gifted to the Parish Council some years ago by the late Mr Tom Stoat and is now the village's public open space. It has a small children's play area, which you will see on your right as you enter. Continue across the field, and exit in the far corner. On your right you will see the village dental practice and on your left a large building, known as the Poor Houses. Now converted into flats, the building was once the parish workhouse.

Continue ahead at the next road junction into Church Road to return to your starting point at the Church. Before you reach the Church, you will pass (or perhaps not) The Bowl Inn. Extensively refurbished in August/September 2015, the building reputedly dates back to the 12th Century. There are stories of tunnels beneath it leading to the former Manor House at Court Farm.



Walk No 2. A circular walk of about 2.5 miles starting from St Mary's Church, Almondsbury.

Start from the lich gate and turn right along Church Road, past the Bowl Inn and turn left into Lower Court Road at the T-junction. Walk down the road until the point at which it narrows and a Footpath sign indicates a gate on the right into the cider orchard. A short path leads to the orchard and the start of the footpath through the orchard.

Keep to the straight concrete pathway through the orchard until the last row of trees on your left. Turn left and keep the hedgerow on your right, make an obvious right angle turn and continue along the hedge until you reach a kissing gate on a bridge over a stream. Cross over and turn left towards the corner of the field and then along edge of the field until a gate is reached. Go over the stile to the left of the gate.

a) ORIGINAL ROUTE (Caution required).

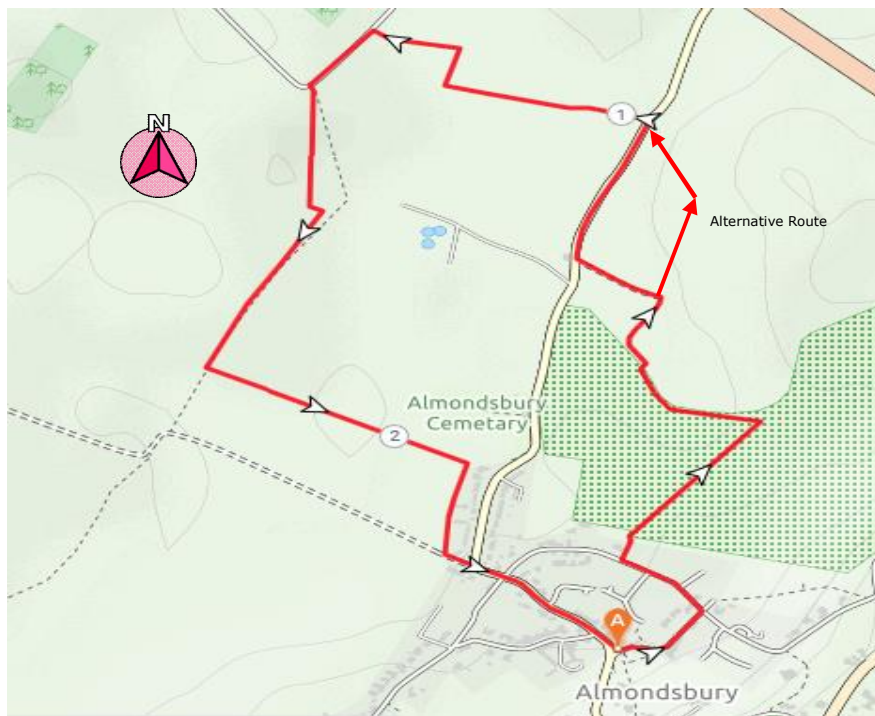
Walk down the cart track until Tockington Lane is reached, turn right and walk along the road. Before the brow of the hill there is a metal gate on the left leading to a Bridle Path. This path is uneven underfoot and often muddy.

b) ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AVOIDING ROAD.

The volume of traffic has increased over the many years since the walk was originally compiled. To avoid walking on Tockington Lane do NOT walk down the cart track but turn right after the stile from the field and cross over another stile with a yellow Footpath sign. Follow the hedgerow on up the field until you reach a stile in the hedgerow and 5 steps leading to narrow path which ends in a meadow. Cross this rough pasture aiming for the diagonal right hand corner where a path leads out of the field. This path comes out on Tockington Lane opposite the gate to the Bridle Path.

Follow the Bridle Path and when it emerges onto Moor Lane turn left. At the point where the road turns sharp right there is a stile set in the hedge. Cross over the field, aiming for the stile set in the hedge. Once over the stile bear left and then follow the hedge line. Follow the path with the hedge on your left until a gateway with a defunct stile displaying the Footpath signs is reached on the left.

Enter the field and walk with the hedge on your right up the field for some 400 yards until a stile and crossing stone over the stream is reached. Go over these and walk along the edge of the field with the hedge on your left. A final stile leads into top of Marshwall Lane, turn left up Church Road and follow it to the lich gate starting point at St Mary's Church.



