

This short circular walk is 1 mile long. Start from the Bird in Hand pub on Church Lane.

1. From the Bird in Hand pub, walk down Church Lane towards St Nicholas Church gates and steps.

The oldest part of the church dates to the mid C13th, with parts being rebuilt in the early C14th and some Victorian additions. The church clock, installed in the front face, is the village war memorial. It was fitted in 1923 and was paid for by funds raised by villagers.

2. Turn right, down the gravelled public footpath

This, like other sections of Church Lane, is one of the original village tracks. Along with Main Road and Cinders Lane it appears on the very earliest maps of Austrey. Yew Tree cottage dates from the early C20th and Rothay (mid way down the track) is C17th, spot the quirky outhouse to the left and well to your right as you pass by.



3. Continue down the footpath, until the corner, then carry straight on. (Do not follow the track round the right-hand bend onto The Green.)



4. Follow the footpath right down to the end. It will become less wild, and turn into a domestic garden. Don't worry! Walk through the garden, then turn left just before the culvert. You will see a gate.



This section of the footpath is known locally as Dixon's Lane. It originally led to a house at the far end of the path, by the wooden gate.

5. Go through the gate, and walk on, keeping left. (Do not turn right onto Main Road at the side path.)



6. Continue down the path keeping gardens to your right and Bishop's Field to your left until you see a wooden field gate on your left.



7. Go through the gate, and head diagonally left across Bishop's Field. Be mindful that there may be cattle or other livestock grazing.



To your left you will have a fine view of the church, and in the field you'll also be able to see some earthworks. These are the remains of a complex system of ducts and ponds as this area was originally used as a water meadow in days gone by.

8. Before reaching the end of the field, bear left and head for a gap in the tree line.



9. Continue down the field keeping the boundary hedge on your left. Near the end of the field, there is a field gate on your left.



10. Go through the gate and, keeping the boundary hedge to your immediate right, walk through the tree plantation to the end.



If you love wildlife, this is a good place to spot butterflies. The mix of sunlight and shade, wild borders and meadow grasses attracts a good variety of species.

11. Go through the gate at the end of the plantation, and turn left onto Cinders Lane.

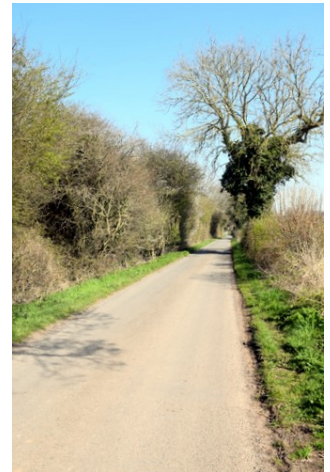
A dog-waste bin is located next to the gate. Please do not leave dog waste in the field, or anywhere else!



12. Follow Cinders Lane to the end, and turn left onto Main Road.

As you walk along Main Road, you will pass Austrey Village Hall, built in 1850. Until the 1960s this was the Parochial Church School for the village children. It was replaced by the new school building on St Nicholas Close.

13. Walk along Main Road to the Bird in Hand



The Bird in Hand dates to the C17th and C18th. Outside stands the village cross, the base and steps of which are medieval, the cross itself dating to 1897.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk.
Remember the countryside code:

- **Respect other people:**
 - ◇ consider other people enjoying the outdoors
 - ◇ leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available
- **Protect the natural environment:**
 - ◇ leave no trace of your visit, take your litter home
 - ◇ keep dogs under effective control
- **Enjoy the outdoors:**
 - ◇ plan ahead and be prepared
 - ◇ follow advice and local signs

