

U P H I L L W A L K S

One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

Walk Eight

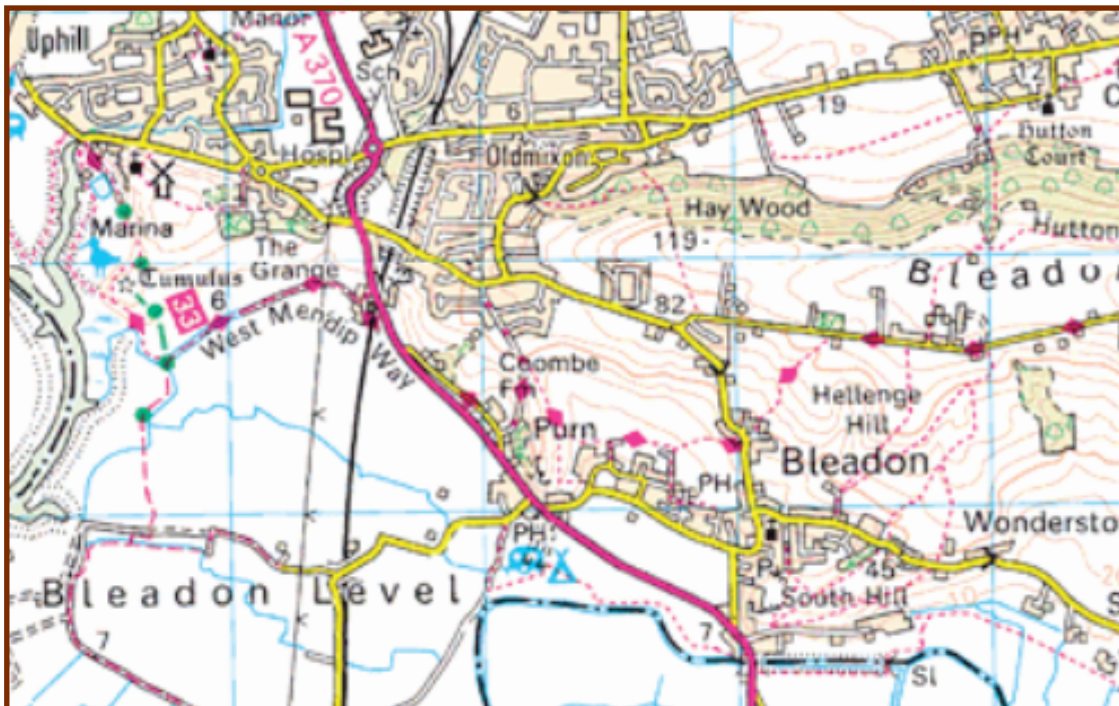
BOATYARD, BLEADON BRIDGE, HELLENGE HILL

7 miles / 3.5 hours

Start this walk in the familiar surroundings of 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 along side 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. Take the right hand of three paths round the top of South Hill with wonderful views to the right over the Somerset Levels. The path leads to an old stone stile by a cattle trough onto the Bleadon-Shiplate road.



Walk 8 is best explored using OS Explorer Map sheet 153 (1:25 000 scale)



Use the steps opposite to another easier stile into an enclosed path which itself leads onto the less well used part of Hellenge Hill. Now head slightly right of straight ahead to meet a hedge where you should find a farm gate with adjacent stile leading into a meadow of donkeys owned by the famous Trapnell family for rides on Weston Beach. Over the stile the path follows the hedge on the left up to where another stile comes in from the hedge, here turn right diagonal to a post below the large house. The path goes right round the house to a field gate onto Roman Road, linking the villages of Hutton with Bleadon.

Turn left on the road for 300 metres to a fairly new kissing gate opposite the last of the properties on the road, and which leads into the Avon Wildlife Trust site of Hellenge Hill. As you walk steadily downhill to a stile enjoy the spectacular views over Somerset and the Bristol Channel. Over the stile the path leads diagonally right making sure not to go too far right or you will end up in impenetrable gorse!

The path is however well worn and leads steeply down to a kissing gate on to the road at Bleadon Village. Turn right into the village but look out for Old School Lane in 200 metres. The Lane meets a gate into the churchyard for St. Peter and St. Paul at Bleadon. Go through the churchyard to, passing to the left of the church, and on down to Coronation Road.

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 to the right. Soon the path leads on to a road (Purn Way) Follow the road first bearing right then left, pass the business units, then the new croquet lawn.

For this walk continue to use the road to the main A370. Now turn right to face the traffic to the old road in 200 metres. Use this for its whole length when it comes to the A370 again, cross to the footpath opposite and continue in the same northerly direction to cross the railway bridge and immediately turn left onto a short road. After about 20 metres, turn right onto a track and through a metal gate, follow this drove around to the left, and all the way to the end where you turn right onto a stone track. This is the Tidal Trail, follow the trail through five gates back to Uphill boatyard