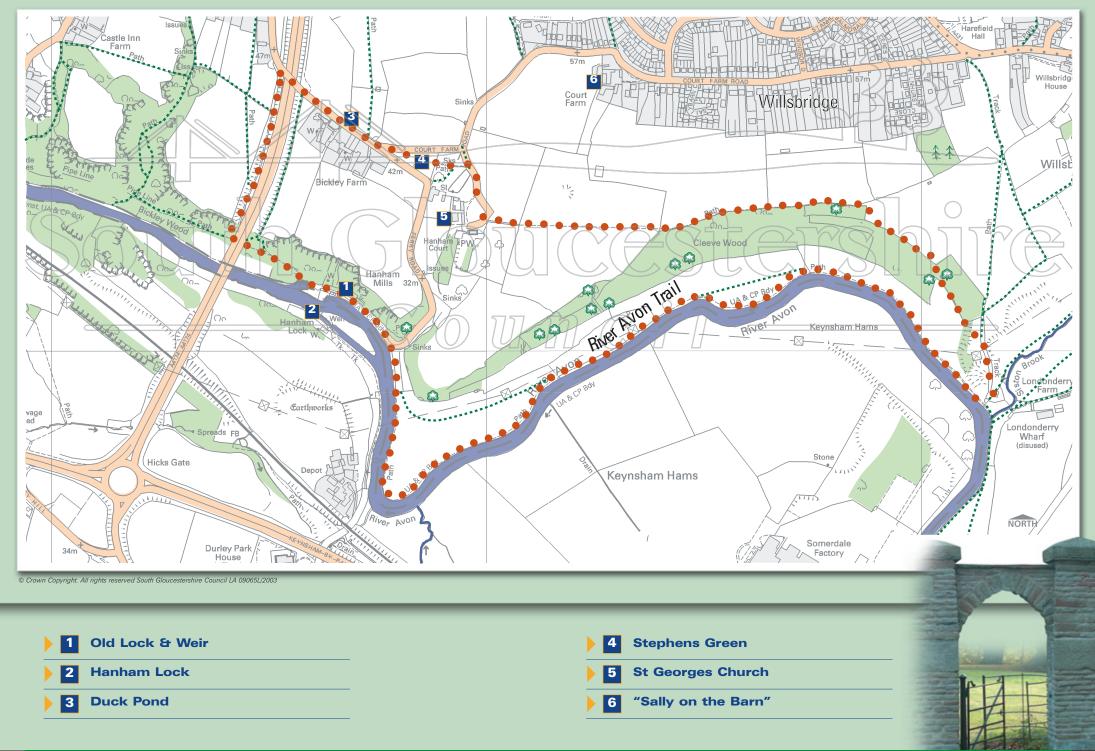


Hanham Abbots



The Hanham Abbots Parish Access Trail follows the River Avon and passes through some beautiful countryside taking in many interesting historic features, views and the odd Inn, along its length.

As with all of the routes in this guide there have been improvements to make the paths more accessible, however there is an ancient stone stile, which makes this route unsuitable for any users that may find this an obstacle.





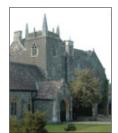
Directions

The walk commences at The Chequers Inn next to the River Avon at the end of Ferry Road.

The car park, looking east towards Bath, you are standing on was once the common field of the village. The field contained 11 plots and was a classic English watermeadow, fertilised by deposits brought in each Winter's flood from the adjoining River Avon and therefore producing excellent crops. As a result it was known as "Edensfield".

Head along the River, towards Bristol, past the **Old Lock & Weir (1)**, Nearby is **Hanham Lock (2)**.

Pass under the Ring Road Bridge constructed in 1992 then take the path which rises up to the west side of the



Ring Road. Here follow the new footpath/cycletrack until you reach Abbots Road.

Join Abbots Road, now heading east over the Ring Road. On your right you will pass the **Duck Pond (3).** You have now entered the Hanham Abbots Conservation Area.

A few doors further on is a Grade II listed cottage in original Georgian livery. The two stone pillars hereabouts once marked the entrance to Hanham Court. To your left can just be made out what remains of the original Village Pound.

On the far side of the **Stephens Green (4)** go through the kissing gate and join the path to Hanham Court and **St Georges Church (5).**

Passing the Church on the right, take the path which leads into a series of fields, the first known locally as "The Park" and then into "Westfield". Looking to the left you will see **"Sally on the Barn" (6).** Along this section of the route is an ancient stone stile, this may be a slight obstacle for some trail users and thus should be avoided if there is any doubt.

The wood on the right is ancient, being depicted in Creswicke's map of 1670. Descending from the ridge you arrive at "Jackie White's Cottage" and then back to the River at Londonderry Wharf, once the end of the line for the Avon & Gloucester Railway. The Siston Brook joins the River Avon at this point, marking the boundary between the Parishes of Hanham Abbots and Bitton. Follow the River to the east to the Lockkeeper Inn and hence to Bitton or Keynsham.



But to return to the start, follow the River westwards, with the Chocolate Factory, once Frys and now Cadburys on the far bank. This peaceful section of the River takes you through low lying fields back to "Edensfield" and the car park of the Chequers Inn.



1

4

5

Points of Interest

The Old Lock and Weir. Originally the Chequers Tavern on the right, built into the side of the cliff face and showing signs of the extent of the flooding in some Winter months. The potholed track here is part of the towpath belonging to Bristol City Council, created as part of the Kennet & Avon Canal in the early 18th Century.

Hanham Lock. The first lock on the River east of Bristol. The canal superintendent's house was built here, now a Grade Il listed building, it is called "Picnic House". In front of this house once stood Hanham Mills, an archway over the towpath being all that remained of the Mills until 1897, when the Hanham Abbotts Parish Church had the archway demolished due to its poor state of repair. Look across the River, particularly in the Winter months, for glimpses of trains running on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway from Bristol to London.

Duck Pond. Common Land now under the care of the Parish Council. Here horses were once watered and carts washed as the house next door used to be a brewery.

Stephens Green. The triangular shaped Stephens Green is owned by the Parish Council and is registered Common Land. The lime trees here were planted by the Parish Council in 1900

Hanham Court and St Georges Church. The monks of Keynsham owned this estate from the early 14th Century until the Reformation. The lovely chapel, St Georges Church, still has a bell from that period, together with a Norman font and a very early Piscina said to be from Keynsham Abbey. The Court is currently being restored. The Tithe Barn probably dates to the 15th Century and the Entrance Hall to the 16th.

"Sally on the Barn". A figure on top of the 18th Century Court Farm Barn, currently being converted into four residential properties. Blue Lias limestone was quarried from this area and used in the building of the Barn and farmhouse.