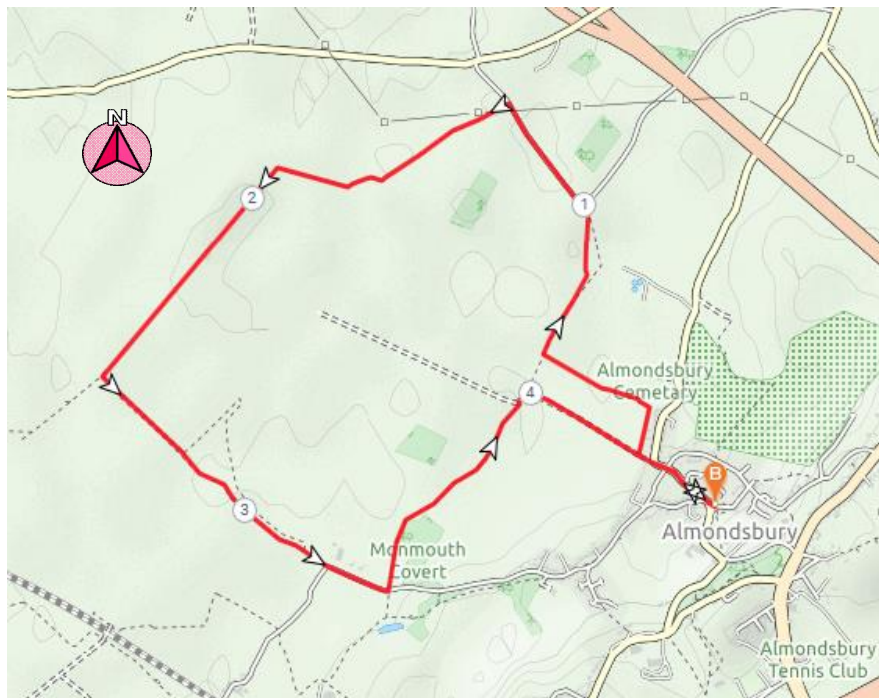
Walk No 3. A circular walk of about 5 miles through Rhine country.

Start at the lych gate of St Mary's and walk down Church Road to Marshwall Lane (not signed but there is a footpath sign). Cross the stile on the right at the end of No. 9's garden. Follow the path to the stile in the opposite hedge about 120 yards from the right hand corner. Cross this broken stile and turn left. Walk along the hedge to a gate which passes over a stream (may be culverted) and turn right. Keep field boundary on the right and keep going through some open gates in corners across 2 or 3 fields to a bridge over a stream which runs at right angles to the boundary we have been following.

Now take an angled path across the field to a stile in the hedge at the corner of Moor Lane. A white house is plainly visible here.

Turn left along the road towards Awkley for about 600 yards until a signed track to the left appears, just after a stone wall and small bridge. Turn left onto the track and through a gate and straight on past some trees on the right. About 160 yards past the pines, go through a gate (may be locked so climb over) at the end of the track, and follow the bank of the stream on your left. The path goes along a field boundary to a stile in the corner. Turn left over this and continue along the edge of the stream (Tockington Mill Rhine), with a wood on your left. Go through several gates and fields to a path crossing at right angles (Boarding House Lane, not signed).

Turn left and follow this wide path with water on both sides. As you walk you will see another parallel path and a plantation to the left. Go around a locked gate towards the end of the track. At the end you arrive at a tarmac road. Turn left and pass some farm house on the left. After a bout 300 yards there is a footpath sign at which you turn left into the field through a metal gate. Cross the field (there may be horses and electric fences) past a small wood on the right. Follow the line of the stream to a gateway. The path runs along a stream and hedge to two gates and a gateway before arriving at a gate leading onto Marshwall Lane. Turn right up the lane towards your starting point.



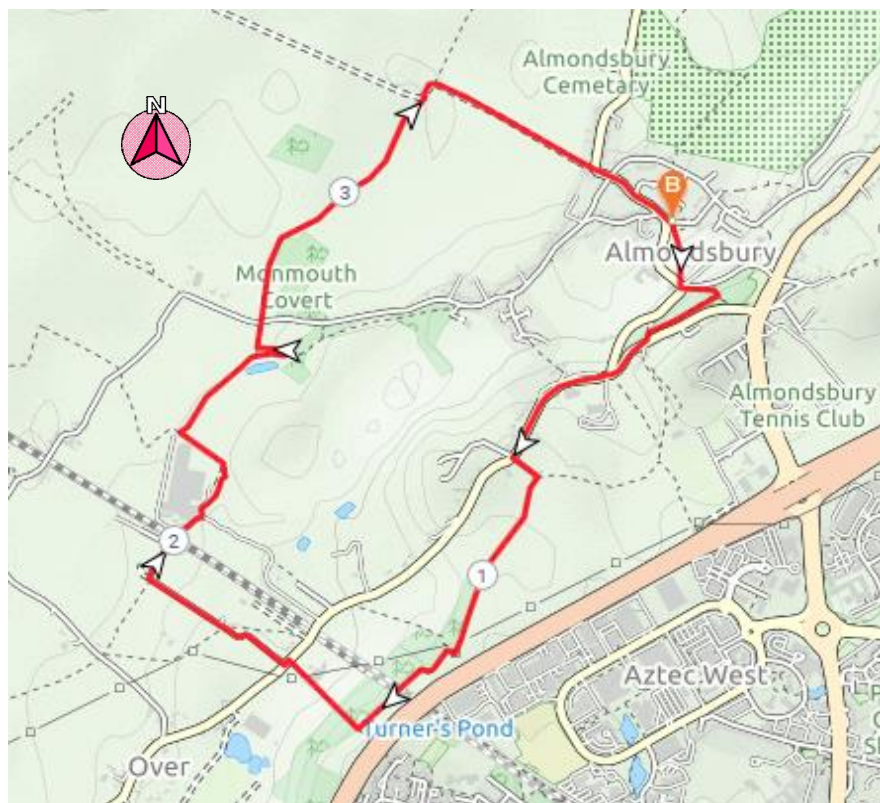
Walk No 4. A circular walk of about 4 miles starting at St Mary's Church.

