



# Potter around Portbury Wharf...

A former waste ground for dumping power station ash is now a tranquil nature reserve and thriving habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals.



## How to get there

**Start at map ref:**  
ST 486 761

### Car:

Park in a layby in Sheepway, just after the railway bridge. This holds about 7 cars. If full, there is another layby in Wharf Lane, just past Springfield Cottage.

### Bus:

Services X2/X3 Portishead-Bristol stop next to the layby in Sheepway

**P**ortbury Wharf Nature Reserve lies between the eastern edge of Portishead and Portbury Dock and acts as a buffer between the town and Severn Estuary.

For 50 years the site was a dumping ground for waste from Portishead's now demolished power stations.

The Village Quarter housing development now stands there with luxury apartments overlooking the water, and the nature reserve is a popular recreation spot.

Many paths have been created to access the area, which includes two large pools, several ponds, rhynes, grazing marsh, hay meadows and hedgerows.

Accessible, level paths go around the reserve and are suitable for bikes, wheelchairs and buggies.

However, this *Life* walk follows the seasonal footpath which runs alongside grassy meadows.

Enter the nature reserve from the Sheepway layby and follow the orange waymarker onto the paved path.

Follow the path as it bends round to the right and then take the gravel track on your right towards the information board.

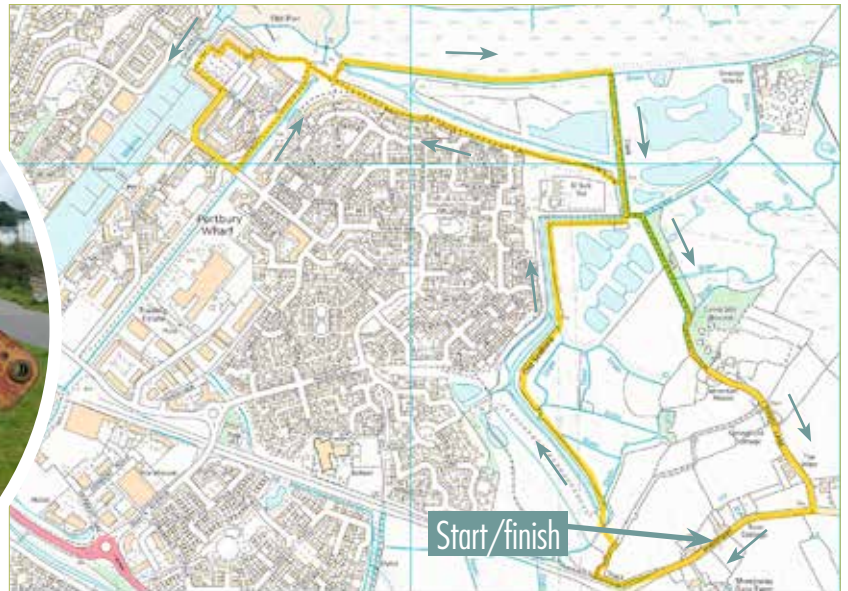
Just a little further ahead, take the grassy route to the left. This is the seasonal footpath through the nature reserve so wear suitable footwear.

Go down the slope between the trees and continue between the fences. There will be a wildlife meadow on your right, a rhyne on your left, and the houses of the Village Quarter ahead of you.

The path veers round to the right when you reach the houses, towards the electricity substation. Go up three steps and pass underneath a pylon.







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Go through the two metal gates and take the left-hand gravel path, which veers slightly uphill. Follow the path to the left, as it goes around the substation and continue straight ahead.

You are now passing the Village Quarter housing, towards to marina.

Head past the apartment blocks, past the pieces of public art, and you will reach the waterfront.

Follow it round to the left. You will pass a coffee shop and supermarket if you need to stop for refreshments.

At the 'When Shall We Three Meet Again?' matchsticks sculpture, cross onto Newfoundland Road, go up Phoenix Way, then turn left into Pennant Place.



Follow this road to the end and you will come back out onto the path near the 'Full Fathom Five' pillars you passed earlier.

Turn right onto this path, then a quick left down the gravel path just before the ox sculpture.

Go through the metal gate and walk along the well-trodden path next to the rhyme, with Portbury Docks in the distance in front of you.

At the footpath signpost, turn right and join the gravel path. At the end of this path, turn left.

Continue on this path through the trees, and gate, and it becomes Wharf Lane.

This leads back to Sheepway and your starting point.

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)

## Route information

**Distance:**  
About 3.5 miles

**Difficulty:**  
easy – the route is mainly level, with a couple of steps. This route follows the seasonal path through the reserve. It can get muddy so wear suitable footwear in wet weather.

**Duration:**  
Allow 60 to 90 minutes at a leisurely pace

**Map:**  
OS Explorer 154

