

Baltonsborough, West Lydford, Barton St David & Butleigh

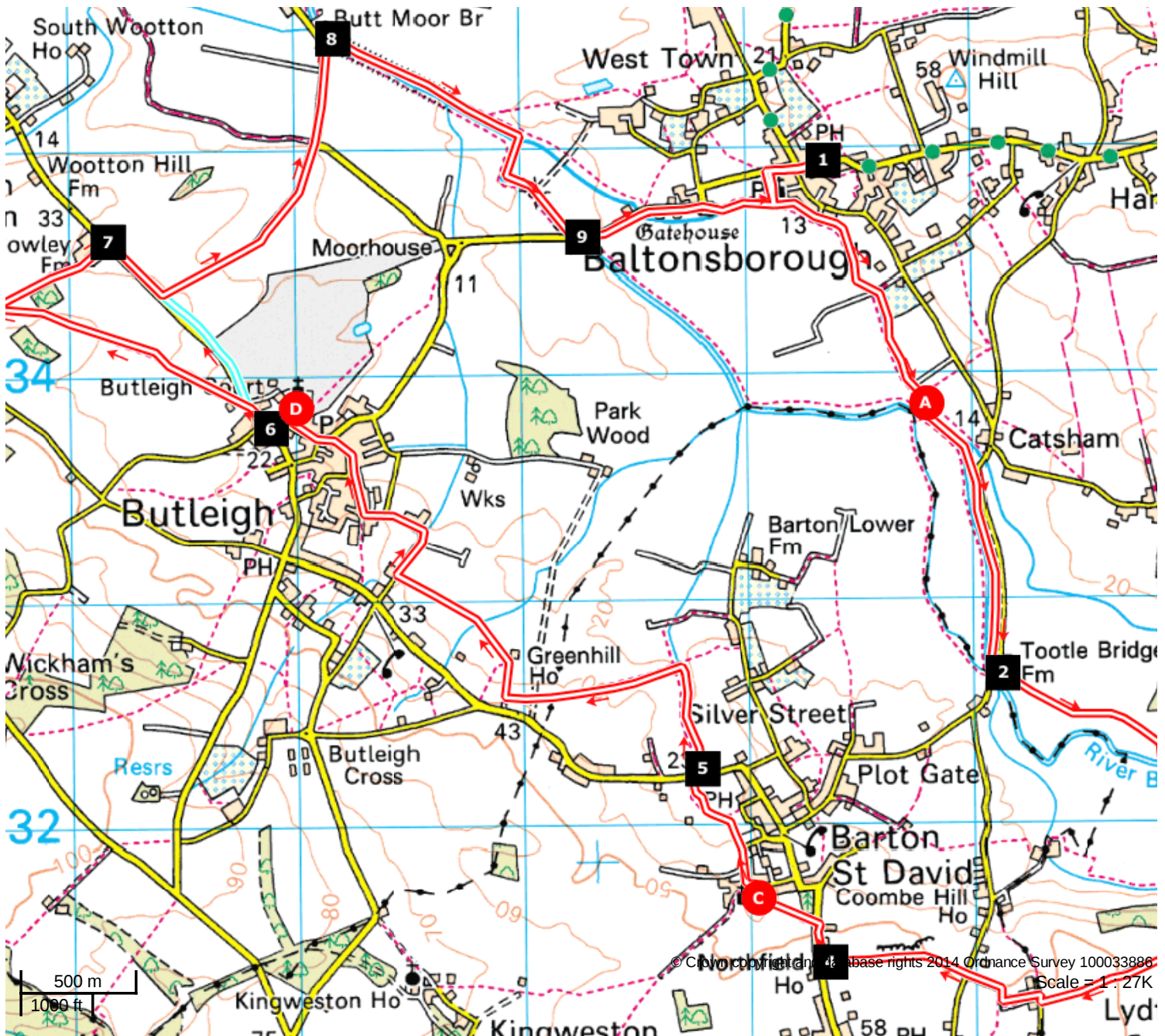


Starts at Baltonsborough Village Hall Car Park

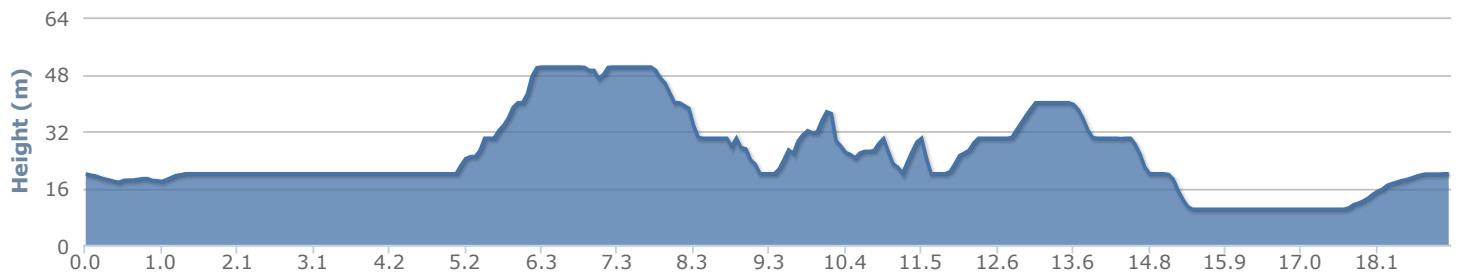
6 hours 0 minutes | 11.8miles 19.0km | Moderate

ID: 0.2331 | Developed by: Edward Levy | Checked by: anthony strange | www.ramblersroutes.org

A circular walk along river banks and fairly level fields and minor roads. Visiting the villages of Baltonsborough, West Lydford, Barton St David and Butleigh along the way.



Route Profile



*move mouse over graph to see points on route

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Starts at

Baltonsborough Village Hall Car Park, Somerset

Ends at

Baltonsborough Village Hall Car Park, Somerset

Getting there

By car: *Baltonsborough is situated approximately 2 miles off the A361 between Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet. The village is clearly signposted from the A361. Turn left at War Memorial, and Village Hall is some 150m on left next to the school. You may need to seek permission to park in the village hall car park. As an alternative there is plenty of roadside parking available in the start area.*

Route instructions

[1] Turn right out of car park into Ham Street and follow it through village. At crossroads go straight ahead passing village shop and post office on your left. In a short distance on the edge of the village turn left through a wooden gate into a field. Go straight across the field passing the church on your left to cross a stone footbridge over the river. Turn left and follow the path along the river bank. On it's way to Tootle Bridge the path crosses Baltonsborough Flights.

(A) Baltonsborough Flights is a weir where the River Brue leaves the Mill Stream (a loop running through Baltonsborough which rejoins the Brue west of the village. By the time the Brue reaches Baltonsborough it is only some 10m above sea level and the surrounding countryside is drained into it by way of numerous rhynes.

Continue to follow the path along the top of the river bank until reaching the road at Tootle Bridge.

[2] Turn left onto the road and cross the bridge. Immediately turn right to pass through a field gate into a field. Proceed across the field diagonally to the right to reach a gate which pass through into another field. Continue in the same direction to the corner of the field. At the corner pass through a gate and then almost immediately turn left over a stile into another field. Follow the path across the field keeping close to the right hand hedge. At the far corner of the field turn right over a double stile and then immediately left to follow the hedge a short distance to the river bank. Turn left and follow the path and later a wide track alongside the river. The path passes through orchards and then bears right still following the river bank. At a sharp left hand bend, turn right to cross a bridge over the river (closed to vehicular traffic) and then immediately turn left. Follow the path for just over 100 yards and then turn left onto a path crossing the river by a footbridge alongside a weir.

