

# Hinton Blewett A Circular Walk

Approx distance 3.5 miles  
Approx duration 2 hours



***A short ramble from the quiet village of Hinton Blewett above the Chew Valley, visiting two reservoirs.***

*How to get there: Leaving site in a vehicle, turn left from site exit and follow down Ham Lane, at the T junction turn right (Bonhill Road) to top, where it meets A368. Turn right, then turn left just before the Red Lion. After 1 mile you cross a consealed cross-roads, follow this road for a further mile. In the village of Hinton Blewett, park on the small green, opposite the Ring O'Bells pub.*

With your back to the pub entrance, turn right in Upper Road, bending round and passing the entrance to the fine old church of St Margaret's, part of which dates from the 13th century. Go on to the junction and take the footpath opposite through a Bristol Gate (which includes a pedestrian gate).

Continue ahead past the farm and along the path, through gates and fields, to reach a lane. Turn left a short distance then go right in Hook Lane. You will see you have joined the Butcombe Trail, a long-distance path that was set up ten years ago for Butcombe Brewery linking their Butcombe pubs.

Just past the recreation field, turn right over by a gate where it may be muddy.

Head diagonally left across the field to a stile in the far hedge. Already you have fine views across the valley. Once over the stile, continue across the next field and over another stile. Now come on to a path on the hill edge and follow it ahead, dropping gently and then on through a kissing gate.

Now make your way along the side of Coley Hill. Continue to the end of the field, and go through a wide opening, heading across to a kissing gate. Then turn right downhill along the right hedge. This leads to a

kissing gate and steps down to the end of the Lower Reservoir dam.

The Lower and Upper Reservoirs were built around 1850 by the then Bristol Waterworks Company (now Bristol Water) to bring water from the Mendip Hills to Bristol. Turn left on the hard track, passing a fishing hut. Fishing is mainly for rainbow and brown trout. The track gradually climbs towards the grass-covered slope of the upper dam.

Continue the hard path, passing a house and then a dirt path leads along the edge of the Upper Reservoir. Frequent visitors to these waters include moorhens, coots, mallards, swans, and tufted ducks. Eventually come out on a lane.

Turn left and almost immediately go left again through a gate. Follow the left hedge and then bear away up towards Shortwood House and through a kissing gate. Cross a small field, the drive, two more gates and come on to ancient Shortwood Common, where local people living and working within the manor had various commoner rights.

Start the climb out of the valley by turning left up across the common. A gate at the top brings you onto a path through a small piece of woodland.

Come on to a lane and go straight ahead for a few minutes. Just past a breeze block wall, part of an old a dung pit, turn right through a kissing gate on the marked path. Go straight across this large, high open field, with Hinton Blewett in view ahead. Find a kissing gate in the far hedge in a corner where the hedge does a dog leg. Cross the next field to another kissing gate. Cross a footbridge and take the path along the bottom of the field. You should be able to see Hinton Blewett church tower. Go through another gate and cross two fields and then straight on following the right hedge towards the village.

There's one more kissing gate leading to a farm by a restored stone barn. Turn left on the farm track which leads to Lower Road in Hinton Blewett. Turn right back through the village to the green.