

The Arlingham / Newnham ferry was used by people and animals as a link, via Newnham Railway station, to Gloucester. Note the concrete lines by the cliff as the remains of the unsuccessful attempt in 1948 to build a pontoon bridge.

The High Street has some interesting older houses. Here there was a draper, grocer, shoemaker and blacksmith at the start of the last century. The Village Hall was originally a school. The other Village School (closed 1984) is now a private residence.

Wick Court is a moated farmhouse with a history going back to the 13th century. Thanks to the dedication of the Dowdeswell Family, the previous owners of Wick Court, the future of the Gloucester breed of cattle has been assured. Authentic Double Gloucester cheese is made with the milk of dairy cows of the Gloucester breed. Wick Court is now used by the charity Farms for City Children. Groups of city school children stay there and learn about farming and country life.

Key

-  Hare Walk
-  Gloucester Cattle Walk
-  Skylark Walk
-  Salmon Walk
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Parking

The church was completed in 1372. The north side has two C14th stained glass windows. The porch window commemorates the millennium. The tower has an unusual clock dial. Opposite the church is where the former Arlingham Court once stood. The old Village Pound for stray livestock is nearby.

The views from the Skylark Walk give some idea of the vast expanse of the Severn at the end of the Horseshoe Bend, especially at high tide.

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WORKING COUNTRYSIDE

Please respect the working life of the countryside. Do not park in field gateways. Leave gates as you find them and keep away from farm machinery. Please always follow the Countryside Code.

Protect

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees. Take your litter home.

Safety

The river is a great attraction but due to its tidal nature it can be a dangerous place to be. Please keep away from the riverbank edges. Ensure you know the state of the tide. Please always keep children under supervision.

Dogs

Whilst enjoying the countryside to exercise your dog it is your responsibility to keep it under control. Do not allow your dog to scare animals and always keep it on a short lead when near farm animals.

Footpaths

The routes are for walkers. Cyclists are not allowed to use the network.

