

# Information



## A WARMLEY FOREST PARK



The forest park has been created on the former site of Warmley Clay Works. This busy little factory produced clay pipes from the thick clay soils close to the factory.

A coal mine, linked to the Bristol and Somerset Coalfields operated opposite the clay works so you can imagine the noise and dust that was generated in the area. The park is now a haven for wildlife and has a rich programme of events and activities throughout the year for families.

## B SISTON COMMON

The common dates back to the time that most fields were enclosed in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Running alongside the road here remains of the Dramway can be seen in the form of limestone blocks. The common is designated as a site of importance for nature conservation, with many wildflowers and grasses offering food and shelter to insects, birds, bats and other mammals.



## C SISTON COURT



This imposing Tudor manor has had a long and sometimes chequered history. It has been in the hands of many owners, and many rumours including tales of ghosts, and a claim that Henry VIII visited one of his many mistresses here. Oliver Cromwell is believed to have stayed here during the battle of Lansdown. In Victorian times it was home to a wealthy squire and his family who had a host of servants and gardeners tending the estate. During the second world war, the court was used to house evacuees. The Court is now split into several individual homes.

## D OVERSCOURT WOOD

The Forest Enterprise (part of the Forestry Commission) purchased land at Overscourt Farm in 1998 and planted Overscourt Wood. The site was further extended following the purchase of land at Webbs Heath Farm in 2001. The result is 87 hectares (207 acres) of new woodland and open space with full public access and wonderful views of Kingswood, Bristol and the Cotswold Edge.



# What is access land

This walk is aimed at introducing you to open access land. These areas, which are shown on the map, mean that the public can walk freely on the land, without having to stick to paths. Areas of open access land were designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), and include mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land.

People across England now have approximately 865,000 hectares of land across which they can walk, ramble, run, explore, climb and watch wildlife as they are given the freedom to access land, without having to stay on paths. If you want to find out more about open access land, further information and maps are available on the Natural England website (just search for 'Natural England Open Access Land').



## The country code

Please follow the Country Code at all times

### ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- Be safe-plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep your dog under close control
- Consider other people

This leaflet was developed by the Ramblers Association with the support of an Environment Grant from South Gloucestershire Council

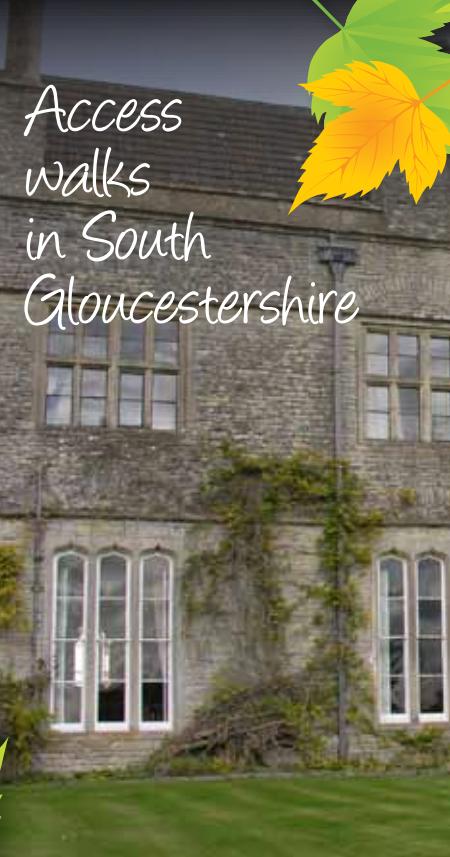
For more information on walking in South Gloucestershire and the wider area please go to [www.outdoorswest.org.uk](http://www.outdoorswest.org.uk)

[www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk) (access is free from your local library)

# Warmley to Siston Common



START POINT	Warmley Forest Park, London Road, Warmley. Car parking available on corner of Station Close/London Road.
DISTANCE	8 KM
DIFFICULTY	Easy
TIME	2-3 hours
REFRESHMENTS	The 'station' platform on the railway path near the start of the route is open at busy times (some weekends and holidays), there is also a pub just across the road from the start.





## Introduction

This walk takes in the Warmley Forest Park, then heads through Siston Common, across farmland to Siston Court. There is an option to explore the eastern part of Overscourt Wood, or take the more direct route back via Webbs Heath.

## The Route

- From the front of the "station" car park (1) turn left up the main road for a few metres past the Railway Path and take the footpath on the left which is part of the Dramway Path.

Follow the path until it forks and then take the left hand fork through the trees, under the stone bridge to Siston Common. Continue for a few metres on the lane in front of houses and then bear left to reach the road just before the speed limit signs.

Cross the road, taking the right hand path as it climbs the hill. The sound of the traffic on the Avon Ring Road gets ever closer. Pass to the left of the cottages to where a pedestrian bridge crosses the Ring Road (2) and then turn right on the metalled path. Cross Siston Hill so that you can walk along the wide verge on the right until you come to Cherry Orchard Farm on your left.

Cross the road and walk past the farm into fields through a kissing gate. At the next small metal gate turn right (3). Cross a farm track and continue with the hedge on your left. Leaving the hedgerow, cross between the pylons to a metal farm gate in the middle of the opposite hedge and then swing left for the corner where the field narrows.