Starting at St Mary's lich gate, go through the churchyard and on to Sundays Hill. Cross the road at the junction with Hollow Road. Take the steep tarmac path marked "No Horse Riding" to the right of Hollow Road. Near the top turn right along a grass path with lovely views towards the Severn. Come out onto the Over Lane at the end of the path, and go up a path between Houses numbers 37 & 45.

Continue this path into a field with the Garden Centre (where refreshments may be obtained) to the right. Go up through the specimen trees in the middle and head for the left hand corner of the field, emerging by the Rugby ground. Find the footpath (not signed) to the right and cross a stile into the next field. Go across to opposite hedge, keeping the hedge on the left and head towards the bungalow and Over Lane. Oakham solar farm can be seen on the left.

Turn left through a gateway before the bungalow, and taking the right hand branch, the path crosses two fields running along the edge of the hill overlooking Over Lane and with more views. Entering Pegwell Wood, the public path is on the left and follows the boundary fence. An unofficial but nicer path meanders through the wood. Both paths arrive at the top of a steep slope on the right. The path to the left crosses the pedestrian bridge and leads to Patchway. The right hand path is wire fenced on both sides and can be slippery when wet.

Go down the hill, and at the bottom cross the road (taking special care) into Ash Lane. Continue until you come to an outdoor ménage and stable at which turn right towards the brickworks. Go over the railway bridge and through the Cattybrook brickworks following the Footpath signs. Established in 1865, the works provided some 20 million bricks for the Severn Tunnel, and currently makes around a million bricks a week. Just before the kissing gate on left, take the path on right, up the slope and along the top of the bund and past a pond on your right. Views to the left and quarry works to the right. Go through a small wood and come out onto Townsend via a kissing gate. Turn right and walk along Townsend to the Pound and back to the church. Refreshments may be obtained at the nearby Bowl Inn and at the Community Shop.



Walk No 5. A walk of about 3 miles starting at All Saints' Church, Compton Greenfield.

The starting point of this walk is the small car park of All Saints' Church. Alternatively, you can, if you wish, start from the main road (B4055) in Easter Compton by taking the signed footpath to the right of the Institute building and following the footpath across the field behind to the Church.

From the car park, cross the lane and go through the rusty metal kissing gate to your right (Note: there is an alternative route through the pedestrian gate to the left-hand side of the field gate to your left, which is described below). Follow the well-trodden path along the hedge, then follow the path diagonally across the next field. Go through the gate onto a wide path through bushes, to emerge over a footbridge onto the road, with the Old Rectory to your left. Turn right and, after about 30 yards, you will see steps up to a metal kissing gate on your left.

Alternatively, if, having left the car park, you choose to go through the pedestrian gate to the left, follow the well-trodden path diagonally to the left across the field, in the direction of the buildings you will see at the far corner of the field. Go through the metal kissing gate in the corner of the field and down some steps to the road and a T-junction. Turn right on the road, in the direction of Hallen and the Old Rectory, which you will pass on your right, to join the route described above.

Go up the steps, through the kissing gate and follow a wide path between bushes to a second metal kissing gate at the corner of a field. Go through the gate into the field and follow the hedgerow on the left uphill to another metal kissing gate. Take the well-trodden path across the next field to the far left-hand corner of the field and a field gate with a pedestrian gate on the left-hand side. Go through the gate and follow the path uphill, bearing right across the field, to the far right-hand corner and a metal kissing gate.

Looking back as you climb the hill, you will see (visibility permitting) the chimney at Cattybrook brickworks and, further in the distance, the spire of Almondsbury Church. Having taken in the view, go through the kissing gate and cross a small field to a second metal kissing gate. As you cross the field, to your right you will have views of the Severn Estuary, Seabank power station and the new waste incinerator.

Go through the kissing gate and cross a gravelled farm track to go through a second metal kissing gate on the other side, noting a small wind turbine to your left. Continue across a field towards a gate with a small hawthorn tree to the left. There is no stile, but you can easily climb over or through the two rails of the fence to the right of the gate. Follow the path across the next field to a metal kissing gate in the far right-hand corner, where it may be muddy.

Go through the gate and follow the path through a small wooded area, to emerge at the corner of a field. Follow the path with the hedgerow to your right, passing a distinctive pipeline marker in the hedge. Continue straight on and through a gap in an old hedgerow, into a large field and onto a short length of track, which is roughly paved with rubble. Continue straight on along the side of the field, and where the track takes a bend to the right into a wood, go straight on (not down the track).

By now, you will be increasingly aware of the noise of traffic on the M5 in the distance, ahead and to your left. Continue to follow the hedgerow to your right, going straight on past a small wooden footbridge over a ditch on your right, and a red brick building. Follow the path to the corner of the field and through some undergrowth to a metal kissing gate. You can bypass the gate, to emerge onto a concrete-paved roadway, with a gate bearing a Costain site notice to your left.

Turn right to follow the roadway until you reach a road junction with the entrance to Berwick Lodge on your right. Turn left along the road towards a bridge over the M5. Over the hedge to your left you will see an off-road driving course, which is part of the Bristol Activity Centre. Immediately before the motorway bridge, turn left and go over the remains of a stile into the corner of the off-road area. Follow the path, which is not well defined, with a hedgerow to your right and the M5 on the far side, for several hundred yards. Continue on the path through gaps in two hedges which divide the activity area, until you reach the end of the area. At this point, bear right towards a wooden stile and a footbridge, to enter a wooded area. Follow the path for some distance through the wooded area, with the motorway a few yards away to the right, avoiding a couple of gas main markers.

