

Eastwood Trail

A circular walk

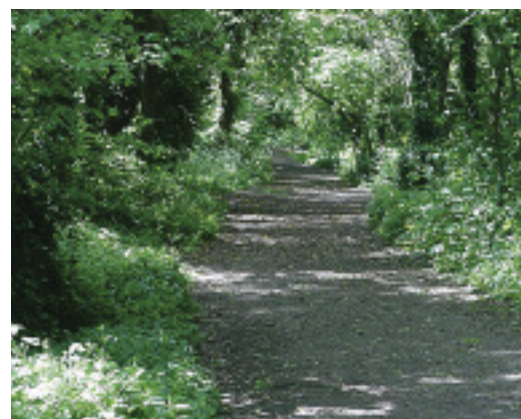


Battery Point Lighthouse

Here is the latest in our series of walks in North Somerset. To do this walk go to Portishead and make your way to the seafront, then walk up the steps past the outdoor pool to get to Battery Point.

The woods 2

As you enter the wood from Battery Point take a few moments to look at the structure of the woodland. Here you can still see how woodland use to be managed in centuries gone by. All of the oak trees are large, old and have single trunks. Among these the other trees would have all been cut down every 10 to 20 years (a practice called coppicing). You can still see some of these coppiced trees and identify them by their multiple trunks as a result of the coppicing.



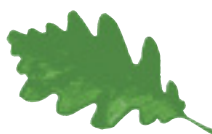
The Broadwalk

Battery Point 1

This walk begins at Battery Point, which you can reach by walking up the steps past the open air swimming pool.

Historically a battery of guns stood at this point. Some sort of watchtower was present here from Elizabethan times and by 1600 Portishead Fort guarded the entrance to King Road. During the Napoleonic War the battery had four cannons.

It was used again during the first and second world wars. A lighthouse was built between the wars by Avonmouth Docks to beacon the deep water shipping channel.



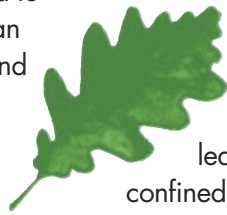
The Broadwalk 3

This ash-based roadway running along the ridge of the wood was constructed as a Victorian walk up to a viewpoint over the surrounding vistas. In the 1820s the Bristol Corporation developed the ridge as part of a pleasure ground. Carriage drives and paths for walking connected with stone steps up steep inclines were constructed. The walkway is lined by trees, most of which have survived from Victorian times.



The spring flower walk 4

This diversion from the Broadwalk is a must during June. Here you can see native woodland flowers at their best, such as bluebells, violets, wood anemone, sweet woodruff, red campion, yellow archangel and wood spurge. However, one flower is notable by its absence: where are all the primroses? They are believed to have been exterminated by Victorian collectors. Look out for two woodland grasses: Wood melick appears in May with flower heads like little brown beads and wood millet which is a tall graceful grass and flowers in June and July.



The original wood 5

Eastwood became woodland after the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. Although much of it has been cut down at various times, some ancient woodland trees that can only survive if woodland is natural and unchanged can still be found.

You should be able to find wild service tree (identifiable by its leaves with five short sharp spikes) and small leaved lime (small heart-shaped leaves) both of which are

confined to ancient woodland. Broad leaved whitebeam, field maple, oak and ash, all of which are native, can be found near the path. There are also some fine beech trees near Woodlands Road.



The Fort 6

Just off to the right of Broadwalk is the remains of an Iron Age hillfort, referred to by some as Portishead Camp. It was first described by John Rutter in his "Delineations of North West Somerset" and exists in much the same state now as then.

Viewing points 7

At the end of Broadwalk is a Victorian viewing point looking out over the Severn and King Road. From here on a clear day you can see both Severn bridges, the Welsh coastline and the island of Denny. Large coal and transporter ships pass close by often accompanied by tugs to and from Royal Portbury Dock. Fifty metres down the Broadwalk from this is another viewpoint with three vistas: out to sea, over the new Portishead harbour and over the valley as far as Easton and Pill.



Safety tips

- Check the weather conditions before you leave
- Let someone know where you're going and when you're expected back
- Wear sensible shoes walking boots, trainers etc
- Take any litter home with you
- Keep dogs under close control
- Always consider other people

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