

## Plock Court Loop

This circuit of Plock Court Open Space takes you away from Kingsholm's built up areas into open grassland with views of May Hill and Churchdown Hill. It can be started from the eastern end of Estcourt Road<sup>[14]</sup> (access via the gate marked "Estcourt Park Allotments", by a sign for the cycle route to Cheltenham), in which case a short (300m) walk alongside the allotments leads to the open space. Alternatively start from the Wetlands Car Park<sup>[15]</sup> at Plock Court, off Tewkesbury Road, from where there is an access ramp for wheelchair users. The best views are obtained from a counter clockwise circuit, described here from the Estcourt Road access.

On entering the Open Space via a wooden gate turn<sup>[16]</sup> to your right to reach Wotton Brook, which rises in Brockworth. This is the start point of the weekly Park Runs. Walk alongside on a raised berm as you pass rugby playing fields and you will be able to see Robinswood Hill and the Cathedral<sup>[22]</sup> to your left. A bridge<sup>[17]</sup> across the Brook provides access to Longford Lane. Further on the Brook passes underneath the Northern Bypass on its way to join the River Severn and May Hill becomes visible beyond the Wetland Area<sup>[18]</sup>. Since 2010 this area has been a wetland reserve, whose shallow ponds (known as scrapes) remind us of the role such fields play in flood management. The water level of these scrapes will rise and fall with rainfall and they may dry out completely in summer. The remainder of the area is managed as hay meadow, a traditional way to manage wetland pasture.

Plants such as ragged robin, cuckoo flower, and the yellow flag iris grow here, and you should be able to see a variety of bird life. You may even be lucky enough to see the penduline tit, which has been known to visit in spring. Proceed through the wetland area to reach the Wetlands Area car park<sup>[15]</sup>. You will have walked 1.4km from the entrance gate.

To continue, follow an avenue of poplar trees towards the Oxtalls Sports Park<sup>[19]</sup>, or take some refreshment at the Longford Inn<sup>[20]</sup>, so called because this was a historic ford on the road to Tewkesbury. It is now a Beefeater Steak house. The Sports Park is an extensive community facility that houses six indoor and four outdoor tennis courts, along with a synthetic pitch and grass pitches for sports such as football, hockey, rugby and cricket. The open space beyond, with its abandoned cricket pavilion, is the former Debenham's Playing Field. In 2018 a new cricket pavilion was built for use by the University and the Sports Park. When you reach the allotments, after a further kilometre, you will see the University of Gloucestershire's Business School beyond the allotments, part of its expanding Oxstalls Campus<sup>[21]</sup>.

Note that unlike the other walks, which are all paved, and wheelchair accessible in all weathers, Plock Court and its Wetlands Area can live up to their name and become muddy after rain. Visitors are advised to wear hiking boots or wellingtons after wet weather.

## Local Attractions

The ward of Kingsholm and Wotton is remarkably well served with places to eat and drink. Most lie along London Road or near to the rugby ground. Of particular note is Roots Coffee and Community café in Alvin Street, a social enterprise established to make Kingsholm a more positive place to live and work.

Nearby you will find Gloucestershire Archives, whose new Heritage Hub opened in 2018, Sherborne Street Open Space with its recreational equipment for children, and Sherborne Street's art deco cinema, now fully equipped with digital projection and surround sound.

Kingsholm is not far from the centre of historic Gloucester, a fascinating and diverse place to explore, with cobbled streets, independent shops, green spaces, designer shopping, and a wide range of museums. Its historic architecture includes the Cathedral<sup>[22]</sup> and Llanthony, Blackfriars, Greyfriars, and St Oswald's priories.

The country's best preserved Victorian docks<sup>[23]</sup>, which made Gloucester one of England's most inland shipping ports, are situated to the south of the city. They are an attraction in themselves and, with the shopping and dining opportunities of Gloucester Quays, now form a busy tourist destination.



## Getting Around

Gloucester Railway station is on the western edge of the ward on Bruton Way. Use the underpass to Great Western Road to get to London Road.

London Road is well served by local buses, including routes 10 and 94. Route 99 stops at the hospital's main entrance on Great Western Road. Routes 71, 97 & 98 stop on Kingsholm Road and services from further afield alight at the bus station on Bruton Way.

Car parks are available at Plock Court and Great Western Road. There is also plenty of opportunity for on street parking.