In due course, you will emerge from the wooded area with the gates

straight on, following a rough roadway, with the security fence to the left and a gaudily-painted 'tank' (strictly speaking, an old armoured personnel carrier) to your right. Go straight on, following a rough roadway, with the fence to the left and the Costain site on your right. Continue along the roadway for several hundred yards until you reach the main gate to the Bristol Activity Centre site.

If the main gate is closed, go through the pedestrian gate to the left, to emerge onto Hollywood Lane. Turn left down the lane and continue as far as Manor Farm barn on your left. Turn right here into the driveway of Hollyhill Cottage and continue to a metal field gate with a large kissing gate on the left-hand side. Turn left to follow the path through the plantation of trees.

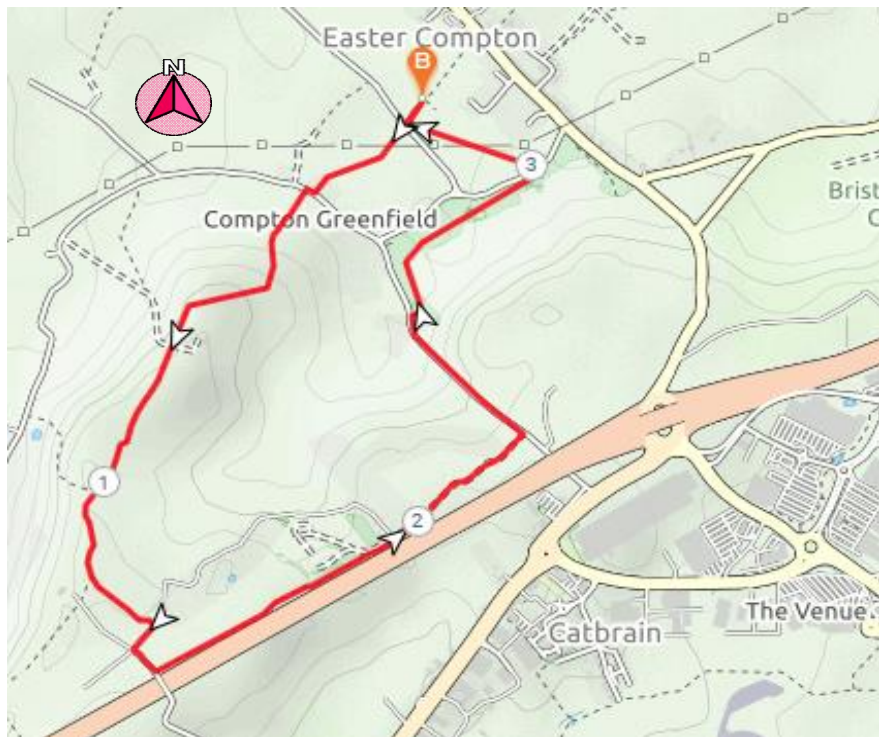
Continue until you reach the corner of the plantation, where, on your left, you will see steps leading down to Hollywood Lane and a T-junction. From here, if you wish, you could cut short your walk and continue along the road in the direction of Hallen as far as the Old Rectory and retrace your steps back to the Church. Alternatively, you could cross to the steps on the other side of the road and take that route back to the Church.

Having reached the corner, to continue with your walk, turn right and follow the path through the plantation, with the lane to/from Easter Compton on the far side of the hedge to your left. Continue to follow the path past a padlocked gate onto the lane until you come to a second gate with a kissing gate on your left. From here, you have another opportunity to cut short your walk and take the lane back to the Church.

Otherwise, to continue with your walk, follow the path through the plantation, bearing right for a short distance, then turning left over a small footbridge. Follow the path over a second footbridge until you see a gap in the hedge to your left with a metal kissing gate and a view across the field beyond to the tower of All Saints. Go through the gate, down some steps and cross the lane to climb more steps to a wooden stile on the other side. (Note: there may be young cattle in the field beyond. If you feel at all intimidated by them, take the lane back to the Church.)

Cross the field in the direction of the Church to a wooden kissing gate,

beyond which you will see what appears to be a maze mown into the grass. If you explore it, you will discover that it is, in fact, a single convoluted path. You can then walk through the churchyard back to the car park, through an interesting lich gate.



Walk No 6. A walk of about 4.5 miles starting from Tockington.

Start at Tockington Memorial Hall, which is the last building on the right of the road from Tockington to Olveston.

The footpath leads past the right-hand side of the Hall, through the children's play area, to a stile and into a field. Cross the field, heading towards the gate on the far side. The stile is a few paces to the left of the gate. Cross the stile and turn left. Go up the rise and then descend to the road from Olveston to Old Down through a kissing gate. Cross this road into a built-up area at the street sign 'Orchard Rise', walking along the path to the right of the houses, with fields on your right. This leads to another play area where the path runs to the right between the swings and the hedge to the far corner of the field; and finally along the edge of a garden to a stone stile on the second road from Olveston to Old Down .

Turn right for a few paces to a footpath sign on the left. Go along this well-marked path to Elberton Church and Manor House. At the Manor House turn right, and continue along the far side of the hedge towards Vineyards Brake Wood, and eventually emerging at Vattingstone Lane at a fork in the road. Turn right and proceed up the road for about 400 yards, and then cross to the gate at the corner of a group of trees, just before the road turns left. Walk through the gate into a field with a large barn. The footpath runs to the left of the barn and along the left-hand boundary until it goes through a hedge into Mumbley's Lane .

