

OLVESTON PARISH WALKS

WALK 1

About 2½ miles

ROUND OLVESTON



A walk which will be very suitable for families with children. It's easy, it's never far from the centre of Olveston village and it can be readily shortened at many places if necessary. In addition, it goes through two play areas and passes the well-populated duckpond .

animals. Cross over another stile and go straight on, passing a field to the right. This was once the site of fish ponds which supplied the Court with fresh fish throughout the year.

Looking across the field, notice the fine view of St Mary's Church tower and, to the left in the far distance, the spire of Elberton Church.

Continue along the boundary of a garden and over yet another stile to reach the rear of Olveston Court. Turn left over another stile, noting the remains of an old cider orchard to your left. Follow the right-hand hedge along the boundary of the Court and catch glimpses of this old fortified manor house with its beautifully preserved 15thC gatehouse.

Cross over a narrow fence stile **13** and follow the hedge, passing what used to be an old water mill and dairy house that once formed part of the Olveston Court working complex. At the end of the last garden, turn sharp right through a kissing gate, down the slope and through a further kissing gate **14** onto Mead Lane. This track once led to a port for Olveston at The Meads (near Mead Farm), which connected with the Severn. This ceased operation with the creation of the railways.

Bear right and follow the road back towards the village. Further views of Olveston Court can be glimpsed over the fields to the right. Just past the pumping station is the Horse Pool. This used to be regularly cleaned to act as a flash flood reservoir for the village. Keep right and go up Church Hill, noting the densely packed cottages in front of you, with the church tower rising above. Pass the village pump and back to the Church. On your right, the White Hart is usually open for refreshments.

Walks in the series

1. Round Olveston

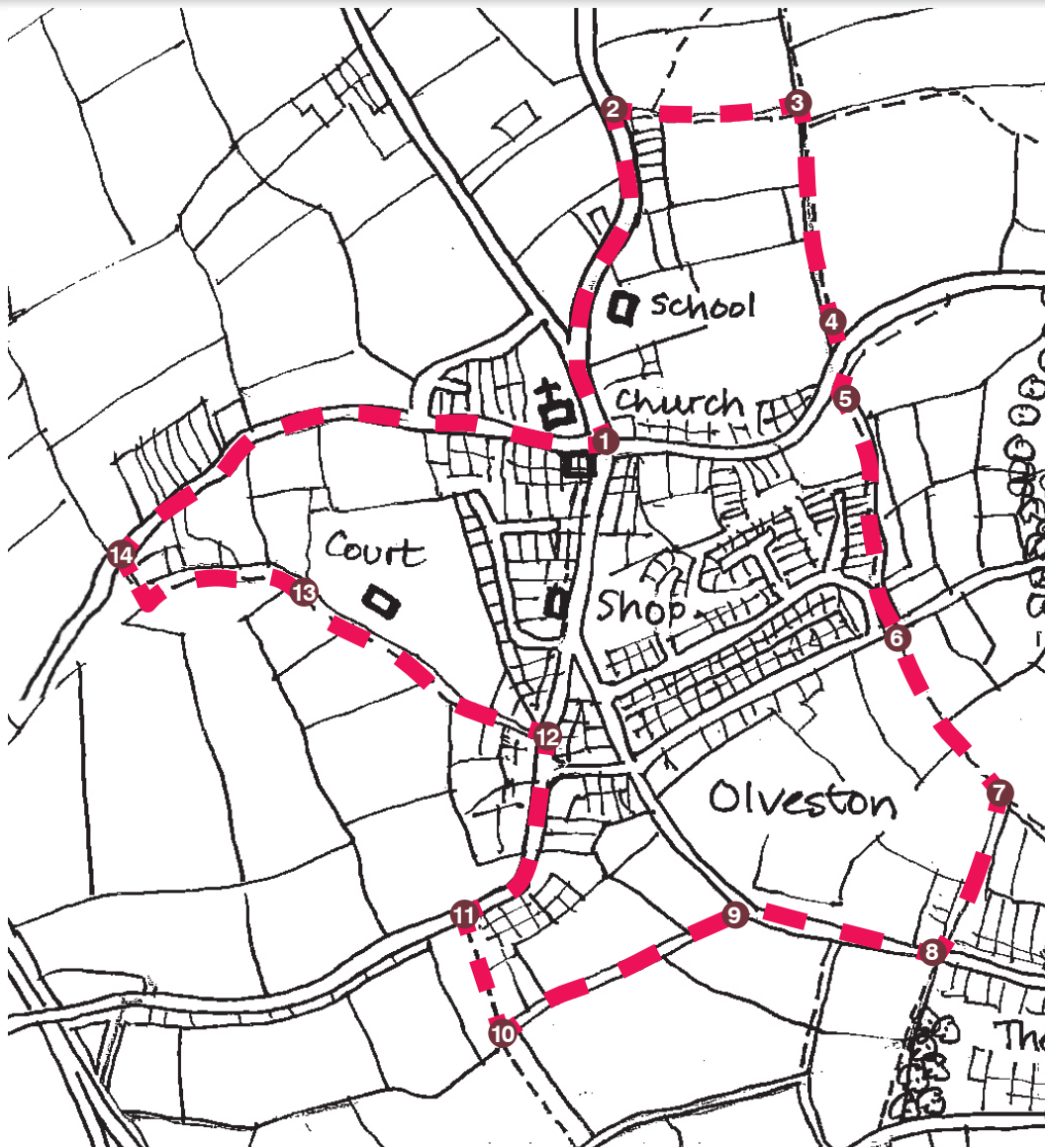
2. Olveston and Old Down
3. Old Down and Rudgeway
4. Old Down and Tockington
5. Between Olveston and Tockington
6. Down to the Motorway



