

Breathtaking views around Bleadon



This month, *Life* takes a circular walk on part of the West Mendip Way, including the village of Bleadon.

How to get there

Start at map ref:
ST 341569 (OS 153)

Car:
Reach Bleadon along Bleadon Road, off the A370 south of Weston-super-Mare. Park considerably on the roadside or at the Village Hall

Bus:
Service 83 to centre of Bleadon (112 and 75 stop on A370)



Begin in the centre of Bleadon. There is a public phone, public toilets and a pub in the village.

From the post box walk through the churchyard and turn left up Old School Lane. Turn right onto the main road, and after a couple of minutes turn left at the West Mendip Way marker onto a footpath. Go through the metal gate and straight up through the middle of the field, following the path.

Follow the West Mendip Way marker and bear right. The path splits after a few steps – take the left hand one up the hill.

Enjoy the views towards Brent Knoll as you climb. Go over the metal stile, leaving Hellenge Hill, and enter open pasture. Go straight ahead, and after a few steps take the left hand fork in the path.



At the far side of the meadow cross the stone stile and go straight across the field heading towards a cream building. Join the gravel track and follow it to the stile.



Turn right onto Roman Road. After about eight minutes you will reach a viewpoint with far reaching views up the Bristol Channel towards Clevedon and the Welsh mountains beyond. This is a good point to pause for a drink or a picnic.



Continue along the road and at the corner follow the bridleway straight ahead, descending between high hedgerows.

At the T-junction in the path, turn right up a steep rocky track.



At the top of the climb turn right along another rocky track. After about 100m go straight uphill, following the blue public bridleway marker.

At the end of the path go through a wooden gate and continue along the bridleway diagonally across the open field. Take in the view along the spine of Brean Down towards Steephelm and head for the wooded area on the far side.

Go through the wooden gate and walk downhill keeping both the woods and the wire fence on your right. Enjoy the views over the levels towards Brent Knoll and look out for



the River Axe snaking through the fields.

Pass through two more gates and join the road continuing downhill.

After about 13 minutes you will reach a road. Cross it and climb the stile tucked behind the hedgerow.

Walk along the left-hand edge of the field. Cross the wooden bridge with a wooden pallet as a gate and follow the line of telegraph poles ahead of you through a number of fields.

Go through a metal gate into the farmyard passing a barn on your right. Turn right and head straight uphill. Go through the kissing gate and wooden gate, bear left and continue up. Traverse the left hand (southern) edge of the hill. At the fork in the path bear right, gently uphill and along the ridge towards Bleadon. You'll glimpse the quarry on the left.

Go through the wooden gate and drop down the steps towards the church. Pass through the pretty wrought iron gate and along the path between the houses.

The churchyard is ahead of you.



Walk information

Distance: about 3.5 miles

Difficulty: medium (some steep hills and a number of stiles)

Duration: allow up to 2.5 hours which includes time for plenty of stops along the way

Map: OS Explorer 153

This walk previously featured in the August 2008 issue of Life. See this, and all other walks from the magazine, at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks



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