Turn right along this lane to Vattingstone Lane, then right for a short distance until the track to Hazel Farm is reached . Follow this as far as the outbuildings , then turn right and go around the right-hand side of a walled enclosure on to the field access road. Proceed for about 500 yards to a gap in the hedge on your left. Pass through, and go along the right-hand side of the hedge ahead until you reach the lane running behind a group of houses. Now turn left to where it meets the road to Alveston . Cross the road half-left into Pump Lane and walk towards the Inner Down and past (or via, for refreshments,) the Fox Inn.

Exit from the Inner Down road, turn left, and after a few paces left again into Merryhole Lane. Continue for a short distance to where the

footpath swings right, behind a group of houses and the playing fields. Go through the cricket ground, and follow the path downhill, along the rim of the old quarry. The path leads down, through the trees, to the road from Tockington to Old Down. Continue downhill for about 200 yards before crossing to the footpath which runs behind some houses, and so you return to the starting point.



Walk No. 7 Three walks of about 4 and 6 miles from
St Mary's Church, Almondsbury

7 (Longer Walk)

Start from St Mary's lich gate, turning right along Church Road, past the Bowl Inn to the junction with The Scop. Cross the road and go through the wooden gate in the field. The footpath crosses this, angling to the left, to a stile between the gardens of two houses. Follow the path to the road and join a metalled footpath running parallel to The Scop. This emerges near the top and close to the A38.

Cross the A38 into Florence Park, follow the road past the entrance to Cope Park and turn left before the flats into a field via a kissing gate. Follow the left boundary to the corner near the M4 where a kissing gate gives access to a path leading to a tunnel under the Motorway. The path emerges from the tunnel and turning round to the right, leads into a field which is crossed, aiming to the right-hand end of the houses lying opposite. Here a kissing gate gives access to a wooded area. Follow the gravel path to the right and keep along it past Magnolia Gardens to emerge on Hortham Lane.

Turn right and walk along Hortham Lane until a bridge over the MS is reached. On the left-hand side of the approach to the bridge a metalled path runs down almost to the M5. Just before the bridge, go down the steps and follow the path into a field. Follow the field boundary on your right until a cart track at the far side is reached. Turn right and follow the track to a bridleway sign pointing to the left. Turn left onto bridleway, running along the edge of Hortham Wood. From here until it arrives at the houses on Woodhouse Down the path is well defined with horse-friendly steel gates.

Walk down Woodhouse Avenue until it reaches the A38, cross and walk a short distance to the right. The path now runs between the Scout Camping grounds and No 3 *Hart's Cottages*. Follow the path through the camping area to fields with a fine view over the Severn Vale.

Cross the first field, keeping the hedge on your left, to a gate into another large field. Here the path is undefined, so aim to the right of the trees in the centre of the field whose upper parts can be seen above the slope of the land. As the view of the bottom of the slope appears,

aim for the gap in the far hedge with trees on the right hand side. Go through this and aim to the right of the farm buildings opposite where a stile is situated. The path runs past the farm buildings to the Tockington Road, near the bend.

Cross the road to the stone stile by the finger post. The path now runs along the LH boundary of the next two fields, passing through a gate mid-way to another stone stile on the left, near the far left hand corner of the second field. Cross this stile and follow along the left hand hedge to a stile in the hedge ahead, giving access to Moor Lane. Walk along Moor Lane, passing under the M5, to the point where the road turns at right angles. Here is a stile in the hedge on your left.

Climb this, and shortly turn three-quarters right to cross the field to a stile in the far hedge. Turn left over the stile, and proceed, keeping the hedge on your left, along the course of a stream, passing through a gate. After crossing two more stiles/field boundaries go into the field on your left via a gate/stile. The path now follows the hedge on your right for about 400 yards to a stile through this hedge. A row of houses can be seen on the left running along the field boundary

Aim diagonally across the field to the right-hand end of the houses, There you will find a final stile leading into Marshwall Lane. Turn left up the lane to Church Road and follow this back to the starting point.

7a Shorter Walk

The walk may be shortened by turning left when Hortham Lane is reached and walking along this to the A38. Turn right and rejoin the walk at the Scouts Camping ground.

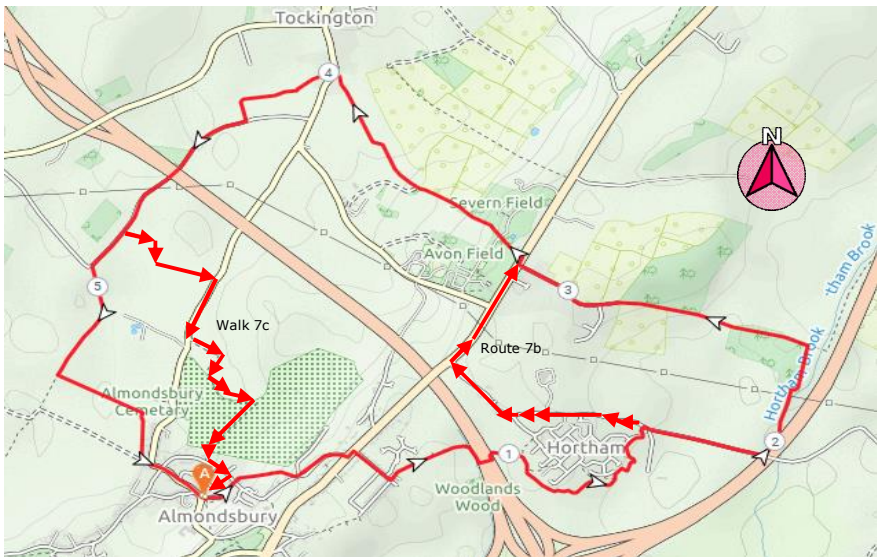
7b Alternative end route

Caution: Part of this route is on a busy country lane.