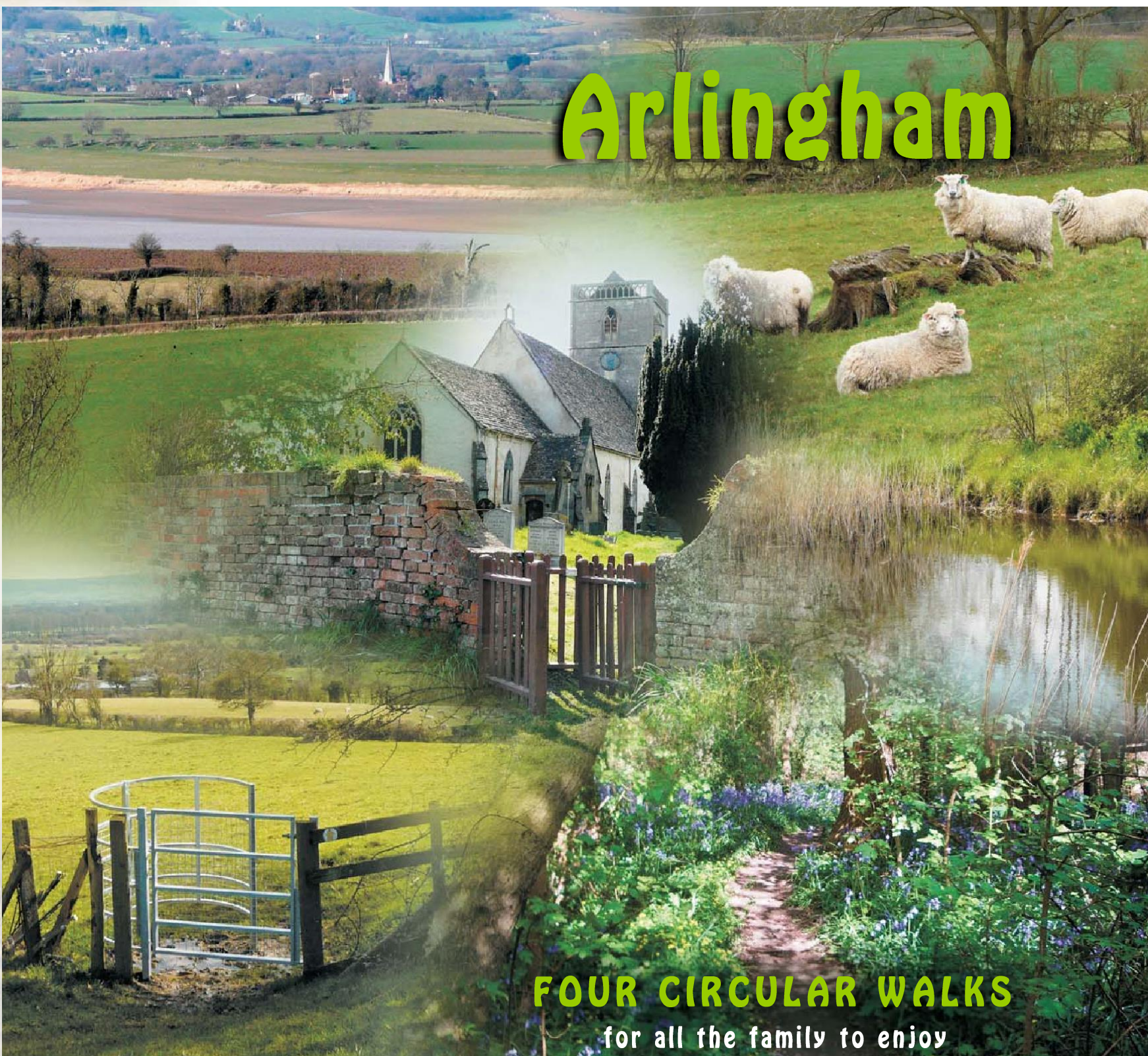
Walk leaflets

Walk leaflets are available at the Red Lion and The Old Passage Inn.

THANKS

The Horseshoe Project would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of volunteers and our sponsors. Arlingham Parish Council wishes to thank everybody involved and hope walkers enjoy our Parish to the full.

ARLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL



FOUR CIRCULAR WALKS
for all the family to enjoy

Welcome to Arlingham

We hope you will enjoy walking the Arlingham peninsula. There are four circular walks which are colour coded, named and are approximately 4.5 to 5 miles long, so allow about 2.5 hours for each one. The directions for all walks begin and end at the main map board, which is adjacent to the side wall of The Red Lion Inn in High Street. All walks have kissing gates and bridges. It may be helpful to refer to the Ordnance Survey, Outdoor Leisure 14. What you see will vary from season to season. Some of the walks may be a little muddy at times.

Note KG = kissing gate • SG = swing gate • FG = field gate

Hare Walk

There are a large number of hares in the parish although you will need to be very fortunate to see one of these wonderful animals.

Begin the walk at the main map board. Head for the crossroads and turn left. After a few yards turn left through the KG by the post box. Pass the footpath gate on your right, then at the crossing of the footpaths turn right towards Friday Street and the former Arlingham Free Church. Turn left. After passing Barleycorn Cottage and Blacknest Cottage take the footpath to your right. After the SG in the middle of the field take a diagonal route left to the KG in the hedge. Pass through a further two KGs to reach Silver Street.

Turn right and when the lane veers sharply to the right, by the pond, bear left and pass through the KG. Keeping the hedgerow on your left-hand side you will pass through two more KGs. Continue ahead with the hedge on the left-hand side until you reach a small bridge. Cross the bridge and, still keeping the hedge on your left, walk to a KG. Pass through and turn left and walk a short way along the track bearing left up to a KG on the flood bank of the River Severn. You are now on the Severn Way.

Before moving on, take a moment to enjoy the views around you. Upstream (to your right) you can see Robinswood Hill with the Cotswolds beyond. The pylons span the river to Rodley.

Go through the KG to continue along the Severn Way with the river on your right. After passing through the next KG you will see the Old Withy Bed on the left.

This is where willows were grown in the water for fence posts and hurdles. Just after this you will see Ridge and Furrow in the field. This is the remains of probably the best example of the Mediaeval '3 field system' in the Parish.

Continue on the Severn Way passing through two more KGs.

To your left is a track to the Warth Sheds. Following this track would be a short route back to the village. Arlingham Warth is land built up from the riverbed as the river continued to meander over the centuries. Across the river is Garden Cliff and Westbury Church Spire. Along this stretch of the walk you have a good view of May Hill. It is said that you can see this hill from almost anywhere in Gloucestershire.

Continue along the Severn Way passing through a wooden SG.

In the next section notice the two man-made ponds by the side of the river. They were created when earth was dug to strengthen the sea wall in 1984 and the farmer has since planted them up and created a refuge for sea birds. On the other side of the river are the railway and the busy A48 road to South Wales.

After the ponds go through two more KGs. Immediately before the third KG, turn left off the flood bank and go through another KG. Cross the field keeping the hedge on your right-hand side. Pass through a SG and small copse to the next field. Follow the hedge line on your right until the sharp corner, at this point cross the field to the corner of the hedge immediately in front of you.

Looking ahead you can see Arlingham Village.

