

History

The Monmouth Way was opened in May 1997 and is named because of the Duke of Monmouth's association with Toddington.

Born in 1649 James Duke of Monmouth was the illegitimate son of Charles II. Henrietta Wentworth the only daughter of Lord Thomas Wentworth was born at Toddington on 11th August 1660. Henrietta's mother was maid of honour to the Duke of York, and it was at the royal court that Henrietta and Monmouth met and fell in love.

Henrietta's father died in 1667 and when she reached the age of 21 she inherited the family fortune. For a short while Monmouth and Henrietta (although not married) lived at Toddington Manor, and in 1684 they travelled to Holland.

After the death of Charles II the throne of England went to James II, (Monmouth's half brother). It was then that Monmouth and Henrietta (financed by mortgaging the Toddington estate and selling the family jewels) began to plot to overthrow James II.

Monmouth raised a mercenary army in Holland and landed at Lyme Regis on 21st June 1685. Hoping to march to Bristol and recruit more help before capturing London. His army was intercepted by James's army at Sedgemoor in Somerset and a fierce battle took place.

Monmouth was defeated and although he escaped he was later captured in the New Forest and subsequently beheaded at the Tower on 5th July 1685.

Henrietta returned to England a broken woman. Almost bankrupt and in ill health she died on 23rd April 1686. She was interred in the family vault at Toddington Church, and a monument was erected in her memory paid for by her mother.

Information

The **Greensand Ridge** footpath starts at Leighton Buzzard and crosses Bedfordshire ending at Gamlingay in the east.

The **Icknield Way** starts at Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire and ends at Knettishall heath near Thetford in Norfolk. Ivinghoe Beacon also marks the end of the **Ridgeway** footpath which starts near Avebury in Wiltshire. Whilst Knettishall Heath is the start of the **Peddars Way** ending at Hunstanton on the Norfolk coast.

Parking, the walk starts at the Library Car Park which is for the use of the library users only. Parking is normally available on street or at the village hall in Leighton Road, subject to functions.

Refreshments are available from the many pubs in Toddington and sandwiches are available from several shops. There is a pub in Eversholt.

Toddington Church was dedicated to St George of England in 1222. It has many interesting features including animal carvings, wall paintings and a priest house. The monument to Henrietta Wentworth is in the Wentworth chapel which is not normally open to the public.

Other routes are available from:

www.LetsGo.org.uk

www.Toddington.Info

Suggestions or problems with the leaflet or route: RoW@chevalier.me.uk

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The Monmouth Way Footpath

Approximately 3½ miles (6km)

A linear walk from Toddington to Eversholt linking the Icknield Way long distance path with the Greensand Ridge footpath.

The route is mainly over grazing fields, some hard tracks, woodland and two large arable fields. The grazing fields often contain livestock where dogs should be kept under close control. There are two stiles on this route. In good weather with firm ground allow over an hour and a half for the walk.



Monmouth Way

The five pointed crown of a Duke used to waymark the route

Much of the farmland you cross is managed as part of a wildlife conservation programme. Please respect the flowers, plants and animals and follow the Country Code.

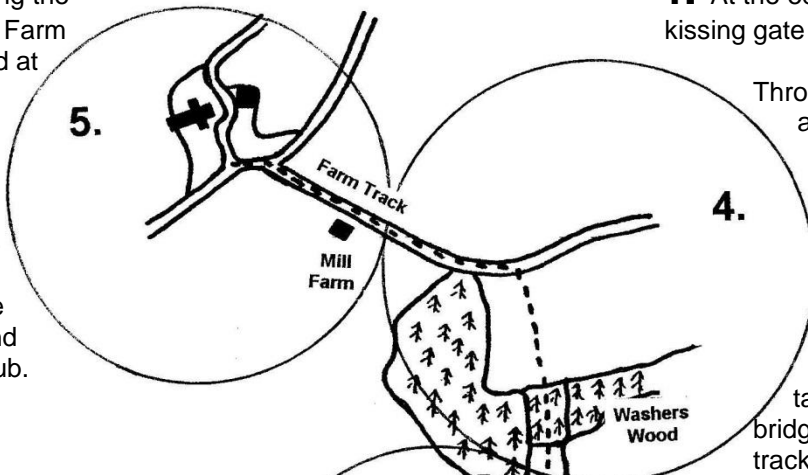
Monmouth Way Footpath Toddington to Eversholt

NOTE: Please keep to the waymarked route.

The representation of footpaths and tracks
on this map is not evidence of a Right of Way

5. Continue along the track passing Mill Farm and on to the road at Eversholt. Turn left to the T junction where the Monmouth Way meets the Greensand Ridge path. If you turn right, opposite the church you will find the Green Man pub.

Eversholt



4. At the edge of the wood there is a metal kissing gate in the right corner of the field.

Through this gate you are in Washers Wood. Follow the track, crossing over another track and head down hill keep to the right as the track forks. At the exit from the wood is a kissing gate into an open field.

