

Miles Without Stiles

Stroud Farmers' Market by bike or on foot



The old railway from Nailsworth to Stroud offers an easy ride or walk through the woods to the famous farmers' market. Spring flowers, birds in the summer, autumn colours and winter views. Frequent return buses.

- Distance:** 6.7km/ 4¼miles mostly level, 32 steps en route & a climb at the end.
- Time:** on foot 2 hrs to Stroud, by bike 1 hr each way on all-weather surfaces.
- Park:** at the start ST849999 . Walkers return from Stroud on the 46/93 bus every half hour.
- Refreshments:** Egypt Mill Hotel, the Ram Inn GL5 5EL and many more.

Start: Station Road, Nailsworth off the A46 Bath Road, is signed for Egypt Mill Hotel GL6 oAE . Go past the hotel and turn L at this sign. Drive on and park where the road forks. Walk or ride down the lane on the L past more signs and you're on your way. The old station is above you.



Suddenly you've escaped from the urban scene and are in mature woodlands of ash, beech, sycamore and oak, with the Nailsworth Stream on your L feeding a series of ponds that lead to Dunkirk Mills ❶. Keep a sharp lookout for a small vineyard on your R.

At your first bridge (under the A46) admire the graffiti art. Then soon afterwards, where you cross Station Road at South Woodchester ❷, there are bus stops on the main road, should you wish to shorten the walk. Or it's a short diversion to the Ram Inn uphill on the L.



Pressing on, you cross the stream and negotiate a few small ups and downs and arrive at an elaborate sign ❸. Here you leave the railway line to Stonehouse, turn sharp R and go through the lower edge of a housing estate (Durbridge Meadow) built over a short section of the Stroud branch line.

Keep to the marked cycle path over the stream and between the houses to reach a busy road. Cross it at your personal traffic lights and climb 32 concrete steps to the old railway embankment. If you're on a bike there's a handy groove to make the push easier.



After another fancy sign your route swings round to the R with easy walking and wide views to the L over the river Frome and the Stroud valley. Soon after you've gone under two high road bridges ❹ look out for a sharp turn L off the railway track.

Here a short path leads out of the woods through a gate and down onto the wide pavement and a marked cycle track. Here you'll see the signs for cyclists starting from Stroud and heading for Nailsworth or Stonehouse.

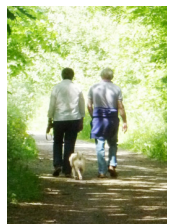


Turn R into town. Near the bottom bear right by a picture framers' shop and go through a short tunnel to climb to Stroud station. After crossing the canal ❺ walkers turn R up Cheapside to the car park, go onto the platform and cross the footbridge into town. Cyclists go straight ahead under the railway bridge.

If you're in Stroud on a Saturday you can't miss the farmers' market.



Off to market



Nailsworth's train station is now a private house

See more about Stroud Market on the next page

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Stroud Farmers' Market

A MARKET FOR ALL SEASONS

every Saturday from 9 until 2 (except the first Saturday after Christmas)



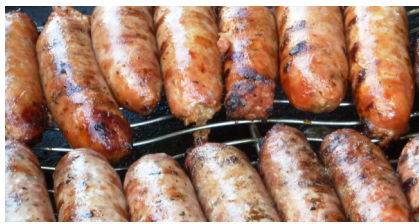
bread cobs, bloomers, walnut, basil, lardy and French croissants.



local deli

Little Lilly goat cheese, venison pie, faggots, spinach and walnut tart, veggie scotch eggs, nuts and organic rape seed oil.

Abbotswood eggs, Bath falafels, Birdlip potted game, Glastonbury pottery



meat free range beef, salt-marsh lamb, Old Spot pork, gourmet sausages, duck, goose, turkey and Worcestershire salami.

fruit



and veg

sweet tooth



chocolate brownies, cakes galore, sticky lemon pudding, Four Shires honey and hand-cut marmalades.

Donnington trout, Tetbury lavender, Windrush yoghurt, Swindon doughnuts

wine

from gorse, medlar, quince, dandelion, nettle, carrot, parsnip, rose petals (also from grapes).



beer etc.

Gloucester, Stroud and May Hill beer. Hereford cider and perry. Cappuccino and Earl Grey tea.



eat now or take it away?

Niang's Thai snacks, soup, aloo tikka, bacon rolls, takeaway curry, olives, cheesecake.



handmade

cushions, dolls, soap, pottery, and sheepskin rugs from Monmouthshire.



Don't miss the Threadneedle Flea Market and the Shambles craft stalls