

Rudge Circular Walk

Approximately 6.5 km. or 4 miles

This walk is largely across farmland with no steep hills.

It starts at the Woolpack in the centre of Beckington but can be shortened by parking in the lay-by at White Row Farm and starting from there.



From the front of the Woolpack cross the road and follow the footpath along the side of the Warminster Road out of the village towards the bypass. At the roundabout follow the path around to the left and cross the dual-carriageway where there is a break in the central reservation. Now turn right and continue along the footpath at the side of the old A36 to White Row Farm. If the weather has been dry then ignore the footpath sign at the entrance to the farm shop and continue along the lay-by until you reach a waymark labelled BYWAY RUPP. Follow instructions in A). If the weather has been wet this Byway is often very muddy so go to B) below.



A) Turn left and follow the track between hedgerows. When you reach two farm gates near the corner of a wood turn right and follow the footpath along the ditch between the wood and the fields. Beware, this stretch can be very wet in winter and after heavy rain. At the end of the wood the path bears left and once again becomes a wide track between hedgerows. Pass through a wider grassy space, with three farm gates, and then continue between hedgerows again. You will soon reach a gate across the track which gives access to the fields with a stile in the left-hand hedge. Ignore this stile

B) Walk through White Row Farm into a large field and head for the bottom right hand corner to a stile. Turn right and head for a stile at about 2 o'clock to a stile which brings you out into a field.

If coming from A) continue straight on up a bank otherwise turn left and head towards the right hand corner of a small wood which surrounds a Bristol Waterworks reservoir. The ground rises gently and you will see Scotland Farm on the far side of the field and Cley Hill on the horizon to the right. Continue along the south side of the reservoir enclosure and then make for the gate in the left hand corner of the field beside Scotland Cottage. Follow the short track beyond the gate and cross Scotland Lane to a stile to the right of a farm gate.



Now continue ahead along the right hand hedge to a double stile and along the same hedge in the next field. A gap in the next field corner gives a fine view across the vale between Rudge Hill and the edge of Salisbury Plain and of the Westbury White Horse on the edge of the chalk downland.



Cross the next field along the top of a bank heading towards the White Horse. On the far side of the field is a stone slab stile beneath a hawthorn tree. Once over the stile, turn immediately right to cross another stile on top of the bank. Now turn left and follow the path along the top of the bank which overlooks, the hamlet of Rudge. At the next field corner cross another stile and follow the right hand hedge for a short distance before it bends around to the right to a stile in the field corner. Over this stile follow the left hand hedge downhill to a stile at the end of a narrow lane along the side of Lower Rudge Farm. At the road turn left and walk the short distance to the Full Moon.

For the return journey First walk up the road from the Full Moon towards Beckington. At Inglenook Cottage, the first house on the left, take the marked footpath at the side of the steep drive and follow it to where it bends to the right to enter the fields over a stile. Follow the left hand hedgerow until it bends away to the left and continue across the field to the right of a depression surrounded by bushes, to reach the right hand hedge at a stone slab stile beneath a small oak tree. Now follow the right hand hedge in the next field which leads to a farm gate on Scotland Lane.

Turn left along Scotland Lane and walk for some distance until you reach a finger post at a farm gate on the right hand side. From this gate is a fine view to the north towards Rode and Norton St. Philip. In effect the path here continues straight ahead while the road veers slightly to the left. Cross the field to a gap in the hedge and straight across the next field to a stile. The path now crosses the next field converging on the right-hand field boundary and then follows the hedge to the field corner, Here



there is a stile leading down three steps to a wooden footbridge. The path now runs through a small spinney to a stile on the far side. In the next field the path passes to the left of a clump of bushes and a cattle trough and then, bearing slightly to the right, crosses the field to a footbridge and stile on the far side. Beyond is another field where the path passes beneath two sets of electricity lines to a double stile at the left-hand end of a large pig shed. Now follow the fence around to the right to arrive in the car park of White Row Farm Shop which also possesses an excellent cafe. Return to the Woolpack along the Warminster Road.

