



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

Canterbury to Fordwich pilgrim loop

- Start point: Christchurch Gate, Sun St, Canterbury, CT1 2HX
- Route type: Circular
- Distance: 9 km/5.5 miles – approx. 2.5hrs
- Route level: Easy

Canterbury's position as one of England's most historic cities is well known. Less well known but just as historic is the tiny town of Fordwich, just 3 miles from Canterbury and slap bang on the Stour River, the Stour Valley Way and the old pilgrim Way of St Augustine. Lovely St Mary's Church, the miniature Town Hall and the town's two pubs are some of the heritage gems of the town, all well worth exploring as part of this pleasant circular walk.

Instructions

1. From the Christchurch gate into the cathedral on Sun St, with the gate to your back turn right and walk up Sun St for c.80m, then turn slightly right onto Palace St. After c.200m turn right onto Borough and continue onto Northgate.
2. After c.300m on Northgate, just before the roundabout turn right onto the footpath that leads through a park. Follow this path through the park and as it skirts a row of houses, before emerging onto Military Road. Here turn left and go round the roundabout to the right, to keep on Military Road. After c.75m turn left to continue on Military Road. Continue on Military Road for c.400m then follow the pedestrian cut through to join Brymore Road.
3. Continue up Brymore Road for 100m. At the small green, turn right and go around the green and take the pedestrian footpath between the houses. Continue straight on Forrester Close, then turn left and immediately right onto Shelley Avenue. Follow Shelley Ave then cross Dickens Ave and take the footpath between the houses and right to join the Stour Valley Walk.
4. After c.400m on the Stour Valley Walk take the footpath that forks left. Follow this path through woods and fields for c.1.5km, until it emerges onto King Street in Fordwich. Here turn right and follow King St round to the left and onto The Drove. From here you can access and explore St Mary's, a beautiful 900-year old church featuring 14th-century stained glass and 17th-century wall paintings. Stop for a drink in the Fordwich Arms next to the church before turning back toward Canterbury.
5. Exit the church/pub back onto King St and turn down Yew Tree Gardens opposite the pub car park. Then take the footpath on the left to pick up the Stour Valley Walk. After c.170m follow the path sharp right. Continue for 120m then take the path right, due West. After c.230m you will meet Well Lane. Turn right and then left to pick up Moat Lane. Where Moat Lane bends to the left go straight on via the footpath to pick up the Stour Valley Walk. Continue straight along the Stour Valley walk, passing the Reed Pond, on your way back to Canterbury.
6. After c.2.5km the Stour Valley Way meets Longport road in Canterbury. Turn right and follow Longport, Monastery St, Church St and Burgate back to Sun St and the cathedral gate.

Canterbury to Fordwich loop (9km)

