

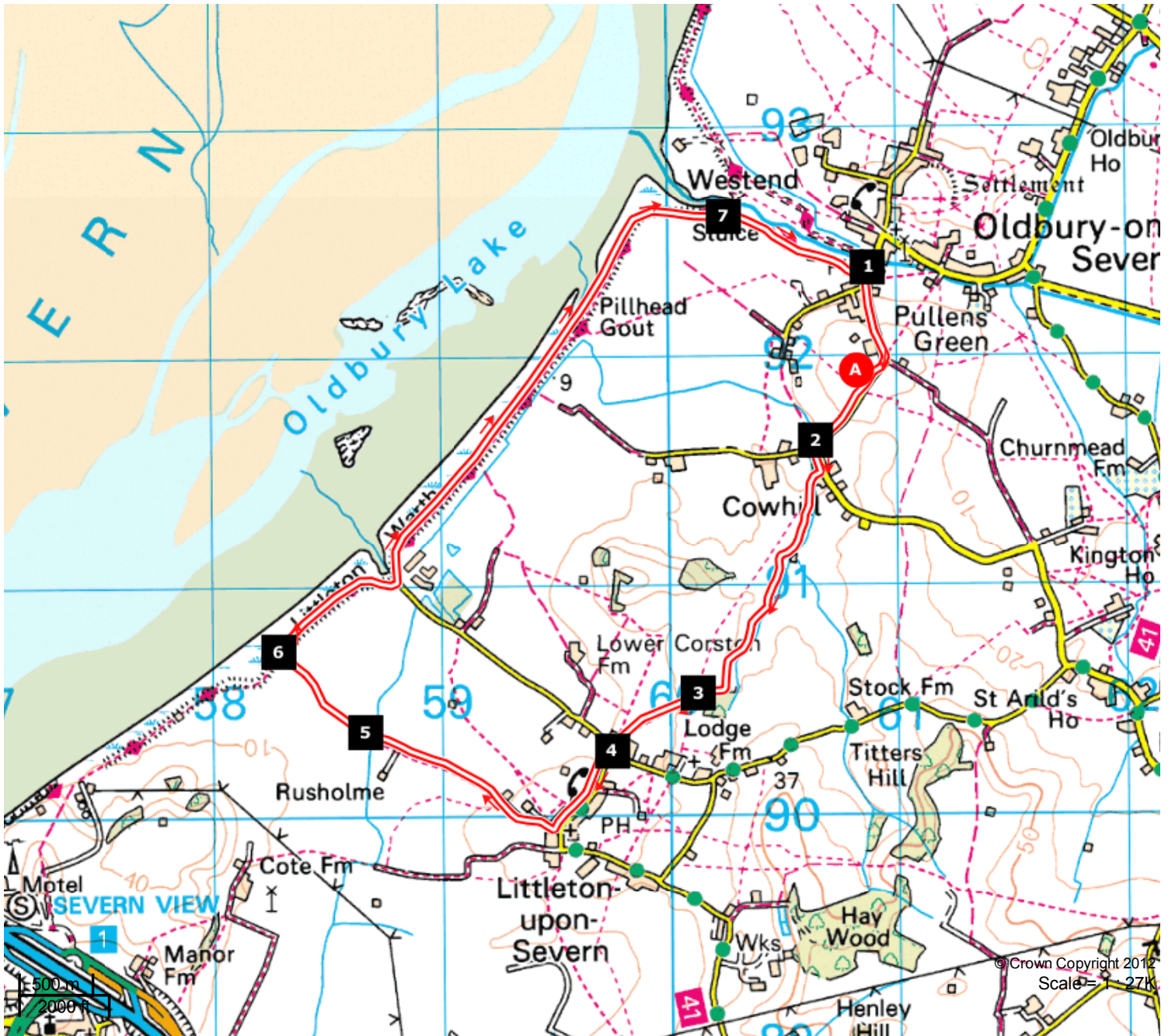
Oldbury & Littleton, South Gloucestershire

Starts at Church Lane, Oldbury. BS35 1QF

2 hours 0 minutes | 5.2miles 8.4km | Easy

ID: 0.2468 | Developed by: GEOFF MULLETT | Checked by: Marion Stone | www.ramblersroutes.org

A simple, mostly level walk, following country lanes, field paths and an interesting stretch along the River Sever, but basically, a good excuse for a pub lunch!



