

Circular walks in the parishes of Hamfallow Hinton and Berkeley Green Route



When walking these routes please remember that all the land you are walking over is working farmland from which local people earn their living. Please observe the Country Code.

1. FASTEN ALL GATES
2. KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL
3. TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME
4. GUARD AGAINST STARTING FIRES
5. KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS
6. PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND TREES
7. AVOID DAMAGING FENCES AND HEDGES

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On this walk you experience four very different environments. Firstly pastureland with fine views towards the Cotswolds Hills followed by country lanes through mainly arable land leading to changes of scene along the bank of the River Severn. Then back along the twisting route of the Berkeley Pill with its variety of wildlife. The total distance is 5.4 miles, but there are short-cut options A of 3 miles and B of 4.2 miles. The start point (1) is the car park by the Bird in Hand in Marybrook Street in Berkeley.

Route Details:

From the car park (1) go to the centre of Berkeley and left down Canonbury Street until you come to a footpath on your left just by the old police station (2). Take this path, cross the stile and continue in the same direction over the three fields, keeping to the ridge until you come to the Berkeley By-pass. To your right as you cross the fields you can see the Cotswolds and the Tyndale Monument at North Nibley. At the by-pass (3) go left up to the roundabout then left again then left again on Station Road about 40m to a footpath on the right hand side of the road. Follow this path down the hill for about 600m to where it links to a green lane at a T junction (4). Used by local farmers this lane was also used by stevedors 'dockers' who would walk from Berkeley to Sharpness Docks to work. (At this point if you want short-cut A left and follow the green lane to the road at Hook Street. Turn right and walk along to the bridge over the Berkeley Pill, point (8) on the main route.)

For the main route from (4), follow the green lane that bears to the right for just over half a mile until you reach the by-pass. Turn left along the by-pass for approx 300m to Sanigar Lane on your left (5). Go along the lane past Sanigar Farm and Panthurst Farm. After a short distance you will see a footpath sign pointing to the right (6). (If you want short-cut B continue along the lane to Oakhunger Farm and take the bridleway that leads back towards Berkeley. It comes out to the road at Hook Street. Keep the caravan site on your left and follow the road back into the centre of Berkeley). The main route from point (6) takes the footpath which leads out to the

Bank of the River Severn to join the 'Severn Way' long distance footpath which runs the whole length of the River Severn.

The Severn has the second highest tides in the world. Looking across the river towards of the Forest of Dean the sand banks look inviting especially on a hot summer's day. Tragedy has befallen those foolish enough to attempt to walk out on the sands. If the tide comes in whilst people are on the sands, having walked out from Lydney, a deep water channel beneath the opposite bank will have flooded before the safety of the bank could be reached.

Due to the exceptional tides on the Severn, Sharpness has a Coast Guard Station and the Severn Area Rescue Association known locally as S.A.R.A. a registered charity dedicated to saving life on the Severn and other local rivers using boats suitable for use in this environment. S.A.R.A. has a sister station in Chepstow. On the bank turn left, following the flood bank until you get to Berkeley Pill (7). This small river was regularly navigated by 'Severn Trows' wooden barges that traded at Berkeley. Across the pill you can see the now decommissioned Berkeley Nuclear Power Station. Walking up the Pill you will come to a large sluice gate. Before this was built, Berkeley would flood each time the tide water came to the river. Follow the bank of the pill as it meanders between the fields until you come to the road (8).

Cross the road back to the bank of the pill and follow the path until you get to the outskirts of Berkeley where you will come to an open grassed area at the rear of the Park View housing estate. This area has been planted with trees to create a habitat for wildlife. Cross this area past a playing field to a stile. Here Jumpers Lane meets with Stock Lane. It was along this lane that Severn Trows would unload. Follow the lane keeping the stream on your right until you come to a T junction (9). If you now go left you will be walking up High Street which will bring you back to the centre of Berkeley. As you go up High Street you will see Church Lane on your right which leads up to the church and the Jenner Museum.

To follow this circular walk please be advised that part of the route will take you on to the bank of the River Severn. The temperature on the river bank than other parts of the walk so suitable clothing needs to be worn - enjoy your walk.