

# Uphill Walks

10 Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill Village

*Third Edition*



## Health Walks at Uphill

Explore the wonderful fauna and flora around Uphill as well as going for a purposeful walk to improve your health.

A health walk aims to:

- Encourage people, particularly those who undertake little physical activity, to walk on a regular basis within their communities.
- Ensure the walk is purposeful and brisk but not too challenging for those who have not exercised recently.
- Plan the walk so it is safe, accessible, manageable and enjoyable.

Health walks are all about getting inactive people on the first rung of the ladder to a more active lifestyle. So if you enjoy exercise in the fresh air a health walk may be just what you are looking for.

*Please note that walks 4 to 9 in this book are over three miles and only suitable for those who walk regularly and are used to walking this distance over uneven terrain and up moderate to steep inclines.*

## Why Walk?

Walking can:

- Make you feel good
- Give you more energy
- Reduce stress and help you sleep better
- Keep your heart 'strong' and reduce blood pressure
- Help to manage your weight



Why is walking the perfect activity for health?

- Almost everyone can do it
- You can do it anywhere and any time
- It's a chance to make new friends
- It's free and you don't need special equipment
- You can start slowly and build up gently

To help motivate you to walk more why not take up the step counter loan service. Wearing a step counter will provide you with more of a purpose when you walk and will motivate you to walk further each time. You can work towards the recommended 10,000 steps per day or the recommended 30 minutes of exercise per day. For more information or to take up the step counter loan call the North Somerset Council Ranger Service - 01934 888 802.

## Countryside Code

There are five sections of The Countryside Code dedicated to helping members of the public respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



## Maps

With a dedicated, large-scale map you can plan and follow a route through the countryside. They are especially useful when a path is difficult to see on the ground. Although this guide contains maps as well as text, Ordnance Survey (OS) maps are recommended because they show a variety of land features as well as rights of way. The most useful OS maps to help you enjoy the countryside are the 1:25,000 Explorer series.

# Walk One - Quarry and Boat Yard

1.5 miles / 45 mins

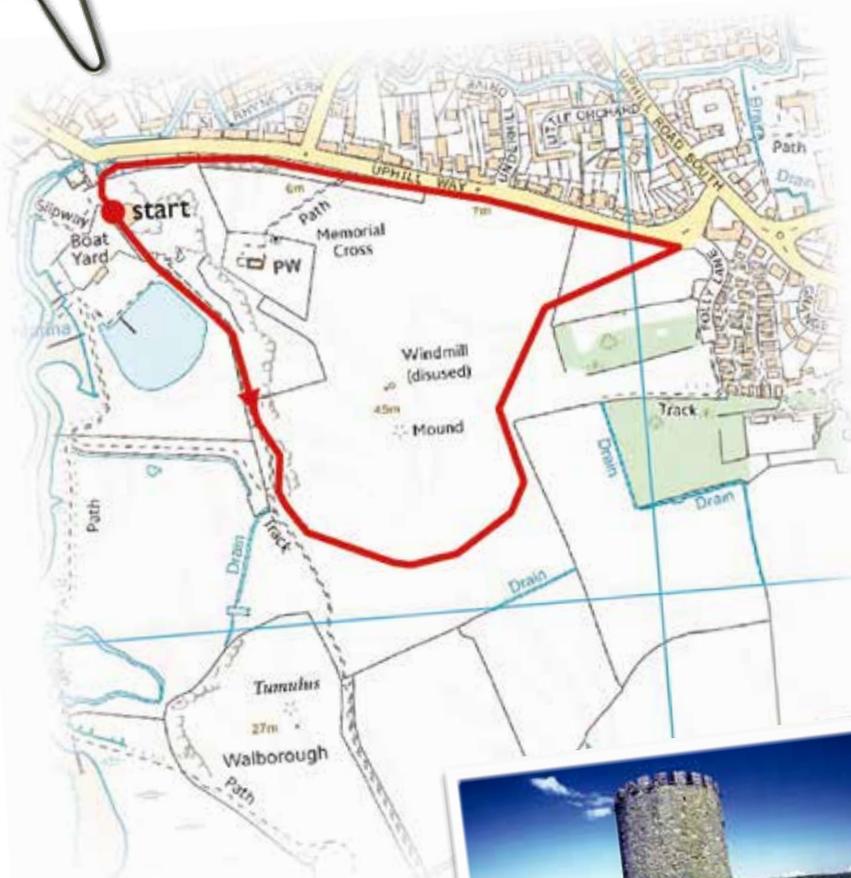


Start your walk at the boatyard entrance to Uphill Hill. Here you will find car parking and toilet facilities are available across the road. Follow the metalled track going past the limekiln and through into the quarry, looking out for birds of prey that are often seen hunting here.