A variation of the final stage of the walk is achieved by walking up the bridle path from Moor Lane to Tockington Lane, emerging near the house called *Almondsbury Field*. Turn right towards Almondsbury until *Moorbrook Cottage (Knapps Farm)* is reached, at which point turn left along the cart track until an iron gate is reached. Cross the stile into the field and turn right, following along the boundary until a kissing gate is reached, giving access to the orchard. Turn left and walk

between the hedge and trees until a concrete road is reached. Turn right along this path, going up a passage to the left of a house to Lower Court Road, and so back to St Mary's.

NB The stretches of footpath/bridleway from Marsh Lane, at the M5 bridge through to Woodhouse Down, and the bridleway between Moor Lane and Tockington Lane, are often very muddy and rutted. Walking boots or wellingtons are recommended.



Walk No 8. Walks of about 3 miles, starting at The Green, Olveston.

The starting point of this walk is the footpath sign between two houses named 'Sunnyside' and 'Ty Nant'. Take the path between stone walls, over a stone stile and then over a wooden stile at the end of a board fence on the right. Continue along the path, with a wire fence to the right and a water course to the left, over a second wooden stile, then over a third wooden stile into the field beyond.

Bear right across the field to a fourth wooden stile in a barbed wire fence, with a gate (which might be open) to the right. Continue along the side of the field, with the hedge to your right, past the last cottage on the right, to a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate, down the steps beyond and across the field to another metal kissing gate to the right of a field gate. Go through the gate and turn left onto a farm track, which is signposted as a bridleway, towards the M48 in the distance.

After about 100 yards, go through (or, more probably, over) a metal field gate on the left. (Note: if you go to the end of the track, you have gone too far). Continue along the side of the field, with the hedge to your right. You will see a gate (which will probably be open) in the hedge to your left, at the far end of the field. Continue towards the far right-hand corner of the field, before turning at the corner of the field towards the gate. (Note: the course of the public footpath is as described, but the cattle have made a track across the middle of the field to the gate).

Cross the field beyond the gate to a wooden stile to the right of a metal gate and onto the road beyond. Cross the road and turn right down the lane and past a house named 'Enderleigh'. The lane bends to the left and leads to a field gate, at which point the path enters a small wood. The path through the wood is not well used and you may have to stoop under low branches to reach an un-gated gap in a fence adjacent to the motorway.

Turn left, following the path for a short distance, to go through a metal kissing gate and into the field beyond. Follow the hedge on your left to a gated footbridge in the corner of the field. Cross the field beyond, with the hedge to your left, to a metal kissing gate in the far corner of the field. Go through the gate and bear right, away

corner of the field you are aiming for until you reach the brow of the hill.

Continue to the corner of the field and a wooden stile, which is concealed by the hedge almost until you reach the corner. Climb over the stile, go through a metal kissing gate and turn left to a wooden stile a short distance beyond. Continue along the path between hedges and over a wooden stile to the right of a metal gate. The path becomes a gravelled farm track and takes a sharp bend to the right, at which point you will see a wooden stile in front of you. This is where the shorter route of Walk 8b diverges from Walk 8a.

To continue on Walk 8a, after you have climbed over the wooden stile, bear slightly right, crossing the field to a metal kissing gate in the far corner, to emerge onto Hardy Lane, opposite Mill Lane. Cross the lane and follow Mill Lane to its end, to turn left on the path to the left of the entrance to the Old Mill. After a short distance, go up some crumbling wooden steps on the right and continue along the path to a wooden stile. Climb over into the field and follow the path to a wooden stile in the right-hand corner of the field.

Follow the path through a small wooded area to a wooden stile and continue on the path across the field to the far right-hand corner and a wooden stile to your right. Climb over the stile and down onto a paved driveway, turning left to emerge from the driveway of 'Ivywell House' onto Tockington Lane. Cross the road and turn left on the footpath towards Tockington. After about 100 yards turn right onto a lane, with a house named 'The Knoll' on your left. Continue along the lane, which becomes a path, until you come to a metal kissing gate on your left.

Go through the gate into Tockington Manor School playing fields, keeping close to the hedge on your left, in accordance with the notice that you will have seen by the gate. Cross the school field to a metal kissing gate, to emerge onto the road opposite the school. Turn left towards Tockington and then turn right at the road junction, to go up Old Down Hill. Continue up the hill for about 100 yards to an old metal kissing gate on the left.

Go through the gate and follow a well-trodden path along the left-hand side of the field. Continue on the path through an old metal kissing gate into a second field, then through a gap in the hedge into

a third field, with a hedge on your right. Follow the hedge until you reach a metal kissing gate, to emerge onto Haw Lane. Turn left and continue down Haw Lane to the road junction, cross over to The Green and on to the starting point of the walk.

Walk 8b:

For the shorter version of this walk, having crossed the wooden stile at the bend in the farm track, rather than bearing right, bear left towards the far left corner of the field. Go through a gap in the hedge, with a disused metal kissing gate on your left and continue across the next field to a metal kissing gate, to emerge onto Tockington Lane, opposite Olveston Village Hall. Cross the lane and take the footpath to the right of the right of the hall.

Go through a wooden wicket gate and through a children’s play area to reach a wooden stile. Cross the field beyond the stile to a second wooden stile, which is some 25 yards to the left of a metal field gate. Climb over the stile and turn left on the path, to rejoin the longer route, midway between Old Down Hill and Haw Lane.

