

CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY ORCHARDS





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Full Trail Directions and what to look out for.

Here are detailed directions for walkers, for both the shorter and extended versions of the trail. We recommend referring to the map for points of interest along the way.

The Shorter Version is about 3 miles. Nearly all hard surfaces except at Penterry Park where stout footwear is recommended in wet or muddy conditions.

The Extended Version is about 6 miles. Allow about 4 hours, including a break. Mostly hard surfaces except for the Wales Coast Path where stout footwear is recommended all year.

We welcome your feedback about the Trail and/or the information we have provided. If you would like to get in touch with us please contact Chepstow Town Council at: admin@chepstow.co.uk

1 **The Castle Dell Orchard**

The trail starts at The Castle Dell, which is also the start of the Wye Valley Walk. The orchard is located through the Castle car park, beside the footpath that leads to the left of the Castle, up into the Dell.

The Castle Dell Park is a haven for wildlife and boasts some very interesting specimen trees. There are wildflowers on the castle slopes and in the summer swifts can be heard singing overhead.

Continue along the path up into the Dell. Just past the orchard there is an old Mulberry tree on the left close to the path. A little further along on the right is a group of Small Leaved Lime trees and as you go uphill there are edible cherry trees overhanging the path. Just before the gate at the top of the park look to your right where, on the other side of the grassy area, there are some interesting mature specimen trees including London Plane and Tree of Heaven. Walk through the park gate.



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2 Kingsmark Avenue Orchard

Cross over Welsh St to the bottom of Kingsmark Avenue where there is a small group of fruit trees in front of the fencing to the left.

Return to Welsh Street and turn right towards the town centre. Walk up the elevated road/footpath in front of the cottages, immediately after number 9 turn right into a lane that leads past Huntfield Cottages, then becomes a footpath. Follow this footpath uphill between the houses, emerging at the top of the steps into a turning circle in Deans Hill. Walk up the hill.

3 Deans Hill Orchard

The Deans Hill fruit trees are planted in two areas of the open spaces on the left as you walk up the road. Then follow the road downhill around to right. Take the first left into Meadow Walk and walk up the hill to the end of the road. Follow the footpath through the trees into the bottom end of Penterry Meadow.

4 Woolpitch Woods Orchard

Continue straight ahead under the trees until you see the gateway to the main road (A466). Go through the gateway and turn right down the hill. Use the pedestrian crossing and turn left in to Barnets Wood. Follow the road up and around until you see a large clearing, the orchard is on the right behind the play area. You will then need to retrace your steps back to the A466 gateway.

5 Penterry Park - Wildlife Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC)

This area is designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and is particularly important for its wildflowers and grasses and the creatures that use them. In Spring you will see Cowslips and you may notice Early Purple Orchids growing in the shade. In Summer when the grasses are longer many grasshoppers, butterflies and moths live here.

After you come back through the A466 gateway, turn right uphill, walking on the grass and following the edge of the open meadow on your left, with the tall roadside hedge on your right. When you reach the shorter grass near the top of the meadow turn left to view the open area of the meadow.



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5 Penterry Park - Wildlife Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Continue along the shorter grass, walking parallel with the houses at the top until you reach Penterry Park road. Follow the road straight through the small roundabout into Tempest Drive, which leads into the Community Hospital car park. Carry on through the car park, past the bus shelter, until you reach the main zebra crossing leading to/from the hospital entrance across the car park.

Turn left (to face away from the hospital building) following the crossing and take the steps leading down out of the car park into Mounton Road. Turn left, then cross over and turn right into Mounton Drive. There is a Monkey Puzzle tree on the corner.

Continue straight on along Mounton Drive until you see a hedged footpath going straight ahead between numbers 38 and 39, where the road bends sharp left. Take the footpath which brings you out onto the main road (A48), beside the Two Rivers Hotel. Turn right and then cross the road using the pedestrian crossing by the petrol station. Turn right on the far side of the road. Just past the petrol station and by the bus stop there is a footpath with a few steps on the left. Follow this path between houses into Beech Grove and turn right. Shortly you reach a “T” junction with High Beech Lane. Cross the road and turn right. Shortly you reach another “T” junction with Fair View. Turn left.

6 Fair View Orchard

The orchard is at the far end of the open space on the opposite side of the road. There are also two walnut trees situated in the same open space, before you reach the main orchard. Continue along Fair View until you reach the junction with Mathern Road and turn left.

At this point you can extend your walk to include the Bulwark and Thornwell orchards and a section of the Wales Coast Path, or take the shorter route.

For the shorter walk, continue along Mathern Road, passing the cemetery, where there are some interesting wildflowers. At the junction with Bulwark Road turn left. Continue until you reach St George Road on the right. Turn right there and a short distance down this road on the left there is a footpath leading down into the park, known locally as Piggies Hill.

Go to point 14 to continue the trail instructions.



