

WALKS FROM

BISHOPS HULL

Three circular walks starting from the village two of which go into the adjoining parishes of Trull and Bradford on Tone
Since some of the paths are common to more than one walk the walks can also be modified to suit the individual walker.

Prepared by Bishops Hull Parish Council and published with assistance from Somerset County Council's Community Access Fund 2006

GENERAL INFORMATION

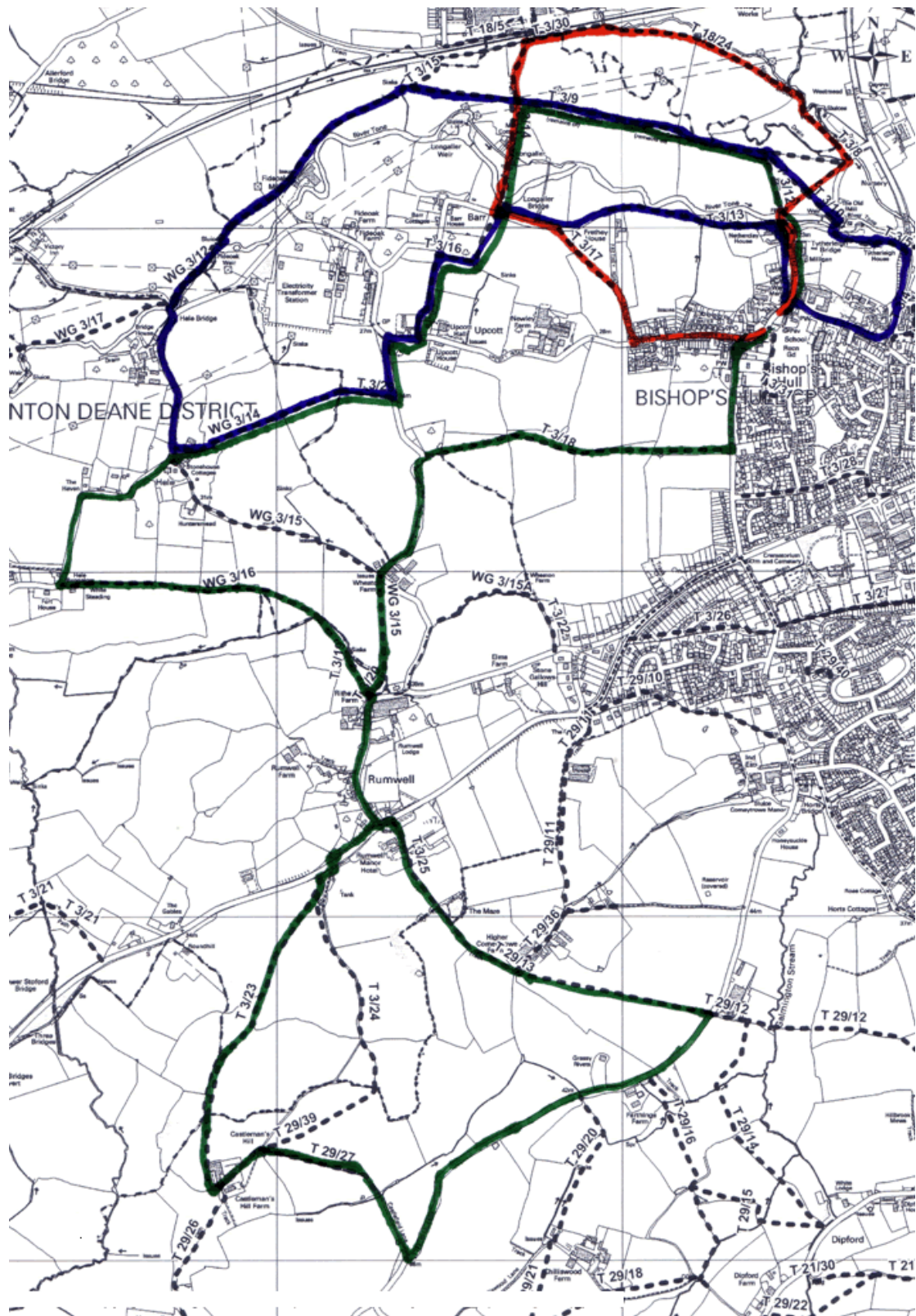
Car Parking...unfortunately there is not a public car park in the village and anyone who is not starting directly from a property in the village should exercise common sense when leaving their car. As an alternative all the walks can be modified slightly and started from the small lay-by on Netherclay Lane near the bridge over Norton Brook (basically behind Avery Nursery).

Safety...please take care when crossing or walking along any road or lane and be particularly careful and observant when crossing the main A38 Taunton to Wellington Road (Walk No. 3)

General...although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the routes and the use of public rights of way anyone using any part of the routes described does so entirely at their own discretion.

The Countryside Code...respect the countryside and those who work in it, guard against risk of fire; leave all gates in the same condition that you find them; keep dogs under strict control and on leads when near livestock; keep to the paths and use stiles and gates to cross hedges, walls and fences; take your litter home protect wildlife, plants and trees; leave livestock, machinery and crops alone and take care when walking along or crossing roads.

