

FURTHER INFORMATION

Most of the places on the route can be reached by public transport, for information telephone 0870 6082608 (daily, 8am to 8pm).

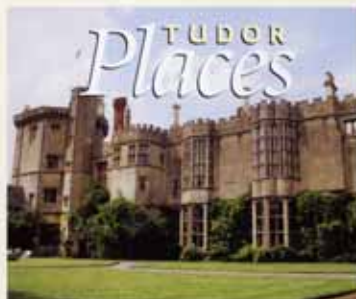
For train times, telephone 08457 484950 (24-hour service).

For information about public footpaths and bridleways, telephone 01454 863646.

For information about cycle routes, telephone 01454 863794.

Several towns and villages on the route have their own trails. For further information about these, and all the places on the route, visit or phone the Tourist Information Centres in Thornbury (01454 281638) or Chipping Sodbury (01454 888686) or the Wotton Heritage Centre (01453 521541). A list of books on Tudor times and other sources of information is also available at TICs; public libraries and bookshops keep stocks of local history books. You can visit the website at www.southglos.gov.uk/tudors

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at time of going to press, but you are advised to check details such as opening hours, bus services and so on before setting out. Note [EH] refers to English Heritage properties and [NT] to The National Trust properties.



We should like to have any comments you may wish to make about this booklet. Please send them to: Steph Gillett, Head of Museums and Heritage Services, Broad Lane Offices, Yate, Bristol BS37 7PN

By courtesy of the National Trust Photo Library:

Henry VIII attributed to Holbein (The Vyne)

© NTPL/Photographer D. Witty

Elizabeth I derived from a Ditchley portrait c.1591

© NTPL/Photographer E. Hammond

Newark Park

© NTPL/Photographer M. Antrobus

By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London:

Henry VII.

South Gloucestershire Heritage Trails are published jointly by the Community Services Department of South Gloucestershire Council and South Gloucestershire Heritage Forum. People Places has been published and Reformer (with more about William Tyndale) is in preparation. For further information, please telephone 01454 865783.

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Translations of this guide into languages read by local residents can be made available.

Audiotape and large print versions can also be provided. For more information about translations contact 01454 865834.

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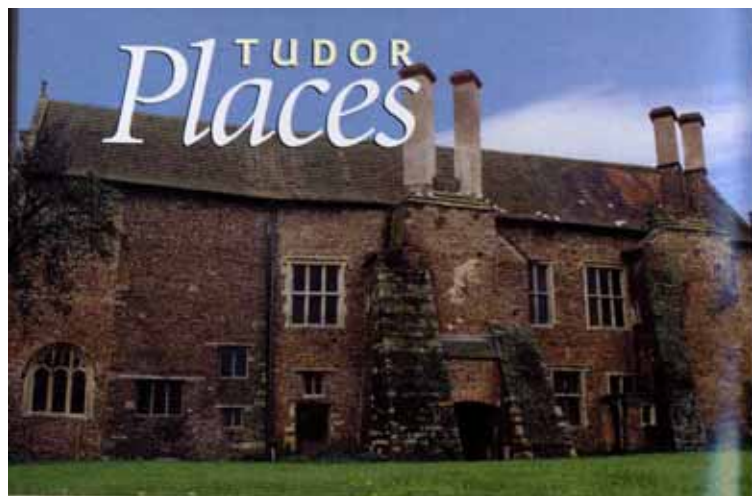
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL



Find out more about
the area's rich Tudor heritage.
BY CAR, BUS, BIKE OR FOOT!



TUDOR Places



Acton Court, at Iron Acton, has changed little since Tudor days

KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| A Public access without special arrangements | P Parking for cars on site or nearby |
| Regular bus service nearby | Rail station nearby |
| Avon Cycleway nearby | WC Public toilets on site or nearby |
| Café or restaurant on site or nearby | Wheelchair access |
| Public footpath nearby | |

CONTENTS

	page
Getting the best from this booklet	3
Introduction	4
Associations	5
Following the trail	6
Ride, drive or walk	7
Almondsbury and Olveston	8 & 9
Thornbury Castle and Parish Church	10
Thornbury, Berkeley Castle and Frampton Court	11 & 12
Acton Court and Iron Acton	13
Yate Court and Kingswood Abbey Gatehouse	14 & 15
Wotton-under-Edge and Parish Church	16
Newark Park and Horton Court	17
Little Sodbury and Chipping Sodbury Parish Church	18 & 19
Dyrham and Cold Ashton Parish Churches	20
Bitton Grange and Parish Church	21
Siston Court and Wellhouse	22
Mangotsfield Parish Church and Rodway Manor House	23
Barr's Court Moat and Hanham Court	24
Bristol	25
Sponsorship	26
Map of the trail	inside back cover
Further information	fold-in back cover

GETTING THE BEST FROM THIS BOOKLET



Chipping Sodbury's Broad Street was full of market stalls in the Tudor period

Tudor Places

Wherever you go in South Gloucestershire, there are links with Tudor times - in towns and villages, houses and churches, farms and fields, pubs and restaurants!

Discover them for yourself with the help of this booklet.