At the meeting of paths ignore the bridge on your left and turn right to follow the hedge on your right, uphill. After it levels out go through a gate into woodland (4). Bear left and come out into open ground with stands of trees. Continue straight on and soon you will see Siston Court ahead on your left.

Just before you reach the road (5), turn right and follow the path down to a wooden footbridge. Cross this and on emerging into open ground, head to the right around the edge of the new planting and then to the left of a wooden pylon. Head towards the kissing gate (6) under the prominent roadside oak.

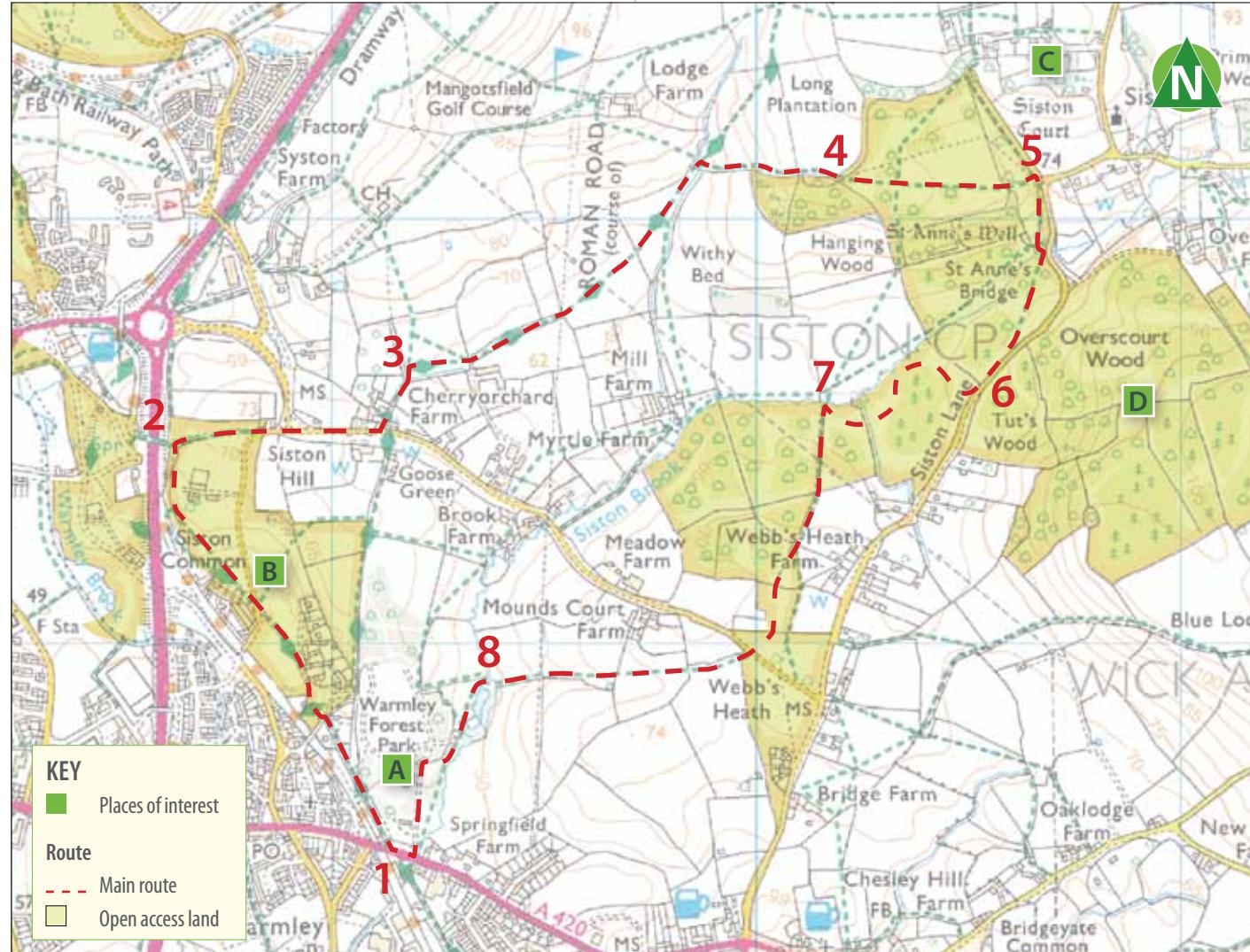
If you have time, you can cross the road to explore the eastern part of Overscourt Wood - ideal for a picnic with extensive views towards Wales.

To continue the walk, with your back to the gate (6) turn left following the edge of the new planting and through a large gap ahead before turning right away from the road.

Follow the plantation edge round to the left and follow the path towards the high hedge where it crosses a wooden footbridge.

Follow the path to the right, to a hidden corner of the field and cross the short boardwalk (7). Turn left and continue south until you reach the road.

Look for the metal gate on the other side and follow the path between the hedge and a fence. Continue in the same direction through four kissing gates until, after crossing a bridge, you can turn left by a pond (8). Continue past the pond, a skate park and the scout hut until you reach the main road. Turn right for a few metres to return to your starting point.



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