

Weston under Penyard – Ross on Wye 6.2 miles

A 6.2-mile circular walk from the village of Weston under Penyard over meadows to Ross and return over Penyard Hill.

Start from the Village Hall on School Lane in Weston under Penyard.

Grid reference SO 633 231.

Grade: Medium. Short but steep ascent onto Penyard Hill from Ross. 1 stile.

1. Starting from the village hall, go back towards the main road, but opposite the primary school go left up a stony track to the left. Enter the churchyard and keep right to emerge onto a concrete path down to Church Lane and turn right down to the centre of Weston village. Carefully cross the busy main road at the central reservation into the road opposite alongside the Weston Cross Inn.
2. About 130 m beyond the pub, turn left at the wooden finger post down a narrow footpath. This short section, marked by blue arrows, is a courtesy diversion around the grounds of "Stonewold". On re-joining the normal footpath at a steel field gate, turn left and taking care to stay on the footpath, go straight ahead through the horse paddock (the electric fence can be opened) and over a stile into the fields surrounding the Penyard House Hotel. Go straight ahead again through the field and through a footpath gate. The path hugs the fence on the left for about 70 m (note the late 16th century Weston Hall on the left) and then goes half-right across the field to join the road at a steel kissing gate.
3. Turn left down the road for about 100 m, through the field gate on the right, or over the stile and to the top of field where the route of the old Gloucester-Ross railway line can still be seen. Go through a kissing gate into the apple orchard. Follow the signs up the fruit farm to a kissing gate in the hedgerow on the left and through into a field.
4. Go straight ahead down the field and through a kissing gate into another field. Go half left and head to a marker post in the far hedgerow to the left of the barns. Turn left, keeping the hedgerow on your right for about 350 m (views to Ross and The Skirrid). At the end of the hedgerow go across the wooden bridge to the field on the right. Turn left and keeping the hedgerow on your left, continue through three fields, through two pedestrian gates and then through a 2-in-1 field gate onto a farm track.
5. Cross the track and go slightly to the left through a steel kissing gate to enter the next field. Cross the field, through a wooden kissing gate and across a field down to a wooden bridge with two pedestrian gates. Bear left around the barn and then diagonally across a field to a kissing gate in the hedgerow. This will take you down a very narrow footpath between two gardens and straight ahead onto a track and an estate road to the Hildersley roundabout on the A40.



This is a good point to consider a short detour for tea and cakes at the Engine Shed café.

6. Carefully cross the road and go left for about 50m to turn right onto the signposted Town and Country Trail. After ½ mile turn left onto the road (Penyard Lane). Passing the PGL office at Alton Court, keep left through a kissing gate onto a footpath until it emerges at a field. Go immediately right steeply up the field and leave the field through a pedestrian gate at the top right-hand corner. Enter Merrivale Wood nature reserve through a second pedestrian gate and quickly followed by a third pedestrian gate. Follow the rising path through the woods to reach a field with a fence in front of you.



7. Keeping the fence on your right, continue uphill and past the remains of a stile into Penyard Park. Turn right to follow the main forest track slightly uphill for 300 m and take a footpath forking left into the woods at a waymarker post.
8. After 70 m the path reaches a steel field gate. Ignore the path to the left and continue straight ahead with the fence on your left. At a significant fork in the path keep left to the fence on your left. Keep to the fence line for about 400 m and pass through a steel kissing gate onto the open meadows of Lawns Farm.

Please keep dogs on a lead from here until clearing Lawns Farm. The meagre remains of Penyard Castle can be sighted at the bottom of the field, but to respect the privacy of the farmland it should not be visited from here.

9. Keep to the top of the field to pass through a kissing gate onto a farm track and continue straight ahead on the farm track through a steel field gate with the farm building to your left. Leave the farm at a farm gate and wooden pedestrian gate.
10. Continue downhill on a forest track turning left steeply downhill after 150 m and then turn right after another 80 m, ignoring the steel gates on the left. Follow the track, eventually passing through a pedestrian gate. After 90 m turn right, up the path and through the churchyard onto the stony track. Turn immediately right through a wooden kissing gate across Church Fields and through a pedestrian gate. Follow the left boundary of the field and leave through a small wooden gate and then follow the track back to the village hall.



Note: Comments and defect reports on footpaths are welcomed and should be sent to the Parish Clerk at clerk@westonunderpenyard-pc.gov.uk