Please...if you meet any obstruction or encounter any problem when walking the paths report the matter to either the Rights of Way Section at Somerset County Council (0845 345 9155) or to the Parish Council.



WALK No. 1

(marked in red on the map)

Netherclay, River Tone, Norton Brook, Longaller and Shutewater

SUMMARY

This short walk of about 2 miles (3km) should take about an hour to complete. It takes you to the countryside near the River Tone and Norton Brook through what many people think is the most attractive part of the parish.

The walk can be started either from the village or from the small lay-by on Netherclay Lane near the bridge over Norton Brook (basically behind Avery Nursery).

ROUTE

Starting from the village proceed with the church on your right and at the road junction go left down Netherclay Hill. Badger runs are often clearly visible up the bank on your left.

Soon after the nursing home go left through the kissing gate dropping down towards the river which you cross by the attractive footbridge. As you leave the bridge go half right taking the wide grass track through the community woodland and nature reserve. At the far end of the field exit onto the lane by a kissing gate, turn left and after about 20 metres go left through a second kissing gate.

This is the starting point for the walk if you use the lay-by that is between the kissing gates. Initially walk parallel to, but some distance from, Norton Brook on your right and continue, going over a stile, alongside the brook until it goes off to the right to pass under the railway. The railway fence is now on your right until you reach the stile near the footbridge. Do not go towards the railway but turn left going diagonally across the field to another stile.

Over it you continue initially with a hedge on your left to a crossing of paths where you continue straight on towards the left-hand side of the group of houses in front of you. Going over another stile you join the access drive and continue passing the former Longaller Mill. The leat and millwheel entrance pond still exist and wagtails and moorhens are often seen in the pond.

Continue on the drive to the bridge over the River Tone where some birds and possibly fish may be visible in the river. At the end of the drive ignore the stile opposite to turn left down the lane for about 100 metres to go over a stile on your right.

As you enter the field go half left diagonally across the field to the footbridge just to the left of a large tree. Continue in the same direction still diagonally across the next field to the far hedge, turn right and follow the hedge to a stile which you go over with care to Frethay Lane, turn right and at the end turn left and climb up Shutewater Hill which will bring you back to the village where there are ice creams at the Post Office and stronger refreshment at The Old Inn.

WALK No. 2

(marked in blue on the map)
Tytherleigh, Hele, Upcott and Netherclay

SUMMARY

This longer walk of just less than 4 miles (6km) which should take about two hours to complete again takes you to the countryside near the River Tone; it goes past what are probably the two oldest houses in the village and four former mills.

If you do not start from the village you can start from the small lay-by on Netherclay Lane near the bridge over Norton Brook (basically behind Avery Nursery) and join the walk at the community woodland.

ROUTE

Start from the village with the church on your right and at the road junction go right towards Silk Mills Road. On your left you pass the old Manor House (now a nursing home) and Haydon House (a former farmhouse). Although there is some debate about which is the older these are generally accepted as being the two oldest houses in the parish.

Turn left along Silk Mills Road and left again at footpath fingerpost just before the river bridge and follow the hedge on your right passing besides Tytherleigh House (once a mill) then down the drive to a lane. Go over the bridge and just before The Old Mill go left passing a farm gate and through a pedestrian gate to enter the community woodland.

Go diagonally across and at the far side of the woodland turn left at another path, continue through a kissing gate to a stile to the right of the third electricity pole in the hedge on the right. The hedge is now on your left then through a gate and there is a fence/hedge on your right.

At the end of the field go straight on across the next field to a slightly raised area. Here you go half left towards the right of the trees, continue with a river/fence/hedge on your left to reach the lane at Hele Bridge. On the way you pass the site of a former mill visible through the hedge over the river.

Cross the bridge then right at the road and follow it to pass Hele Mill House. Before the road bends right turn left at footpath sign through farm gate onto a short (often muddy) track and at the end go to the left of some ruins and through a gate to cross field heading for the obvious gap in the hedge opposite.

Go through and continue in same direction across the second field to join a track that takes you to a lane. Turn left, then right at the road, pass some grey silos turn left down drive that leads you past Little Upcott to an enclosed path then go over the stile into a field.

Continue keeping the hedge on your left around two sides of the field (ignore the stile directly in front of you where you go round to the right) then at the end of the field turn left at gate/stile and continue with the hedge still on your left to go over another stile to join a lane opposite the drive to Longaller Mill.

Turn right along the lane, just before Frethay House go over stile on left. Turn right with hedge on right, go through a gap and follow the river (on your left) to a footbridge leading into an enclosed lane that leads you back to near the footbridge over the river. Do not cross but go round to the right through a kissing gate and turn right up the lane back to the village.

WALK No. 3

(marked in green on the map)

Netherclay, Longaller, Upcott, Hele, Rumwell, Castleman's Hill and Lipe Hill Lane.
Returning via Ritherdens and Wheaton Farms.

