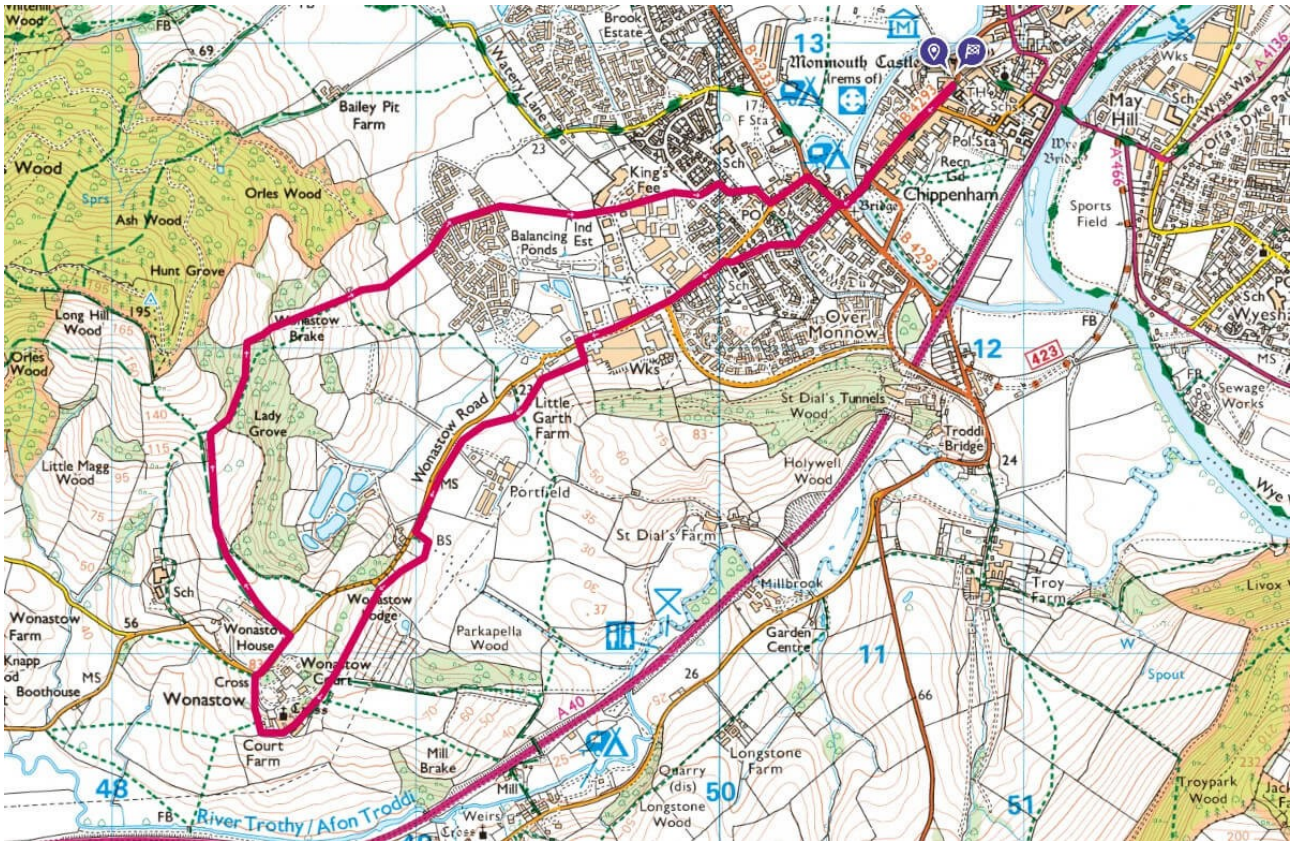


Walk No 01 - Monmouth to Wonastow and Lady Grove Wood

4.7 miles long and a total climb of 450 ft. Several stiles. Allow 2.5 hours.



After leaving town the walk takes you through fields to Wonastow and then a gradual climb to Lady Grove Woods before returning to town. Views of all three of the Abergavenny mountains on a clear day.

From Agincourt Square, walk down Monnow Street and cross over the old Monnow bridge. Cross over the main road into Goldwire Lane at the side of the Green Dragon. At the end of Goldwire Lane cross the mediaeval bridge over Clawdd-Du (Black Dyke* and continue straight ahead to reach Elstob Way. Cross Elstob Way and follow the footpath past the adult learning centre and houses to reach Wonastow Road. Bear left, keeping a hedge and the main road on your right and houses on your left. Stay on Wonastow Road until you reach a stile on the left, immediately after the Tri-Wall factory.

Crossing the stile you soon see a stile on the right. Over this stile and two more. After the second stile you may wish to follow the hedge boundary to your right if the field has crops in it. Passing to the left of Little Garth Farm, you come to another stile at the junction of two hedges. Cross here and bear right towards the hedge along the roadside. Follow this hedge and cross a driveway and more stiles passing Wonastow Lodge before reaching Wonastow Court. Go between the farm buildings and bear right to join a driveway. On your right is Wonastow Church.

As you walk along the driveway towards the war memorial, you'll have splendid views of the Bloreng, Sugar Loaf and the Skirrid, the mountains surrounding Abergavenny.

Turn right at the main road and in 150 yards, turn left up a farm track. Bear right at the modern farm building and follow the track uphill for about 1/3rd of a mile to a gate. Through the gate and turning right takes you to Lady grove Wood. Follow the track through the wood until you reach a stile leading into a field. Bear right along the edge of this field to find two stiles on your right. Monmouth church spire now comes into view. Head for the spire through fields and over stiles until you come to the houses of Kingswood estate.

Crossing a stile into Acer Way, go straight ahead on tarmac pedestrian paths until you reach a field. Cross the field to a gate and carry on until you arrive at an industrial estate. Cross the road and follow the path which passes between high metal fences. Follow this to an open area, passing to the left of a children's playground to a gap onto a tarmac path. Turn right and follow the path, which becomes William Field Lane passing houses and a school before reaching Wonastow Road. Turn left to reach a roundabout and turn right. After 150 yards, at the next roundabout turn left to the old bridge and follow Monnow St back to Agincourt Square.

** The monument comprises the remains of a stretch of the medieval town defences. It consists of a long, curved, steep-sided ditch, 3m to 4m wide at the base and 2m deep, orientated roughly NW/SE to the W of the river Monnow. The ditch, which records show was also called the Black Dyke, was built to provide protection for the suburb of Overmonnow, which was an important iron and wool working centre during the medieval period. Originally there would have been a large bank on the inner (E) side of the ditch, possibly surmounted by a wooden palisade, but the ditch has been flattened. A stone bridge crosses the N end of the ditch, this is medieval in date and would have carried a road across the ditch towards the Monnow Bridge (MM008).*

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation and of the growth of towns. The monument forms an important element within the wider medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information in regard to chronology, building techniques and functional detail.

The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

Source: Cadw