



**Use the map OS Explorer 155 Bristol & Bath, Grid ref: 701 649.**

**How to get there:**

The turning to the village is just past the Globe pub roundabout. Find somewhere suitable in the village to park. The walk starts at the main gate to the church.

**1. START**

With your back to the church gates, go towards the village, past the old school house, dated 1698. Opposite, notice the huge ammonite over the door of Stonewalls. Take the first lane right downhill. Cross a road and go ahead over a cattle grid by a lodge house and on to one of the drives of Newton Park. Continue along the drive under an avenue of limes until shortly before you arrive at university buildings.

**2. FOOTPATH**

Go left on to a footpath over a stile (it was broken when I came) and turn right in the field. Go through a kissing gate and on. Pass the university on your right. Go very close to a new building on the right, cross a stile and then carry on along a grassy track. Bend left on a Tarmac drive and then bend right, continuing the direction you were in, going along by the old stable block.

**3. PLAYING FIELD**

At the end follow the footpath arrow across the playing field (or go round the edge to the right). Cross a stile on the far side just to the right of rugby posts

Continue on through this tranquil countryside for several minutes until you eventually drop down into a valley ahead.

**4. VALLEY**

Follow the path along under trees and reach a kissing gate with a choice of two paths. Take the path straight on keeping the hedge on your left. Ahead you can see the church of Stanton Prior. Cross a stile, go over a lane and through a gap in the wall opposite. Continue on.

## **5. STANTON PRIOR**

Come out on a lane in Stanton Prior. Stanton Prior derives its name from the Old English "stantona" (meaning Stone Town) and is reputed to be one of the smallest villages in Somerset with two farms, 21 houses and a church dedicated to St Lawrence. It is also one of Somerset's eight Thankful Villages (from a total of 32 villages in England), in which all the men who served in the First World War came home.

Turn left to see a little more of this small rural village and to visit the church. Then, to continue, take the Tarmac path between stone walls, opposite the phone box. Follow this on to the lane and turn left. Pass Poplar Farm and, at a junction with a lane on the left, go straight ahead through a kissing gate.

## **6. KISSING GATE**

Follow the footpath straight ahead up the field heading for wooded Stantonbury Hill. In the top corner, go through right into another field and turn left up the edge, still heading to the hill and climbing more steeply.

Turn right at the top of the field and then a little further on go left up through woodland climbing on to the hill.

## **7. STANTONBURY HILL**

Come out of the wood and follow the path right and then left on the hill. On the hill are remains of an Iron Age hill fort known as Stantonbury Camp which may have acted as a protection for the Wansdyke (derived from Woden's Dyke) which is an early medieval or possibly a Roman boundary of a ditch and embankment. It ran at least from Maes Knoll in Somerset, a hillfort at the east end of Dundry Hill, to the Savernake Forest near Marlborough and came over Stantonbury Hill.

On the far side, turn right on the arrowed path downhill through woodland. Cross a track and continue on down. A gate leads out into a field. Go straight ahead and reach the main A39.

## **8. MAIN ROAD**

Cross with care on to the verge on the other side and turn right. Go past an old pub and a campsite and continue on a metal path by the road.

## **9. WHEATSHEAF**

After about seven minutes, reach the welcoming Wheatsheaf which serves a good range of snacks and meals.

Cross the road and take the lane opposite. After a few minutes, just after you have started to go uphill, turn left on a marked path. Follow the hedge on the right. In the distance you can see the Lansdown Monument up on the hill to the north of Bath. Maintain direction in the next field.

## **10. BARN**

Pass a barn on the right. Cross a stile and carry on. After another stile, bear down right into the valley and continue on. You follow on your right the dried-up remains of an old stream, with some signs of water further on.

## **11. LAKE**

Eventually come alongside one of the Newton Park lakes. Keep it on your right. It is a favourite spot for fishermen as you can see from the several "swims" (fishing platforms) along the edge. Ignore a footpath left and just keep alongside the right fence. Go through a kissing gate, over a stream, and continue on up the path (ignoring a gate right).

Cross the university drive and go through the gate opposite through the fishermen's car park and on the path in woodland.

Join a metal drive and keep straight on. Shortly, turn left up a Tarmac drive between cottages. At the bend at the top, turn right just past a garage and go along a path towards the church. In the church is an impressive memorial to the former lords of the manor, the Gore-Langtons.

Go through the churchyard and out the other side to where you began and head for the farm shop for refreshments.

Shop Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 08.30 – 5.30pm, Sunday 10.00 – 4.00pm. Café: Monday to Saturday 08.30 – 4.30pm, Sunday 10.00 – 3.30pm

**Tel: 01225 873707**

DIRECTIONS FOR THE WALK by Nigel Vile