Follow this hedge line on your left-hand side until the next SG. Pass through.

The footpath now follows the line of the drainage ditch on your right-hand side. Continue on this line until you come to a footbridge on your right, cross into the field - the footpath is diagonally across the field. Cross another bridge into the next field and cross it diagonally to the right to pass through a KG into Netting Lane. Turn right along the lane and then take the next footpath to your left. Go through the KG. The path takes you between two houses and leads directly into High Street. Turning right will lead you back to the start.

Salmon Walk

The Parish is bounded by the River Severn on three sides. The river is noted for its salmon population and for elvers (young eels). In the past there was a presentation of a lamprey pie by the City of Gloucester to the reigning sovereign. The pie was made with lamprey caught in the river.

From the main map board, carefully cross the road into Church Road and walk towards St Mary's Church.

After passing the church turn left at the Village Pound. Pause to look inside the Pound and at the Interpretation Board. Afterwards walk down Pound Lane, a restricted byway.

Some way down the lane you will see a deep ditch on your left. Note how allowance has been made for excess rain.

Follow Pound Lane to its end and pass through a KG. Cross the field keeping the hedge on your right-hand side, go through the next KG and follow the line of the hedge to a KG in the corner of the field on the top of the flood bank.

This small rise is Glass Cliff. You are now on the Severn Way.

Turn right to go through this KG and continue along the Severn Way. As you near the two pylons, pause for a moment.

Looking towards Arlingham you will see why the flood bank is so important. Note the expanse of the Severn Estuary. Views of Frampton Church, Awre, the Cotswolds and even, on a clear day, the Severn bridges are possible.

Almost immediately after the pylons you will cross a large drainage ditch. This is Hope Pill Rhyme.

When the pylons were built early in the 20th century, they were the second highest pylons in England. Hope Pill Rhyme is the main land drainage outfall for the village.

As you walk along the Severn Way you will see the remains of WW2 Pill Boxes. The best examples nearer to The Old Passage Inn. On the opposite side of the river on the bend is the small dock at Bullo Pill. Ahead is the Forest of Dean.

Continue along the Severn Way passing through several KGs until you reach The Old Passage Inn at Arlingham Passage, with Newnham Church on the cliff opposite.

Rest a while on the Millennium seat which was erected by the Parish Council and enjoy the scenery. It replaced a seat from an ocean liner placed here in the early 20th Century for passengers waiting for the ferry to Newnham.

On leaving the Passage pass through the KG and continue along the Severn Way. Go through the next KG and immediately turn right off the flood bank and go through another KG. Cross the field keeping the hedge on your right-hand side. Pass through a SG and small copse to the next field. Follow the hedge line on your right until the sharp corner, at this point cross the field to the corner of the hedge immediately in front of you.

Looking ahead you can see Arlingham Village.

Follow this hedge line on your left-hand side until the next SG. Pass through.

The footpath now follows the line of the drainage ditch on your right-hand side. Continue on this line until you come to a footbridge on your right, cross into the field - the footpath is diagonally across the field. Cross another bridge into the next field and cross it diagonally to the right to pass through a KG into Netting Lane. Turn right along the lane and then take the next footpath to your left. Go through the KG. The path takes you between two houses and leads directly into High Street. Turning right leads you back to the start.

Gloucester Cattle Walk

Hopefully, on this walk you may see some of these cattle, with a distinctive white strip along their back, grazing in the fields around Wick Court.

From the main map board begin by walking down High Street until you see Slowwe Cottages in front of you at the first T junction. These are two of the oldest houses in the village. Take the road to your right. Keeping straight on at the next T junction, you will soon pass 17th century Slowwe House on the left. In a short while you will reach a small pond on the corner of the road, walk through the wooden SG and continue along Silver Street.

The renovation of this was a project completed by the Parish to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The path you now follow is part of the route of the Roman Saltway.

At the gate at the end of Silver Street continue ahead along the lane past Lower Milton End Farm and its duck pond. After the sharp right-hand corner at Upper Milton End Farm go through KG on your left and head for the next KG in the far-left hand corner of the field. After going through this KG keep close to the hedgerow on your left-hand side until you reach the signed marker post. Go ahead to the KG immediately to the right of the farm buildings. Three more KGs will bring you to Overton Lane.

Cross the lane carefully and go through the FG and follow the footpath to the top of Barrow Hill.

On the way up look right for a glimpse of both Severn Bridges. Pause at the top of Barrow Hill to admire the view across the river to the Forest of Dean, May Hill, the Malvern Hills and a glimpse of Gloucester Cathedral. This is the highest point on the Arlingham peninsula (62m). When you move on, notice the river view on your right with a good view of Fretherne Church.

