

U P H I L L W A L K S

One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

Walk Six

BOATYARD, BLEADON, OLDMIXON

6 miles / 3 hours

Walk 6 includes a steep decent and a suitable pair of walking boots or sturdy shoes are recommended.

From the boatyard take the footpath past the Marina and as far as the fifth gate on the Tidal Trail. Now turn left onto the West Mendip Way track to the disused station of Uphill Junction. At the main A370 road turn right in the direction of Taunton, but only for thirty or so yards. When you are opposite the entrance to a lay bye cross with great care to this haven from the traffic and walk south on the lay bye. On the left, between farm buildings and a cottage is bridleway which is quite rocky and uneven, follow this path up the hill, and go through gate on the left, waymarked for the West Mendip Way. This is the Purn Hill Nature Reserve belonging to Avon Wildlife Trust.

Follow the well worn path through an old gateway. The path now splits, take the right-hand fork uphill, and follow the ridge, remembering to pause to take in the fantastic panoramic views. At the very end of the ridge, turn left and take the steps down to the lower path, where you turn right, and through a gate into a small field. Walk down the field to a gate in the bottom left corner, and out onto Purn Way. Turn left and follow the road around to the right, keeping the croquet club on your right, until a footpath sign on the left after the second property. This well maintained path meets a T-junction of paths where you turn right to pass the allotments.

Continue through two gates, and through a third gate into a field. Go diagonally up this field to the far corner and a gate in a wire fence. In twenty yards on the right is another gate. Now follow the hedge on the left round the bend to come to the unusual ladder stile leading into Celtic Way, Bleadon.

Opposite is a private road where there is also a public footpath. Keeping to the path pass the house on your right, then pass the out of place road signs to a gate leading to a wooded path. At the end of the path is another gate, go through and turn sharp left to cross a field to a small copse. Enter this by a waymarked footpath, the ground here may be uneven until you reach some steps going uphill to a gate on the left. Bear right, then diagonally uphill on the path visible in the grass. This path leads via a kissing gate into Roman Road, Bleadon.



Continued

Turn left and follow the road 600 yards and as the road turns sharply to the left, look out for a foot path sign by a field gate on the right. Cross the stile and in the field bear slightly left to the shrubs ahead, this is very close to the telegraph post in the middle of the field. The path goes through the patch of shrubs, the entrance looks rather like a hole, enter and follow the path as it meanders among the trees to come out near a stile in the hedge in front of you.

The next field has the most magnificent views across Weston bay and town and across the Bristol Channel to Wales. Your direction is straight ahead from the stile to another wooded area. This is Hay Wood directly above Oldmixon. The footpath entrance to the field is not way marked but the gap in the trees is pretty obvious. Now in the wood keep fairly close to the right hand edge, the path makes its way between the trees downhill, gently at first then more steeply when it bends left to come to a stile on the right. The path leads into Oldmixon Road.

Turn left and keep on the road ignoring all the side roads until it bears right and joins Broadway. Again turn left westward using the footpath, over the railway bridge to arrive at the hospital roundabout. Cross to Grange Road, past the hospital to arrive at a mini roundabout welcoming you back to Uphill. Turn right at the roundabout, then left onto Uphill Way and back to the entrance of the boatyard.