

## Circular walk via Hawkesbury Church

OS Explorer Map167

Thornbury, Dursley & Yate

Grid ref: ST 777 870

Distance: 3.75 miles (6km)

Time: 1.5 - 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

(one steep climb and a few stiles)

Start: Fox Inn, High Street GL9 1AU (1)

The highlight of this walk is the Church of St Mary the Virgin, set in a beautiful, peaceful location below the historic and steep sided Hawkesbury Knoll.

With the Fox Inn on your right (1), walk up the High Street out of the village, past Farm Pool on the left and towards Hawkesbury Monument (2).

You can stay on the road or take the permissive path through the kissing gate, after crossing Starveall Lane.

On reaching the monument turn right along the track. This is the Cotswold Way and you follow this for about half a mile, before turning left at the Cotswold Way sign. This takes you down through a field to a wooden kissing gate (3).



Passing through the gate, turn left and follow the blue public bridlemway sign, keeping the fence on your left. This path can be muddy in the winter. Continue through the next gate, following the bridlemway across the fields towards the barn in the distance. Passing through a gate, you will rejoin the road (4).



Turning right, and staying on the right hand side of the road, take care as you cross the road just before a sharp right hand bend, to a signpost for a public footpath (5). Go through the gate to enjoy superb views to the River Severn and its two suspension bridges.

Follow the left hand hedge for a few metres. Ignore the first small gate and take the second, sometimes hidden in the undergrowth. Bearing right, keeping the same hedge on your right and walk downhill for about 300m until you come to a kissing gate in the hedge. Go through the gate, down steep steps to a second kissing gate, taking care on each as they can be quite tricky. Follow the yellow waymark sign across the field to a stile in the far hedge which brings you on to a lane (6).

Turn left along the road to the T junction. Cross over, through the gate and on to a partially tarmacked road, known as 'The Sands'. To your left you will see the terraced 'lynchets' and above them Hawkesbury Knoll.

This track takes you to Hawkesbury Church. At the end, go through a gate and on to the road by the church (7).

Turn left up the road, past the church and entrance to the old vicarage. At the end of the laurel hedge take the way marked path up the grassy bank on the right side of the road.

This takes you up a steep climb through the woods to a stile and gate at the top (8).

Go over the stile, following the green way mark diagonally left across a field to the stile in the right hand hedge. Go over this stile and follow the left hand hedge through two fields before going over another stile and reaching a gate on the Bath Lane (Cotswold Way) (9).

Cross straight over the Cotswold Way, taking the path with the hedge on the left, to reach Hawkesbury High Street, turning right and back to the Fox Inn.



## Cotswold Gateways

Cotswolds National Landscape has worked with local communities to create ten new Cotswold Gateways locations, from which people can follow walking and cycling routes to explore the surrounding countryside of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development



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