

Lower Lydbrook and riverside

Brief description of the walk, path conditions and facilities

Lydbrook is a large village situated along a valley that runs down from the central Forest of Dean to the River Wye. The steep valley offered a source of water power (running water) and close proximity to materials such as wood, stone and iron ore. The river provided good communication and transport links before modern highways were developed. Lydbrook became a hive of industrial activity and supported three forges, a lime-kiln, tinsplate works and also a wireworks which supplied a vast quantity of field telephone cable during the First World War. Lower Lydbrook became the principle coal port on the Wye, and Forest of Dean coal was shipped from here to Ross-on-Wye and Hereford. Despite Lydbrook's industrial history, there are few signs of this today and the village is a quiet backwater.

This is just a short easy access stroll on surfaced paths in the riverside park, perhaps combined with a picnic or visit to one of the nearby pubs.

Start point for the walk

Lydbrook riverside park is a pleasant grassy area between the road and river. It is set out on two levels, with a small car park located on the lower level (50p honesty box), and 5 seats overlooking the river. A short flight of 7 steps leads to the upper level, which can also be reached by going along the roadside pavement (no steps) and entering the site at the far end of a fence. There are another 5 seats overlooking the river.

The nearest public toilets are only 50m from the park, across the road, and a short distance on the side road to Lydbrook and Lydney (B4234). Limited parking is available outside the toilet block and a larger adjacent car park belongs to the Forge Hammer pub.

The Courtfield Arms car park could also conveniently be used by visitors patronizing these premises.

Relevant OS Maps

Explorer OL14 – Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

Outdoor Leisure 162 – Gloucester and the Forest of Dean

Detailed Walk description

Walkers are left to explore the riverside park and village at their leisure.