



**Walks 14 and 15
from**

**Twenty circular walks
in and around**

TIMSBURY

**By Peter Bradshaw, Larry Cunningham and Sue Fraser
for Timsbury Parish Council**

THE WALKS

Walks 14 and 15 are two of the twenty walks set in the beautiful countryside surrounding Timsbury in a book supported by Timsbury Parish Council. There are four further books in the series:

Fourteen circular walks in and around Radstock

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Twenty circular walks not far from Timsbury

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WALKS 14 AND 15

Stanton Prior Circular

This very quiet walk north of Timsbury provides stunning views towards Bath and of Stantonbury hillfort. The walk also includes sections that follow ancient Saxon route ways which illustrate the long history of habitation in this area.



| | WALK 14 | WALK 15 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Distance | 5.9 miles (9.6 km) | 7.7 miles (12.4 km) |
| Stiles | 1 | 1 |
| Approximate Time | 2 ¾ hours | 3 ¼ hours |
| Start/Finish | The Square | The Square |
| Start/Finish Grid Reference | ST 669587 | ST 669587 |
| Start/Finish What3Words | crab.perplexed.ignore | crab.perplexed.ignore |
| Map | OS Explorer 142 and 155 | OS Explorer 142 and 155 |
| Terrain | Hilly in places, fields, muddy in places, tracks and quiet lanes | Hilly in places, fields, muddy in places, tracks and quiet lanes |

1 / A THE SQUARE STREET SIGN AND OLD RECTORY GATE POSTS

With your back to The Square street sign next to the Old Rectory gate posts near the Miners' Memorial Garden, turn right and walk along Newmans Lane until you reach the T-junction by The British Legion.

Turn right into North Road and then, at the Congregational Church, turn left into Lippiatt Lane. Walk along Lippiatt Lane for about 400 yards, ignoring the first footpath on the right but entering, through a metal kissing gate, the second footpath. Go straight across the field and onward with a hedge on your right. Follow this hedge as it bends left (ignore



kissing gate on right) then right (ignore another kissing gate on right) then left again passing the end of Northfield Cottages and downhill to gates over a stream. Walk diagonally right up hill to the field gate in the far corner. Go through the kissing gate onto Lippiatt Lane. Turn right, ignore the entrance to Wallmead House Farm on your left and proceed straight ahead through a kissing gate and a Bristol Gate to enter a field. The field is called Wallmead, formerly the site of two Neolithic barrows. Continue walking straight ahead, keeping the hedge on your right and following the line of the telegraph poles. Farmborough Common can be seen to the left. You then reach another gate leading onto Parkway Lane beyond it.

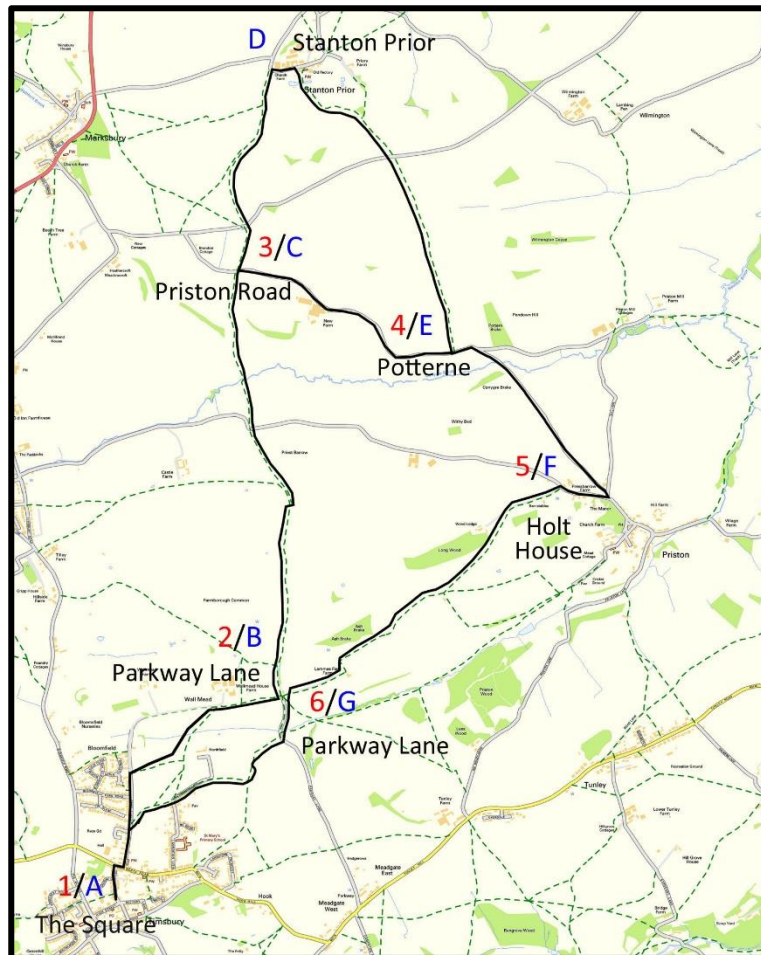
The 1784 map of Tisbury shows that the land to the left and right of Lippiatt Lane was completely fields and Wallmead House Farm as the only dwelling. By the time of the 1840 Tithe Map the old hamlet of Bloomfield exists and the buildings are occupied by mining families. During the 1960s new houses were built in Lippiatt Lane and Bloomfield, replacing many of the older cottages. In 1784 Wallmead House Farm is owned and occupied by William Parsons, in 1840 by Thomas Parsons and in 1881 by Anne Parsons which suggests the farm remained with the same family for nearly 100 years.

