



Westonbirt Arboretum

11 Westonbirt

5 miles (8km)

WALK HIGHLIGHTS

The trees of Westonbirt Arboretum present a spectacular colour show in autumn, with leaves that have been green all summer turning to brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red.

Away from the Arboretum, this walk explores the undulating Cotswold plateau starting at Leighterton, a handsome village of stone cottages, quiet lanes and a pretty church just a few miles north of Bath.

Bristol & Bath Year Round Walks

HOW TO GET THERE AND PARKING: Follow the A46 north from Bath to Old Sodbury. Continue following the A46 for another 8 miles before taking the second of two right turns signposted to Leighterton. At a junction by the Royal Oak, turn right and drive down 'The Street'. Having passed the church, park on the roadside by a telephone box.
Sat Nav: GL8 8UN.

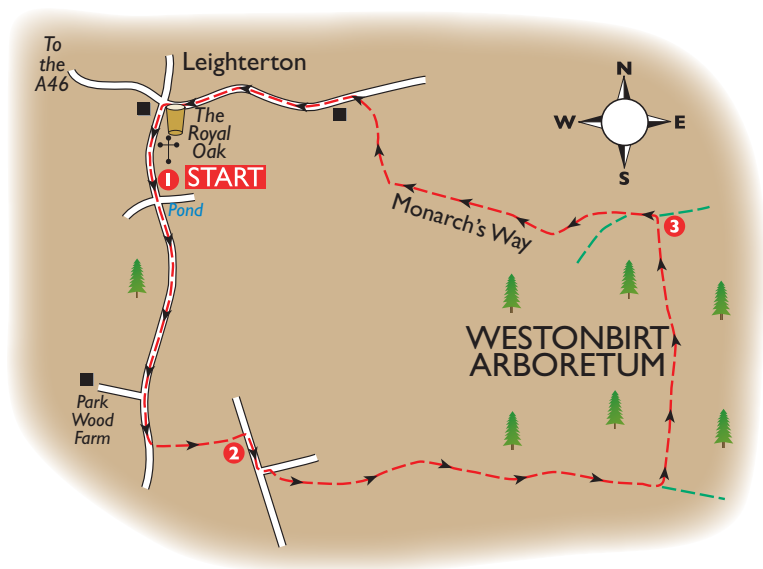
MAP: OS Explorer 168 Stroud, Tetbury & Malmesbury.
Grid ref ST824911.

TERRAIN: Virtually traffic-free country lanes, tracks and fieldpaths. Potentially muddy in places.

FOOD & DRINK: **The Royal Oak**, GL8 8UN. ☎ 01666 890250
🌐 royaloakleighterton.co.uk.

THE WALK

- 1 With your back to the telephone box, follow **The Street** to the left. At a junction by a pond, keep on the road ahead signposted to **Didmarton**. In $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, having passed the entrance to **Park Wood Farm**, continue uphill for 100 metres before turning left onto a restricted byway. Follow this byway for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to a lane and turn right. In 250 metres, with a restricted byway on the right, turn left onto a driveway. The walk all the while is crossing the undulating **Cotswold plateau**, a pleasant pastoral landscape.
- 2 In a few steps, turn right to a handgate and cross the field ahead to a gate on the far side of the field. Follow the left edges of the next four fields and, on entering a fifth field, turn left through a gateway to enter **Westonbirt Arboretum**. Follow the main track ahead for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to a T-junction. Keep ahead, following a grassy path uphill to a gate at the edge of the Arboretum. Follow the bridleway ahead for 200 metres to its junction with a track in a shallow valley. Turn left along to a gate at the end of some woodland. It is imperative that you stick to the main track through the arboretum – deviate from its course and you could be charged for exploring the woodland on its private paths!



- 3 Walk ahead to a gate and stile at the end of the first field. Ignoring the gate and the track ahead, cross the stile and enter a hillside field. Bear half-right, walking uphill, to reach a point where a wall forms a corner. Immediately past this corner, turn right and follow the line of the wall down to a stile. Follow the right edge of the next field to a stile and enclosed path. Where the enclosed path ends, cross a stone stile on the right before turning left to walk across a field to a gate and road on the edge of **Leighterton**. Follow the road ahead, passing a cemetery on the right with a number of war graves, before reaching the **Royal Oak** in 350 metres. Turn left back to the church and your car.