

hedge. Turn right and follow the edge of the arable field down towards houses. When the path meets a track **13**, turn right then immediately left and go along the right hand side of a grass field to houses and Elberton Road **14**. Turn left. At the next road junction, cross The Street and climb the short track into the churchyard. Go through, passing to left of the church, and leave by the gate to return to the welcoming White Hart.

NB. The walk is equally good, some say even better, when done the opposite way round



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



OLVESTON PARISH WALKS

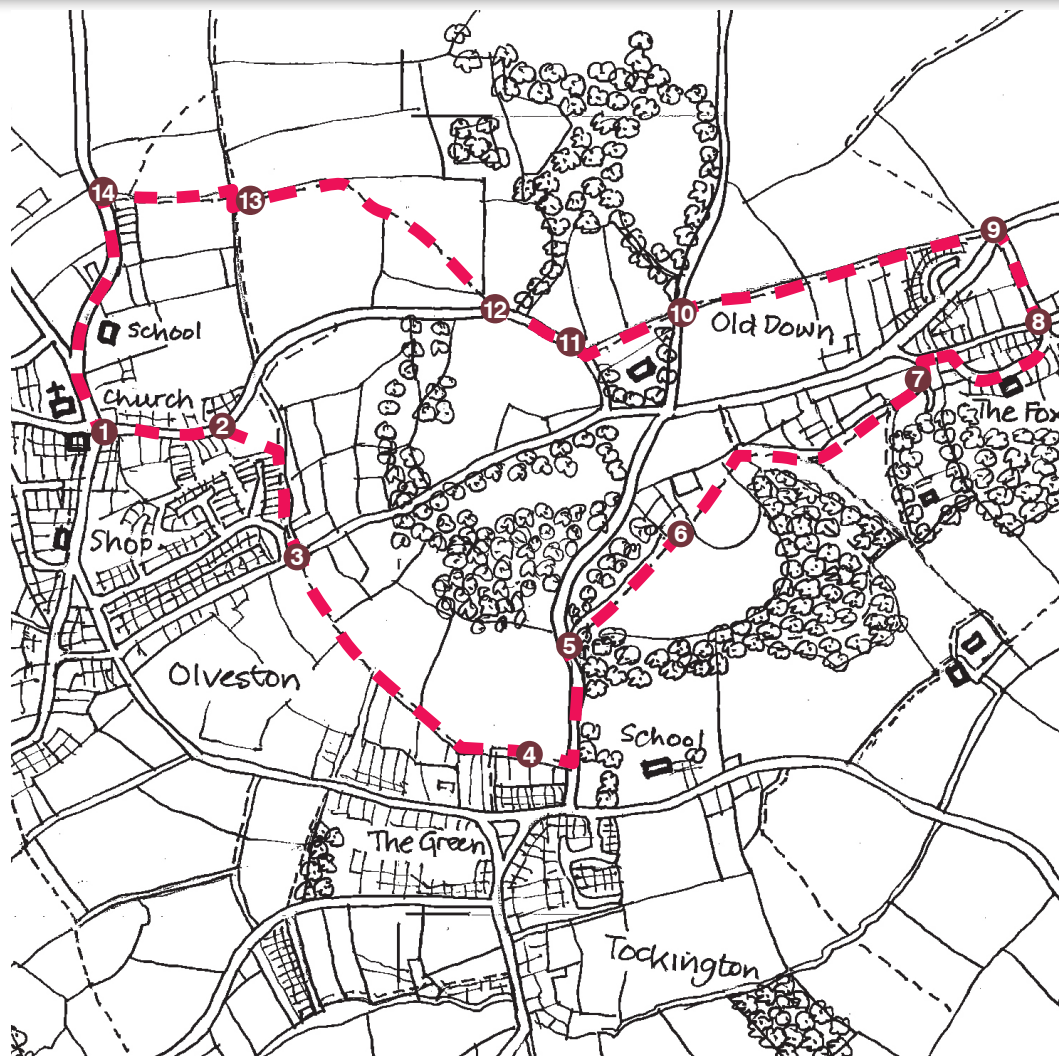
WALK 2

About 2½ miles

OLVESTON AND OLD DOWN



This walk includes a strenuous climb but the rewards include two wonderful views, one on the way out and one on the way back. An interesting contrast is the more intimate stretch along the lanes of Old Down hamlet and through to The Inner Down.



Start at the White Hart in Olveston **1**. Cross the road and walk up Vicarage Lane for about 200 yards and turn right on to a playing field **2**. Cross diagonally and join the pavement. Follow it, with houses on the right initially, to Haw Lane **3**. Cross and go through a kissing gate. Follow the path along the edge of three fields until you reach the next road, Old Down

sheer drop into a disused quarry which ceased production at the end of the 19th century and is now a nature reserve. At the top **6**, look back at the wonderful view over the plain and take in the majestic Austrian pines that grace the park. Cross the cricket ground using the two pedestrian gates.

Go straight ahead through the field with woodland on

Hill **4** (the footpath is in poor condition in places because the original all-weather, gravel 'church path' was dug up in the 1960s when an electricity cable was run from Tockington to Olveston to power new houses and was never properly reinstated).

Cross the road and turn left. Where the pavement ends **5**, go through a kissing gate and up a narrow path between two walls. This quickly emerges on to the Old Deer Park, a hillside of grassland which once belonged to Tockington Manor (then named Tockington House).

Climb the steep path, following the fence on the left (CAUTION) which protects the

the right and a paddock and then the rear of Windmill House residential care home on the left. Keep left at the end and pass between two houses on to Merryhole Lane **7** and the hamlet of Old Down. Turn left for a few yards then turn right into The Down and in fifty yards turn right again into The Inner Down. Thirst can be slaked at The Fox Inn. A further 100 yards walk or so brings you back to the The Down at a staggered cross-roads **8**.

Go across into Pump Lane and along to its junction with Alveston Road. Cross over and perhaps enjoy a rest on the memorial bench **9**. Take the footpath behind the houses then straight ahead through two fields keeping the hedge on your right. As the path swings left, find a kissing gate on the right in the fir hedge.

Go down the drive of the cottage ('Foxhole') to Foxholes Lane **10**. (You could divert right along the lane to Old Down Country Park for refreshments at this point).

Cross straight over, climb a stile and walk almost straight ahead through a new plantation of trees for a short distance then into a grass area with a large shed on the left. Go straight ahead keeping right and look for a gap in the fir trees ahead where a stile leads on to Vicarage Lane **11**. Turn right and in about 200 yards turn right through an old kissing gate at the brow of Fern Hill **12**. This area was once known as 'Hanging Hill': there used to be two trees here 6 feet apart, which were reputed to be used for that purpose.

Go down an arable field with great views of the river (and the setting sun particularly on a summer's evening), aiming for a big Field Maple tree covered in ivy (which initially hides the view of Elberton Church). Pass close to the left of the tree and on down to the bottom corner of the field and exit through the