Go through another kissing gate and the view opens up on the right to the River Axe and beyond to Brean Down. The path climbs quite steeply so slow your pace down for your body to adapt to the gradient and stop to enjoy this seaside scene. As you mount the climb and before the next gate turn left onto the grass and follow the contour as it bends gently leftwards slightly uphill so slow your pace once more.

When you approach a hedge the path turns right alongside it going through a gate in a wall.

Now bear left diagonally to come out via another gate onto the road. Turn left on the road, Uphill Way, and follow it back to the boatyard passing both The Ship and The Dolphin public houses.



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**Uphill Hill** is an important limestone grassland site, supporting nationally rare plants together with an abundance of orchids and butterfly species.

# Walk Two - Boatyard, Beach and Donkey Field

2 miles / 1 hour

Totally flat and ideal for a health walk. Start at the Wharf entrance and proceed along the road towards the beach and through the gateway on the left. This path takes you by the side of the Pill with views over the Marina to the left and over to Brean

Down and the sea to the right. Follow the well defined path as it bends sharply right and leads to the sands to the left and Weston Bay Yacht Club.

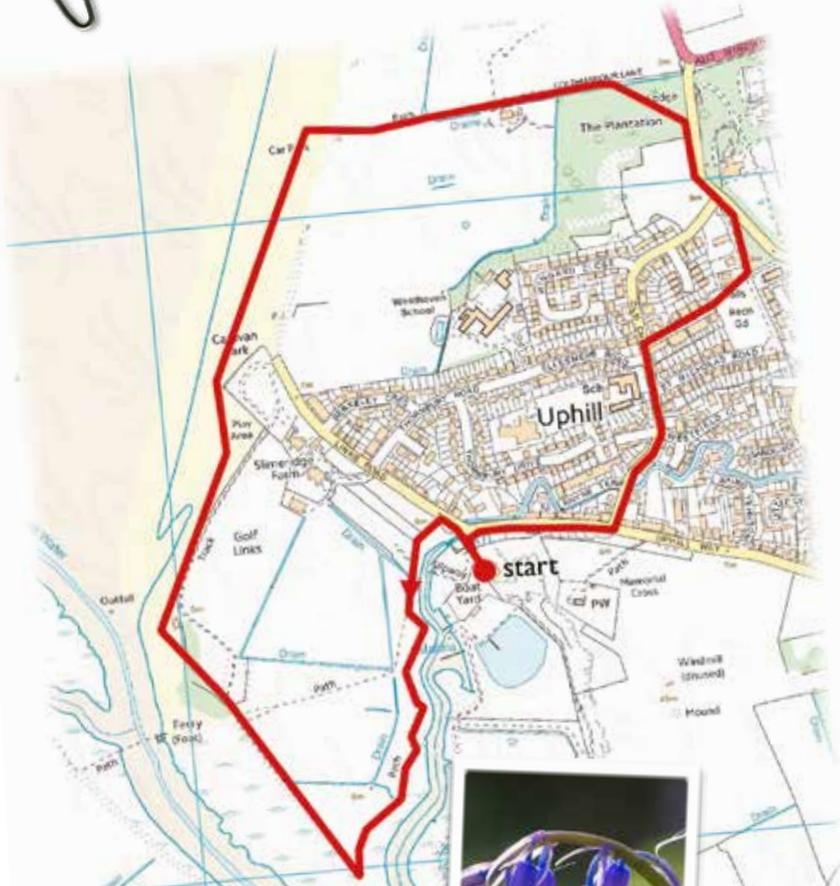
Along the sand follow the Wall of Weston Golf Club all the way to the car park area on Uphill Beach. Now walk by the side of the dunes for around 200 metres. Here look for the steps leading over the dunes to the other portion of the Golf course.

