

U P H I L L W A L K S

One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

Walk Seven

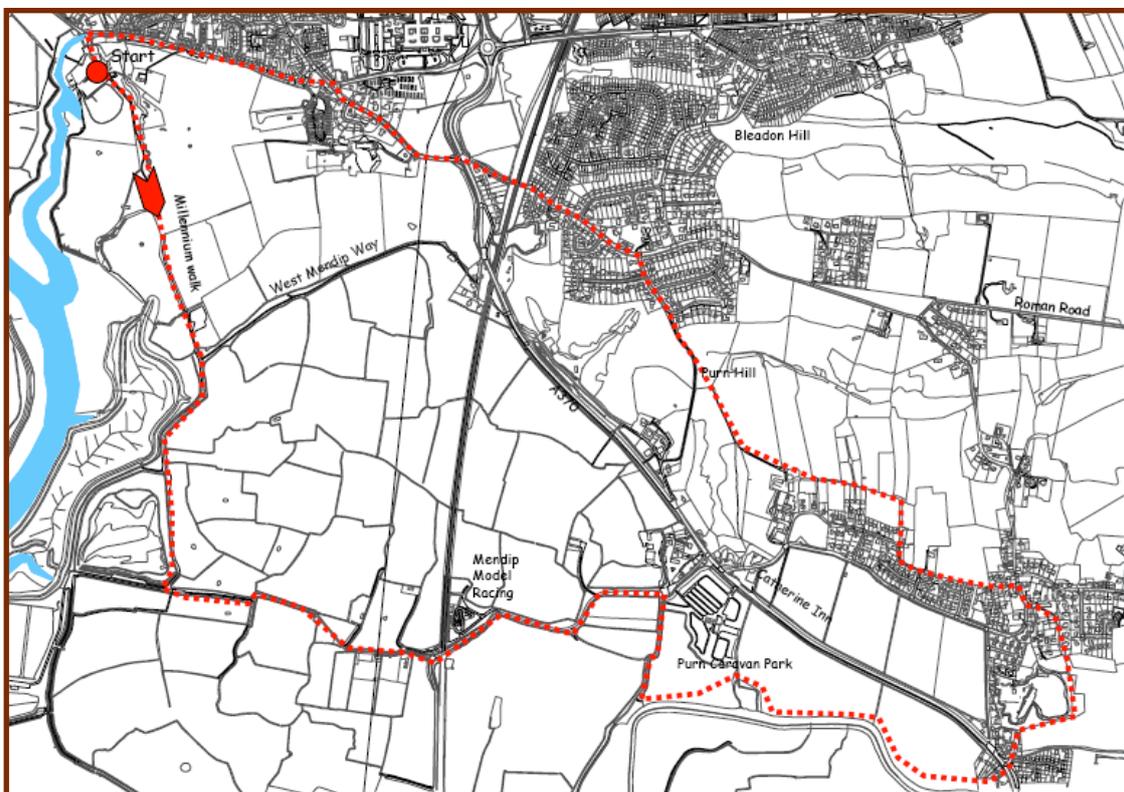
BOATYARD, ACCOMMODATION ROAD, BLEADON, PURN HILL

6.5 miles / 3.25 hours

Start this walk at the Uphill boatyard. Proceed on the Tidal Trail past the Marina, the 18th century Lime Kiln, and the Explosive Store (used in the 19th century in conjunction with the quarry) and follow this trail all the way to a tarmac road, through a total of five gates, followed by a long stone path. Now part of the private road to the Water Authority pumping station it was originally part of Accommodation Road, Bleadon. Cross the road into the field opposite, follow the path to the right, around this field, and then left, over a drainage channel.

Once over the drainage channel, turn left, follow this path alongside the drainage channel, until you reach a hard surface track, turn left. At a junction of tracks, turn right, and follow this track all the way to Accommodation Road. Here turn left and follow the road over the railway bridge, we suggest you keep on the right hand side to face the traffic. Keep following the road, you will pass Mendip Model Car Racing circuit on your left, and in 250 yards take the farm track on the right. This is a public footpath at the end of which follow the footpath on the left, along the bank of the River Axe. In fifty yards the path turns left and heads for the boundary of the Purn Caravan Site.

Cross the substantial wooden bridge and bear right back towards the river. Follow the river to the A370 trunk road at Bleadon Bridge, turn left until opposite the first of the "old council houses" is a track leading to South Hill Farm. Cross the main road with care and ignoring the first two lanes start on the track for only fifty yards when you will see a foot path sign on the left. There are actually three paths starting from here but take the left hand one uphill and above the disused Bleadon Quarry. This will lead round to a kissing gate leading to steps and track to arrive in the churchyard. Go through the churchyard, passing to the left of the church, and on down to Coronation Road.



Continued

Turn right on the road and shortly left on to Rectory Lane, this recent development was the site where the Stone Age Bleadon Man was discovered. Go through the gate at the end of the road and on to an enclosed path with bungalows to the left and open fields right. Soon the path leads on to a road (Purn Way), follow this round to the right, then, as the road turns left take the track that is on the right. At the top of the track turn left onto a foot path by the side of the allotments.

Keep on the path through several gates until you come to a storage silo. The path is now diverted round the silo so turn right and follow the path around it to a gate. Through the gate turn right to make your way uphill to a gate, where you enter Avon Wildlife Trust's Purn Hill Nature Reserve.

Turn right, and keep following the path uphill until you go through a gate onto a track. Turn right on the track to reach the metalled surface of Purn Hill Lane where we come to the built up part of Bleadon Hill. Ignore road junctions to the right and left but at the end of the road, turn left to go downhill across a railway bridge to the A370 trunk road. Cross this busy main road with great care to the entrance of the road opposite.

This will lead you past the entrance to Uphill Grange, now a nursing home to the roundabout at the start of the village. After the roundabout, take the first left turning, Uphill Way, and keeping to the left of the triangle, take the track on the left. After ten yards or so, take the gate in the hedge to your right. In this field, walk diagonally up the hill to another gate in the far wall. Turn left, and as you drop down from the very top of the ridge onto a track, turn right and walk to the old windmill/tower.

From the Tower make your way to the northern side of the old Church of St. Nicholas and then use the path going steeply downhill to rejoin Uphill Way, turn left and follow the road back to the entrance to the boatyard.