SUMMARY

This is a reasonable walk of less than 8 miles (12km) that will take under 4 hours to complete. As well as the countryside near the River Tone it also takes you to the higher ground in the south of the parish that is included in the Taunton Deane BC Special Landscape Feature called Stonegallows Ridge. From here there are extensive views of the Quantock, Blackdown and Brendon Hills. The walk is in two loops, which could be walked separately with The Rumwell Inn being conveniently situated for a lunch stop. Whilst the northern loop is fairly easy walking the southern loop is slightly more demanding but the views from Castleman's Hill (part of the Special Landscape Feature) are ample reward for the effort expended in the 100 feet (30 metres) or so of ascent to what is probably the highest point in the parish.

ROUTE

Starting from the village proceed with the church on your right and at the road junction go left down Netherclay Hill. Badger runs are often clearly visible up the bank on your left. Soon after the nursing home go left through the kissing gate dropping down towards the river which you cross by the attractive footbridge.

As you leave the bridge go straight on through the community woodland. At a junction of paths go left then continue through a kissing gate to a stile to the right of the third electricity pole in the hedge on the right. The hedge is on your left then through a gate and there is a fence/hedge on your right.

At end of field where there is a junction of paths turn left towards the left-hand side of the group of houses in front of you. Going over a stile you join the access drive and continue passing the former Longaller Mill. The leat and millwheel entrance pond still exist and wagtails and moorhens are often seen in the pond. Continue on the drive to the bridge over the River Tone where again some birds and possibly fish may be visible in the river.

At the end of the drive go over the stile directly opposite and continue with the hedge on your right to turn right at a gate and stile to continue keeping the hedge on your right around two sides of the field to exit over a stile into an enclosed path that joins a drive near Little Upcott. At the road go right then after about 75 metres turn left down the lane just after Green Gables.

In a further 150 metres go right through a gate and down the track to enter a field where you go half left towards the obvious gap in the hedge opposite, through this and continue in the same direction heading towards a house beyond the next field boundary to go through a gate into a short muddy track that leads to the road.

Turn left and continue on the road for about 600 metres passing Stone House to turn left at White Steading (just before the road bears right). Follow the drive passing the house to go over a stile into the fields. Continue over two fields with the hedge on your left (the stiles you go over are about 20 metres from the hedge) to go half right in the third field heading towards the large house and the footbridge next to the large tree.

Cross and continue across the field towards the gate opposite, go through this and round a planted area towards the right-hand end of the chicken sheds. If you want to continue on the southern loop cross the footbridge and stile then turn right up the lane passing Ritherdens Farm and Rumwell Lodge. A shorter option is to turn left and complete the latter part of the walk. (To do so do not cross the footbridge but turn left towards the metal gate and continue from * below)

At the main road turn right to carefully cross this busy road from opposite the farm access on the other side near the de-restriction sign. Do not go up the access but continue along the road for about 50 metres after the de-restriction sign turn left over the stile by the field gate.

Initially follow round the edge of the field with the hedge on you left then as the hedge goes sharply to the left continue straight on across the field aiming for the left of the group of three trees behind the large tree about 50 metres in front of you (this is also to the right of an electricity supply pole). Over the pair of stiles continue with the hedge on your left then when the hedge goes to the left go half right across the field towards but not through the gap in the hedge opposite.

Continue with the hedge on your right to a stile at the top of the field. Before you go over the stile pause to enjoy the extensive views of the Quantock, Blackdown and Brendon Hills. Cross the next field heading towards the small trees to the right of the farm buildings which you pass on your left then go left through a gate a short distance further on.

Pass through the farmyard and go up the drive to turn right through a double gate about 75 metres after a line of conifers, follow the fence on your right to the bottom of the field to go through a kissing gate and join a track which leads to Lipe Hill Lane. Turn left and stay on this lane for three quarters of a mile (1.2 km) to pass Farthings Farm and a row of cottages.

After the cottages continue for about 250 metres then turn left up the steps and over the stile opposite the lay-by near the remains of the former abattoir. Cross the field heading about mid-way between two electricity supply poles, over the stile near a gate then continue slightly to the left heading for the left of the farm buildings going round the dressage schooling area then continue over a stile and straight on to join the wide grass track opposite and then through a gap in the hedge to continue with the hedge on complete the latter part of the walk. (To do so do not cross the footbridge but turn left towards the metal gate and continue from * below)

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Go through another gate and continue dropping down to a stile that takes you into the back of the Rumwell Manor Hotel, pass in front of a block of garages then join a drive that you leave as it bends round to the right. The neat grass path on the left will lead you to a stile and the main road opposite The Rumwell Inn. Cross the road (being extremely careful as you do) to go along the lane just to the left that you came along earlier. Follow the lane to Ritherdens Farm to re-cross the footbridge and re-enter the field.

* Turn right towards the metal gate, go through to continue half left across the field heading for the furthest left of the farm buildings that you can see the tops of. Exit through gate onto lane, turn left and follow the lane for about 400 metres until you go right through a gate where the lane bends round to the left.

Continue with the hedge on your left then in more or less the same direction over four fields for the first three the hedge is on your left then on your right for the last one. The second and third stiles are about 20 metres in from the hedge. The final stile or gate is in the top corner of the field and leads you back onto the road where you turn left to return to the village for some well-earned rest and refreshment.