

(Continued from overleaf)

Horse Inn is a short walk to your right. Otherwise, turn left and then bear left at the next junction. You'll pass fine old buildings along this road.

In Northwick, turn right at the junction between the notice board and Church Farm. The route then passes the old Sandford's Charity School and the tower of St Thomas Church - all that remains of the Victorian church that once stood here **E**. Follow the route out through the churchyard.

From here, footpaths take you several kilometres across footbridges and fields, low-lying land so characteristic of this area. You'll catch glimpses of the bridges' towers rising above the hedgerows.

Keeping the hedgerow on your right, cross a large field, ignoring the footbridge off to your right about half way through. Cross straight over a track and a footbridge into another field. Carry on straight, with the ditch on your left and bear gently left as you pass a gap into the next field. Go straight through this field and over a footbridge, then straight again to another footbridge. Bear right and keep Bilsham Rhine (ditch) on your left for the next two fields, crossing two more bridges as you go. Then bear gently left through a large field to another footbridge. Cross straight through the next field, through a kissing gate, and then bear right to the far corner of the field.

Here you'll pick up a track that will take you all the way back to Aust where you can consider getting a well-earned refreshment at the Boar's Head.



Aust Cliff, rich in fossils

About this walk

This walk takes you out along a thrilling stretch of the River Severn, walking from the Severn Bridge down towards the Second Severn Crossing before returning through gentle farmland. This is excellent bird watching territory and the views are extraordinary. A great walk for people who love engineering, architecture and wildlife.

Length

10 km - about 4 hours, starting at Aust Church.

Under foot

The walk follows public footpaths with short sections of quiet roadway. It also twice crosses a busy dual carriageway; do take care when on road and when crossing. You may encounter cyclists and horse riders as well as cars. There is one stile along this route. Please note: in winter and wet weather, wellies are a must for this walk!

Food and drink

The Boar's Head pub in Aust is very near the starting point; the White Horse Inn in Northwick is about half-way through the walk.

Parking

You can park in the village; please park sensibly.

Regular Walk

Two Bridges Loop

Follow the Country Code - Respect, Protect, Enjoy

- Park sensibly - don't block gates or drives.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Leave farm animals and machinery alone. If you think an animal's in distress, alert the farmer.
- Keep to the public right of way.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep your dog under effective control and pick up after your pet - dog mess can harm livestock.
- It is good practice to keep your dog on a lead around livestock; however, if cattle or horses try to chase your dog, it's safer for both of you to let your dog off the lead to run away.
- Plan ahead, dress for the weather, and wear appropriate clothing.
- Be aware you may not have a mobile signal in places during your walk.



www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk



A Forgotten Landscape is a Landscape Partnership scheme encouraging people to restore, conserve and explore the Lower Severn Vale Levels. We are supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Images: Cover (Severn Bridge), Northwick Warth & Aust Cliff - © James Flynn; Old Aust - courtesy Eric Garrett.
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The representation on this map of a road, track or footpath is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.

— Explore the —
Lower Severn Vale Levels

Two Bridges Loop



REGULAR WALK



*Length: 10 km -
about 4 hours*

Regular Walk 

Two Bridges Loop

Start: Near Aust Evangelical Church, Aust, BS35 4AY.

The description assumes you are going anti-clockwise around the route, but it is signposted in both directions.

With the Evangelical Church on your right, walk along Aust's Main Road; it still retains a sense of the village before the M48 and A403 were built. St John Ancient Chapelry **A** was founded in the 1400s and Hill House opposite dates to the late 1600s. When you come to the A403 dual carriageway, the small building on the corner, now the village hall, was once the village school.

Turn right onto the footpath and then shortly cross the A403, using the central refuge, into New Passage Road opposite. Please **take great care** crossing the A403.

Follow New Passage Road for about 750m, where it starts to go downhill. Carry on to the bollard with a speed limit sign on it and then go right down the path towards the Severn.

Here you are at the site of the old ferry dock **B**. Foot and car passengers used to cross the river here until the day the Severn Bridge opened in 1966. There is information here about the ferry and the area. A short detour down the causeway to your right takes you to prime fossil-hunting territory - just be careful of the tides.

Keeping the Severn on your right, walk down this road and into the next; views up and down river

begin to open out. After about 500 metres, bear right off the road and follow the track over Cake Pill Gout by a sluice gate. Climb over the stile and go straight along the raised grassy flood defence.

Extraordinary views of both bridges and the estuary dominate the next two kilometres **C**. Follow the Severn south, taking in the open skies and, in migration season, the spectacle of hundreds of wildfowl. As you get close to New Passage you'll enter Pilning Wetlands Nature Reserve, a favourite with birdwatchers. It starts at the little sentry box - the reserve was once a rifle range.

After 500m you'll pass another sentry box. Then, before you go through the next kissing gate, turn left and follow the markers away from the Severn, roughly following Chessell Pill watercourse. Cross and re-cross the Pill over two metal footbridges and presently come out at a drive **D**. Pill is the local word for tidal river; in the past, Chessell Pill was navigable to this point. A lot of trade passed this way!

Cross the drive, through a kissing gate and follow the path keeping the Pill to your right. The field will open out; bear gently left towards a gap opposite at the corner of two hedgerows. Pass through the gap, bear left and keep to the hedge line. After the next gate, carry on straight with the hedge now on your right. Bear right as you go through the next field, heading towards Northworthy Farm. Just before you reach the farm, turn right for the kissing gate that leads onto the main road.

Cross back over the A403 (please **take great care**), through the kissing gate, around the edge of the field and come out onto a private lane; follow this to its end where you join Northwick Road. If you'd like a break at this point, the White

(Continues overleaf)