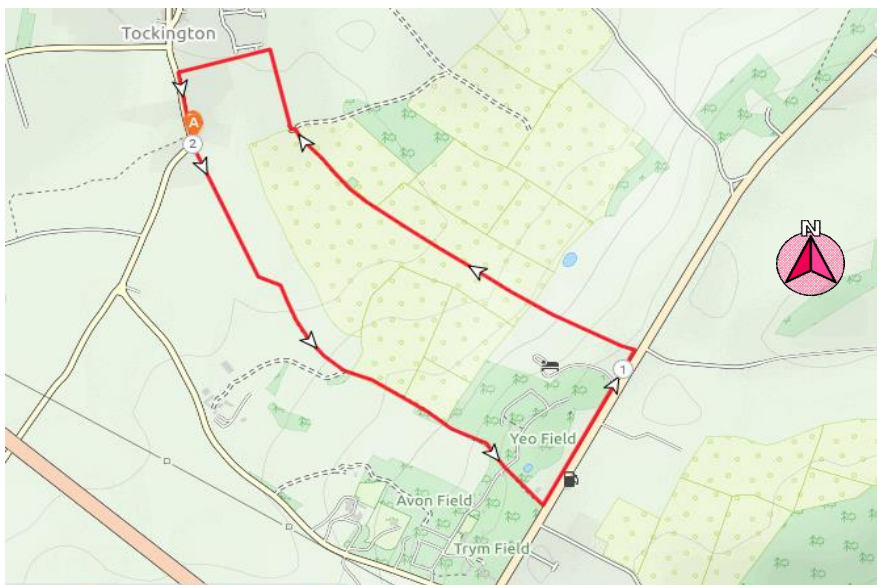


Walk No 9. A circular walk of about 2 miles starting near The Swan at Tockington.

Start at a left footpath sign with your back to The Swan pub and facing towards Almondsbury and Fernhill junction, and with *East Barn* in front of you. Go up the driveway to a stile, and then through the middle of a planted field. Continue up the slope through fields and open gateways, and on to a kissing gate in the corner. Pass through the Scout activity centre, and keep going until you reach the A38.

Turn left along the road to Abbots Way Guest House (about 500 yards) and then turn left, following a footpath sign through a small wood downhill with a stile and gate at the bottom. Cross the stile, bear right and proceed, forking left after a few yards. Continue down the hill to a plank bridge and stile. Cross the stile and continue ahead across the field to a hedge, and then half left through a gap. Then turn right and proceed up the field towards the playing fields.

At the entrance to the playing fields, turn left along a lane which brings you out onto Tockington Lane just above where you started.



Walk No 10. A circular walk of about 3.5 miles, starting at Elberton Church.

After parking in the small area outside the Church, return to the approach road and turn left. Proceed a few yards and turn right over a waymarked gate. Go forward about 25 yards and then turn right, heading towards the corner of a wooded area. Follow the path through the wooded area, and on emerging by a wooden barn turn fully left towards the far hedge, and continue along the path. After crossing the field boundary, continue to a metal gate in the opposite hedge, giving access to the road. Go right for about 50 yards and then cross the road to the crescent access road in front of a restored farm and house.

Turn right at the end of the crescent and continue along the road, passing the Waterworks - fine views of the Severn can be seen over the left hedge, Where the road bends sharply left take the signed bridle path to the right by Hayward House. Shortly coming to a fork, take the path on the left. This track is used by horses and can be very muddy and uneven.

Continue to the white disc Permissive Path waymark. Go through the gate and walk up the rise to another gate with a white disc. Turn to see a fine view over the Severn and take one of the two seats to rest before following the track to the point where it meets a hawthorn hedge. Go through the hedge via a kissing gate into a field and cross bearing right to the boundary hedge opposite.

Turn right and walk along the hedge to a kissing gate just before the corner is reached. This gives access to a bridle path, follow it to the right until it joins a cart track, then turn left. Coming to a T-junction, turn right, and then straight on until a metalled road is reached. Turn right and continue along the road until it forks into B4461/Vattingstone Lane.

Cross the road and take the grass track leading to a low gate. Follow this bridle path along the edge of Vineyard Brake Wood until it emerges into a field. Go down the left field boundary until the Church and Manor come into view, and retrace your steps to the starting point.



Walk No 11. A walk of about 3 miles starting in Tockington.

Starting from the green in Tockington, walk past *Tockington Manor School* to the farm track where the stone wall on your left ends. Cross the cattle grid and walk towards *Sheepcombe Farm*. At the farm, bear left past the buildings, and then turn right at the end. Shortly, turn left to an obvious track leading straight ahead and continue along this until the tarmac road to Lower Hazel is reached.

Here there is a public Footpath sign. Turn sharp right along the path to an iron swing gate at the front of a modernised cottage. Pass the cottage and go downhill to go over a stile in a 5-barred gate, and then climb the over a stile a few yards ahead into a field. Go straight ahead to a stile in the far boundary. Cross this and continue uphill to a stile in the field boundary hedge ahead. Cross this and head for a further stile to the left of a gate ahead. This gives access to a road between two houses (Nos. 69 and 71) leading to the A38.

Turn right along the A38 until a tarmac track is reached on the right, indicated by a footpath sign on a telegraph pole at the traffic lights. Follow this downhill, curving to the left, and then right, to a field gate and a kissing gate. The footpath runs downhill, roughly parallel to the left hand hedge to the bottom corner and the stile on the right near an oak tree. Cross this stile and continue along, keeping the field boundary on your left, passing more oak trees, to a low hedge ahead. Turn right along the hedge for about 15 yards to a narrow gap leading into the next field.

