

U P H I L L W A L K S

One of a Series of Healthy Walks Around and About Uphill

Walk Five

BOATYARD, PURN LANE, BLEADON

4 miles / 2 hours

Start at the boatyard entrance and walk past the Marina and as far as the fifth gate on the Tidal Trail. Now turn left onto the West Mendip Way track to the disused station of Uphill Junction. At the main A370 road turn right in the direction of Taunton, but only for thirty or so yards. When you are opposite the entrance to a lay-by cross with great care to this haven from the traffic and walk south on the lay-by.

On the left, between farm buildings and a cottage is a bridleway which is quite rocky and uneven, Follow the path on to Purn Hill. It is a moderate climb but is well worth the effort with panoramic views at the top.

Continue on the track to reach the metaled surface of Purn Hill Lane where we come to the built up part of Bleadon Hill. Ignore road junctions to the right and left but at the end of the road turn left to go downhill across the railway bridge to the A370 trunk road. Cross this busy main road with great care to the entrance of the road opposite.

This will lead you past the entrance to Uphill Grange, now a nursing home to the roundabout at the start of the village. After the roundabout, take the first left turn into Uphill Way and keeping to the left of the triangle, take the track on the left. After ten yards or so take the gate in the hedge on your right. In this field walk diagonally up the hill to another gate in the far wall. Turn left and as you drop down from the very top of the ridge onto a track turn right and walk to the old windmill/tower.

From the Tower make your way to the front of the old Church of St. Nicholas and then use the path going steeply downhill to rejoin Uphill Way, turn left and follow the road to the boatyard entrance.

