



Cliffs and horseshoe walk

Near Westbury Court Garden,
Westbury-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire, GL14 1PD

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Easy

DISTANCE
1 mile (1.6km)

TIME
30 minutes to 40 minutes

OS MAP
Explorer 14

Contact

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Facilities

National Trust

<http://nationaltrust.org.uk/walks>

In partnership with



A pleasant circular stroll through farmland, to the horseshoe of the River Severn. Take in views of the Cotswolds, Forest of Dean and the Garden Cliffs. On the way back to Westbury Court Garden, you can visit Westbury Church and bell tower.
Type of walk: 'Waterside Walks', 'Beautiful Views'
Grade of walk: Trainer (all rounder)



Terrain

Flat fields, stiles and gates. Dogs welcome on leads but please be aware of livestock.

Things to see



The Severn Bore

You could possibly spot the famous Severn Bore when on this walk. Its a wave created by the tide rising up the ever more narrow and shallow estuary and river. You might think these are rare occurrences but they happen hundreds of times a year. However, only a few are significantly large when bores of several metres can be generated at the highest spring tides. The largest bore recorded was in 1966, which was 9ft (2.8m) high.

The water gardens

Westbury Court Gardens were built between 1696 and 1706, and are unique in that no comparable small-scale water gardens survive. They were built by Maynard Colchester, a sometime lawyer and MP, and also founding member for the Society for the Promoting of Christian Knowledge. The gardens were evocatively captured in an engraving by Johannes Kip in 1712, which - although not entirely accurate - provided a useful reference point during the gardens restoration in the 1960s and 1970s.

Pleasure and production

Westbury Court Gardens were not just for pleasure, they were also for production. Looking through the original account books, a wide variety of foods can be seen, including grapes, cabbages and potatoes. In one year, no less than 2,000 asparagus plants were purchased. There were also various soft fruit trees and shrubs. The gardens also produced meat and fish, with a warren for rearing rabbits, islands for ducks, a dovecote and canals containing edible fish.



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Start/end

Start: Westbury Court Garden
car park, grid ref: SO717138
End: Westbury Court Garden
car park, grid ref: SO717138

How to get there

By bus: Stagecoach in
South Wales 73 Gloucester
railway station to Chepstow;
Stagecoach in Wye and Dean
30/31 - Gloucester railway
station to Coleford. 3 minutes
from the bus stop outside the
Red Lion pub

By train: Gloucester train
station 11 miles (17.7km) to
start point

By car: 9 miles (14.5km) south-
west of Gloucester on A48.
Park on the public lay-by
outside Westbury Court Garden
or in the National Trust car park
if combining the walk with a visit
to the garden

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1. From the car park go through the kissing gate and turn left.

2. Go over the stile and straight ahead to a second stile. Cross the concrete bridge.

3. Follow the fence line straight ahead. When you get to the water treatment plant, bear left and follow the chain link fence to the wooden bridge.

4. Cross the second wooden bridge in the tall hedge to the metal gate. Lift the square metal stopper to open the bolt and go right onto the lane.

5. Follow this lane to the sea wall. Looking left you can see the striped formation of the Garden Cliffs and in the distance the Cotwolds. The cliffs are made of Triassic red and green marls over 200 million years old. DO NOT attempt to walk under the cliffs unless you have checked the tide times. This is also a good viewing point to see the Severn Bore.

6. Head to the old Severn Mill. Although signed 'private', it's a public footpath. Cross the concrete bridge by the side of Severn Mill and through the green gate. Walk straight ahead following the Westbury Brook.

7. Over the stile and straight through the field towards the church tower. Through the kissing gate and left on to the lane.

8. Through the small gate, head into the church yard. Westbury Church tower was built in the 12th century as a watchtower to warn off invading Welshmen. Go around the right hand side of the church and back to the start of your walk.

9. We hope that you really enjoyed this one-mile walk. The National Trust looks after some of the most spectacular areas of countryside for the enjoyment of all. We need your support to help us continue our work to cherish the countryside and provide access to our beautiful and refreshing landscapes. To find out more about how you too can help our work as a volunteer, member or donor please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk