

# Beach life near Brean Down



This short circular walk taking in views of Brean Down is a relaxing route away from the clamour of Weston-super-Mare

Start the walk on the beach at the end of the promenade in Weston-super-Mare, near Royal Sands. Walk south from Weston, towards Uphill, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet of this stretch of beach.

Continue on the beach past the Links Road turning and caravan park. You will be heading towards Brean Down and the mouth of the River Axe.

Brean Down is a continuation of the limestone Mendip Hills and extends for 1.5 miles into the Bristol Channel. It is now owned by the National Trust and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with rich wildlife, history and archaeology.

A fort there was built in 1870 and then re-armed in the Second World War.

Plans were drawn in the 1860s for a deep water harbour on the northern shore of Brean Down. Foundation stones of the pier were laid but the project was abandoned after a storm destroyed them. If proposals for a Severn Barrage for tidal electricity get the go-ahead, it could start at Brean Down.

Continue walking along the sand, past Weston Yacht Club. There is deep mud here on the river banks, so take care. **Never attempt to cross the river on foot.**



## Walk information

**Distance:** about 2.5 miles

**Difficulty:** easy – a level walk with no stiles

**Duration:** 1.5 hours at a leisurely pace

**Map:** OS Explorer 153

**Refreshments:** Pubs and shops in Uphill

**Public toilets:** Links Road

## Suggested walks for Life

Do you know the perfect place in North Somerset for a walk? Is there a beautiful vista waiting to be seen by more people?

Every month we publish walks of three to five miles and are always on the look-out for new route ideas. Email [editor@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:editor@n-somerset.gov.uk)

The sand soon becomes grass, so continue straight ahead on the path, along the edge of the river, which is on your right. Continue on the grassy path until you reach a fork in the River Axe and follow the path, which now veers round to the left. This follows the river, which is still on your right. You will now be heading towards Uphill Boat Centre.

You will eventually reach a wooden gate and a path leading to Links Road. Turn right here and follow the road until a left-hand turning into Old Church Road.

You are now in the picturesque village of Uphill. Early 19th century quarrying found flint tools and animal bones in a small cave which indicates the area was inhabited more than 40,000 years ago. It is also believed the Romans may have used Uphill as a port for moving

lead from their mines at Charterhouse. Mediaeval monks from Glastonbury constructed flood defence dykes and drainage ditches, turning the River Axe into an important inland waterway.

Continue along Old Church Road and then at the junction turn left on Uphill Road South. At the junction continue straight ahead along the A370, with the golf course on your left, back towards Weston-super-Mare.



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## How to get there

**Car** Public car park on the beach next to Royal Sands, at the end of the promenade – £4 for up to four hours. Check current road closures during the seafront works. Limited on-street parking available in nearby streets.

**Bus** Service 5 runs from Weston-super-Mare town centre to Uphill.

## 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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks)