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7 Thornwell Road Orchard and Western Avenue Orchard

- 8 From Fair View Orchard, continue along Fair View until you reach the junction with Mathern Road and turn left. Immediately, cross over Mathern Road and turn right into Channel View. Walk down Channel View as far as an open space on the left and turn into Striguil Road. At the end turn left into Pembroke Road, following the road until you come to a roundabout at the junction with Bulwark Road. On the far side of the roundabout beside Bulwark Road you will see a triangular shaped open space where two rare Welsh Bardsey apple trees have been planted.

Continue along Bulwark Road and at the next roundabout turn right into Burnt Barn Road. On reaching the junction with Western Avenue on your left there are fruit trees.

- 2 Walk along Western Avenue until it joins Somerset Way at a “T” junction. Turn left into Somerset Way, walk down a short hill, then turn right into a short road that leads to Lord Eldon Drive. Turn left, then right at Thornwell Road, passing through the roundabout. Cross Thornwell Road road shortly before you reach another, larger (“Homebase”) roundabout, then take the first turn left into Conway Drive.

9 Conway Drive Orchard, Denbigh Drive Orchard and Tenby Lane Orchard

- 10 At Conway Drive there is a row of fruit trees in the open space on the right hand side of the road, planted parallel with the road and in front of the tall hedgerow.
- 11

Return to the large roundabout and take the next left into Denbigh Drive, to the left of the shops. Follow Denbigh Drive up a slope: there is a fruit tree planted on the right. You soon reach an open grassy area on the left, containing a fine veteran oak tree. Turn left along Fountain Way and then right into Lewis Way. You will find the orchard planted beside the oak. Now retrace your steps to Denbigh Drive, turn left and continue uphill. A short distance along on the right turn into Tenby Lane where there are fruit trees planted beside the car park for the Thornwell Playing Fields.



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12 Park Redding and Warren Slade Woods and The Wales Coast Path

Continue a short distance along Tenby Lane until you reach the Wales Coast Path, which is waymarked with a blue sign. Turn left and follow the gravel path to the left of the football pitch. This is a long gravel path that leads back towards Chepstow town centre, a distance of about a mile and a half, passing through Park Redding and Warren Slade Woods. The river views along this path are spectacular. In Winter when foliage is much reduced there are many viewing opportunities and in Summer the woods provide welcome shade, wildflowers and birdsong.

When you reach Raglan Way the path follows the roads for a short way. The route is waymarked here with blue signs. Turn right into Raglan Way, then left at the top into Victoria Road, then right back onto the footpath.

- 2 Follow the path, again for a long stretch, passing the Bulwarks Iron Age Fort, the rear of the industrial estate on your left and a disused quarry on your right. Follow the path down through the woods until eventually, you reach Wye Crescent.

13 Garden City Orchard

Continue along Wye Crescent until you reach Hardwick Avenue and turn right. Walk down the hill into Garden City open space and sports field and you will find the orchard on the far side of the sports field.

Walk back up Hardwick Avenue and when you see a tight bend turn left on to Rockwood Road. Walk along the road until you see a stone wall on your right with steps. These access the bottom of Piggies Hill.

14 Piggies Hill Park

Follow the pathways around the park area. Near the skate park is an escarpment which has the remnants of limestone grassland, traditionally wildflower-rich, which is now being managed by volunteers to restore it. A revised mowing regime by the County Council is helping with this. At the bottom of the park community cherry trees have been planted by volunteers. Walk back down the steps and along Rockwood Road.



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15 Palmer Centre Orchard

Continue straight along Hardwick Avenue, you will pass the remnants of the old Port Wall on your right. When you reach the junction with the busy A48, cross over the main road where there is a refuge in the centre of the road.

After you cross the road, keep the port wall on your left and follow the path past the Palmer Centre, through a small group of fruit trees. Continue through Cormeilles Square to the High Street, turn right and walk down the hill. At the bottom of the High Street use the pedestrian crossing and continue downhill in St Mary Street. Turn right into Upper Church Street. At the end of the road cross over and take the footpath "Church Walk" on the left side of St Mary's Church. At the bottom of the footpath continue downhill in Lower Church Street. The road bends to the left at the bottom of the hill, just before this bend cross over in front of the Pottery into "The Back" which leads to the riverside.

- 2 Turn left along the riverside walk following the path until you reach the signage for the Wales Coast Path and enter the Bandstand Park.

16 Riverside Bandstand Park Orchard

- 2 There is wildlife to be seen in all seasons from the riverbank. Gulls call all year round and in summer you can hear the swifts singing overhead. If you are lucky you may see a Peregrine Falcon or 'Sammy' the seal.

To the rear of the bandstand you will find fruit trees and an almond tree planted in the shrubbery border. There are also interesting trees nearby, including foxglove trees.

17 Hollins Garden Orchard

Follow the path at the rear of the Bandstand Park onto St Annes Street. Cross over and turn right, then left when you reach the corner of Bridge Street. Pass Chepstow Museum on your left and just past Cromwell House is a stone archway leading to Hollins Garden. This is another peaceful little haven and where the Orchards Trail ends. You should also be able to see where the trail started in the Castle Dell.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE TRAIL!