

Long Ashton to Wraxall

Distance: 5 miles
Walking Time: 3 hours
GRADE: Moderate 4

17

Starting at Ashton Court Estate this walk passes through a diverse and attractive range of landscapes, rich with natural and historic features. These include magnificent old deer park, ancient woodland and rolling countryside with small traditional villages and farmsteads.

Maps:

Explorer 154 Bristol West & Portishead
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172 Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: ST 554 712



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

There are several buses that can be used to reach the start of the walk at the Long Ashton entrance to Ashton Court. Service 350/353, and 354 operate hourly/half hourly respectively Monday to Saturday. Service 353, provides an hourly service on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Get off at the Ashton Court stop near the junction with Long Ashton Road. If in doubt ask the bus driver to tell you where to get off.

At the end of the walk Service 354 is half hourly Monday-Saturday and Service 657 provides a two hourly service on Sundays and Bank Holidays from the Battle Axes PH in Wraxall. This service increases to hourly in the summer.

Please check the above timetables by logging on to www.firstgroup.com or by telephoning Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

Ashton Court Estate - Café

The George, Abbots Leigh (via diversion off route)
- 01275 372467

New Battle Axes, Wraxall - 01275 852645

PUBLIC TOILETS

Ashton Court Estate - near Visitor Centre and adjacent to kiosk on golf course.

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Sevenside Ramblers have provided the route of this walk and information. Additional information has been taken from a booklet entitled 'The Gordano Round'. This contains a series of circular walks around the Gordano Valley and was written by Jim Dyer, chairman of Gordano Footpath Group. The booklet is available from bookshops and Portishead library, or from North Somerset Environment Group (01275 888528).



traveline
public transport info
0871 200 22 33

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Ashton Court Estate

It comprises 850 acres with many habitats including woodland; grassland and areas devoted to deer grazing. The wildflower meadows are good places to spot many insects and butterflies and look out for dragonflies on the pond. The Estate and Mansion, occupied by the Smyth family for 400 years, are now owned and managed by Bristol City Council. The Smyth pet cemetery can still be found in the Mansion gardens. In the Estate you can also see evidence of settlements dating back more than 3000 years. To find out more contact the Visitors Centre on: (0117) 963 9174.

Abbots Pool

The word 'Leigh' comes from Old English 'Leah' being a clearing in a wooded settlement. Abbots Leigh was specifically the retreat of the Abbot of Augustine's Abbey, Bristol, where now stands the Cathedral (Church). The actual retreat or settlement site is unknown. Abbots Pool would have been created by damming the brook. It was probably done for the Abbot as a fishpond, stocking fresh fish for the pot. During the 1930's Melville Wills landscaped the pool area. He created an Island (on stilts) and the cave. This beauty spot is now under the care of North Somerset Council.

Ancient Woodland

In places the route passes through ancient woodland, Oxhouse Wood being a fine example. Trees may have been felled but they have been allowed to regenerate. Oak, ash, cherry and birch form the canopy, often with an under-storey of hazel and field maple. Traditionally, these woodlands were managed by coppicing; a crop of wood taken but the trees able to re-grow from the cut stumps, hence the multi-stemmed appearance.

Failand Limekiln

This is one of many in the area constructed to burn limestone to produce lime for spreading on newly cultivated land to reduce its acidity. The burning took place in an inverted conical hollow inside the kiln, fed with air through a hole at the foot of the opening seen in the front of the kiln.

Tyntesfield

Bought by the National Trust in 2002, Tyntesfield is a fascinating Victorian estate. It is an extraordinary Gothic Revival extravaganza, bristling with towers and turrets, set in extensive grounds with gardens, wonderful walks and woods which will provide many opportunities for walking and recreation. However, following many years of neglect, the estate is not yet safe for wide access and walkers must stay on the public right of way to the north of the estate. Currently access is limited to appointment-only visits while essential conservation work is completed. For further details visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield or tel. 0870 458 4500.

The photograph of Tyntesfield House was kindly provided by the National Trust (photo credit ©NTPL / A. Butler)



Note the remains of small-scale quarrying and lime burning in Limekiln Plantation.



At the gate, head half right across the field to the gap in the wall on the left and then down through the trees on the defined path.

Turn off track to the left a short way after crossing the stream.

For the George Public House at Abbots Leigh you will need to go off route from here. Leave Abbots Pool by going up the steps, to the right of the small bridge in the glen, at the lower end of the pool. At the top of the steps is a drive/road. Continue down this drive and, as the drive bears right, keep straight ahead on a small footpath. The footpath crosses Manor Lane where you should go straight ahead. Walk down Manor Road to the centre of the village and the pub.



The gate here can be hard to find as it is hidden by trees.

Take the bus back to Bristol from Tynesfield House stop.



- Key**
- public house
 - walk route
 - other paths
 - field boundary
 - road
 - waterway
 - urban area
 - woodland
 - open area



Start the walk at Clerkenwell Lodge. If you have time take the opportunity to explore the park and Visitor Centre where information on the features and history of the Estate can be found.



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