Follow the blue markers as the right of way takes you straight over the course to join a track. Watch out for flying golf balls! The track leads to the road but before you reach this take the entrance to the small wooded area in the ownership of the Woodland Trust. Follow the path to the left through the wood which brings you out onto Uphill Road South next to the Donkey or Bluebell Field.

Here turn right towards Uphill Church of St. Nicholas, there is a footpath leading into the green area in front of the Church. A gate on the right takes you into the recreation ground, follow the path straight ahead to the entrance to the entrance to New Church Road. At the junction turn left to keep on this road as far as The Dolphin where a right turn will lead you back to the boatyard and your car.

See also walk 10 for a longer walk along the beach.





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**The Donkey or Bluebell Field** is an important landscape feature for Uphill, providing a green barrier against the urban development of Weston-super-Mare. It is well known for its unusual display of spring bulbs, particularly bluebells which carpet the field in springtime.

# Walk Three The Tidal Trail

3 miles / 1.5 hours

Start at the boatyard entrance to Uphill hill walking through the first and second kissing gates and continue on the hard surface uphill to the third gate. Remember to slow up and pace yourself before walking downhill with southerly views towards Brent Knoll in the distance.

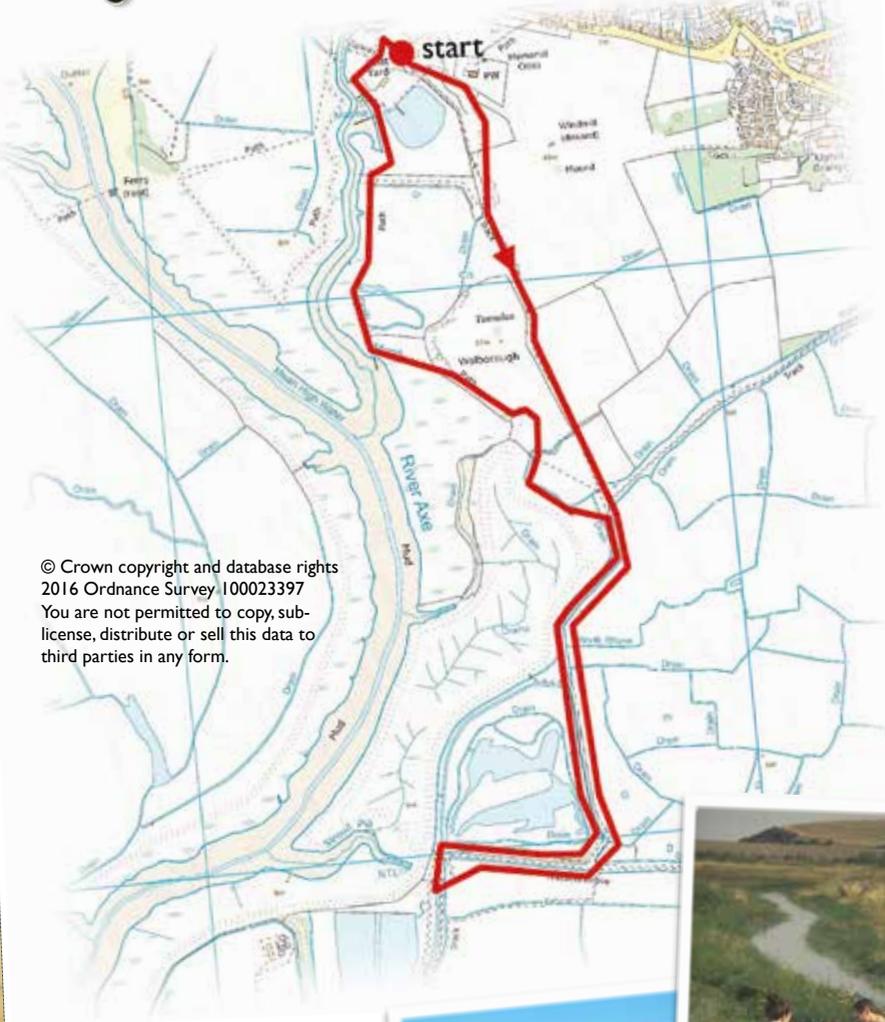


Go through the fourth and fifth gates, don't follow the West Mendip Way to the left but instead carry straight.

