

Walking in Bleadon

Breathtaking views and plenty of fresh air

This month, Simon Andrews of North Somerset Council's Ranger Service takes us on a circular walk including the village of Bleadon and part of the West Mendip Way.

Distance: about 3.5 miles

Difficulty: medium (some steep hills and a number of stiles)

Duration: allow up to 2.5 hours which includes time for plenty of stops along the way



Begin in the centre of Bleadon. Bus route 83 stops in the village. Park by the roadside, or at the village hall. There is also a public phone, public toilets and a pub in the village.

From the post box walk through the churchyard and turn left up Old School Lane. Turn right onto the main road, and after a couple of minutes turn left at the West Mendip Way marker onto a footpath. Go through the metal gate marked Hellenge Hill and straight up through the middle of the field, following the path.

Follow the West Mendip Way marker and bear right. The path splits after a few steps – take the left hand one up the hill. You will shortly see a log way marker on your right.

Enjoy the views towards Brent Knoll as you climb. Go over the stile, leaving Hellenge Hill, and enter open pasture. Go straight ahead, and after a few steps take the left hand fork in the path, just visible in the grass, through the wild flower meadow.

At the far side of the meadow cross the stone stile and go straight across the field heading towards some cream buildings. Go through a wooden gate on the far side, follow the way markers left across the field and uphill to the right of the cream buildings. Join the gravel track and follow it to the stile.



Turn right onto Roman Road. After about eight minutes you will reach a viewpoint with far reaching views up the Bristol Channel towards Clevedon and the Welsh mountains beyond. This is a good point to pause for a drink or a picnic.

Continue along the road and at the corner follow the bridleway straight ahead, descending between high hedgerows.

At the T-junction in the path, turn right up a steep rocky track. At the top of the climb turn right along another rocky track. After about 100m go straight uphill following the blue public bridleway marker.



At the end of the path go through a wooden gate and continue along the bridleway diagonally across the open field. Take in the view along the spine of Brean Down towards Steephelm and head for the wooded area on the far side.

Go through the wooden gate and walk downhill keeping both the woods and the wire fence on your right. Enjoy the views over the levels towards Brent Knoll and look out for the River Axe snaking through the fields.

Pass through two more gates and join the road continuing downhill.

After about 13 minutes you will reach a road. Cross it and climb the stile tucked behind the hedgerow.

Walk along the left hand edge of the field. Cross the wooden bridge and follow the line of telegraph poles ahead of you through a further seven fields.

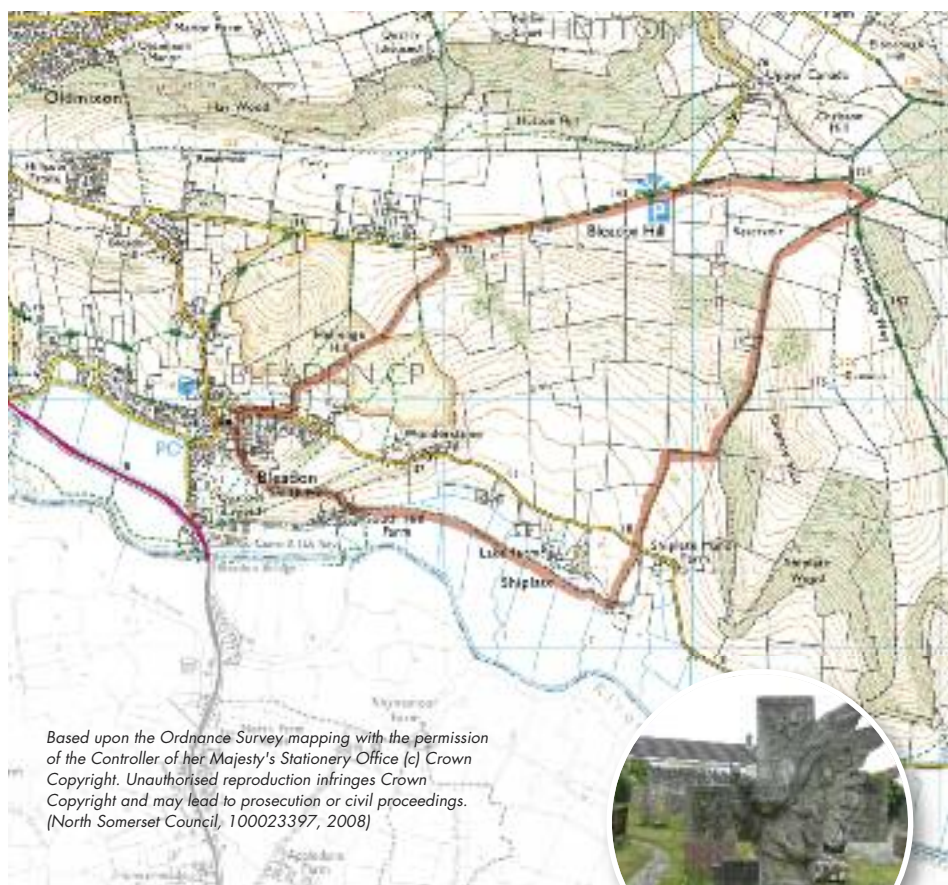
Go through a metal gate into the farmyard passing a barn on your right. Turn right and head straight uphill. Go through the wooden gate, bear left and continue up. Traverse the left hand (southern) edge of the hill. At the fork in the path bear right between two patches of scrub, gently uphill and along the ridge towards Bleadon.

Go through the wooden gate and drop down the steps towards the church. Pass through the pretty wrought iron gate and along the path between the houses.

The churchyard is ahead of you.

Things to look out for

- Pheasants
- Six Spot Burnet moth
- Livestock
- Buzzards
- Jays
- Blackberries
- Kestrels
- Sloes



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Walking tips

- Always tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return
- Take a mobile phone if you have one
- Wear suitable clothing, footwear and sunscreen
- Take food and water
- Keep dogs on leads near livestock
- Keep to way marked paths
- Close gates behind you
- Take your rubbish home with you

Weston Tourist Information Centre
01934 888 800 for details of
Ranger Service guided walks