

St George's Cross Walk

A walk of about 4.6 kms, or just under 3 miles.

The path goes through pleasant farming country but it does involve two crossings of the Beckington Bypass which require great care, especially the one at the bottom of Berkley Lane.

This walk begins at the Woolpack. Start the walk by going up Church Hill beside the pub. Follow the road around to the right by the village school and continue to Castle Corner. Here continue straight ahead on Berkley Lane and follow it around to the left, and somewhat further on to Ivy House Farm. The path goes round the back of the right hand side of the dairy. Continue downhill and cross over a stile walking towards the bypass with a fence on your right. Where it enters a field at the bottom wall, walk to a stile and footbridge in the left hand corner. Now climb the embankment through trees to reach the side of the bypass.



The old road used to continue uninterrupted to Berkley, however, today, it is intersected by the bypass. The safest way to cross the bypass is to walk down the verge towards the roundabout and cross over the grass refuge in the middle of the road. Cross the carriage way and turn left to walk inside the barrier until you are opposite the A361 sign on the other side of the road. Walk down the embankment to a visible footbridge and beyond to a continuation of Berkley Lane. Continue along this old lane and at the top of the hill go through a farm gate to the cross roads – St George's Cross. Continue straight ahead past St George's Farm and along Pot Lane towards

Berkley. Where the road bends clearly to the right, well after passing beneath the electrical transmission line, find a stile on the left-hand side over a plank bridge. Now follow the hedge towards Newlands Farm. After the first field you will join a concreted farm track; as it bends to the left you will see a marker post pointing diagonally right towards a pylon. Head towards this and do not take the stile but turn right, and walk down the field with the hedge on your left. Cross a stile, a track and another stile and continue to a telegraph post. Turn left to a kissing gate gate on to Limerick Lane. Turn right and follow Limerick Lane to Limerick Farm.

The road bends to the right here and on the crown of the bend are the beginnings of two footpaths. Take the path to the left which is reached over a stile. Head to the left of a large tree in a hollow in the middle of the field. This hollow is the head of Winkley Bottom, which runs away to the left. As you descend into the hollow a stile becomes clearly visible in the far left-hand corner of the field. Cross this stile and the field beyond to another stile at the side of the bypass. Once again cross the road with care, although here there is a decent verge on both sides. At the top of the embankment on the far side, a stile gives access to a field and on the far side to a further stile beside a farm track. Cross the track go over a stile and cross the next field towards the far left-hand corner. Once over the stile you will see in the corner a large



stone slab in the left-hand hedge and behind it a footbridge with a squeeze on the far side. Cross the bridge and then turn right. At the next field turn left towards the church and follow the path round, in front of you is a bench dedicated to Tony Brann. Turn left here into the church yard. Go through the kissing gate into the churchyard and take one of the two paths around the church. This will bring you to the gates on Church Hill opposite the village school. Now turn right and descend the hill to arrive back at the Woolpack.

