

OLVESTON PARISH WALKS

WALK 6

About 1¾ miles

DOWN TO THE MOTORWAY



A fairly easy walk with a pleasant elevated view. After crossing fields to the rear of Olveston Court, an interesting contrast is the short (and noisy) stretch along the edge of the M48 motorway. The only road walking is on Haw Lane and this has a pavement. Three road crossings but good visibility in each case.

M4 motorway. Further round to the left can be seen the wind turbines above the Avonmouth Docks area.

Bear diagonally right across a large field to a stile in the far corner, at the end of a wooden fence. Climb over the stile and turn right through a kissing gate. Immediately turn left over another stile onto a track. Follow this track (Port Lane) between hedges **9**. Port Lane used to continue through to Port Farm on Catherine Hill, but in the course of time hedgerows were removed and it lost its defined track.

When the lane bends right, go over the stile in front of you and bear slightly left across a field, through a gap **10** near the far corner and into another field. Continue towards the Parish Hall which you can see in front of you.

Cross the (sometimes busy) road and take the path along the right hand side of the Hall and along edge of Tockington Play Area to reach a stile. Go over the stile and straight across a field to another stile **11**. Cross over this stile and turn left. Follow the path through a gap and along the edge of another field to a kissing gate **12**. This path between Tockington and Olveston was regularly maintained and gravelled until it was dug up in the 1960s to lay an electricity cable from Tockington to the newly built Orchard Rise estate.

Go through the kissing gate onto Haw Lane. Turn left and back to the pump on The Green.

Walks in the series

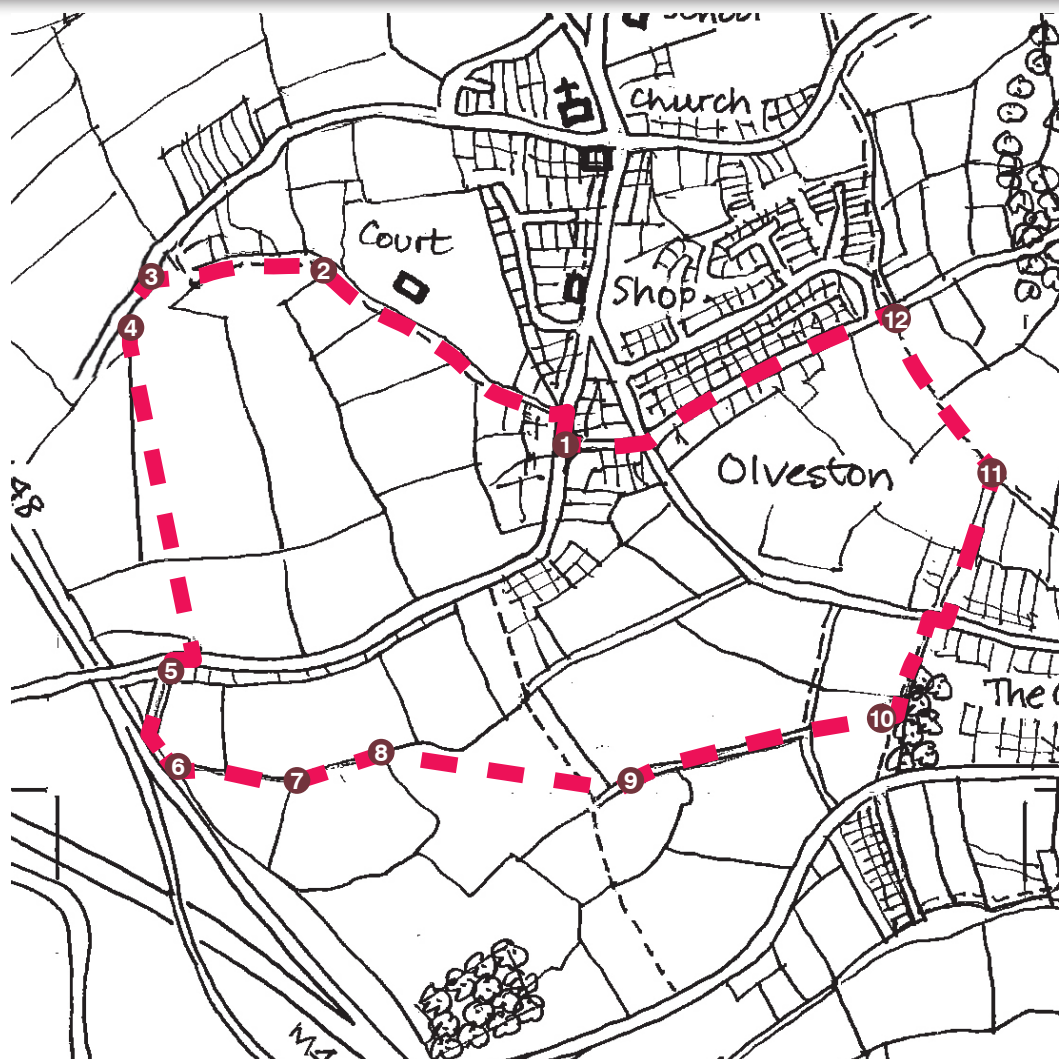
1. Round Olveston
2. Olveston and Old Down
3. Old Down and Rudgeway
4. Old Down and Tockington
5. Between Olveston and Tockington
6. Down to the Motorway



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 the pump on The Green at Olveston **1**. Walk towards the village centre, passing a footpath sign at Rose Cottage and shortly afterwards, at Ty Nant, follow the direction of footpath sign down a path to the left (Cadden Lane) and over a stone stile. Any small or less agile dogs may require assistance here. This path was once the main entrance to Olveston Court but was considerably narrowed by walls at the time

of the 1844 Enclosure Act. The stone stile was added at the same time to halt movement of stray animals. Cross over another stile and go straight on, passing a field to the right. This field 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 corner of Olveston Court. Turn left over another stile, noting the remains of an old cider orchard to your left. Follow the right-hand

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Continue along the boundary of a garden and over yet another stile to reach the rear corner of Olveston Court. Turn left over another stile, noting the remains of an old cider orchard to your left.

Follow the right-hand

can catch glimpses of the beautifully preserved Gate House.

Cross over a narrow fence stile **2** 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 onto Mead Lane **3**. Turn left and follow the lane for about 200 yards to a field gate on the left **4**. Mead Lane continues beyond the M48 motorway and once led to a port for Olveston at The Meadows (near Mead Farm). Small narrow flat bottomed boats, pulled by horses, used to bring goods to the port along Olveston Mill Rhine from Cake Pill Gout on the Severn. Operations ceased with the coming of the railways.

Go through the field gate and cross the field to a gap in the hedge which you can see directly in front of you. Go straight on across the next field, over a stile and onto Catherine Hill road. Cross the road, turn right and then go down a short road to the left **5**. This narrow road was the original highway before being severed by the motorway. Bear left at the bottom and continue straight on along a wooded path between two hedges, parallel to the edge of the motorway (Do not turn into the field!).

Continue along the path to a kissing gate **6** and turn left into a field. Follow the hedge on your left and over a bridge stile **7** at the field corner and into the next field.

Continue to follow the hedge on the left and through another kissing gate **8**. Here you obtain a pleasant elevated view of the area. The twin towers of the Severn Bridge are prominent, and to their left can be seen the Second Severn Crossing which carries the