Next we come to the road to the Pumping Station. Cross the road to enter a public footpath in to a field, cross the footbridge and turn sharp right to follow the path to the road where you come out opposite a balancing pond. The high wire fence around it indicates it is private. However there are usually a good number of birds on the water to enjoy.

Turn right onto the road as far as the right angled corner, follow the road round and keep on it until you return to the entrance to the Tidal Trail when you retrace your steps as far as the first gate where there is an Information Board indicating details of The Walborough Nature Reserve. (If you would rather walk on more sturdy ground then continue to retrace your steps back to the boatyard).

Go onto the grass and walk in a diagonal left direction to a small bridge, then keep in the same direction on the edge of the hill with views over The Axe to the sea and Brean Down. Shortly watch out for some steps leading down to a path which takes you close to the bank of a tributary to the Axe and into the boat yard on the other side of the Marina to the one you started out on. The path which is very narrow stops almost at the car park.



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The **salt marsh** has a number of nationally scarce plants on its upper reaches. Patches of sea lavender add a splash of colour in the late summer.



# Walk Four - Boatyard, Old Toll Road, Uphill Way

3 miles / 1.5 hours

Starting from the boatyard entrance follow the path past the limekiln, under the cliffs and along the Tidal Trail. Half way up the rise turn right onto the grass to make for the gate at the corner of a hedge partly hidden by the hedgerow.



Keep to the edge of Walborough Hill and as the path follows the edge enjoy the views to your right over Uphill Sands to the sea and the Welsh coast beyond, and straight ahead to Brean Down and the Somerset coast as far as Minehead.

At the far end of the hill is a gate leading into another pasture meadow. Continue in the same direction until you come to a kissing gate, you are now back on the Tidal Trail.

In twenty yards take the gate on the left and join the drove road, which is also part of the West Mendip Way. This fairly well surfaced track leads you past the former Uphill Junction railway station to a path beside the main A370 trunk road.

Turn



left and take the incline up to the next road on the left which leads down to the roundabout at the beginning of the Village.

Uphill Way is only forty yards on the left and leads us via The Ship and The Dolphin back to the boatyard car park.



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**Uphill Junction** railway station, opened in 1884 and closed in 1964. Uphill Junction is one of twenty-two closed stations on the old Bristol to Exeter line.

# Walk Five - Boatyard, Purn Lane, Bleadon

4 miles / 2 hours

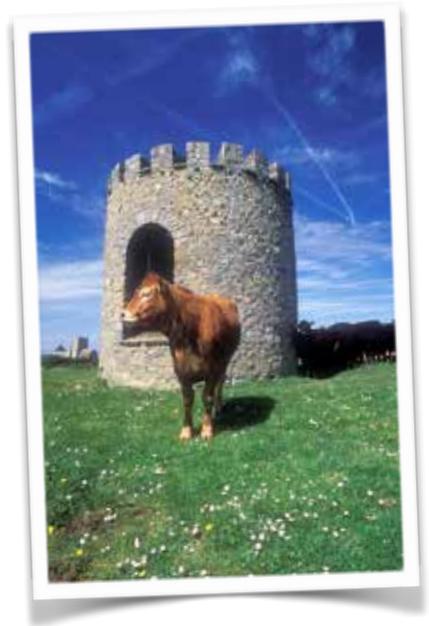
Start at the boatyard entrance and walk past the Marina and as far as the fifth gate on the Tidal Trail. Now turn left onto the West Mendip Way track to the disused station of Uphill Junction. At the main A370 road turn right in the direction of Taunton, but only for thirty or so yards. When you are 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 a bridgeway which is quite rocky and uneven, Follow the path on to Purn Hill. It is a moderate climb but is well worth the effort with panoramic views at the top.

Continue on the track to reach the metaled 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 the 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 turn into 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 on 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 front 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 to the boatyard entrance.





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**Purn Hill** is an Avon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The site is entered through the gate and is home to a number of endangered plants which are to be found on only three sites in the country. (Somerset hair grass; white rock rose; honewort.)

