



# Exploring the tidal trail around Uphill



Take a tour through saltmarshes and open grasslands just south of Uphill to see some award-winning nature reserves.

The walk starts in Uphill boat yard, a tranquil spot alongside Uphill quarry. Wharf Side Tea Room is now open if you need some refreshments before you head off.

Continue past the preserved lime kiln, which was built between 1780 and 1850 to provide lime, through the kissing gate into Uphill Nature Reserve. The reserve has recently been awarded another Green Flag.

Uphill Quarry was used from the 1800s to 1940s and in 1826 three caves were discovered that had been used by Neanderthal people during the Ice Age. Tools and bones were discovered, including those from a woolly mammoth and cave lion.

Follow the path through the reserve, past the 19th century explosives store, which was used for blasting the quarry stone. Dogs need to be kept under close control as cattle graze in the fields.

Go through the wooden gate and follow the path up the hill. Look behind you for wide-ranging views of Brean Down, Uphill, and across the Severn estuary.

Go through the next gate and you will enter Walborough Nature Reserve. This area is named after Walborough Down, which has a Bronze Age burial mound on top. It was cleared of trees 5,000 years ago and has been an open-grazed landscape ever since.



## How to get there

**Start at map ref:**  
ST 314585

**Car:**  
Park at Uphill Boat Yard, on the corner of Links Road and Uphill Way

**Bus:**  
Crosville Service 105 from Weston

**Public toilets:**  
Links Road

Continue on the path, with Brent Knoll in the distance in front of you. Go through the wooden gate and continue through the metal kissing gate along the track, following national cycle route 33.

Follow this track right to the end and you will come to a t-junction. Turn right here. You are now entering Bleadon Levels Nature Reserve and there is a car park on your right.

The wildlife habitats were created by Wessex Water when it built the new sewage treatments works in the 1990s. This includes 11.5 hectares of saltmarsh and tidal creek habitat and more than seven hectares of rough grassland, reedbed and open fresh water lagoons.

The saltmarsh has a number of nationally scarce plants, including sea barley, slender hare's ear and sea clover.

Enter the car park and you will see a new disabled-access bird hide to view the lagoons.

From the car park, walk along alongside the fence. From here you can make a detour to see another bird hide but after that, go through the kissing gate and up some steps to the sea wall path, a permissive path.

You are now heading back towards Uphill. Follow this path until you exit back into Walborough Nature Reserve.

Keep to the left, walking alongside the trees, then continue on the small, worn path on your left which continues downhill and over a stile and wooden bridge.

Follow this path back to the boatyard and your starting point.



## Volunteers needed to assess public rights of way

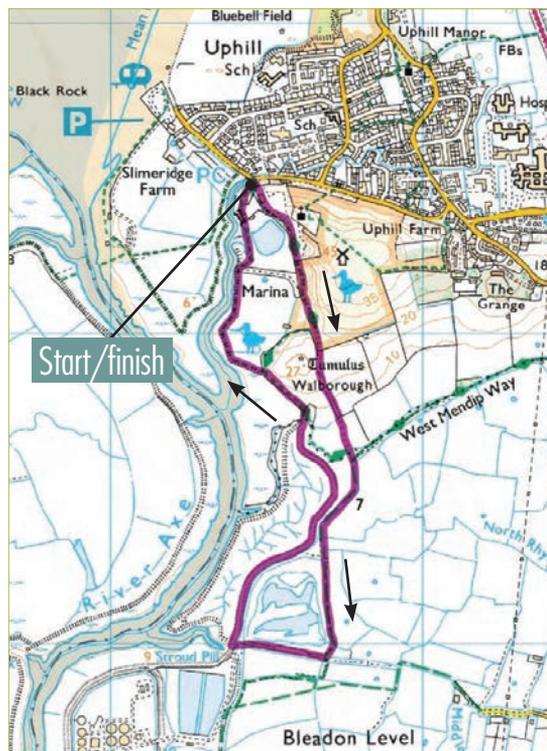
Volunteer walkers are needed to take part in a new project from the Ramblers Association to survey all rights of way.

The Big Pathwatch aims to get walkers to survey all public footpaths to say what state they are in.

Visit the website, download the free app, choose your grid square, walk every path in the grid square and then use the app to tell the Ramblers what you find.

If you don't have a smartphone you can print off a survey card, complete it and upload the results on their website.

The survey closes on 31 December.  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/BigPathwatch](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/BigPathwatch)



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## Route information

**Distance:**  
about 2.5 miles

**Difficulty:**  
easy - a mostly flat route but with some steps, one stile, and narrow paths

**Duration:**  
about an hour

**Map:**  
OS Explorer 153

Previous walks from around North Somerset which have featured in *Life* can be downloaded from [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks)