

U P H I L L W A L K S

One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

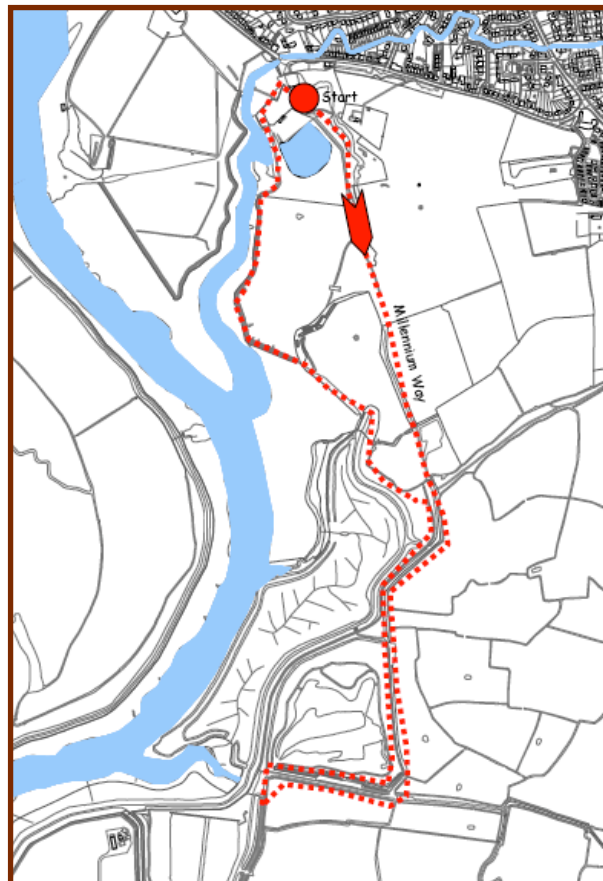
Walk Three

THE TIDAL TRAIL

3 miles / 1.5 hours

Start at the boatyard entrance to Uphill hill, walking through the sluice gates, past the café on your left and the entrance to the marina on your right, then on through the first and second kissing gates and continue on the hard surface uphill to the third gate. Remember to slow up and pace yourself before walking downhill with southerly views towards Brent Knoll in the distance.

Go through the fourth and fifth gates, don't follow the West Mendip Way to the left but instead carry straight on the tidal trail path. As you come to the road to the Pumping Station turn right at the gate and on to the hard path running to the right of the fenced part of the road. The path goes through the small parking area where there is access to a hide with disabled access looking over the reed beds of the Bleadon Levels Nature Reserve. Carry on the footpath to the point where the road turns off to the left. Keen birdwatchers can take a detour off on the path to the right where another bird hide can be found overlooking a different part of the reed beds. Otherwise stay on the path and go through the kissing gate and up the steps or ramp on to the grass covered sea wall which is part of the North Somerset Tidal Trail and England Coast Path. This raised section of the walk gives extensive views of the salt marsh, Brean Down and Steep Holm to your left and the Bleadon Levels Nature Reserve to your right. Between the salt Marsh and Brean Down there is the unusual sight of a row of masts which belong to the boats moored along the river Axe. The river here is tidal and in times of very high tides the boats become visible and the tide washes over the salt marsh. The whole area to the left of the sea wall is not accessible to the public.



At the end of the sea wall, go through the kissing gate where you find yourself at the foot of Walborough Hill. If you feel the need for firmer ground you can make your way across the field to your right to the gate on the far side which will take you back on to the hard surface of the Tidal Trail where you can turn left and make your way back to your starting point.

However bearing left after the kissing gate at the end of the sea wall and making your way along the left hand edge of the hill you can enjoy extensive views of Brean Down and the sea. On clear days, Flat Holm, Cardiff and the Welsh Hills are also visible.

As you walk up the edge of Walborough Hill, watch out for a narrow path leading down to a gate and a path which takes you close to the bank of a tributary to the Axe. At the next gate ignore the gate off to the right but carry straight on round the back of the Marina, across the slipway (watch out for boats being launched) into the boat yard on the other side of the Marina to the one you started out on. The path which is very narrow stops almost at the sluice gates and your starting point.

The path close to the Axe tributary described in the paragraph above can get covered during the periods of very high tides in Spring and Autumn. At these times an alternative route is to carry on along the edge of Walborough hill until you arrive at some steps going down the hill. This takes you through another kissing gate on to a meadow where you can again access the tidal trail and thus make your way back to your starting point.