# 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 Tidal Trail onto the West Mendip Way to the A370. Cross at the entrance to a lay bye opposite and onto the bridleway between the farm buildings and cottage and follow up the hill. Go through a gate on the left waymarked for the West Mendip Way. This is the Purn Hill Nature Reserve belonging to the Avon Wildlife Trust.

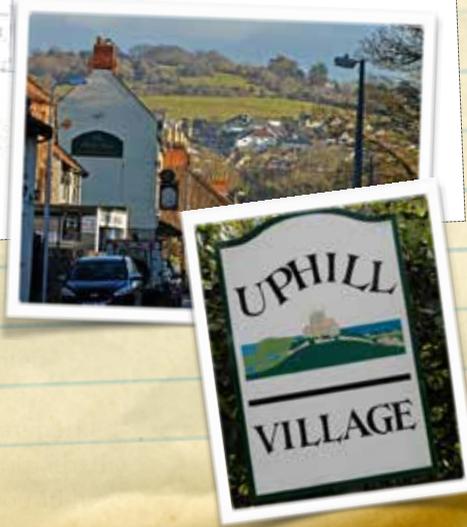


Follow the well worn path through an old gateway. The path now splits, take the right-hand fork uphill, and follow the ridge, remembering to pause to take in the fantastic panoramic views. At the very end of the ridge, turn left and take the steps down to the lower path, where you turn right, and through 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.



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**The Uphill Village Society** as a charitable trust exists to preserve, promote and enhance the village of Uphill for the benefit of the village and residents. and is funded entirely from voluntary subscription and grant aid, when and where available.

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. 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.



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> century Lime Kiln, and the Explosive Store (used in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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

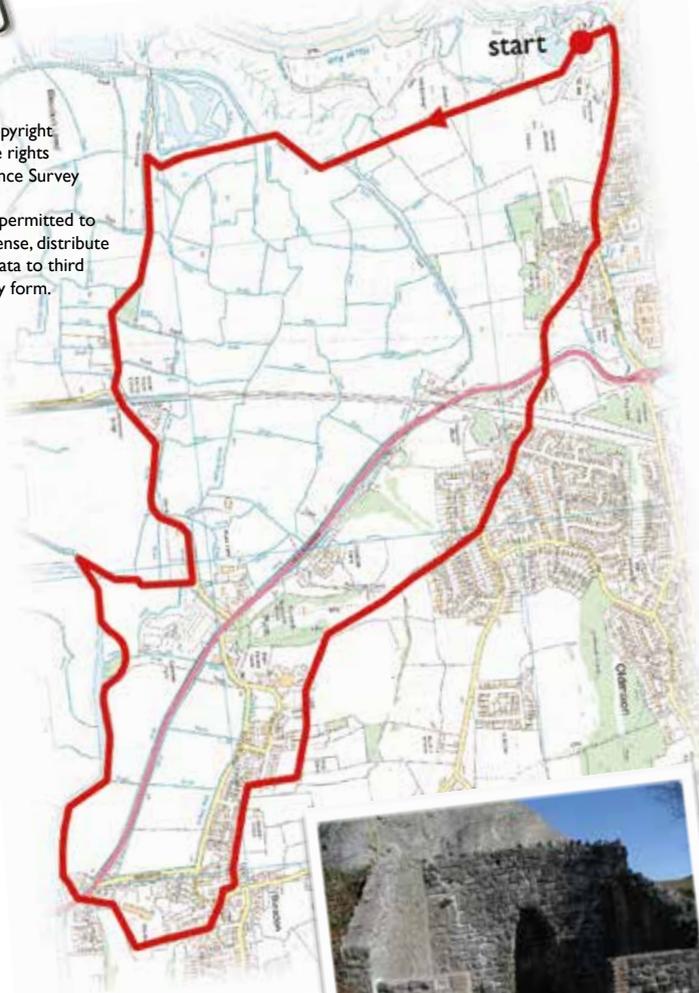


the private road to the Water Authority pumping station it was originally part of Accommodation Road, Bleadon. Cross the road into the field opposite, follow the path to the right, around this field, and then left, over a drainage channel.

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

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The **Uphill Lime Kiln** is sited for easy access to limestone from the quarry behind it, and for Welsh coal, which could be shipped across the Severn to the port of Uphill very cheaply. The finished lime was also shipped out from the port.



