

Wonastow Loop

2.5 miles, allow 1.5 hours for the views, 7 stiles, OS Explorer Map OL14 Car park at SO492104

This is a pleasant circular walk of about two and a half miles with seven stiles. Rising gently uphill after crossing the A40, there are no steep hills, but the views back over Mitchel Troy and up to Craig-y-Dorth are typical of the lovely rolling Monmouthshire countryside. Please be aware that crops may make some of the fields more difficult to walk.

From Mitchel Troy church car park (1), turn left and go about 150 yards along the road, passing Mitchel Troy House, the former vicarage. This used to have a glass

dome above the porch for the vicar to observe the stars. Go past the drive to the Village Hall, and take the restricted byway on the left between a telegraph pole and three stone-fronted houses (2).



Wonastow Church

Follow this down to the rather slippery bridge over the River Trothy, which gives the Welsh name for Mitchel Troy, Llanvihangel Troddi or the Church of St Michael on the Trothy. Continue along the driveway towards Wonastow Mill, which you pass on the left (3). The Mill was once one of several on the Trothy serving Troy House, all as part of the Duke of Beaufort's estate, and was still worked until 1965, although from 1940 it was turbine driven. Its more recent claim to fame was when a lorry trailer went through the roof of the mill. Go through another gate and pass in front of The Barn, a conversion, to go up beside the fence alongside the A40 dual carriageway and left at the gate.

Cross the bridge over the A40, through another gate and then up the concrete ramp. At the top of this, go through a wide gap in the hedge and turn right into a green lane (4). Before the A40 dual carriageway through the tunnels was built, this lane continued down to the Mill and over the river to the main road,

still called Old Raglan Road, at Mitchel Troy. Go through a pedestrian gate at the top of the lane and, after about 50 yards, turn left (5).

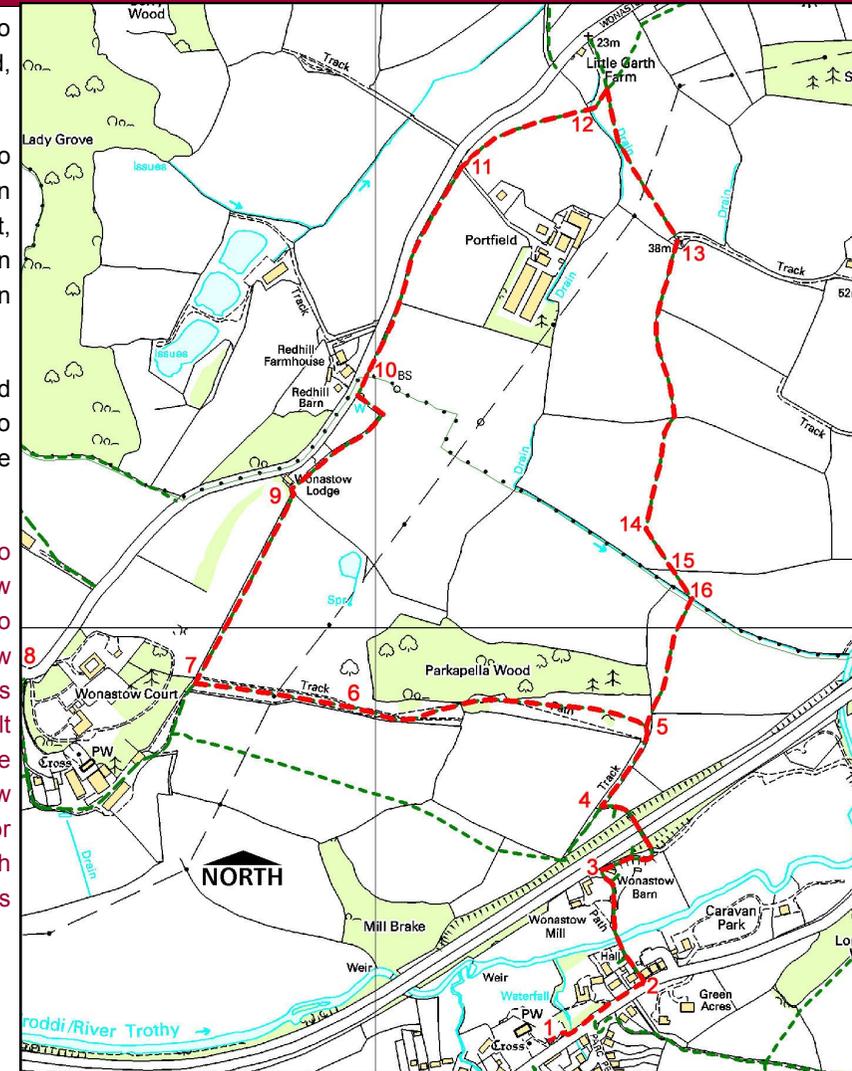
Take the opportunity to pause and get your bearings so that you will recognise the entrance to the green lane on your return journey. With Parkapella Wood on the right, continue straight up and then through a pedestrian gateway. Bluebells and wood anemones can be seen in April and May on the right in this private woodland.