Routes, themes and properties

The places included in this booklet are included on the route shown on the fold-out map at the back. You may want to choose a part of the route to follow and take a short-cut back to your starting point. Then you can come back another day and enjoy another 'loop'. Three loops are suggested on page 6. If you'd like to follow a particular theme, we've listed some of these on pages 4 and 5.

If you're walking, there are lots of opportunities to devise interesting routes using off-road paths and tracks through farmland and over the commons particularly those near Chipping Sodbury, such as Inglestone Common. Cyclists can use bridleways and other public rights of way not designated as footpaths.

Most of the properties we've referred to are privately owned and many houses are not open to visitors.

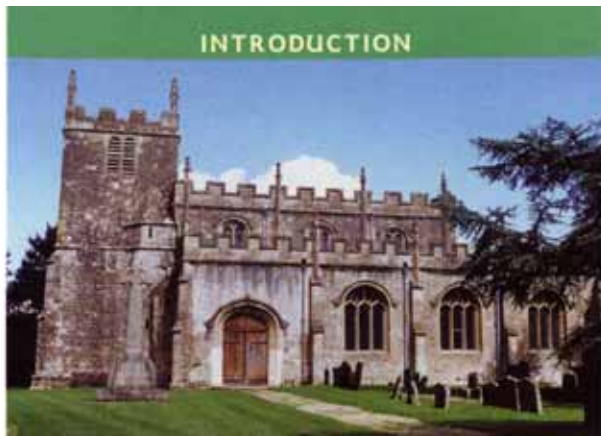
These are clearly indicated on the appropriate pages.

Please respect the privacy of people living and working in these places and view them from a discreet distance, remaining on roads or public footpaths. Where there is access to buildings, check times of opening before you visit.



The Duke of Buckingham was proud of his Thornbury Castle

INTRODUCTION



Cold Ashton Church, largely rebuilt in Tudor times

Tudor Gloucestershire

The Tudor monarchs ruled England and Wales from 1485 (Henry VII) to 1603 (Elizabeth I) with the most colourful being Henry VIII, king from 1509 to 1547. From the end of the Wars of the Roses to the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland, this short period of history took in the Dissolution of the Monasteries, a king with six wives and Drake's voyages of discovery. It was a period of immense changes in society brought about mainly by religious reformation and the expansion of trade.

In Gloucestershire, monastic lands were given or sold to influential families whose power and wealth increased. Improvements in agriculture on the good land of the area meant surplus food for sale to growing cities like Bristol and London. Sheep grazed every hillside and their fleeces were taken to the many Cotswold wool towns for spinning and weaving. Cloth was exported and merchants prospered. Even many of the ordinary people enjoyed reasonable security of homes and income.

The results are there to see. Tudor buildings remain in daily use and you can follow the long-silent daily footsteps of Tudor people in towns and villages. The great traveller, John Leland, visited this area in the early 1540s and most of his observations still hold good today!

Enjoy discovering the Tudor present in South Gloucestershire - and the past!

Many village churches

Lots of people enjoy seeing and visiting parish churches. Those with strong Tudor connections include Almondsbury, Bitton, Chipping Sodbury, Cold Ashton, Dyrham, Iron Acton, Mangotsfield, Olveston, Thornbury, Tortworth and Wotton-under-Edge and St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. In most cases, only their churchyards are open to visitors other than at times of services.

ASSOCIATIONS



Portrait of the National Trust Photo Library (Henry VIII, Elizabeth I) in the National Portrait Gallery, London (Henry VII)

One queen, two kings, three families

Most of the places in the booklet have links with well-known people of Tudor times. We've picked three monarchs and three influential families so that you can visit the sites associated with them. As you travel around, see if you can establish other links between places! Marriages, mayhem and occasional attempted murder may come into it!

King Henry VII (reigned 1485-1509) and friends

Acton Court, Berkeley Castle and Little Sodbury

King Henry VIII (reigned 1509-1547), wives and friends

Acton Court, Bitton Grange, Bristol Cathedral, Chipping Sodbury Church, Horton Court, Little Sodbury, Thornbury Castle, Thornbury Church

Queen Elizabeth I (reigned 1558-1603) and friends

Acton Court, Berkeley Castle, Bristol Cathedral, St John's Gate and St Mary Redcliffe (Bristol)

The Berkeley family

Berkeley Castle, Bitton Grange, Bristol Cathedral, Mangotsfield Church, Newark Park, Rodway Manor House, Yate Court

The Denys family

Old Church Farm, Siston Court, Dyrham Parish Church and Park, and Olveston Parish Church

The Poyntz Family

Acton Court, Frampton Court, Lord Mayor's Chapel (Bristol), Newark Park, Rodway Manor House, Thornbury Castle and Parish Church, Yate Court

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL



Old Church farm, Rudgeway was owned by the Denys Family and then the Veele family

The main route of approximately 100 miles (160km) can be covered in one day, by car, in either direction - if you wish simply a flavour of Tudor connections in South Gloucestershire. For convenience, we've given directions starting and finishing in Bristol for travel in a clockwise direction.