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 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.



# Walk Eight - Boatyard, Bleadon Bridge, Hellenge Hill

7 miles / 3.5 hours

Follow the start of walk seven until you get to the track leading to South Hill Farm.

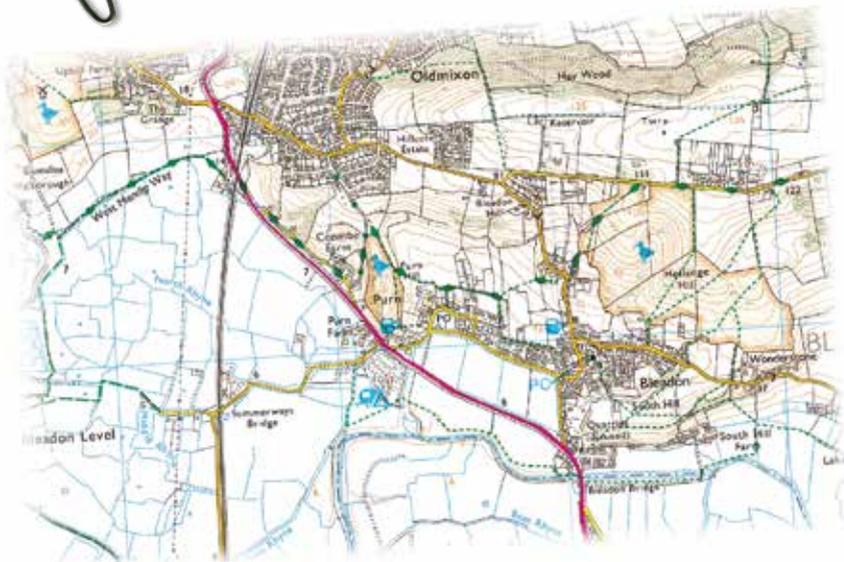
Cross the main road with care and ignoring the first two lanes start on the track for only fifty yards when you will see a footpath sign on the left. Take the right hand of three paths round the top of South Hill with wonderful views to the right over the Somerset Levels. The path leads to an old stone stile by a cattle trough onto the Bleadon - Shiplate road.



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.



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

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The **Somerset Levels** landscape is one of the lowest, flattest areas in the country. In ancient times it was known as the Summerlands because it was too wet to use in the winter and it is thought this is where the county of Somerset got its name.

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.



# Walk Nine - Boatyard, Canada Combe, Hutton Hill, Bleadon

9 miles / 4.5 hours

This is the longest of this set of walks and requires full walking apparel and liquid refreshment.

Follow the route at the start of walks seven and eight until you get to the A370 trunk road at Bleadon Bridge, cross the A370 to the other side of the bridge and pick up the path on the right hand bank when you are actually in Sedgemoor

District, for merely 600 metres as far as an iron bridge. Cross the bridge, turn right to an awkward stile after which turn sharp left towards South Hill farm buildings.

At the stream just beyond the farm turn right. Keeping the stream on the left cross a stile, then a footbridge as the well marked path leads to the right of Lake Farm.

There are now several small bridges as the path crosses water courses and the land is below sea level. You will know when you are in the last field with a farm and other buildings to the right and a fishing lake adjacent to them. The path here veers left to the road at Shiplate. Cross the Bleadon to Loxton Road into the lane opposite. This soon turns sharp right, then left before becoming a track rising steeply uphill. Climbing over 120 metres pass a formidable house on the left, climb a stile to walk by a small wooded area before another stile by a cattle trough takes you into an open field. As you are completing this part of the walk do not miss the glorious views all around.

Go straight across the field to a stile into an enclosed path, ignore the West Mendip Way to the right but go on to a T-junction of paths. Turn right onto



Christon Hill, there is a distant view of Glastonbury Tor at about one o'clock. As the rough wide path goes downhill it meets a substantial path, now turn left to pass Keeper's Cottage on the right.