— Main Route — Alternative Route (H) Point of Interest (4) Waypoint

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Starts at

Lay-by opposite the Anchor Inn, Oldbury, South Gloucestershire. BS35 1QF Grid ref: ST608923

Getting there

By car: A38 north, passing B4061 on left to Thornbury and continuing to left turn signed 'Oldbury Power Station'. At first roundabout turn right into Morton Way and keep on this road to its end. Here, at staggered crossroads, go ahead, still following the Power Station signs, and continue for 1.5 miles to a left fork signed 'Oldbury-on Severn'. Take this, eventually reaching a T-junction by a phone box. Go left to reach the Anchor Inn and park in the lay-by opposite, (but not in the pub car park unless permission is obtained).

Route instructions

[1] Your route is initially along the lane, walking south with the pub to your left. This climb is the only one on the walk and lasts for 600 yards, to reach the church of St. Arilda, a local Saxon saint.

(A) The 13th century church once had a steeple but following violent storms in 1783 that badly damaged the walls and roof, the steeple had to be removed. Ravaged by fire in 1890, the only original features are the north porch and 15th century tower. It is thought this hill, with its fine views across the surrounding countryside, may have pre-Christian associations; Roman coins have been unearthed in the churchyard.

Having taken in the view from the far side of the churchyard, return to the road that now descends to the cluster of houses that is Cowhill.

[2] As the road bends left, you pass a bridleway then a minor lane on the right. A short distance further, opposite Star Farm, go right at a footpath sign, through a metal gate into a garden. Keeping the stream to your left, walk through the garden, cross into an orchard then keep left with the stream, exiting via a stile.

You now have a series of fields to cross and the path hugs the left boundary as far as a farm gate where you enter pasture. Keep left again, eventually passing woodland. Go through a kissing gate on your left, just after the woodland ends.

[3] Cross this third field diagonally right, to a step-over gate in the fence halfway down the right boundary. Climb, then continue in the same direction to the bottom right corner of the field. Cross over a stile, keep right and continue to a kissing gate, that gives access to a road.

[4] Cross the junction and follow the road in the direction of Elberton and Olveston for a short distance to arrive at the White Hart pub. With its stone-flagged floor, Young's Bitter and a large and varied menu, there can be no greater temptation to finish the walk here. Pity about your car in Oldbury!

Having supped and dined, you now have to carry your stomach a little further down the road, taking the lane on the right, opposite the chapel. This soon becomes a track, follow this until it turns right beyond Littleton Rhine, and here, climb the stile next to the gate.

[5] Proceed now in the same direction crossing the field to a stile. Climb over and continue on to the far right corner of the meadow where you cross a footbridge with care then proceed a few yards further to the top of the dyke.

Away to your left is the Severn Bridge, but your route takes you right, towards the distant Oldbury power station, either along the dyke or if it is dry enough, closer to the mudflats. These are a haven for wading birds in winter, while the pretty Sea-spurrey flowers here in late summer together with a variety of sedges that grow from the mud.

[6] Easy walking now, just three kissing gates to break your stride, following the dyke as it turns inland opposite the sailing club across the creek.

[7] Leave the dyke now, descending right and following the right boundary to a kissing gate. Go through, and continue, going through a pair of kissing gates by farm buildings, beyond which a track leads you past stables to the road. Turn left, and the Anchor Inn (and your car) are a few yards away.

Oldbury, though quiet now, had a busy past. The Iron-Age fort, the Toot (or lookout) indicates an early settlement and it is thought that the Vikings also settled here. Certainly, Oldbury had a small port, in use from prehistoric times until the early part of the 20th century, with a wharf opposite the Anchor Inn. Coal from the Forest of Dean was unloaded here, with Oldbury bricks and tiles making the opposite journey. The brickworks produced a distinctive range of brick, tiles and pantiles between 1870 and 1900.

Notes

Refreshments: *There are pubs at Oldbury and at Littleton (half-distance).*

Acknowledgements

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View to the River Sever from St. Arilda's Church
Photo taken by: Geoff Mullett



St. Arilda's Church, Oldbury
Photo taken by: Geoff Mullett



River Sever, from Waypoint 6, with Oldbury power station in the distance.
Photo taken by: Geoff Mullett