If you want to enjoy the trail over two or three days, we've suggested three 'loops' that are all about the same length. Like the whole trail, each loop can start and finish at any point. However, we've suggested these three different starting points.

Loop 1 from Thornbury - about 50 miles (80km):
Thornbury > Berkeley Castle > Tortworth > Rudgeway > Acton Court > Iron Acton > Frampton Court > Bristol City Centre > Almondsbury > Olveston > Thornbury

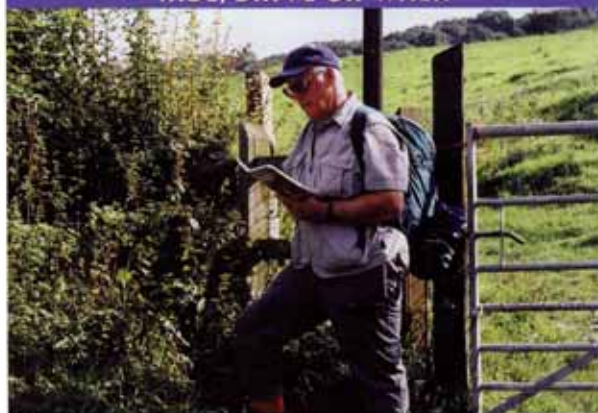
Loop 2 from Yate - about 50 miles (80km):
Yate > Yate Court > Kingswood > Wotton-under-Edge > Newark Park > Horton Court > Little Sodbury > Chipping Sodbury > Bristol City Centre > Frampton Court > Iron Acton > Acton Court > Yate

Loop 3 from Bristol City Centre - about 53 miles (85km):
Bristol City Centre > Dyrham Park > Cold Ashton > Bitton > Siston > Mangotsfield > Rodway Manor House > Barr's Court > Hanham Court > Hanham > Bristol City Centre



The Berkeley family's chapel in Bristol Cathedral

RIDE, DRIVE OR WALK



You can follow in Tudor footsteps throughout South Gloucestershire

Most places on the trail are served by buses and some are close to rail stations - most local trains carry bikes on a 'turn up and go' basis. Check times and stopping places of public transport when planning your route - contact telephone numbers are given on the fold-in back cover.

If you want to follow the complete Tudor Places Heritage Trail in one trip, then you'll probably need a car. The fold-out map shows you the route but you'll find useful *OS Landranger map 172, Bristol and Bath*. (Berkeley Castle is on *OS Landranger map 162*.) Please remember to observe the Highway Code, and if driving keep to the speed limit.

If cycling, we recommend basing your route on the signed Avon Cycleway. Many places are on or near it and it mainly uses quiet roads and lanes. A route map is available from tourist information centres.

If you want to walk to and from places in the booklet, all are accessible by public footpath (or pavement). Most can be reached using one or more of the Avon Walkway, Bristol and Bath Railway Path, Cotswold Way, Frome Valley Walkway, Jubilee Way, Limestone Link, Monarchs Way and Severn Way. Ask at tourist information centres for details.

Horse-riders can use bridleways (which are also open to cyclists) but facilities for 'parking' horses are infrequent!

If you use a wheelchair (or push a baby-buggy), places that are easily accessible are marked throughout the booklet with the standard disabled-access symbol.

Buses will take you to and from most places on the Trail - check times in advance



ALMONDSBURY AND OLVESTON



Almondsbury Parish Church is one of the few in England with a leaded spire.

In the 12th century, monks from Bristol improved the Roman sea banks along the Severn and drained farmland around Almondsbury. Nicholas Poyntz, Lord of Elberton, undertook drainage in 1346, cutting the Elberton rhine or ditch. Work continued for hundreds of years and the sea wall has only recently been raised again.

Almondsbury Parish Church is a Norman foundation with a fine Early English chancel. Most striking, however, is the tomb of Edward Veele, who died in 1577, and his wife Katherine. Another influential dynasty in Tudor times is recognised by brasses in **Olveston Parish Church** to Morys and Sir Walter Denys, portrayed as knightly figures in tabards. Look also for the amusing memorial to Ralph Green, vicar from 1590 to 1639.

ALMONDSBURY AND OLVESTON (continued)



The Denys family, commemorated in Olveston Church, also owned Dyrham Park

John Walshe inherited **Olveston Court Farm** from his mother and built the impressive gatehouse, great hall, brewhouse and arched niches called bee boles, which held beehives, before moving to Little Sodbury in 1510. A further leading family, the Poyntz family, owned the nearby manor of Tockington until it passed by marriage to the Berkeleys.

