

U P H I L L W A L K S
One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

Walk Ten

THE BEACH

As long as you like!

This walk is perhaps the most obvious but the most variable and very much open to your own devices, especially in terms of distance. Although a linear walk you can decide how far or how little you walk but remember you have to get back to the car, although buses are usually available.

We suggest that any car is parked on the North Somerset car park on Uphill Beach where Links Road ends and the sand begins.

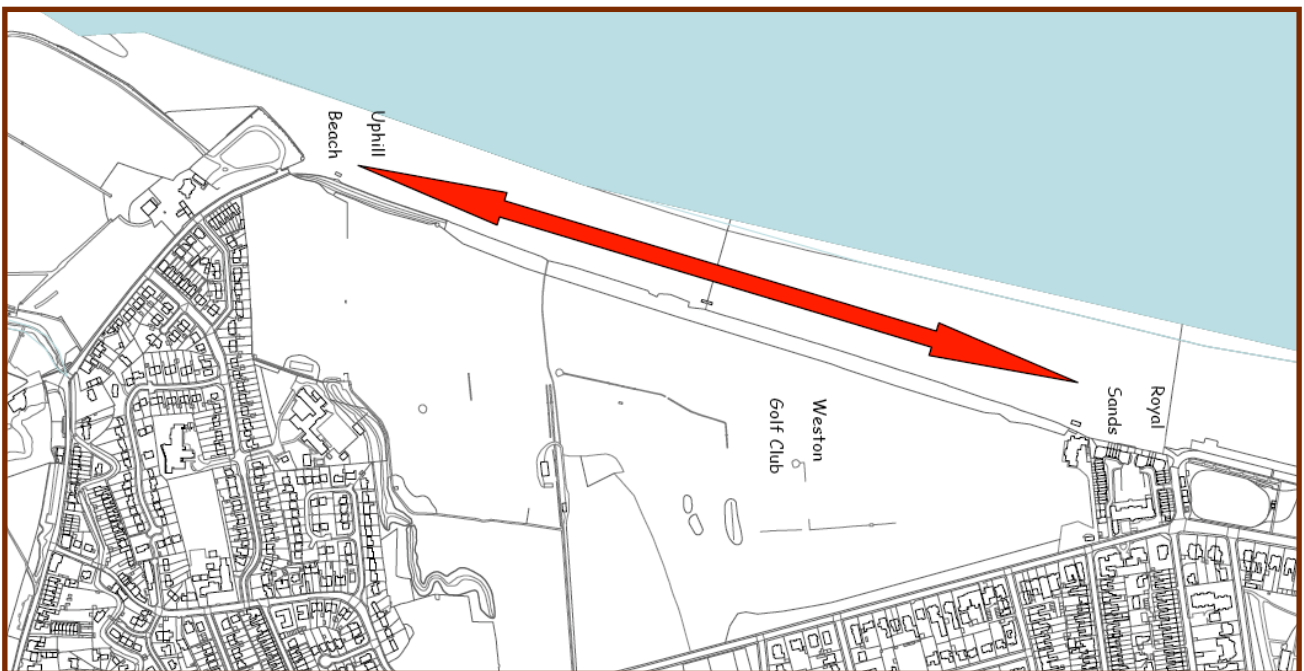
Head northwards towards Weston itself. Go through the wooden barrier designed to stop vehicular access and keep out of the marked area reserved for sand yachts, etc. On the right the sand dunes separate the sand from Weston Golf Club. As you look seaward Brean Down with its Fort on the end of the promontory is now owned by the National Trust.

Continuing the walk further to the west Steep Holm Island can be seen some five miles into the Bristol Channel. Ownership is with the Kenneth Alsop Memorial Trust, a registered charity looking after the nature reserve to which regular trips are made during the summer months. Go to <https://www.steeptholm.online/> for details.

Continue alongside the dunes and through more wooden barriers, and soon meet the next car park on the beach near the old Sanatorium Hospital site. The golf club house is adjacent. You have walked about a mile and could return at this point or at any other point of your choosing.

The next barriers provide staging for Weston's famous donkeys. On a little bit further and the sea front kiosks offer a chance of an ice cream or a soft drink.

Next comes the former SeaQuarium pier, one of the shortest in the country, now a popular cafe and entertainment centre. Also at this stage buses service the seafront, just in case you are tired.



Continued

Moving further north we come to the pier badly damaged by fire in June 2008 but since completely rebuilt. Then on the right the jewel in Weston's crown The Winter Gardens offering refreshments and a variety of entertainment. Just inland is the Sovereign shopping precinct.

Go under the pier to walk toward Knightstone Harbour, here you will find many small and some not so small pleasure boats. Knightstone Island was formerly the site of a theatre and swimming baths, as well as public baths used by fishermen and those without such facilities at home. There also were medicinal baths of differing kinds! Now however the island has been developed into residential accommodation.

To continue the walk either return to the pavement to go by Marine Lake to the Rozel promenade or use the causeway to link up with it. Pass the former Rozel Bandstand to Anchor Head. This is a favourite piece of Weston seafront, the rocky boulders form a splendid resting or sunbathing site and the slipway a brilliant place for children to catch crabs.

The path now overlooks Birnbeck Pier, also known as the 'Old Pier. It is the only pier in the country which links the mainland to an island, linking to Birnbeck Island, a 1.2 hectares (3.0 acres) rocky island. The grade II listed pier was designed by Eugenius Birch and opened in 1867. Birnbeck Pier is one of only six Grade II piers surviving in the country. The refreshment and waiting rooms of 1898 were designed by local architect Hans Price and the clocktower and the piermaster's house have been attributed to him. The pier has been closed to the public since 1994 and is now on the Buildings at Risk Register. Perhaps one day it will be restored to its former glory with steamers from Wales once again landing at its quay.

The choice again is yours, either decide to finish the linear walk here and return by retracing your steps or by bus, or continue even further along the toll road to Kewstoke and all the facilities that village has to offer.