

Poulton & the Ampneys Circular Walk

Distance—5.5 miles approx. Time—around 2.5hr. The walk takes in the villages of Poulton, Ampney St. Mary, Ampney Crucis and Ampney St. Pete, with connecting off-road walking between. Not suitable for disabled or pushchairs, Walking boots advisable.

Poulton is 3 miles from Fairford on the Cirencester road, and parking can be found on the Left hand road past the village shop. A bus (check current time-table) leaves Fairford in the morning and returns mid-afternoon, allowing time for the walk, lunch and exploring places of interest.

1. Leaving Poulton on the road towards Cirencester, cross to the footpath on R side of road until a vehicle entrance to a Water Pumping Station which leads to a public footpath.
2. Entering the field, keep R along the boundary path until a stone slab stile in the hedge leading into Ashbrook lane. Keep straight ahead along the lane to reach a minor road and follow the fingerpost to Ampney St. Mary.
3. Walk through the village until a PROW sign on the L. Take this narrow path between walls and keep straight ahead until, after passing through a gate, you see a wooden shelter on the R.
4. Keep straight on here on narrow path which joins a wide track and follow this clockwise, keeping R at junction with fence on R until it drops to reach a gateway into the road. Turn L to the T junction then R to the road into Ampney Crucis.
5. Walk all the way through the village, keeping L at the junction towards the Cirencester road.
[Place of interest, the crosses at Ampney Crucis Parish Church – side road on R before you reach the main road]
Leaving Ampney Crucis cross the main road into minor road and on up the rise to a stone stile on L. Take the field path which runs parallel to the main road and head towards a large oak tree. Follow the hedge into the next field, looking on L for a church building behind the tree line. Head towards the church and cross the Ampney brook by the footbridge. Place of interest – “The Ivy Church”, well worth a visit.
6. On leaving the church, pass through a gate in the metal railings on R and head towards a large tree in the road fence and a wooden stile to the main road.
7. Cross with care, turn R and walk on the footpath until “Reduce speed now” traffic sign. Here take the stone slab stile. The path goes R after the next stile between buildings and on into Ampney St. Peter.
8. Take R and cross to path between buildings. This widens to a driveway and passes riding stables, then continues on R, passing to the rear of a barn.
9. At the road junction bear L along the minor road and shortly reach the entrance to Ashbrook Lane. Retrace previous route back to Poulton

Lunches can be bought at the Crown of Crucis Inn, Ampney Crucis, or the Falcon Inn, Poulton.

Hot drinks can be purchased at Poulton Village shop