This walk uses public rights of way across private land. Please:

- clean up after your dog and keep dogs under effective control
- keep to the path
- take your litter home





Start at Olveston Church **1**. Walk towards Aust, turn right up Elberton Road and pass the School. At the end of the row of houses, turn right at a footpath sign **2**. Follow the hedge on the left and go through the gap **3** at the field corner. Turn right along a

gate **6** and along the left-hand side of a field. Until the 1960s this path was regularly maintained and gravelled all the way to Tockington. Go through a gap and follow the hedge on your right for about 100 yards to a stile on your right **7**. Go over the stile and

track, passing a row of Lombardy and Balsam poplars. At budding time, the latter give off a powerful fragrance detectable from quite a distance. Follow the footpath close to the right-hand hedge - this used to be the original road from Elberton.

Join a tarmac drive and pass Primrose Cottage to reach Vicarage Lane **4**. Until the 1950s, a gate spanned the road here. Turn right, then left up steps at a footpath sign **5**. Keeping the hedge on your left, proceed past Vicarage Lane Play Area. Under 14 year olds can enjoy a slide or a swing! Join the footway which skirts the estate of houses, bear left and follow the left hand hedge to reach Haw Lane.

Cross the road and go through a kissing

gate **6** and along the left-hand side of a field. Until the 1960s this path was regularly maintained and gravelled all the way to Tockington. Go through a gap and follow the hedge on your right for about 100 yards to a stile on your right **7**. Go over the stile and

cross the field towards a pair of distinctive Lombardy poplar trees at the rear of the Parish Hall. Go over the fence stile and along the left side of Tockington Play Area where, again, under 14s can have some fun. Go through a gate and along the side of the Hall to Upper Tockington Road **8**. Cross this often busy road onto the footway and turn right.

At the 'road narrows' sign are the remains of St Michael's Well, otherwise known as the Eye Well because the waters were said to have healing properties. At the top of the rise, turn left at a footpath sign **9** into Westfield Lane. This was the line of the main road between Tockington and Olveston until New Road was constructed in the early 19th century to improve journey times to Aust Ferry. Proceed past a house, straight ahead through a gap and along a wooded path and through a kissing gate **10**. Turn right down a farm track past Port Farm to reach Catherine Hill **11**.

Turn right along the road (Caution: no pavement), to the duckpond. Fed by a nearby spring, this was formerly a header pond to power a grist mill at The Common. The road here was a ford before being raised in about 1930. Continue past the Old Quaker Meeting House on the right to reach the village pump on the left. Across the road, notice the very old farm house of Green Farm, parts dating from the 13thC.

Continue straight on past a footpath sign on an electricity pole and then, at Ty Nant, turn left to follow a footpath sign **12** down a path and over a stone stile. Any small or less agile dogs may require assistance here. This was once the main entrance to Olveston Court but was considerably narrowed by walls at the time of the 1842 Enclosure Act. The stone stile was added at the same time to halt movement of stray