Almondsbury Church **A** (churchyard), **P**

Olveston Church **A** (churchyard),

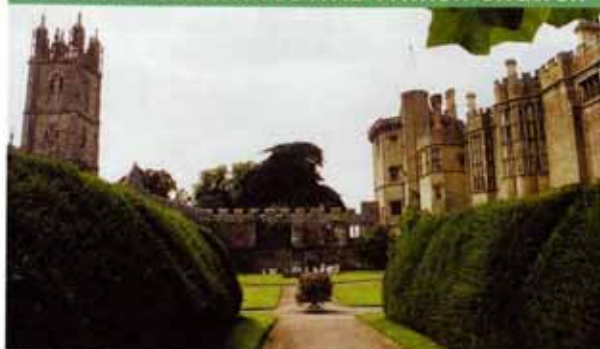
(Jubilee/Severn 2.5m/4km), **P**

Court Farm Private (view from lane),

(Jubilee/Severn 2.5m/4km), **P**

Leave Bristol by A38 north from Bristol and turn left into Over Lane 0.3 miles (0.5km) after roundabout below M5 (Junction 16). Follow sign to Lower Almondsbury to Church (on right past school). Continue on Church Road to Tockington and turn left (signposted Aust). In Olveston, turn left at newsagent and right into Denys Court, then take narrow lane on left to Olveston Court Farm. Return to main road and turn left towards Parish Church.

THORNBURY CASTLE AND PARISH CHURCH



Thornbury Castle and St Mary's Church

Jasper Tudor, uncle of Henry VII and Earl of Pembroke, married the widow of Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham (who was also lord of Thornbury manor), and lived here before **Thornbury Castle** was built. It is arguably South Gloucestershire's most self-indulgent and picturesque reminder of great Tudor families. John Leland wrote: *Edward late Duke of Bukkyngheham ... sette up magnificently in good squared Stone the South Syde ... and accomplisheyd the West Parte also withe a right comely Gate-Howse ...* He could have waxed lyrical about the huge bay windows, the wonderful chimneys, the gardens, the curious windowed garden wall, the fish ponds ... and the hospitality, which the present hoteliers maintain.

Unfortunately, the Duke fell foul of Henry VIII and lost Thornbury manor - and his head - after a trial presided over by his steward, Sir Anthony Poyntz. Thornbury became a royal property and Henry VIII, with second wife Anne Boleyn, may have stayed in the castle in 1535.

Much of **St Mary's Church** was rebuilt in the late 15th century. The nave has an elegant clerestory (upper row of windows) and the tower is 130ft (40m) high. The former rectory, nearby, is late 16th century in origin.

Thornbury Castle Hotel **A** (open to non residents), (Jubilee ½m/1km & Severn 3m/5km), **P** (for guests), (gardens)

Parish Church **A** (churchyard), (hotel, town), (Jubilee ½m/1km & Severn 3m/5km), **P** (churchyard)

Turn right after Olveston church and follow signs to Elberton, Alveston (B4461) and Thornbury (B4061). Follow signs into Thornbury town centre and bear left down Castle Street to Thornbury Castle and Parish Church. Park in designated car parks or at Thornbury Castle if using the hotel itself.

THORNBURY



Reminders of Tudor architecture are everywhere in Thornbury

John Leland described **Thornbury** as ... *beinge large to the Proportion of the Letter Y, havinge first one longe Strete and two Hornes goyng eowt of it.* It still has. In High Street, see the 16th century studded door and interior panelling at number 8 (a restaurant), the jettied (projecting) bay windows of 20 and first floor of 30, the Venetian-style windows of 24 and the allotments at the top, west side of the street, given to the town by John Dagge in 1546.

In Castle Street, the Chantry's door (number 52) could have come from Thornbury Castle, 15/17 has 15th century origins (and may have been a church property) and 11 has an unusual, two-storied gabled porch dating from the late 1400s. Number 2, The Plain, retains many features of a 16th century house.

Take time to visit **Berkeley Castle** (at one time gifted to Henry VII) with its magnificent Great Hall, huge Norman keep and Elizabeth I's bowling green. On the way back, detour to **Tortworth** where the millennium-old chestnut tree thrives beside the Parish Church with its Tudor tower and Throckmorton family tomb dating from 1568.

BERKELEY CASTLE



Berkeley Castle is still the home of the Berkeley family after 850 years

On your way to Iron Acton, look at **Old Church Farm** at Rudgeway, where the Denys family lived before moving to Siston Court, and nearby **St Helen's Church**. You can ask to visit both buildings by writing to Rolls-Royce at Filton.

Thornbury (Jubilee 1/2m/1km & Severn 3m/5km),

Berkeley Castle (Severn),
 (gardens only with help)

Tortworth Church and Tree (churchyard),

Old Church Farm and St Helen's Church Private,
(with prior permission),

Leave by way of the High Street and Alveston, and follow signs to A38. Go south for 1 mile (1.5km), turn left on to B4427 towards Yate. Old Church Farm is reached after 0.25 miles (0.5km) on right. Shortly join B4059 towards Iron Acton. (For Berkeley Castle, turn left at roundabout at top of Castle Street and follow signs to Lower Stone, Ham and Berkeley, returning by A38 past Thornbury to B4427, diverting left at Falfield (B4509), and left again, for Tortworth Church.)

FRAMPTON COURT

In the ancient settlement of Frampton Cotterell, you can see the exterior of another former Poyntz property. The hall of **Frampton Court** dates from the 14th Century and other parts from later Tudor times.

