

FINAL LEG OF "7"

CAMPSITE - CP1 (7.8 miles)

From Manor Farm campsite, re-join the path you came in on, passing the Post Office and turning left by The Bell. Cross Fretherne Bridge (G/R 746 084) and turn immediate left onto the Severn Way alongside the canal. Pass Frampton-on Severn, Splatt Bridge (G/R 742 067), and continue along the towpath towards Slimbridge. Beyond the turning for Slimbridge, the Severn Way, now heading in a westerly direction, continues along the towpath. The towpath reaches the little village of Purton and a bridge keeper's cottage, where the canal loops round, heading first north, and then south. You will also pass the Berkeley Arms Pub. Continue along the towpath, going between the canal and the river. As you approach the Sharpness you pass a circular stone abutment which once supported a railway swing bridge spanning the canal. When you reach the Marina, proceed to the end and cross a footbridge (G/R 669 030), turn up a flight of steps to a private car park and go forwards on an access lane. You will then see The Dockers Club which is CP1 (G/R 671 029).

Navigation difficulty rating: Low, signed The Severn Way
Course type: Floodbanks, fields, towpaths

CP1 - CP2 (10.7 miles)

From the Dockers Club, follow the road down continuing on the same access lane you approached on, to a junction and turn left. Walk towards a T-junction ahead, turn left, then left immediately and follow this and at 0.3 miles to the more northerly of two bridges and onto a surfaced lane. Follow the lane forward over a foot bridge and as it bends right at 0.5 miles just in front of the Severn View Nursing Home (G/R 676 028), head towards the rows of houses that form part of Newtown.

At 1.0 mile the Pier View Hotel (G/R 674 020) after 1 mile and approx 75 meters further on, leave the road, turning right onto a path between a fence and hedgerow, signed the Severn Way.

At the end of the path, cross a railway line and keep on in the same direction until you can turn right to a main road.

At the road, turn right and go down towards Sharpness Dock to a small island at 1.2 miles (G/R 670 020). Turn left here, and when you reach a row of terraced cottages, go forward past the gable-end to re-join the River Severn, turning left.

Having regained the riverside flood embankment south of Sharpness Docks, walk along it until you meet Berkeley Pill, an in-flowing creek. Turn left here, and at 2.7 miles go through a metal gate (G/R 665 002) continuing along the floodbank until it ends near another gate. Initially, keep forward alongside the creek, but then strike across the field towards a distant warehouse. Aim to the right of it to locate a stile at 3.2 miles (G/R 671 994).

Go behind the warehouse for another 0.1 miles to a road bridge (G/R 672 994). The Severn Way now turns to the right where you follow the road towards Berkeley Power Station. As you approach the entrance at 4.0 miles, turn left to a kissing gate and go along the ensuing footpath to a footbridge, after which a fenced path leads you round the power station grounds to a gate from where you strike out across a field towards the river.

Go through two gates and forward onto a concrete breakwater at 4.9 miles, where you overlook the Severn once more.

The route now simply follows the river, soon passing the Severn House Farm and after passing an attractive White House you come to Chapel House at 7.6 miles. Beyond this, you reach the Windbound Inn at Shepperdine.

After the Windbound Inn the route follows the shore of the estuary heading initially for Oldbury Power Station. The two southernmost and largest of all of the 100 Severn bridges are now in view, still some distance away, but indicating that the end of this outstanding journey is in sight.

Just as you approach the power station you pass a silt lagoon adjacent to a nature trail. Continue south past the power station to reach at 10.0 miles Oldbury Pill where a small yacht club is based. Turn inland along the on-going embankment shortly joining a surfaced track. Keep along this track until you come into Oldbury-on-Severn at a T-junction. Turn right and at 10.6 miles you will reach the Anchor Inn which is CP2 (G/R 609 924).

Navigation difficulty rating: Low, signed the Severn Way
Course type: Floodbanks, fields, some tarmac

CP2 – Finish of "7" (7.8 miles)

Leave the Anchor Inn turning left out onto the lane and after 100 meters turn right at the Old Equestrian Centre. Follow a track past stables and then cross a paddock to a stile, beyond which you go forward to re-join the sea wall by the mouth of Oldbury Pill.

As you reach Littleton Pill the route is deflected inland again. Remain on the embankment, heading for a stile beside a gate, and then continue along the sea wall above Littleton Warth.

Once past Littleton Pill keep on along the shoreline until you draw level with an electricity sub-station. At 3.0 miles a track turns in from the shore at a stile giving access to a large sloping field. Climb up the right-hand edge of this to a dilapidated look-out at the top. Keep forward along the edge of two more fields beside a hedge to a stile which gives access to the grounds of the Severn View Service Area overlooking the Severn Bridge at Aust.

Proceed to a viewing area at 3.4 miles, and follow a path round the perimeter of the service area for 0.3 miles until you can cross the M48 motorway on a footbridge.

Having crossed the motorway, bear left and continue to a junction about 100 meters away from the A403. Ignore the A road, and turn right along a quiet lane that goes through Old Passage 15.2 miles, soon passing on the left, St Augustine's Vineyard. Just after crossing Cake Pill, not far from the A403, turn right through a kissing gate and go along an embankment, following this into a military firing range.

When the red flags are flying, there is no admission but an alternative route is available on the rights of way around the perimeter. On the other side of the firing range, cross a creek (The Pill) and turn right on a track to pass Red Lodge and Severn Lodge Farm, now following a surfaced lane beside the estuary.

Keep forward to pass beneath the Second Severn Crossing. Keep forward on a concrete walkway (the Binn Wall) to reach Severn Beach and the finish line on a large grassed area on your left at the end of the Severn Way!.

Navigation difficulty rating: Low, signed The Severn Way
Course type: some tarmac, floodbanks, fields

Total days mileage – 26.3