



## TWO SHORT CIRCULAR WALKS

### The Dawson Walk, Hiving Hill and 'Sidelands'

According to an old map of Long Ashton, in days when it was part of Ashton Court Estate, the area to the south west of the village was known as 'Sidelands' and the hill up to the by-pass was Hiving Hill. The walk starts with a short climb followed by a downward flight of steps that are quite deep and have no handrail. The effort is usually worth it for views of the village and part of Bristol. The walk is otherwise on fairly level ground, or is downhill with only one stile to cross.

Most of the walk is over fields and on farm tracks so be prepared for some mud. The Dawson Walk is in woodland given to the village in 1982 by the then owner, Mr William Dawson.

The route starts from **The Little Tipple** at 50 **Weston Road** but as it is a circular walk it can be joined at points nearer to home. The roads encountered are shown in bold type. Residents living near **Perry Road** can start the walk at the end of Perry Road. Just past number 62 a path leads down towards the end of **Paulman Gardens** and to the footpath over the railway bridge.

The shorter of the two walks takes me about an hour but you may do it in less. For the alternative slightly longer circuit allow 1½ hours – plus a bit if you go up to the bench seat and viewpoint.

From **The Little Tipple** cross the road and go past the shops and library. At the end of **Lovelinch Gardens** turn left and then first right into **Bradville Gardens**. Then turn left and almost immediately right into **Paulman Gardens**. At the end go down a short, signed footpath and turn left. After crossing the railway, continue ahead up the slope and, after passing a

concrete block wall to your left, continue along a fenced path to the bottom of the hill.

Go through the kissing gate and then bear left to go up the hill to the top left corner of the field. Go through the gate and keep to the left hand edge of the field to go through another gate in the corner and then down a flight of steps or nearby slope. At the bottom of the woodland path ignore the paths signed to left and right. Instead, cross the grass towards the bypass fence to pick up a fenced path that runs parallel with the bypass on your right. After going through two gates there is a turning on the right where a path goes under the bypass.

*At this point you have a choice. If choosing to do the shorter circuit (one hour walk) do not go under the bypass but continue ahead alongside the bypass, go through a gate and turn left. In the left hand corner of the field cross the railway bridge, go through a gate and continue in the same direction down the middle of the field. Go through a kissing gate, cross the footbridge and turn left up the cycle path. At this point you then follow the description of the longer walk at the paragraph marked \**

If doing the extended version of this walk turn right and go under the by-pass on a green track that leads to **Yanley Lane** near Yanley Farm. Aiming slightly to the right carefully cross the road and go up the track opposite. After going through the farm gate continue ahead to go through a metal kissing gate. Stay alongside the right hand hedge to the top corner of the field.

The circular walk does not go through the kissing gate but at this point you do have the option to take a short walk up a new footpath to a bench seat and viewpoint. To do so go through the kissing gate and up the fenced path to the top and then return to the kissing gate.

From the kissing gate the walk continues in the field and is downhill, towards the railway, keeping near the hedge on your right. Cross a stile on to a fenced path and then through a kissing gate. After going under the railway turn left on a track that turns left and then right. On coming to a junction of footpaths turn left on a wide track to go through a gate and turn right on **Yanley Lane**.

Take care here as there is no pavement. It is usually best to keep to the right so as to face oncoming traffic. In about 200 yards cross the road to go along the signed cycle path, with the Northleaze School on your right. Continue ahead on the narrow path between the stream and the backs of houses in **Brook Close**. The path crosses a small green (at the bottom of **Gardeners Walk**) and continues ahead to rejoin the cycle path.

\* Stay on the cycle path as far as the top of the slope (near to a flight of steps). Here leave the cycle path and go left across the grass towards the wood where a kissing gate leads on to a path known as The Dawson Walk.

This is a clear circular woodland path so you can choose to go to the right, alongside the stream; or go to the left alongside the railway line and another stream. Both ways rejoin the cycle path near Birdwell School. With the school on your left, go up the slope and along **Lampton Road**. To return to the start take the second on the right into **Lovelinch Gardens**.

If returning to **Perry Road** take the first turning on the left into **Elmhurst Gardens** then right into **Fenshurst Gardens** and then first left into **Paulman Gardens**. The signed footpath and a right turn leads up to **Perry Road**.