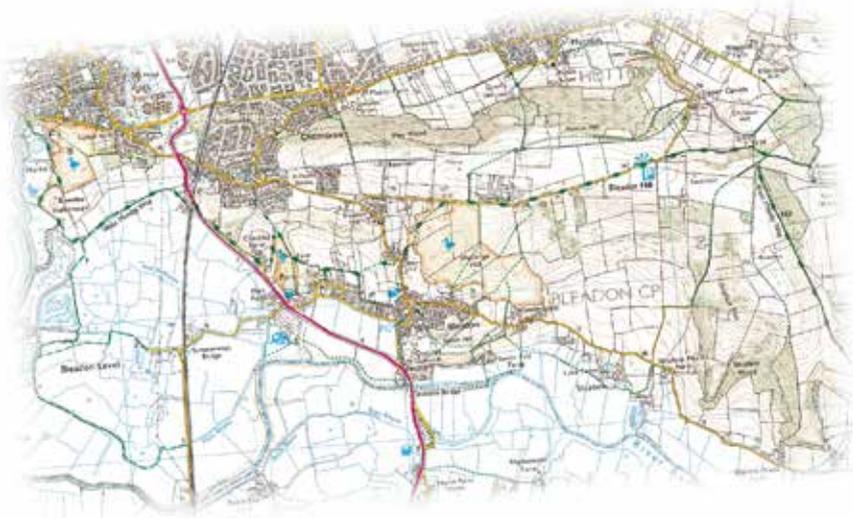
As the path bears left take time out to enjoy a view of Crook Peak from the field gate on the right standing high on the Mendip Hills in front of you. As you continue it is now that you need those proper walking boots as the path becomes rather muddy! At the junction turn left to walk uphill in the shade to the next junction of paths. The track in front of you is the top of Windmill Hill, Hutton, but ignore this to take the left turn, which leads to a cottage at the beginning of Canada Coombe. This private road, but public footpath, has a tarmac surface so the going is good. At the road turn left for only a few yards when you come to a well signed path on the right leading into Hutton Woods.

Although the track is uneven the woods are a delight, look out for the bird life, you may even see a Gold-crest. The old machinery on the left was a road laying machine abandoned at the end of the Second World War. Now cross the stile and proceed ahead on a well worn path which in spring time is abundant with primroses and violets as well as green orchids. The path leads to another stile and into a large pasture meadow, keep near to the woods on the right, then cross the third stile before making diagonally left across a vehicle track and on to where the path drops steeply down to a stile at another footpath junction.

Go ahead up the bank opposite to come into what, at time of writing, is an unfinished golf course. Again the direction is left diagonal, head for some conifer trees. Here find a field gate into an enclosed track taking you down to Roman Road, next to a lay-by with an information panel and seat!

Enjoy the view of the meandering River Axe below and Bridgwater Bay and Brent Knoll ahead, then when rested turn right on the road for only 60 metres to a well marked foot path on the left, through a kissing gate. Follow the visible path in the grass to come to a small copse, enter by way of the gate then down the steps to a pretty walk through the trees to a meadow. Cross in the same direction but at the far side watch out for the gate hidden on the right.

This path then leads onto Celtic Way, Bleadon. Cross to the ladder stile opposite and follow the path round by the hedge on your right. Through the next gate turn sharp left to another gate in the fence, then diagonal left to the hedge. Now turn left to the field gate on the right. 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



Walk 9 is best explored using OS Explorer Map sheet 153 (1:25 000 scale)



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The distinctive hill of **Brent Knoll** stands 449ft above sea level. Originally an Iron Age Fort it was later taken by the Romans to make a fortified position. The surrounding area was held by the Glastonbury Abbey estates until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536.

uphill to a gate, where you enter Avon Wildlife Trust's Purn Hill Nature Reserve.

Here turn left and follow the road for its whole length when it comes to the A370, 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 four gates. Once through the fourth gate go through the metal gate on the left and follow the path to the bank of the marina, and turn right through a gate. This gives close up views of the marina and boat repair yards.

The path is well marked as it meanders its way to the exit, but here take care not to enter the private part of the yard. The path exits next to the car park at Uphill boatyard.



# Walk Ten - The Beach

As long as you like!

This last walk in the series is perhaps the most obvious but the most variable and very much open to your own devises, especially in terms of distance. Although a linear walk you can decide how far or how little you walk but remember you have to get back to the car, although buses are usually available.



We suggest that any car is parked on the North Somerset car park on Uphill Beach where Links Road ends and the sand begins.

