

# Pound your feet around Portbury

Take in two woods and enjoy views towards Portishead and Royal Portbury Dock during this energetic walk.

Climb the first stile into the field adjacent to Mill Close. The public footpath sign points diagonally across the field, towards the top left corner.

At the top of the field climb over stile two behind the large oak tree. You will cross a small stream and walk just a few yards uphill to stile three. Climb this and turn left, walking along the edge of the field.

At the end of the field cross stile four, veer to the right, and cross stile five into the next field. Turn left and continue uphill along the edge of the field, watching out for cows wandering your way.

At the top of the field climb stile six and cross the dirt track, turning left. A public footpath sign will then be on your right, pointing into Birch Wood. After climbing over stile seven, follow the right-hand footpath sign, with the track leading uphill into the woods. The track is quite steep and rocky.

At the top of the track turn left, and then a quick right, to keep to the public footpath. The path then levels off but watch out for tree roots sticking out of the ground.

You will then climb stile eight out of the woods and into an open meadow. You will see views across Portbury



## Walk information:

**Distance:** about 3 miles.

**Difficulty:** medium / hard – some steep uphill sections. Loose stones and muddy paths. Wear suitable footwear.

**Accessibility:** 10 stiles. Not suitable for wheelchair users / buggies

**Duration:** about 1.5 hrs

**Map:** OS Explorer 154.



## How to get there:

### Car

Portbury village can be reached from the A369, near M5 jct 19. Parking in lay-bys in Mill Lane or along Mill Close.

### Bus

● Local buses **692** from Nailsea to Portishead Mon–Fri, every two hours. **358, 359** from Bristol.

## 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)

Docks and the Bristol Channel. Cross the field diagonally to the right, towards the gate in the fence. After going through the gate, head diagonally left, towards Charlton Farm, crossing stile nine along the way.

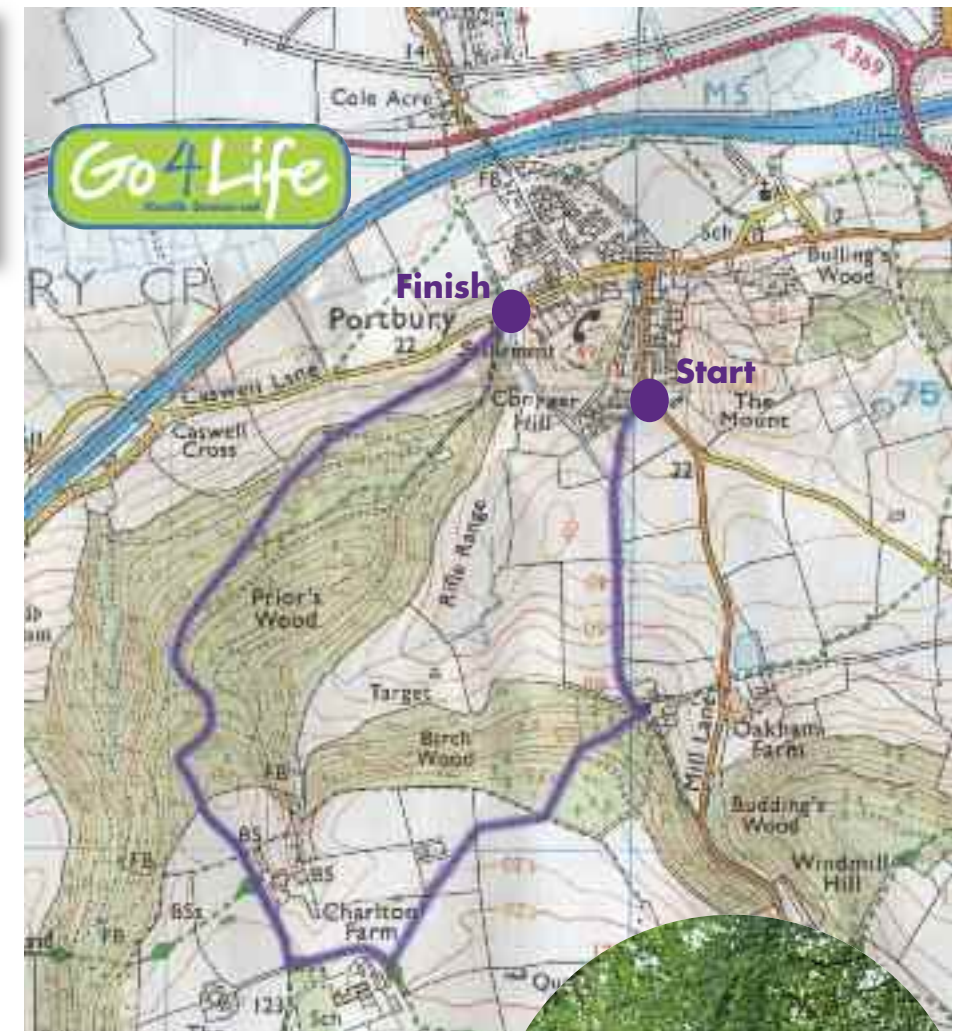
At the farm, climb stile 10 into the playing fields, and walk towards the driveway. From here, you will come out onto Charlton Drive. Turn right into the lane and pass the Children's Hospice South West building before the lane turns into a rough track, then a footpath, entering the wood through a kissing gate.



Prior's Wood Nature Reserve is run by Avon Wildlife Trust. It was once owned by Lord Wraxall as part of the Tyntesfield Estate.

Now it is well known for its bluebells in spring and fungi in autumn. Hedgehogs can be seen in autumn, while roe deer can be spotted in winter.

Carry straight on and the path starts a gentle descent. There will be a number of forks in



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the path and you can choose which one to take, but continue downhill to leave the reserve and get back to Portbury village. You will come out onto Caswell Lane, so walk through the village back to where you parked the car.



## What to see in Prior's Wood

### Autumn:

**Fungi** – King Alfred's Cakes  
**Birds** – raven, jay, redwing  
**Mammals** – hedgehog  
**Insects** – hornet, dragonfly

### Winter:

**Fungi** – Turkey Tails  
**Birds** – coal tit, long-tailed tit, blue tit  
**Mammals** – roe deer