(see page 13 for directions)

ACTON COURT AND IRON ACTON



Considerable restoration work has been done on Acton Court

Acton Court remains largely unaltered from Tudor times making it of national importance. Its huge rooms and windows are testament to its confident builders and many original features remain. The Poyntz family rebuilt the house in the 16th century, mainly for a visit from Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Sir Robert had entertained Henry VII there in 1486 and was also chancellor to Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII. His son, Sir Anthony, was a supporter of the king whom he entertained at Acton Court with Anne Boleyn. Although Sir Nicholas Poyntz hosted the Privy Council in 1574, he must have been aggrieved that Queen Elizabeth stayed in Bristol!

The **Parish Church of St James the Less** at Iron Acton is largely 14th century but Robert Poyntz built the west tower and, with his wives, Anne and Katherine, is commemorated by three incised slabs. The 16th century benches have 'linenfold' ends, representing bolts of linen laid with vertical folds.

Acton Court (when current restoration work complete, or view from busy road),
(Frome), (2m/3km), (ground floor)

Iron Acton Church (churchyard),
(Frome), (2m/3km), (churchyard)

Frampton Court Private (restricted view from footpath),
 (Frome), (at Crossbow House),

Follow B4059 and park in Acton Court (if open) or cross B4058 and park in Iron Acton. Turn left in Iron Acton towards Parish Church. Return from church to B4058, turn left. Take second left - Court Road - in Frampton Cotterell. Frampton Court is at first corner.

YATE COURT AND KINGSWOOD ABBEY GATEHOUSE



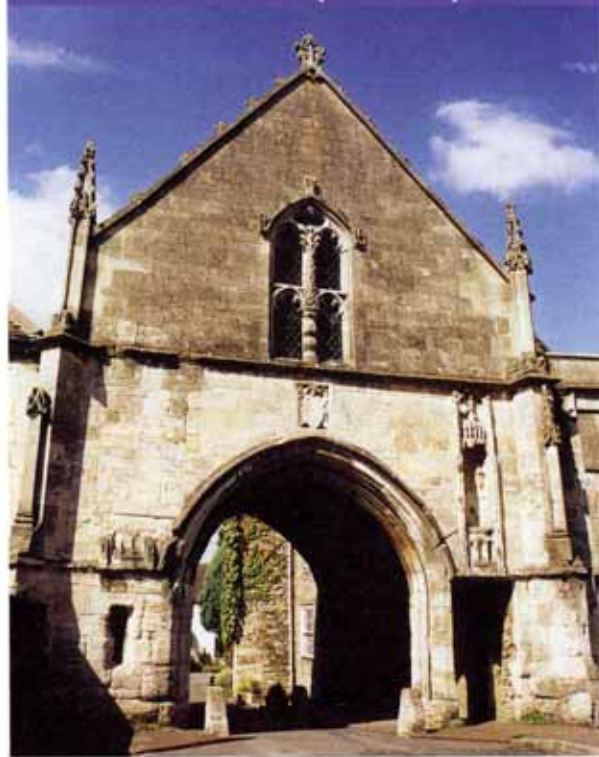
There's a pleasant walk linking Yate Rocks with Yate Court

Yate is a very old settlement whose parish church of St Mary has a 15th century tower and a fine brass memorial of 1590.

Yate Court, north of the town, was 'crenellated' (battlemented) by the De Wyllingtons in 1299 but tenanted for many years in the 1500s by the Berkeley family. Maurice Berkeley of Mangotsfield tried to burn his sister-in-law out of the castle and was fined for his troubles. A hundred years later, Cromwell's Parliamentarians destroyed the place but one gatehouse was moved to Berkeley Castle where it still stands. The lines of the moat in the fields give some idea of the size of the defences.

Another surviving gatehouse, with a richly-carved window, is that of **Kingswood Abbey**. It dates from the 16th century and is one of the last monastic buildings in England. The Cistercian abbey itself was begun 300 years earlier and its stone and timber were removed after the Reformation to build Newark Park near Wotton-under-Edge.

YATE COURT AND KINGSWOOD ABBEY GATEHOUSE (continued)



This part of Kingswood Abbey Gatehouse didn't end up at Newark Park!

Yate Court Private, (Jubilee), (exterior)

Kingswood Abbey Gatehouse [EH]

(village), (Cotswold 1m/2km), (exterior)

Turn right in Frampton Cotterell on to B4058 towards Yate. On B4059 entering Yate, bear left at roundabout and continue along Goose Green Way (There is parallel cycling and walking route) turning left on to B4060. Turn left onto Gravel Hill Road, next left to Yate Rocks, and left again. Turn right past Tan House Farm into Limekiln Road. Turn right along lane to Yate Court. Return to road, turn right, cross railway, right again to rejoin B4060. Turn left for Wickwar and Kingswood. Turn right at junction with B4062 in Kingswood towards Gatehouse. Rejoin B4060, turning right for Wotton-under-Edge.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE AND PARISH CHURCH



Wotton's streets still follow their pattern of Tudor times

In **Wotton-under-Edge**, you can walk the *faire long Strete and welle buyldyd* that John Leland noted after his visit, for little has changed in the town's layout. In Leland's time, this *praty Market Towne* was *welle occupied with the Clothiers* - it was one of many prosperous South Gloucestershire wool towns producing cloth for export through Bristol. Weavers were granted 'assarts', enclosed common land, for their cottages. You can find out more in the Heritage Centre in the Chipping.

