

Aust to Thornbury

(Via the Severn Way and Jubilee Way)

Distance: 6 miles

Walking Time: 2 1/2 hours

GRADE: Easy/Moderate 3

15

Starting near the old Severn Bridge at Aust, this walk follows the Severn Estuary northwards before heading inland to Thornbury. It passes through the Severn Vale and over the limestone ridge at Sacks Hill. There are magnificent views over the Severn Estuary to Wales and northwards to open countryside. The route follows two long-distance footpaths, the Severn Way and Jubilee Way, both of which are waymarked. The Severn Way is the longest riverside walk in Britain at 210 miles (337km). The Jubilee Way was created in 1985 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ramblers Association. The 2,000 mile (3,200km) national walk links many of Britain's long-distance footpaths.

Maps:

Explorer 167

Thornbury, Dursley and Yate
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref.

ST 572 895

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus to Aust

Bristol - Newport Service X14 operating four journeys per day Monday to Saturday provide a service to Aust M48 Interchange. **No service on Sundays and Bank Holidays.**

Bus back from Thornbury

Services 309 and 310 provide a half hourly service from Thornbury to Bristol Bus Station on Mondays to Saturdays. We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.firstgroup.com or by calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

The White Hart, Littleton-Upon-Severn Tel. 01454 412275
Thornbury - various pubs and cafes

PUBLIC TOILETS EN ROUTE

Severn View Service Station
Thornbury - opposite The Plough public house, St Mary Street back of Morrisons

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Information for this walk was originally compiled by the Ramblers Association and is reproduced with kind permission of South Gloucestershire Council.

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

The Severn Estuary

The Severn Estuary is a conservation area of international importance and has the second largest tidal range in the world. This produces strong currents, high turbidity and large amounts of liquid mud. Only plants and animals adapted to this harsh environment can survive. Consequently the estuary is a unique and fragile habitat providing the necessary conditions for at least 85,000 wildfowl and significant numbers of over-wintering birds. It is also very important for migratory fish including the rare and endangered allis shad.

Oldbury Nuclear Power Station

This Magnox gas cooled reactor can be seen in the distance. Built in 1968 the gas cooled reactors require water to produce steam in order to drive the turbines. This is why it is located next to a water supply. The power station uses 50 million litres of water per hour and returns water to the estuary at a slightly higher temperature.

Thornbury

The Manor of Thornbury is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 but it was not until 1217 that a writ established ownership enabling Gilbert De Clare, Earl of Gloucester, to lay claim to 10,000 acres of land around Thornbury and thus establish himself as Lord of Thornbury Manor. To the north west the spire of St Mary's Parish Church can be seen adjacent to the prominent tower of Thornbury Castle. Both buildings date from the sixteenth century.

Oldbury Parish Church of St Arild

Oldbury Parish Church is a prominent feature in the landscape to the north, being located on top of a natural mound. The tower and north porch date from the fifteenth century but the remainder was rebuilt in 1899 after a fire in 1897. St Arild is one of the least known Saints but her name suggests a Saxon origin. Leland records that she was a virgin who the tyrant Muncius beheaded because 'she refused to do his wicked will'. She was martyred at Kington, a mile from Thornbury and her remains were taken to St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester. Her image is now amongst the virgin saints in the glass in the east window of the Abbey.



View of Severn Bridge

Follow Rushen Lane all the way to Littleton Upon Severn. Rushen Lane is an old drovers route. On either side of the lane watch out for the distinctive medieval ridge and furrow features created by ploughing with oxen. The turning circle was started before the end of the furrow was reached creating an elongated S shape, this being the most efficient means of turning oxen.

Bond Lane. This lane continues the drovers route and crosses Mumbleys Lane. The latter is reputed to be part of a Roman track joining Thornbury and Elberton. If you examine closely there is evidence of stone cobbling near the intersection. To the North, Westwing School (Grade II Listed Building) can be seen amongst the trees. This was formerly Kyneton House built in the seventeenth century and extended in the nineteenth century.



View down Rushen Lane



Start the walk at Aust Interchange, ask the driver if you are unsure where to get off. Please take care as you will need to cross a busy dual carriageway. From the bus stop walk along the A403 and turn right at the signpost to St-Augustines Vineyard. Take the first right and join the Severn Way, crossing the motoway footbridge to Severn View Services. Follow the Severn Way around the back of the service area and then along side the estuary.



The White Hart Pub, Littleton-upon-Severn

Follow the footpath sign to turn right along the Jubilee Way. Look out for the special waymarker stickers with RA 50 and a rucksack motif.

Turn left opposite Home Farm, following the footpath signpost.

At the fork follow the green lane, not the metalled track.

Where the Green Lane meets the tarmac road bear left and carry on to the T-junction with Mumbleys Lane.

Leave the Jubilee Way at this point and walk around the football pitch. Follow the tarmac path up past the children's play area to Thornbury High Street. Turn left and walk along to The Plain to catch buses back to Bristol.

- Key
- public house
 - walk route
 - other paths
 - bridleway
 - field boundary
 - roads
 - motorway
 - urban area
 - woodland

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