Cross this field keeping to the left of the ridge and heading for some tall trees in the far hedge. Here a bridge and kissing gate exit onto a farm track. Turn left and follow the track.

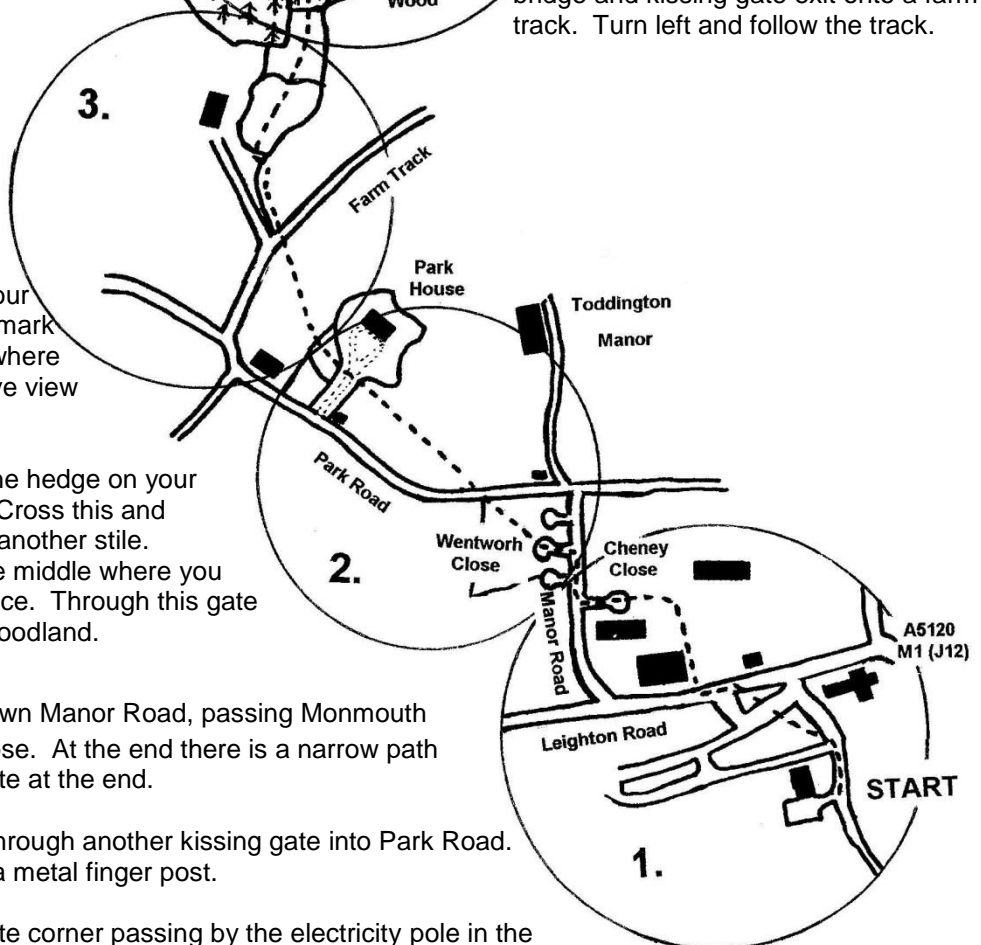
3. Cross the small paddock through a metal kissing gate by the stable. Continue across the next paddock to a wooden gate in the fence. Keeping in the same direction head for the tall trees at the top of the hill. Here there is a farm track. Cross the track and keeping the hedge on your left you will pass several wooden waymark posts as well as the Monmouth Seat where you can rest and admire the impressive view towards the Sharpenhoe Clappers.

Eventually you will come to a gap in the hedge on your left where there is a bridge and stile. Cross this and turn immediately right and cross over another stile. Continue down the field keeping to the middle where you will find a metal kissing gate in the fence. Through this gate continue down the field towards the woodland.

2. Along Cheney Close turn right down Manor Road, passing Monmouth Close and turn left into Wentworth Close. At the end there is a narrow path between two houses with a kissing gate at the end.

Walk diagonally across the field and through another kissing gate into Park Road. Cross the road and enter the field by a metal finger post.

Cross this field heading for the opposite corner passing by the electricity pole in the middle of the field, to a waymark post in the far corner by some bushes and an iron fence. Pass through the fence crossing Park House drive, keeping to the right of the shrubbery. Passing between three tall trees you will see a kissing gate in the iron fence on the other side of the drive. Pass through it into a small paddock.



Toddington

1. Start at the top of Conger Lane, behind the library, here the Monmouth Way meets the Icknield Way. Walk towards the village green crossing the green by the old pump and war memorial. To Sundial House on the far side of the green.

Continue along Leighton Road until you reach an iron kissing gate just before the village hall. Take this path between the schools and out into Cheney Close.



Monmouth Way

Follow the crowns...