Number 13 Market Street is one of several buildings to display their early origins with its timber framing and oriel windows. It is known as the Tudor, or Wellington's, House. In Old Town, the Old Ram Inn was certainly serving pints to Tudor patrons and maybe earlier ones - there was a house on the site in 1350.

Wotton-under-Edge's **Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin** predates the first Tudors by two hundred years and was built on land belonging to the ubiquitous Berkeley family. There is a brass monument to Thomas Lord Berkeley who died in 1417.

Wotton (Cotswold),

Parish Church (churchyard), (town),

(Cotswold), (town), (churchyard)

From B4060, turn right and follow B4058 into Wotton. Turn right at t-junction, go down hill and turn left at roundabout towards Parish Church. Park in town car parks to visit town. Leave Wotton at roundabout (turn left if coming from church) for Ozleworth.

NEWARK PARK AND HORTON COURT



Newark Park's 18th century frontage hides its Tudor origins

The great 'hunting lodge' at **Newark Park** was built as early as the mid-16th century and its masonry and timber-work are said to have depended upon materials taken from Kingswood Abbey. Indeed, the Poyntz family is also reputed to have removed stone crosses from surrounding churchyards! The building was enlarged into an up-to-date country house by James Wyatt in 1790.

A little to the south is another National Trust property, **Horton Court**, which is reputed to be one of England's oldest - and certainly finest - rectories. It was substantially re-built by William Knight, a leading lawyer closely involved with Henry VIII's divorce proceedings. He later became Bishop of Bath and Wells and disagreed fundamentally with William Tyndale, translator of the Bible into English.

You can visit the Norman hall and walk through the 16th century garden ambulatory which is decorated with statues of Roman emperors, inspired by Knight's visit to the Eternal City.

Newark Park [NT] (Wotton 2m/3km),

(Cotswold), (gardens)

Horton Court [NT] (Cotswold/Monarchs),

(partial)

Go through Synwell and turn right up very steep hill towards Ozleworth. After about a mile (2km), turn right towards Newark Park. Return to Wotton and take left turn signposted to Hillesley and then road from Hillesley towards Hawkesbury Upton. Turn right after tall monument down steep hill to Hawkesbury and then towards Horton. Horton Court is on your left beside church.

LITTLE SODBURY AND CHIPPING SODBURY PARISH CHURCH



The tower of St John the Baptist Parish Church is over 100 ft (30m) high.

Henry VIII granted the manor of Old Sodbury to Sir John Walshe of Olveston whose family also held the manor of Little Sodbury. Sir John chose to live, with his wife Ann Poyntz, at **Little Sodbury Manor** which the king and Anne Boleyn visited in 1535. Leland's description of it as a *gayr Place there in the Syde of Sodbyr high Hill and a Parke* remains accurate.

In the 1520s, William Tyndale was tutor to Sir John's grandchildren. He published the first English translation of the New Testament in 1525 but copies were burnt, he was branded a heretic and fled to Flanders. In 1535, a complete English version was published officially, using his text and a monument at North Nibley records his achievement.

Chippinge Sodbyr, a praty litle Market Towne and Thrvyge Fayre to Brightstow (Leland) retains much of its Tudor character. Several buildings date from the 16th century including Tudor House, parts of the Town Hall and of **St John the Baptist Church**. In St Katherine's chapel, named after the patron saint of weavers, is the tomb of Sir John Walshe, 'king's champion' at Henry VIII's coronation in 1509.

LITTLE SODBURY AND CHIPPING SODBURY PARISH CHURCH (continued)



'So passeth away the Glory of the World' (St John's Parish Church)

Little Sodbury Manor Private (view from road or footpath only), (Cotswold/Monarchs)

Parish Church (churchyard), (town), (Frome), (2m/3km), (town), (churchyard)

From Horton Court, turn left towards Horton, left at first junction and right at next two. Turn left at church towards Old Sodbury and pass Little Sodbury Manor (on hill above road). Follow gated road towards Chipping Sodbury; turning right past common and turn left at mini roundabout on to B4060. Parish Church is on your right after 300 yards just after a free car park.

DYRHAM AND COLD ASHTON PARISH CHURCHES



The Wynter family tomb in Dyrham Church

The **Parish Church of St Peter** at Dyrham is the village's oldest building, dating partly from the 13th century although the font is early 12th. Inside, you'll find a substantial tomb to George Wynter who died in 1581. He and his brother William had bought the Dyrham estate from Sir Walter Denys, a staunch supporter of Henry VIII and one who welcomed his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, to England. The sale included the nearby manor of Abson, adjoining the Wynter's manor of Wick. George Wynter's son sailed with Drake to the Magellan Straits.

Cold Ashton Parish Church is one of the few South Gloucestershire churches that date almost entirely from the Tudor period. It was rebuilt between 1508 and 1540 by the rector, Thomas Key, whose funds possibly came from Henry VIII's redistribution of monastic wealth! You can see the rector's own symbol, a letter T and a key, on some of the window mouldings. There are fragments of 16th century glass in one window and graveyard memorials to the Whittington family of Dick Whittington fame.

