



## THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

### Sapperton Church and Canal Loop

- Start point: The green next to Oakridge Parochial School (Grid reference SO912034)
- Distance: approx. 5.8 miles
- Route: circular
- OS Explorer map: 179: Gloucester, Cheltenham & Stroud



This walk starts in the small green in the picturesque village of Oakridge, just 6 miles east of Stroud. You will explore the narrow and secluded Stroud valley, following the meandering River Frome and parts of the Kennet and Avon canal.

Through open fields you will reach the charming Cotswolds village of Sapperton, with some stunning Arts and Crafts buildings and a couple of great pubs. From there, smaller paths will lead you through woodland and pasture fields back to Oakridge, following the northern slopes of the valley.

#### Instructions

1. Start by the small village green with Oakridge Parochial School to your right. Follow the lane, keeping the green to your left, until you reach the small intersection of lanes at grid ref SO 91234 03422
2. Join the Wysis Way by following the walled path between two cottages where you will see a stile with a yellow way marker. Follow the Wysis Way along the left edge of the field to another stile into a second field.
3. Keep to the left edge of the second field to another stile into a third field. Continue on the left edge of the third field to a final stile leading into woodland.
4. Follow the Wysis Way downhill through the woodland. You will cross a stile. Be careful to avoid the path coming in from the right. Continue until you reach a tarmac lane and turn left.
5. After 0.25 mile you will reach a junction. Turn right, towards Frampton Mansell. Cross over a tiny bridge. Immediately after, before the large road bridge, take the pathway immediately to your left and re-join the Wysis Way.
6. You will continue along the Wysis Way with the reservoir to your left and the canal to your right. The Wysis Way will lead you to cross a small bridge opposite a cottage, onto a lane.
7. Continue along the lane with the canal on your left. When the lane starts to bend towards the right, veer left onto the Wysis Way footpath.
8. Continue along the Wysis Way with the canal to your left. After some time, the path will lead you to cross the canal once more.
9. You will emerge by the Daneway Inn onto a lane. Walk away from the Daneway Inn and cross to the other side of the bridge. Turn left immediately to re-join the Wysis Way signposted Sapperton.

10. Continue along the pathway for over half a mile and you will emerge onto Church Lane in Sapperton. Turn left onto Church Lane and walk towards St Kennelm's Church.
11. Once you have taken the opportunity to visit the stunning St Kennelm's Church (find more information here: <https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-kenelms-church-sapperton.html>) walk across the churchyard towards the red phonebox and turn left (road is marked as a dead end but it is fine for walkers).
12. Follow the road downhill and after 100 yards take the left turning onto a track. Follow the track around a bend to the right. The track leads to a house – just before you get to the house take the pathway signposted 'Public Footpath' to the right. Follow the path and you will cross a stream as well as traces of the old canal.
13. After crossing the stream the path splits into two. Take the left hand path which bends steadily to the left until you reach a junction of pathways. At the junction take the path to your left (you will feel like you are going back on yourself – don't worry!)
14. Continue along this path (don't take any other turnings) until you reach the road, then turn left onto Dane Lane - cross immediately and take the stile/gate to the pathway on the right hand side of the road.
15. Follow the track winding around the side of the hill. After 50 yards take the stile to your left (ignore the stile to your right). Once you have crossed the stile follow the track across the field until a final stile leads onto the road.
16. Turn right onto the road. Continue for 100 yards and you will see a stony, treelined path veering to the left. Take this stony path until you reach a gap in the hedge on the left, opposite the garden of a house. Go through this gap and follow the path. You will be walking between two hedges. When you reach a wooden fence at the foot of a hill, cross the stile to your left.
17. Cross the field until you reach a gate and a footbridge. Cross the footbridge and continue straight on until you reach another stile at the entrance to the woods. Follow the path through the woodland until you emerge onto a field. The path is not clear here so cross the field, veering slightly to the right, aiming for the buildings in the next field. You will need to pass through a gate in the hedge that is visible ahead.
18. Once you have passed through the gap cross the field, heading towards the gate immediately left of the metal barn. Follow the path until you reach the lane. Don't go right or left – continue onto the lane straight ahead into the village of Far Oakridge.
19. Follow the lane through the villages. After a large house on your right, you will come to an intersection with 3 possible options. Take the lane signposted Stroud and Oakridge Lynch (not the lane immediately to your left, the lane that veers slightly to the left).
20. Follow this lane through countryside with the occasional house. Don't take any turnings. Eventually you will reach Oakridge. Continue in the same direction down the Broadway (there is a sign saying 'Not suitable for heavy good vehicles'). Follow The Broadway through the centre of Oakridge. Once you have walked through most of the village you will return to the small green next to the school.

## Route map