Head northwards towards Weston itself. Go through the wooden barrier designed to stop vehicular access and keep out of the marked area reserved for sand yachts, etc. On the right the sand dunes separate the sand from Weston Golf Club. As you look seaward Brean Down with its Fort on the end of the promontory is now owned by the National Trust.

Continuing the walk further to the west Steep Holm Island can be seen some five miles into the Bristol Channel. Ownership is with the Kenneth Alsop Memorial Trust, a registered charity looking after the nature reserve to which regular trips are made during the summer months. The Tourist Information Office on Weston seafront has details.

Continue alongside the dunes and through more wooden barriers, and soon meet the next car park on the beach near the old Sanatorium Hospital site. The golf club house is adjacent. You have walked about a mile and could return at this point or at any other point of your choosing.

The next barriers provide staging for Weston's famous donkeys. On a little bit further and the sea front kiosks offer a chance of an ice cream or a soft drink.



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**Steep Holm** island is a nature reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest famed for its beautiful, May flowering wild peony. It is home to the remains of a 12th century Augustinian priory .



Next comes the popular SeaQuarium with its many marine creatures and good viewing facilities. Also at this stage buses service the seafront, just in case you are tired.

Moving further north we come to the pier badly damaged by fire in June 2008. Then on the right the jewel in Weston's crown The Winter Gardens offering refreshments and a variety of entertainment. Just inland is the Sovereign Centre shopping precinct.

Go under the pier to walk toward Knightstone Harbour, here you will find many small and some not so small pleasure boats. Knightstone Island was formerly the site of a theatre and swimming baths, as well as public baths used by fishermen and those without such facilities at home. There also were medicinal baths of differing kinds! Now however the island has been developed into residential accommodation.

To continue the walk either return to the pavement to go by Marine Lake to the Rozel promenade or use the causeway to link up with it. Pass the former Rozel Bandstand now a restaurant, and continue past the lifeboat shop to Anchor Head. This is a favorite piece of Weston seafront, the rocky boulders form a splendid resting or sunbathing site and the slipway a brilliant place for children to catch crabs.

The path is now overshadowed by the Royal Pier Hotel on the right but seaward the Birnbeck Pier comes into view. Only the Lifeboat station remains on the pier which at one time housed amusements and a theatre. Perhaps one day it will be restored to its former glory with steamers from Wales once again landing at its quay.

The choice again is yours, either decide to finish the linear walk here and return by retracing your steps or by bus, or continue even further along the toll road to Kewstoke and all the facilities that village has to offer.



# Uphill Nature Reserves



Uphill Hill Local Nature Reserve is located to the south of the village of Uphill, which is itself just south of Weston-super-mare. This 17 hectare site is owned by North Somerset Council and is popular with the local community. Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Uphill Hill is part of the Mendip Limestone Grasslands Special Area of Conservation, (SAC) supporting a diverse flora and valuable invertebrate habitat.

The site lies on carboniferous limestone, which has been formed into a sheer face by quarrying at the western edge. A very diverse flora is found on the rock ledges of the disused quarry and steeper slopes of the Hill. An outstanding display of cowslips, and green winged orchids cover the northern and western slopes in the Spring. The rest of the site is gently sloping and consists of semi-improved calcareous grassland.

A tower tops the Hill and can be climbed for a panoramic view. Archaeological features include a disused lime kiln, a sheepwash and a powder house.

A management committee oversees the management of the site, which is carried out by North Somerset Council in conjunction with Natural England and the Avon Wildlife Trust (the site is also immediately adjacent to Walborough LNR owned by the Avon Wildlife Trust). Volunteer wardens also monitor the site.

**Access:**

**By Car:** Follow signs to Uphill Village from the southern end of Weston-super-Mare. Uphill leads towards the south end of Weston beach. Head towards the beach but turn in near the large sluice gates on the left and continue along the track towards the boat yard. A small car-park is situated at the reserve entrance, on the left hand side. There is also limited parking in spaces adjacent to Uphill Way.

**By Foot:** The Tidal Trail runs through the west of the reserve and is suitable for disabled users and there are various paths across the Hill. Dog owners are asked to keep their dogs on a lead around grazing animals.



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