2 / B PARKWAY LANE

Do not go through the gate onto Parkway Lane. Instead turn left before it and follow the field hedge on your right, keeping Farmborough Common on your left, to reach a Bristol Gate in the corner of the field. Pass through this and proceed ahead through two similar gates to reach a kissing gate, keeping the hedge on your right throughout. Pass through the kissing gate into an open field



with increasingly lovely views to Farmborough to the left. Proceed for about 300 yards, keeping hedge to your right, until you reach a kissing gate hidden in the hedge on the right. Go through it and immediately turn left (Priest Barrow Hill is on your right). Proceed in the same direction as before with hedge now on your left until you reach a kissing gate on the left (where the fence poles begin). Enter a small wood through this gate and follow the path ahead. Exit the wood through another kissing gate and continue ahead, with the field hedge on your left, through a further kissing gate to reach a lane (leading to Priston). Turn left and after 50 yards take the footpath to your right. Proceed through a kissing gate into a field. Continue, following the hedge on your right, to the corner of this field. Cross the wooden footbridge over Conygre Brook and proceed, with the hedge still to your right, up the hill, through two kissing gates and pass a third (disused and too overgrown to go through at the time of writing!) into a level field at the top of the hill. With the field hedge on your right proceed until you reach a lane.



See Main Map on Pages 4 and 5 for map source and copyright details

The footpath from Farmborough Common marks the Saxon boundary between Priston and Farmborough and follows a line of an ancient trackway. This trackway has been traced from Tunley to Saltford and is thought to have been used by the Romans as a salt or iron-ore supply route to Camerton.

In the field to the right of the bridge over Conygre Brook, there are remains of Redfield New Pit which was started in 1792 by a William Davies. A small amount of coal was extracted, but as the accounts show it was only short-lived and ceased operation in 1793.

For the shorter walk continue with 3 below. For the longer walk go to C.

3 PRISTON ROAD

Turn right and follow this lane for three quarters of a mile until an aggregate track joins from the left. Turn right on the bridleway. Ignore possible left turn part way along and proceed downhill in the same direction, with hedge on your left and then along an aggregate track until you reach a lane with a ruined stone building on your right. Turn left along the lane. Follow the directions from **4** below.

C PRISTON ROAD

Turn right onto the lane and immediately left onto a dirt track. Continue along this until you meet a further lane. Cross this lane, continue along the grassy track and pass through a gate into a field, with views of Stanton Prior church diagonally to the right ahead. Follow the track to a gate in left hand corner of the field. Pass through the gate onto a lane and immediately turn right entering the village of Stanton Prior. Proceed to the parish church.

The lane to Priston is an example of a herepath which was an ancient road. It is now thought to have previously existed as part of a longer ancient track known as the 'Jurassic Way' running down from the Cotswolds into Somerset. Herepaths were intensely used by ordinary travellers and hauliers.

D STANTON PRIOR

Enter the churchyard and pass around the church to the right. Follow the path between high stone walls and through a wooden kissing gate into a field. Cross the field diagonally left to a wooden kissing gate hidden in the far corner. Turn left through the kissing gate. Proceed, initially keeping the hedge on your left and then continuing on the same line uphill towards



a wood and a kissing gate beside a metal field gate. Pass through the kissing gate and follow the path through the small wood (crossing a puzzling ditch) to a further wooden kissing gate. Pass through this gate, carefully descending steps beyond and

turn right onto a byway and proceed uphill with views of Newton St Loe on the left. Cross a road and continue on bridleway. Ignore possible left turn part way along and proceed downhill in the same direction, with hedge on your left and then along an aggregate track until you reach a lane with a ruined stone building on your right. Turn left along the lane.