Dyrham Church **A** (as Dyrham Park NT), (Dyrham Park), (Cotswold), **P** **WC** (Dyrham Park), (with help)

Cold Ashton Church **A** (churchyard), (Cotswold, Limestone), **P** (churchyard)

From car park, go towards town centre, turn left. Bear left at roundabout on to A432. Turn right at traffic lights on to A46, cross M4 and after less than 1 mile (2km), turn right on to road to Hinton. Take second left down steep hill, left again, and left again in Dyrham towards Parish Church. Turn left and left again in Dyrham to return to A46 and turn right. Turn left at roundabout on to A420 and take first right turn signposted Cold Ashton and follow road into village. Parish Church is on left.

BITTON GRANGE AND PARISH CHURCH



Bitton Grange, a well-endowed rectory, offered space for a large family and servants!

Bitton Parish Church is particularly noted for its splendid Perpendicular-period tower built in 1371. Much of the church is Norman with Saxon origins and the village may have been a Roman settlement. The extensive graveyard offers lots of interesting reading and perhaps some detective work! The church's Tudor associations are largely those with the gentry of the area - the de Bittons, the Barrs and Newtons of Barr's Court and the Whittucks of Hanham.

Bitton Grange, which stands close to the church but separated by a high wall, was at one time the rectory, later superseded by what is now the Old Vicarage. It came into the hands of Thomas Seymour during the Reformation and the family held the manor of Bitton for 200 years. Thomas is best remembered for his sister, Jane, the third queen of Henry VIII and mother of his only male heir, Edward VI.

Bitton Grange Private (view from road), (Bristol-Bath/Monarchs Way), **P**

Parish Church **A** (churchyard), (Bristol-Bath/Monarchs Way), **P** (churchyard)

Continue through Cold Ashton, turn left on to A420 and straight ahead at roundabout. After less than 1 mile (2km), turn left on road towards Hamswell but turn right at first crossroads. Go straight over next crossroads and through Upton Cheyney towards Bitton. Go across A431 and follow road, bearing right towards Parish Church. Grange is on your right between Dower House and St Mary's Church.

SISTON COURT AND WELLHOUSE



This Tudor mansion is now divided into several private homes

The shields of arms above some of the windows of **Siston Court** are those associated with the Denys family which suggests that they built the Tudor elements of the present extensive manor house. The family, who owned properties in Alveston, Rudgeway and Dyrham, were well-established in the Pucklechurch area and there is still a Dennisworth Farm being worked to this day. The former Moundscourt Farm, not far from Siston, was reputedly visited by Catherine Parr (Henry VIII's last wife, who outlived him) but there is no evidence to support this. The present house was built on the foundations of its predecessors, incorporating the original cellar.

In a field, reached by a stile, beside the public footpath past the houses at Siston, you can see the **wellhouse** built over the original well which served Siston Court and its neighbours. As with all other private properties, please respect the privacy of the residents here.

Siston Court Private (view from footpath),

(at church), (footpath)

Wellhouse (at church)

Leave Bitton by turning left on to A431 and after about 1 mile (2km), turn right on to A4175. Cross the A420 towards Pucklechurch and you'll see Siston Parish Church after about 1.5 miles (2.5km). Siston Court is on your left reached by a private road and public footpath. Dennisworth Farm lies north of B4465 going towards Pucklechurch.



All water for the Court and other houses was drawn from this well

MANGOTSFIELD PARISH CHURCH AND RODWAY MANOR HOUSE



You can see the disputed coat-of-arms over the porch of Rodway Manor House

At the time Henry VIII dissolved England's monasteries, the **Parish Church of St James** in Mangotsfield was linked to the Priory of St James Barton in Bristol. Its monastic lands were purchased by a rich merchant tailor, Sir Henry Brayne. The Poyntz family owned neighbouring land and Sir Thomas Berkeley was living at Rodway Manor House where he died in 1533. His will ordained that he should have a simple burial at the parish church - but that after three months his remains should be moved to Bristol Cathedral where you can see his monument.

Rodway Manor House, originally Rodway Hill House, was first occupied by the Blount family of Bitton Court but it later passed to the Berkeleys. Sir Thomas repaired and embellished it, rebuilt the mill and diverted Bitton Brook to create Charnell's Pool - which Sir Nicholas Poyntz later destroyed during a family feud. The legend that the coat of arms over the porch were those of Anne Boleyn has been officially discredited as have the house's supposed associations with Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and two other wives, Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr!

Mangotsfield Parish Church (churchyard), (locally), (Bristol-Bath), (P)

Rodway Manor House Private (view from across road), (Bristol-Bath), (pavement)

From Siston, turn left on to B4465, left again through Shortwood and over ring road to Mangotsfield. Parish Church is on right at junction of main roads, park opposite church. Turn right, and then bear left at roundabout and then turn right down Manor Road, parking in cul-de-sac on right. Rodway Manor House overlooks Rodway Common.