Continue down the hill to the KG on the edge of the wood. Keeping the wood on your left-hand side continue down to the bottom of the hill. On reaching the hedge at the bottom turn left through the KG and follow the path through the wood. At the end of the wood continue straight ahead through a wooden KG to a FG immediately in front of the farm buildings and go through into the driveway to Wick Court.

Cross the driveway and go through another FG. Walk through the orchard keeping the hedgerow on your left-hand side. Go through the FG and turn right into Overton Lane. Please be careful when walking down the small incline.

At the bottom of the incline the road takes a sharp turn to the right. You turn left at this point at the map board following Public Footpath and Severn Way signs through the KG and onto the Severn Way. The next part can be a little muddy in wet weather or after a particularly high tide. Continue along the Severn Way following the cattle symbols.

After passing the pylon on your left-hand side go through a KG and just before the next KG leave the Severn Way and follow the track until you come to a KG on your right. Go through, and keeping the hedge on your right-hand side, follow the field around until you come to a small bridge over a stream. Cross over and continue straight ahead.

Pass through the next KG and continue with the hedge on your right-hand side until you reach Silver Street and the pond.

Turn right and follow the lane to the right for a short distance. Follow the footpath sign through the KG on your left-hand side immediately before the house. Continue ahead through two more KGs. Turn half right and head for a SG in the middle of the field. Pass through and continue ahead to the KG in the hedgerow and into Friday Street.

Turn left and follow Friday Street to the road at the end. Turn right and return to your starting point at the Red Lion.

Skylark Walk

The parish has a healthy skylark population and in addition you may see many other species of bird for example, buzzards, kestrels, lapwing, heron and many of the hedgerow songbirds.

Begin the walk at the main map board. Head for the crossroads and turn left. After a few yards turn left through the KG by the post box. Pass the footpath gate on your right, then at the crossing of the footpaths turn right towards Friday Street and the former Arlingham Free Church. Turn left. After passing Barleycorn Cottage and Blacknest Cottage take the footpath to your right and through the KG.

Walk in a straight line through a SG and a KG. Keeping the low hedge on your left-hand side, go straight ahead through the gateway. Cross the field to the KG in the hedge ahead.

Cross the next small field and continue into the lane. After crossing the lane with care, continue ahead through three fields to the next lane.

Cross this and go through the KG heading for a KG in the far-left hand corner of the field. After going through the KG keep close to the hedgerow on your left-hand side until you reach the signed marker post. Go ahead to the KG immediately to the right of the farm buildings. Three more KGs will bring you to Overton Lane.

Cross the lane and go through the FG and follow the footpath to the top of Barrow Hill.

On the way up look right for a glimpse of both Severn bridges. Pause at the top of Barrow Hill to admire the view across the river to the Forest of Dean, May Hill, the Malvern Hills and a glimpse of Gloucester Cathedral. This is the highest point on the Arlingham peninsula (62m).

When you move on, notice the river view on your right with a good view of Fretherne Church.

Continue down the hill to the KG on the edge of the wood.

Keeping the wood on your left-hand side continue down to the bottom of the hill to the hedge. Turn right keeping the hedge on your left-hand side to the KG in the corner of the field. Cross the next field diagonally right to a KG, pass through and continue through another KG, which is straight ahead. Keep the fence on your left-hand side until you come to a KG on the left.

Pass through and immediately turn right. Keeping the fence and hedge on your right-hand side, walk down the hill to the road.

Turn left at the road and walk along the road for about 400 metres until you see a footpath sign on your right-hand side. (Please be careful walking along this stretch of road). Follow the footpath sign into the field. Continue straight ahead on the footpath until you reach the flood bank. You are now on the Severn Way. Turn immediately right.

Admire the views to your left down the Severn Estuary before taking the Severn Way through Long Wood and Smith's Wood.

After you emerge from Smith's Wood, continue along the Severn Way. Pass through three KGs. Immediately in front of the fourth KG, turn right off the Severn Way keeping the hedgerow on your left-hand side until the KG on your left. Pass through keeping the hedge on your left-hand side again to the next KG leading to Pound Lane, a restricted byway.

This part of the walk will give you some idea of the type of land and agriculture of the area. It is also important to realise the value of the defensive flood bank you recently left.

Continue along Pound Lane until you reach the Village Pound. Take a moment to read the Interpretation Board, go inside the Pound and maybe rest there a while. After the Pound turn right into Church Road and follow the road past the church to return to the start of your walk.

The road will at one time have been a hive of activity with a number of trades including a shop, a bakery, a butcher's and dairy, a builder's yard and the village workhouse.