Go ahead, with the field hedge on the right until the path intersects the track from *Sheepcombe Farm* at right angles. Turn left towards the farm until the boundary hedge of the outbuildings gardens is reached. Here turn right and proceed, with the hedge on your left, and continue straight across the field ahead, to the boundary of the wood. Follow the edge of the wood for approximately 15 yards, until a path on your right, is reached. Follow the path, soon going right and upwards to a field gate.

Turn left and head for the gate leading into the cricket ground. Cross the cricket ground. Continue with the hedge on your right. Enter a sunken path and continue through the wood to the road Tockington to Old Down, where a few yards to the left bring us back to the starting point.



Walk No 12. A level walk of about 3.5 miles, starting from Easter Compton.

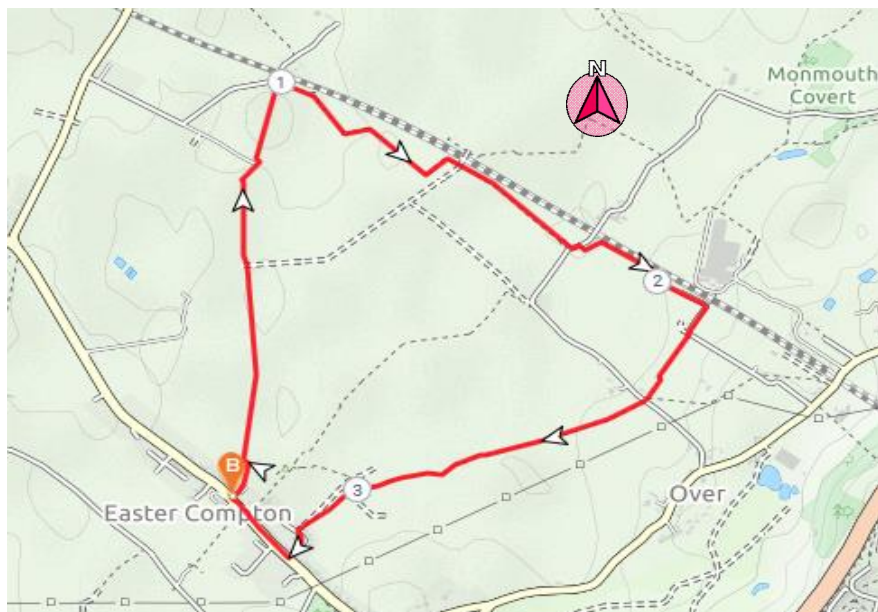
From the lay-by opposite the Methodist Church in the main street, cross the road and go down the drive of a house called *Collingwood*. Go through the gate at the end of the drive, and then over a stile with a yellow arrow after about 10 yards. Bear left diagonally across the field to a double stile half way down the hedge. Then go diagonally right across the next field to a gate in the corner, and then straight ahead to an electricity pole, and through/over an adjacent gate. Now proceed diagonally across this field to an opening in the corner of the hedge.

Cross the double stile and follow the left hand hedge to the corner of the field and a bridge stile. Now turn left and angle slightly right to another bridge stile in the opposite hedge. Go almost directly ahead to another bridge stile in the opposite wire fence and hedge. Then proceed straight ahead to the next bridge stile in the opposite hedge. Now go diagonally across towards the farm house and a nearby gate between two willow trees.

Bear right for a few yards to an iron gate, then left to a bridge stile in a nearby hedge. Go straight ahead towards a brick shed near the railway bridge, over an iron gate and turn right along a bridle path. With the railway line on your left, follow the bridle path all the way to Badgers Lane. Turn left along Badgers Lane for a few yards to a gate on the right of *Kops Cottage*. Go up the left hand side of this field to a cottage on the skyline. Cross a stile and pass in front of the houses, then past a paddock on the right, and turn right along a tarmac lane. (At this point there is a bridge to the brickworks on your left.)

Follow along the lane and where it bears left, take the grass track straight ahead. Cross the stile and continue ahead along the obvious grass path, with the hedge on your right, to the tarmac road. Cross the stile immediately opposite, which looks like the entrance to a private garden, and is immediately next door to the garage of Lower Over Farm. Cross straight through the garden and over the stile in the opposite fence/hedge. Now go straight ahead to an open gap in the next hedge with an overgrown stile on its right, and bear right to a gate in the corner of the field.

Go forward a few yards to a nearby bridge with two gates. Now cross the next field diagonally to the opposite corner where a bridge stile is situated near an electricity pole. Bear left across the next field to yet another bridge stile in the hedge in the corner. Continue ahead diagonally to a stile in the opposite corner by another electricity pole. Go straight ahead through the wood to a gate leading onto a track. Cross the track and pass through a gate leading towards the back of a row of houses. Continue through the gate to the right of the right-hand house, and go ahead to Manor Farm Way. Turning left, proceed to the main road in Easter Compton. Turn right and continue through the village to the starting point, passing the Dinky Deli and The Fox.



THE COUNTRY CODE

Guard against all risk of fire.

Close all gates you have opened.

Keep all dogs under proper control.

Keep to the path across all farm land.

Remember that grass is also a crop.

Avoid damaging fences, hedges or walls.

Leave no litter.

Safeguard water supplies.

Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees.

Go carefully on country roads.

Respect the life of the countryside.

Climb gates at the hinge end

