

THE VILLAGE CIRCULAR WALK in LONG ASHTON *Anti-clockwise*

Please see separate leaflet for **clockwise** direction

*The suggested starting point is The Little Tipple but you can start anywhere in the circuit. The roads encountered are shown in **Bold Type** and are alternative starting points. The walk is mainly on fields and tracks so be prepared for some mud - and sometimes livestock. It is not "buggy friendly" but there are no stiles. Much of it is way-marked with special signs.*

*The complete circuit is from **The Angel Inn** at the eastern end of the village to just beyond **Gatcombe Farm Shop, Carvery and Tea Rooms** at the western end.*

Allow about 3 ½ hours; you may do it in less.

Starting from **The Little Tipple, 50 Weston Road** turn up the lane at the side of the estate agents office. This signed footpath to the golf course is known as **Keeds Lane**. Cross **Rayens Cross Road** and continue ahead on the track and, after passing a sports field on the **left**, leave the track and go **left** on a hedge-lined path at the rear of cottages. From the kissing gate go to the left of the nearest power line post to another kissing gate and then bear left to go alongside the fence. Turn left for a few yards [*towards the top of **Warren Lane***] and then turn right through a metal kissing gate.

The right of way is then almost in a straight line across fields but in the first field it is usually better to turn left for several yards before crossing the field to the opposite hedge and then turn right up to a kissing gate. Cross the middle of the next two fields and then bear left downhill behind Gatcombe Court to go through a metal kissing gate. In the field keep to the hedge on the left to reach **Gatcombe Lane** near, or (if not overgrown) through a kissing gate, and then turn left. Ignore the turning to the weak bridge and, unless calling at the farm shop or **Gatcombe Tea Rooms**, turn right to **Weston Road**.

Opposite, and slightly to the right, is a wide gateway. With care, cross the road to go there.

Go through a special walkers gate that is set within the main gate. **Please shut this gate.**

Cross the railway bridge and **continue straight ahead**. From the gate at the corner of the farm building cross the field, bearing left to a wooden gate. Cross the field to another gate and then across the middle of the field to a gated footbridge. Bear right to go to a hedge gap by the right hand hedge and continue ahead to reach a metal kissing gate on **Wild Country Lane**.

Cross to the opposite side and turn left. Just **before** the bridge that crosses the railway turn right up steps and on to a path alongside the railway. At the bottom of steps near the next railway bridge [the ends of **Perry Road and Paulman Gardens** are nearby] turn right up the track passing a farm building and then on a fenced path. (*part of the Monarchs Way*) After the kissing gate the way is uphill to the top far left corner of the field and through a gate. Keep to the left hand edge of the field and then through a gate to a path down a flight of steps to a kissing gate. Turn left and, with the stream on your left, go as far as a kissing gate **BUT DON'T GO THROUGH IT**. Instead, turn right up a few steps and turn left to join a fenced path that runs parallel with the by-pass.

Continue straight ahead (ignoring the right turn that goes under the by-pass) to reach a field. Turn left down the edge of this field to a bridge over the railway. From here continue ahead downhill to a wooden footbridge and on the cycle path turn right. From here the most direct path is to the right where a narrow path runs between the stream and the backs of houses. Otherwise go along **Copford Lane** and turn right into **Brook Close**. Rejoin the cycle path and go past **Northleaze School** to reach **Yanley Lane**. Cross to the other side of Yanley Lane where, slightly to the **right**, is a metal kissing gate. *See footnote* In the first field the way is alongside the left hand hedge to a gated footbridge. **Cross** the cycle path and bear right across the field. The way is then through fields, keeping near to the back gardens of houses in **Parsonage Road**. Cross the farm track at the rear of Parsonage Farm, and then through a kissing gate into the churchyard.

Turn left in the churchyard to the church gates and then continue ahead up **Church Lane**.

On reaching the **Long Ashton Road** (by **The Angel Inn**) cross the road and turn left. In about 100 Yards turn right to go up **Hobwell Lane**. In the field there are two footpaths. The one used for the Circular Walk goes uphill and diagonally to the left. Aim for a gate in the walled garden to the left of which is a kissing gate on to a fenced path. Continue ahead on the gravel drive and, on reaching the lane, turn left and then first right up **Folleigh Lane**.

Go up the narrow footpath to the right of **Folleigh Close** and, shortly after a kissing gate, take the right fork. The path goes uphill to the edge of a fairway where golfers play from the left. *When you are on the edge of fairways, or crossing them, it is safest to stand still until golfers have completed their shot; they usually signal if it is safe to cross.* Go straight across the fairway, to the right of a pond, to the edge of another fairway. Here the play is from the right and, when clear, go straight across and downhill through some trees. At the bottom golfers play from the left to the nearby green. When clear, cross the fairway near the green and, if safe to do so, pass by a tee. Then aim for the far right corner of the course before turning left. Keep to the edge of the fairway, by the edge of the woodland, *and be aware that golfers maybe playing behind you and in the same direction.* On reaching the rear of houses continue ahead to go through a green kissing gate to a fenced path leading to **Providence Lane**.

Slightly to the right on the opposite side of the lane there is a kissing gate and paths into Providence Plantation and Iron Plantation. Take the left fork to a path that goes downhill to a kissing gate. (*another part of Monarchs Way*) Go past a smallholding on your right and turn left down the track [**Keeds Lane**] to complete the circuit.

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TH + friends