At the end of the wood, go through a field gate and views open out to the right across to Monmouth and to the left along the Trothy Valley to the Usk Valley with the Black Mountains beyond (6). Continue straight up.

Where the track turns left at the top, go over a stile (7) to follow a diversion from the route along a footpath below Wonastow Court Farm house and then along its drive to the Great War memorial (8). The entrance to Wonastow Church and a view of Wonastow Court are also off this driveway. Wonastow Court, thought to have been built in the reign of King Henry VI, was at one time the residence of a branch of the Herbert family. Wonastow Church, dedicated to the Welsh Saint Wonnaw or Winwaloe, was built in the 12th century, replacing a 7th century church. The centuries old steep roof is supported by four pairs of unusual hammer beams.



Redhill Farmhouse



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Back at the stile (7), go through field gate hurdles and the route proceeds between horse paddocks, down and then up. Notice a pond, fed by a natural spring, down the field on the right. Cross a stile in the left-hand corner (9) into a field and pass Wonastow Lodge on the left on the other side of the hedge.

Walk along the top of this field and the next field, keeping close to the hedge on the left. Pass Red Hill Farm (10) on the other side of the road, noting its "English garden wall bond" brickwork. Continue over three stiles, crossing Portfield Farm drive (11) between the second and third stiles. In the next field after the drive, as you can see from the map, the footpath bears right across the field to a stile and footbridge. It is sometimes easier to spot the stile by following the edge of the field towards Little Garth and then on round the corner of the field to the stile (12).

Cross the stile and the small plank bridge and then turn right. Carry on with the hedge on the right, eventually going through a wide gateway opening out on to an old lane (13). Here turn immediately right through another gate and continue with the hedge on the left. Redhill Farmhouse can be seen across the fields to the right.



Go through a wide gateway into the next field and head for the very old lone oak tree in the middle of the field (14). Look across the river below and up to the woodland above Mitchel Troy. This is Lydart, or the Grey Woods, part of Troy Park, originally the parkland for Troy House.

At the lone oak, turn half left and head for a stile next to a field gate (15). Go over this stile and continue in the same direction to a stile (16) and a small plank bridge. Cross these and go up the field to the wide gateway at the top corner. The bottom of Parkapella Wood is on the right.

Go through the gateway and you are back at point (5). Turn half left and re-join the green lane to retrace your steps to Mitchel Troy.

If you walk with a dog, please be aware that there is livestock in some of the fields and dogs should therefore be on leads and kept strictly under control. Please follow the Country Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

It is strongly recommended that this leaflet is used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey Map OL14.

Mitchel Troy Church Car Park (at SO492104) can be reached by bus numbers 60 and 83 on the Monmouth to Newport/Abergavenny routes. Contact Traveline Cymru on 0800 474 00 00 for timetable and bus stops.

The Mitchel Troy Community Group is not able to guarantee access to any of the Mitchel Troy Walks and is not responsible for their maintenance. For further information, please contact Mitchel Troy Local Paths Group on 01600 715618. Any comments would be very much appreciated.

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Mitchel Troy Walks No 2

WONASTOW LOOP



Church of St Michael and All Angels



Church Farm Guesthouse

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ABOVE THE TROTHY