## More Information

The Kingsholm and Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership works to maintain and grow a sense of local community. We hold regular meetings at which all residents are welcome - [www.kwnp.co.uk](http://www.kwnp.co.uk)

More information on Gloucester's attractions and where to stay can be found in the award winning tourist information centre at 28 Southgate Street - [www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk](http://www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk)

Gloucester Archives contain a wealth of resources for visitors to research their own and local history - [www.heritagehub.org.uk](http://www.heritagehub.org.uk)

*Images are by Malcolm Taylor and Phil Moss, whose generosity and permission are hereby acknowledged*

# KINGSHOLM & WOTTON

## Map and guide

**A walking tour revealing the history and present of a part of Gloucester from Roman times, regularly celebrates its present at the rugby stadium, and looks to the future with the University of Gloucestershire's Oxstalls campus.**

Three walks are presented, linking various points of interest. The Denmark Road loop makes a circular walk around the area, with Horton Road offering an extension.

The Plock Court walk is longer and takes you out of the built up areas of the ward into a green space with wetlands, a brook, and sports grounds that offers views of hills beyond the city.



## Kingsholm & Wotton

### Neighbourhood Partnership

## Kingsholm Loop



### 1 GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – GRFC

Kingsholm Stadium, home of the “Cherry and Whites” and one of the 2015 World Cup hosts, was built on the site of a farm, “Castle Grim”. You can visit the walk of fame and buy rugby kit and souvenirs.



### 2 SITE OF ROMAN FORT & SAXON PALACE

Kingsholm Square has a residents’ tennis court faced by Regency and Edwardian villas. It lies on the site of the first Roman fort, established in cAD49, which stretched from Edwy Parade to St. Oswalds Road.

The Saxon Royal Palace is believed to lie further north in Kingsholm Court. It is possible that William the Conqueror ordered the survey that became known as the Domesday Book when he was here. Roman skeletons have been found nearby in Kingsholm Road.



### 3 DENMARK ROAD, HIGH SCHOOL AND POSY LANE

Denmark Road follows the line of the Roman road Ermin Street, later called Gallows Lane. Look out for the “dalek” on the school roof. It is actually a chimney pot, said to have inspired the BBC designer Raymond Cusick. Victorian and Edwardian villas, and houses from 1920s and 30s, line the road. Posy Lane is home to a tennis club and a Geocache site.



### 4 HILLFIELD GARDENS & HILLFIELD HOUSE

Hillfield House was built in 1867. Its owner, a timber merchant, allegedly used its tower to watch his ships entering Gloucester Docks. The house is now privately owned but the public gardens are great for children, older people, and tree lovers. It has two listed monuments and a sensory garden. The former leper’s chapel, St. Mary Magdalene, is at its eastern corner.



### 5 LONDON ROAD

St Catharine’s Church can be seen at the top of the hill. Across London Road a Roman mass grave was found containing 90 bodies. These people are thought to have died from disease. Heading towards the city centre you will pass the alms houses (1862) and St. Margaret’s Chapel, first built in early 12th c for the leper hospital.

Look out for a Dutch House, Peter Scott House and good views of St. Peter’s Church, St. John’s, Northgate and Gloucester Cathedral. The England’s Glory public house is named after a brand of matches that used to be made in Morelands’ Gloucester factory.



### 6 ALVIN STREET

Here we find inner city artisan housing and more modern development including Gloucester’s only tower block on the right. This area was known as Clapham until the 1950s.

It is home to Gloucestershire Archives, in the former Kingsholm Secondary School. The medieval Alvin Gate lay at the western end of the street until its destruction in the siege of Gloucester 1643.



### 7 THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Opposite the Coach and Horses is the site of the first Sunday School founded in 1780 by Robert Raikes, philanthropist, and the Reverend Thomas Stock. Sunday was the only day children were not working and so had the opportunity to learn.



### 8 KINGSHOLM ROAD – AGAIN

We see Destiny Temple, formerly St. Marks Church, A jam and pickle factory used to be opposite.

## Horton Road Loop



### 9 WOTTON HOUSE C1707

This site is now home to Gloucestershire International School, an independent secondary school. It previously housed Redcliffe College (theological), and from 1925 was the county’s Training College of Domestic Science.



### 10 HORTON ROAD CEMETERY

This small cemetery was founded in 1848. Most of the burials are Victorian, some with cast iron headstones. Today it is a haven for wildlife. Can you see broken snail shells? Thrushes use the grave stones to crack open the shells and eat the snails.



### 11 HORTON CRESCENT

This was The Gloucester Asylum from 1823 to 1988 but it has been converted into flats. Initially there were both fee paying patients and those paid for by parishes and charities.



### 12 ROYAL LANE (FORMERLY ASYLUM LANE)

This lane provides a quiet alternative back route to the busy London Road from Great Western Road to Horton Road but is narrow and secluded in places.



### 13 THE RAILWAY

At the southern end of Horton Road is a level crossing where the road crosses the main lines to Birmingham and London. Approximately 125 trains, 3000 vehicles, and 900 pedestrians and cyclists use it each day. Visible to the west is Gloucester Railway Station which has the second longest platform in the UK.

