

Swan Meadows and the River Gavenny

DISTANCE

2.7 miles / 4.3 kilometres

TIME

75 mins

GRADE

Difficult with a sustained ascent and steep descent

STARTING POINT

Bus station car park

THE ROUTE

- 1 From car park, turn left on Monmouth Road and then left again into Swan Meadows.
- 2 Walk through the meadows
- 3 Turn left through the gate on Lower Monk Street
- 4 Turn right on Ross Road
- 5 Turn into the gardens and follow the river bank to the top
- 6 Double back to the Ross Road entrance
- 7 Cross the bridge, take the path uphill to the right, pass the children's playground and follow the path behind the houses
- 8 Go through the alley and turn left on Ostringen Close
- 9 Turn right on Gavenny Way and right again at the T junction and follow this road down the hill towards town
- 10 After the roundabout, cross the road and go through the metal gate
- 11 Cross the meadow and follow the path through trees along the riverbank back to Monmouth Road
- 12 Cross Monmouth road with caution (there is a pelican crossing 25m to the right)
- 13 Take the first right then first left, following the crescent back to the Monmouth Road
- 14 Turn right here following a lane down to Castle Meadow
- 15 Walk round the outside of the meadow
- 16 Retrace your route up the lane, along the crescent and along Monmouth Road back to the Bus Station Car Park

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Abergavenny meaning mouth of the River Gavenny is situated at the confluence of the rivers Gavenny and Usk
- B The standing stones in Swan Meadow were erected in 2009 as part of a local history society project to highlight Abergavenny's importance in the eistodd fod tradition in Wales
- C There's a good example of a recently 'laid' hedge in the upper Gavenny meadow
- D From 1851 the Monmouthshire Lunatic Asylum, later Pen-y-Fal Hospital, a psychiatric hospital stood on the outskirts of Abergavenny. Between 1851 and 1950 over 3,000 patients died at the hospital and were buried in the Pen-y-Fal cemetery. A memorial plaque for the deceased has now been placed at the site (Have Pic)
- E The woodland path on the east bank opposite Swan meadow is a good place to see and hear woodland birds throughout the year

This route information has been prepared by Monmouthshire County Council Countryside Services with support from the countryside Council for Wales.

