

FOOTPATH WALKS AROUND LONG ASHTON with a cafe halfway

TYNTESFIELD Cow barn Kitchen Restaurant

National Trust admission charges will not apply so long as you keep to the route as described. This route is on public rights of way and on permissive paths and bridleways. The National Trust welcomes visits from walkers and hopes that you visit the restaurant and shop which is open every day except Christmas Day. National Trust 0844 800 4966 or info line 01275 461900.

IMPORTANT: If you vary the route into the estate grounds, or choose to extend the visit into the gardens or house, you must go to the ticket office and pay for admission or show your current membership card.

Parts of the walk are on a pavement and a tarmac surfaced cycle path. The rest of the walk is on woodland paths, through fields and by streams, so be prepared for some mud and wet grass and occasionally livestock. The fields between Station Road and Gable Farm are owned by the North Somerset Agricultural Society so please note that restrictions and or diversions may apply on days when shows are taking place.

Please be aware of cyclists on the Flax Bourton Greenway even though they should give way to you. At Tyntesfield dogs should be kept on a lead and your dog's muck removed in the proper manner. Please close all gates.

Walking time will depend on your starting point and your speed. As a rough guide allow about an hour and a half to the restaurant and the same for the return. Use Ordnance map Explorer 154 (permissive bridleway not yet shown).

From The Little Tipple, 50 Weston Road walk towards Flax Bourton along the main Weston Road/Cambridge Batch. Go past Blade's garage and at the mini roundabouts cross the road and continue in the same direction down **Old Weston Road** to the Flax Bourton Village Hall. Go to the right of the hall and cross the playing field aiming to the left of the swings and play area to rejoin Rosemount Road. Go past houses 80 – 68 and turn left to go along the cycle path known as the Flax Bourton Greenway. (The old Flax Bourton railway station to your right closed in 1963.) On reaching the road turn right along Station Road. Take care here as there is no pavement. It is best to keep to the right to face oncoming traffic and to stand still when on the bridge as vehicles pass. On reaching a house called Mill Farm, cross the road to go through the gate at the side of the field gate into the North Somerset Agricultural Society's fields.

In the first field go diagonally right to go through a gap in the opposite hedge. Cross the middle of the next field and then cross the next fields, bearing right, towards the large house ahead (Gable Farm). On coming to the road turn right. With care cross the road to go through the opposite gateway. Go into the field and immediately turn left on to a new unsigned bridleway. Go through two bridle gates to cross the tarmac drive and continue ahead to a T-junction. Turn right and on coming to a junction turn left on to a signed path through Truckle Wood. Stay on the woodland path at the lower edge of the wood until reaching a tarmac lane.

Turn right up the lane (although marked 'Private' walkers are permitted to use this section) and enter the car park where there is a signed path to the old farmyard. The entrance to the **Cow Barn Kitchen Restaurant** is just beyond the toilets.

The return route starts almost opposite the toilets. Go through the farm gate on to a wide concrete path that later becomes a rough track. If you wish to return by the outward route, turn left on to the bridleway used earlier and retrace your steps to the start. Alternatively, stay on the wide path and continue down to go between the houses on the **Clevedon Road**.

Carefully cross to go through the opposite kissing gate. Cross the field and then carry on down the farm drive. Go to the left, passing the front of Watercress Farm and Watercress Barn and, then keeping left, cross the field alongside the stream. Cross the track to join a bridleway at the side of the house (Gable Farm). Then turn right to re-enter the North Somerset Agricultural Society's fields. From here, either retrace your steps all the way to the start...

OR... on reaching Blade's Garage another variation of the return route is available. Just past the garage turn left down part of **Gatcombe Lane**. After the weak bridge turn left at the junction and in a few yards turn right into a field through a kissing gate. (From here the way over the fields is a section of the Village Circular Walk.) Keep to the right and go through another kissing gate. In the next field the path goes diagonally to a kissing gate and then continues in the same direction to another kissing gate. In the next field the right of way is across the middle but it is usually best to turn right for a few yards and then turn left to cross the field to the opposite hedge. Then turn left to reach a metal kissing gate. (Ignore the wide path to the right unless you choose to return to Weston Road via **Warren Lane**.)

The Village Circular Walk goes a short way uphill, to the left and then turns right. In this field keep near to the fencing on the right. After the kissing gate the way is between the power line posts to a kissing gate and a narrow footpath, with cottages to the left. At the end turn right and go down the track (**Keeds Lane**) to return to the start.

Tony Hibbitt and friends More walking guides are available at littletipple.co.uk