

OLVESTON PARISH WALKS

WALK 3

About 2¼ miles

OLD DOWN AND RUDGEWAY



A walk through parkland, fields and woodland providing extensive views across the Severn Vale to South Wales on the far horizon. There are moderately steep climbs and descents, but the views make it all worthwhile.

Walks in the series

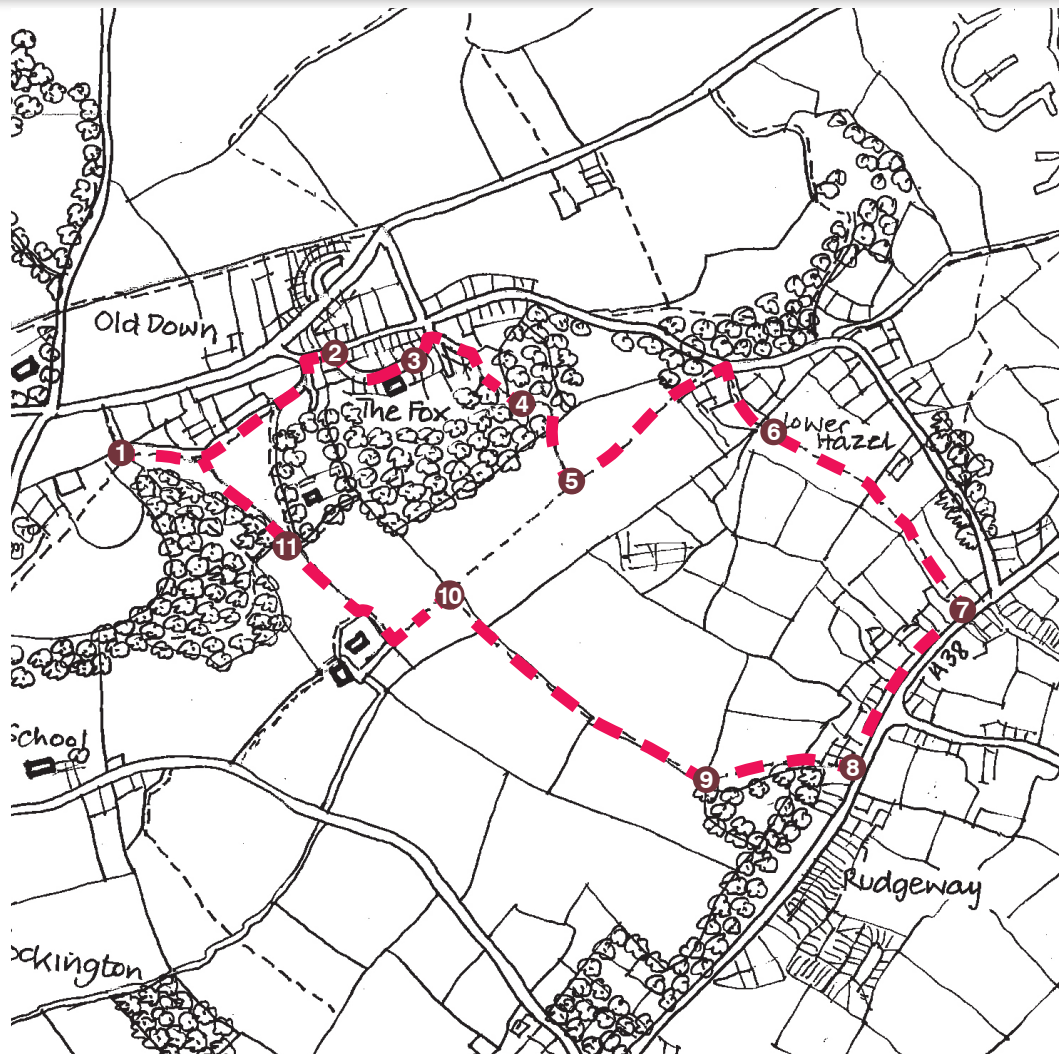
1. Round Olveston
2. Olveston and Old Down
- 3. Old Down and Rudgeway**
4. Old Down and Tockington
5. Between Olveston and Tockington
6. Down to the Motorway



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 Old Down football pitch **1**. Go through the kissing gate in the top left hand corner of the car park and walk towards the woods, then turn left after the horse paddock enclosure. Keep the paddock rails and then a hedge on your left. At the end of the field go through two kissing-gates, then turn left onto a tarred road and immediately right, then right again into

by boat along the waterways from the Severn to Tockington. To the right of the hedge in front of you is the waggon wash used to clean the mud off waggons in the winter and swell the wooden wheels onto their iron tyres in the summer **5**.

Turn left on the broad track and continue to Hazel Lane. Just before reaching the tarmac road, turn hard

The Inner Down **2**.

Walk past the Fox Inn **3**, and within 100 yards turn right into the Inner Down cul-de-sac. At the end of the tarred road turn right onto a track and then by the cattle-grid go right on to a narrow footpath descending through woodland **4**. Go straight across a footpath cross-roads in the woods, keep going downhill and on leaving the woodland go slightly to the left and then immediately turn right keeping the high hedge on your right.

Keep going downhill until you meet a broad track. This is on the line of the old road from Greenhill (Alveston) to Tockington, and was used for transportation of goods brought

right, following the footpath sign, down a track and through a kissing gate next to a five bar gate with a cottage on the left. Carry straight on over a gate and a stile **6**. Climb straight up the gentle slope over/through four stiles or gates, eventually emerging onto the A38 **7** – one of the longest ‘A’ roads in the country at 292 miles end-to-end running from Bodmin in Cornwall to Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

Turn right and walk about 250 yards along the pavement. 50 yards after passing the traffic lights you will see a footpath sign **8**, turn right down this short lane, which bears to the left. At the end turn right onto a narrow path, keeping a large laurel hedge on your right.

Climb over the stile on your left and descend diagonally across the field aiming for two stiles **9**. Take the right hand stile and keeping the hedge to your left walk down through the field. At the end is a narrow tunnel like gap in the hedge leading to the next field. Continue downhill, now keeping the hedge to your right. Cross the small stream (good place for a dog to get a drink) and begin to gently ascend still keeping the hedge on your right.

After 100 yards, turn left **10** onto a broad track and head towards Sheepcombe. This is a very ancient site dating back to Domesday. At Sheepcombe turn right along the boundary hedge. When the hedge turns left, strike straight ahead towards the wood. Enter the wood **11** through a kissing gate, go slightly left, then follow the path up the hill before crossing a stile into the field you started the walk in. Keep the woodland to your left and after 150 yards you will be back at the start point by the Old Down cricket green and football pitch.