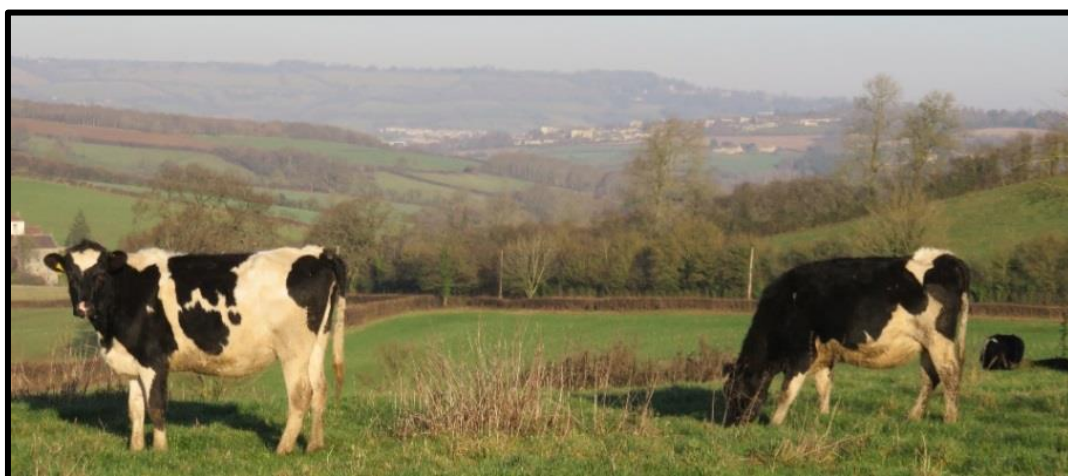
The Anglican Church of St Lawrence has its origins in the 12th century but is mainly 15th century. The church is a Grade II listed building.

The village is one of Somerset's eight Thankful Villages (there are 32 in England), in which all the men who served in World War I came home. The other seven were Aisholt, Chantry, Chelwood, Rodney Stoke, Stocklinch, Tellisford and Woolley.

The field to the left of the aggregate path is called Potterne Mead. The interpretation of this fieldname is potter's house and during the Priston Farm Survey of 1991 an examination of its surface after ploughing an area of medieval pottery scatter was discovered near the road junction by the disused buildings. The dating of the pottery suggests an occupation of the site during the 13th-14th century.

4 / E POTTERN

Follow the lane for one mile towards Priston, ignoring two left hand turnings to Priston Mill and crossing Conygre Brook. At T-junction with a lane, turn right and proceed along the lane. Pass Priston Manor on your left and continue until you reach Holt House, which used to be Pressbarrow Farm, on your right. Enjoy the view towards Bath.



This farm was created during the manorial reorganisation of Priston in the late 18th century. The name being derived from the distinctive hill to the west. The detached cottages at the western end of Priston village were apparently once known as Westend Town. The existing farm building is of 19th century appearance.

5 / F HOLT HOUSE

Turn left here, take the footpath over a cattle grid and proceed for about 250 yards. Pass through a kissing gate on your left and cross a field diagonally to the far corner.

Proceed through undergrowth and a metal kissing gate into a further field. Turn right and proceed, keeping hedge on your right. Pass through a gap in the hedge ahead and go straight across the next field to the far corner. Here, go through the gap and go through the kissing gate on your immediate left. Turn right and proceed, again with the hedge on your right. At field boundary cross the next field with large oak tree to your right and aim for the stone farmhouse diagonally left ahead. Pass through a bridle gate and bear right, past Lammas Field Farm on your left, onto a track and proceed until you reach Lammasfield Cottage on your right.

6 / G PARKWAY LANE



Follow the road downhill to your left. Ignore the footpath gate on your left and go through a metal kissing gate in the hedge on the right just beyond it. Walk straight ahead up the hill to the next kissing gate in the hedge at the top. After walking through the gate, carry on straight ahead to the gap in the hedge - except when the maize is high in which case follow the trodden path! Walk diagonally across the next

field to a gate and stile in the fence on the left. Cross the stile into the open area and then turn right and through the gap into the lane. Go straight ahead ignoring the lane to the right which leads to Northfield Cottages.

Follow the lane past some modern houses on your left. Where the road turns left take the second metal kissing gate onto a footpath leading on, past the side of 'Cherry Glade' house and through two further kissing gates onto Lippiatt Lane. Turn left and proceed to the T-junction with North Road. Turn right, cross the road, then turn left into Newmans Lane to return to the starting point in The Square.

Northfield Cottages are not seen on the 1784 map of Timsbury, but do appear on the 1840 Tithe Map and the 1841 Census. The inhabitants at this time are almost exclusively miners' families.

This picture of The Square shows a quieter time with the absence of cars and one of the several locations of Timsbury Post Office in the past. Notice the lamp post in The Square. At one time it was painted white to prevent villagers bumping into it in the dark.





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