

Jaunt to Jubilee Stone

This energetic route takes walkers to the top of Backwell Hill and the Jubilee Stone, with views for miles around.

Walk information

Distance: about 5 miles

Difficulty: Medium/hard – steep section up Backwell Hill. Loose stones and muddy paths. Wear suitable footwear

Accessibility: Includes kissing gates and wooden stiles

Duration: allow 3 hours

Map: OS Explorer 154

Refreshments: Pubs and shops in Backwell

From Station Road in Backwell, turn into Moor Lane. At the fork in the road, veer left into Long-Thorn.

Continue left into the grassy park area, following the path which leads up the hill. At the fork, follow the left-hand path which heads towards West Leigh Infant School, past the climbing frame.

Just to the left of the school is a wooden gate, so go through this and continue ahead towards the next field. This public footpath is part of the Backwell Round route.

Head straight across the next field, towards the metal gate in the fence. Go through this and continue ahead, veering slightly left, across the field and through the next gate.

This path joins Rushmoor Lane so follow it to the end, taking the right-hand fork past the houses, and turn right onto the A370. Cross the road with care and take a left-hand turn into Kellways (just before the 50mph signs). From here, you will see signs for the restricted byway, which is Pit Lane.

Pit Lane starts as a gravel track but then becomes a muddy path. Follow it slightly uphill until you get to a t-junction in the path near Chelvey Farm. Turn left here.

At the next junction turn right and you will see a wooden gate in a stone wall just to the right of the house.



Go through this gate and follow the path round to the left, which then goes uphill through the woodland. Continue uphill, following the yellow way markers which point up the wooden steps.

At the top you will reach a field, so head towards the top-right corner and go through a metal gate. This leads you onto a rocky track, so follow this straight ahead. At the end, go through another gate and turn left at the junction. Continue ahead on this track for about three quarters of a mile until you reach a lane and Hawthorns Nursery on your right.

Turn right onto the lane and after about 200 yards you will see the entrance to Jubilee Stone Nature Reserve on your left. Enter here and follow the gravel path into the woodland. This leads to a clearing and the Jubilee Stone, with great views of the valley and surrounding hills. The monument was erected in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

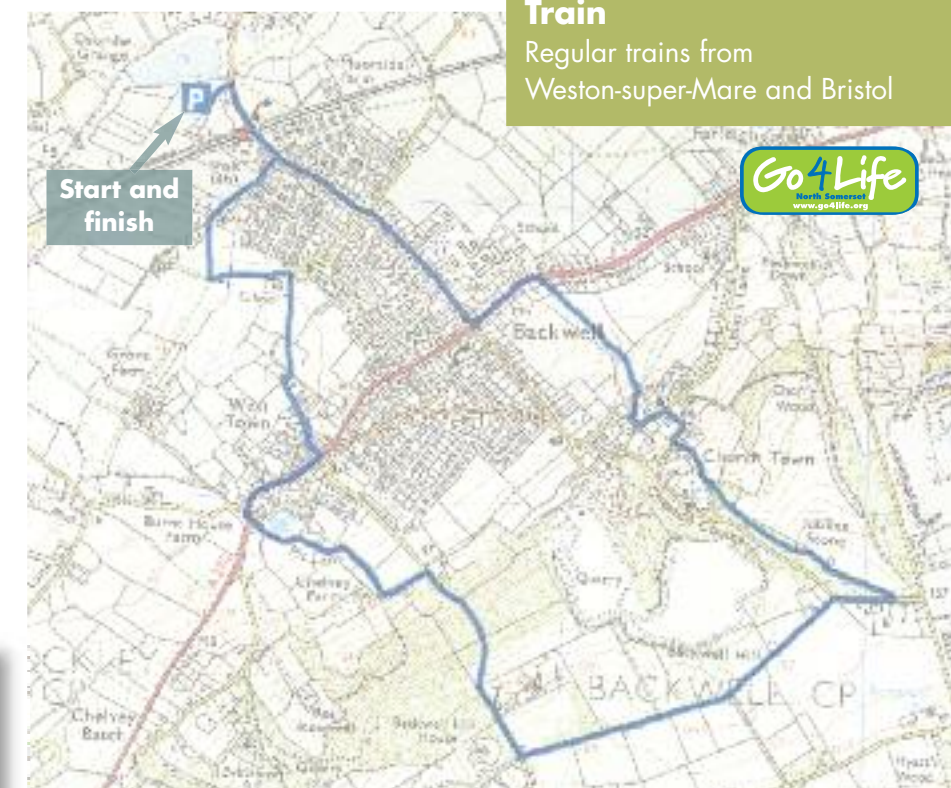
Did you know?

Walks previously published in *Life* can be downloaded in PDF format from the council's website. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks

In the woodland you will also see the remains of the Warrener's Cottage, where a warrener lived who would farm rabbits for the Backwell estate.

From the Jubilee Stone and clearing, start the descent by following the footpath downhill. This re-enters the woodland and you will pass the remains of a lime kiln and pit that was worked during the 19th century for fertilizer and mortar.

Follow the path downhill, watching out for loose rocks. You will eventually come out at Church Town, opposite St. Andrew's Church. Turn left here and then veer right at Coombe Cottage, signposted to Redwood Pine Lodge. The public footpath is a little track between the hedges.



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At the end of the path go through the kissing gate into the field. Veer left across the field towards the next gate, and then straight ahead across the next field. Head towards the houses and the track then leads back onto the A370. Follow this back to Station Road or alternatively you could follow the public footpath around the leisure centre and through fields near the school.

How to get there

Car

A370 to Backwell, turn off at Station Road. Parking at Nailsea and Backwell train station

Train

Regular trains from Weston-super-Mare and Bristol