BARR'S COURT MOAT AND HANHAM COURT



Priests may have used the River Avon to reach Hanham Abbots from Keynsham

Barr's Court was built, Leland noted, close to the *Forest of Kyngs Wodd*, an area for hunting deer and wild boar that also provided timber for shipbuilding. Ownership passed from the de Bitton family to the Newtons and took the name of Lady Jane Barr, childless granddaughter of the last male de Bitton. Here, Leland recorded, *dwelleythe one Ser John Newton in a fayre olde Mannar Place of Stone caullyed Barres-courte*. Although the house was demolished in 1770, some of the moat remains, partly water-filled.

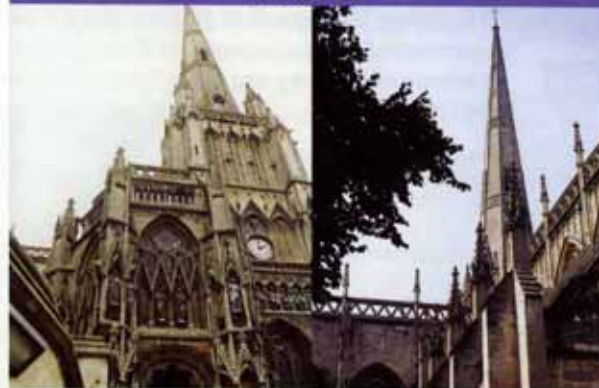
Hanham Court and the adjoining **St George's Chapel** are in the parish of Hanham Abbots, so-named because the original manor had been given to the Abbot of Keynsham in 1300. The present house was built in the 16th century, probably just after the Reformation. St George's would have been the private chapel for the house with services conducted by priests from Keynsham but it is now administered by Christchurch, Hanham.

Barr's Court (locally) (locally),

Hanham Court and Chapel Private (view from lane), (1m/1.5km), (Avon), (road / footpath)

Leave Mangotsfield on B4465 towards Staple Hill but turn left on to A4175 - Teewell Hill - towards Warmley, joining ring road at Siston, heading south. Turn left at second roundabout and then right through the housing estate and left into Stephen's Drive to Barr's Court. Return to T-junction, turn left, left again, and left at both first and second roundabouts to join A431. Turn sharp right at next roundabout in Willsbridge, passing farmhouse with statues on roof. Hanham Court is along narrow lane on left, take gated left fork to church.

BRISTOL



'The fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England' (Elizabeth I)

Bristol's prosperous merchants built one of England's finest medieval parish churches, **St Mary Redcliffe**, with its unusual double-aisled transepts. It greatly impressed Queen Elizabeth I. She had entered the city through **St John's Gate** which John Leland noted as having a church on either side.

Henry VIII conferred cathedral status on the abbey church of St Augustine, founded by the first Baron Berkeley in 1140. Although much of the Cathedral is Tudor, the **Berkeley Chapel** dates from 1330 - you can see the flue of the oven used for baking wafers for the Mass. Tombs of Richard and Sir Henry Newton (of Barr's Court) lie in their family chapel. The Berkeleys also instituted St Mark's Hospital, now the **Lord Mayor's Chapel**, where you can see the chantry founded by Sir Robert Poyntz.

Red Lodge in Park Row, built by Sir John Young in the late 1580s, still retains its fine Elizabethan domestic panelling in its Great Oak Room. There is also a reconstructed Tudor garden.

Cathedral (Avon), (1m/1.5km),

St Mary Redcliffe (and locally), (Bristol-Bath), (by south door)

Other sites ask Bristol TIC, 0117 926 0767
bristol@tourism.bristol.gov.uk

Retrace your route back to A431 and turn left. At roundabout, turn right into Marsham Way, then left on to ring road. Turn right at next junction and follow A4 into Bristol. Bear left into Redcliffe Way, A4044, pass St Mary Redcliffe on your left, continue to roundabout, circle, and return short distance to car park for visits to Bristol city centre.

Thornbury Castle

THE REMAINTS OF MANY PREVIOUSLY GRANDER CASTLES, THE CASTLE HAS THREE ROUND ROOMS, EACH BARRICADED IN STEEL WITH PANELLLED WALLS, HERALDIC, HULLIN AND OPEN FIRE.

THE CASTLE HAS 34 COURTIER BUILT BY BISHOPS, MANY WITH REMAINTS FOUR POSTER BEDS AND SPLENDID STONE CARVED FIREPLACES.

THORNBURY CASTLE STANDS ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE TOWN, ADJACENT TO THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTESSHIRE, 12 MILES NORTH OF BRISTOL.



Thornbury Castle, Castle Street, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, Bristol. Tel: 01454 857774. Fax: 01454 857774.

Thornbury & District MUSEUM

Sharing Our Community Heritage



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'Preserving our Railway Heritage'

Bitton Station, Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS10 6HD Tel: 0117 932 5531
www.avonvalleyrailway.co.uk

HERITAGE TRAIL



TUDOR PLACES

Key

- 1 Tudor Place (page number)
- Tudor Trail
- Tudor Trail short cut
- Long Distance Footpath
- Avon Cycleway/ Bristol & Bath Railway Path
- Motorway
- Railway
- Railway Station
- 1 Tourist Information Centre

South Gloucestershire Council

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"TUDOR PLACES"

Find out more about the areas rich Tudor Heritage