(B) *The ancient weir has just been repaired by a group of local volunteers after 3 years of fundraising. The weir, which is the largest on the Brue, had suffered severe erosion damage in the latter part of last century and was in danger of collapse. In September 2010, the Lydford Weir Company, a charity, was formed to effect the repair. The target was £60,000 and funds were raised from running local events, generous personal donations from members of the local community plus a major grant from Viridor Credits Environmental Company.*

After crossing the bridge the path passes through West Lydford churchyard and exits out through the church car park and onto a road.

[3] Turn right onto the road and cross the river by the old stone bridge and keep straight ahead into West Lydford village. Watch for a footpath waymarker post (Just past a two-storey thatched cottage) and turn right onto it. Initially the road is tarmaced but soon becomes a bridleway. Follow the bridleway straight

ahead passing through a gate, and on up a field between a hedge (left) and a wooden fence (right) to a further gate at the top of the field. Pass through the gate down the field, and to a gate leading onto a lane where you turn right and then in a short distance turn left onto a waymarked footpath. The path initially runs up a gravel driveway and then goes straight ahead over a stone stile into a small field. Follow the path in the same direction over the field and cross a further stone stile. Turn right and follow a narrow footpath which skirts around a house and then joins its driveway by a garage. Follow the driveway out onto a minor road. Cross the road and pass through a gate into a field. Head up the field close to the hedge/trees on the right boundary to find a gate and stile in the top boundary line. Pass through the gate and over the stile, and proceed straight ahead crossing into a field and continue ahead with field boundary on your left. Cross a driveway and continue ahead to reach a road.

[4] Turn right and follow road. On the left ahead is a stone cottage. Just before reaching it turn left and pass through a gate into a field. Follow the path with the boundary hedge on the right and then pass through a gate on the right into another field. Now follow the path with the boundary hedge on the left to the corner of the field. Turn right and follow the field edge to reach a metal gate on the left. Pass through the gate and follow the path a short distance to the point where a path turns left into Barton St David churchyard.

(C) The Church of St David has 12th-century origins. The tower, which is octagonal, is in three stages and probably dates from the 15th century. It has been designated by English Heritage as a Grade II listed building.*

Follow the path through the churchyard and then exit into a road at the church entrance. Cross the road into the road opposite and follow this road to the point where it turns right. At this point turn left onto a waymarked footpath and follow it through 2 fields and exit into a road. Turn right and then almost immediately left to cross a stile onto a footpath.

[5] Follow path through 2 fields and on into a third. Watch for a post on the right signifying and marking a path crossing. Turn left at the post and walk up the field to a stile ahead. Cross 4 further fields following the path in the same direction crossing a farm track in the final field before finding a stile in the hedge. Exit onto a driveway and turn right. Follow the driveway towards a house and into a parking area by the side of it. Exit the car park in the far left hand corner over a concrete bridge. Follow the path through a small field to the gate diagonally to the right. Pass through the gate and walk diagonally to the left across the field to reach a stile taking the path across a small stream and the over a further stile into a field. Bear right after crossing the stile and follow the hedgeline on your right and then at point where hedge turns right go straight ahead to a stile in the opposite hedge. Continue to follow the path in the same direction and on reaching the corner of the field descend steps into a minor road. Turn right and follow road round a left hand bend and then onwards round a right hand bend into the village of Butleigh. Follow road through the centre of the village and onwards passing the entrance to the church on the right.

(D) The Church of St Leonard dates from the 14th century, and was restored and extended in the middle of the 19th century by J. C. Buckler. It has been designated by English Heritage as a grade II listed building.*

Continue to junction with a major road.

[6] Turn right and follow road going slightly up hill. In a short distance the road bears right and at this point a footpath on the left enters a field over a stile (opposite Butleigh Cricket Club, and just before a 40mph sign).

To shorten the route continue straight along the main road and on reaching a junction on the right turn into it and follow the instructions from the final sentence of [7] This stretch of road is busy with fast moving traffic

so take great care.

Cross the stile into the field and then walk diagonally to the right across the field to reach a footbridge in the hedge opposite. Cross the footbridge and turn left to follow the field edge to a metal gate in the corner.

Pass through the gate and turn right and follow field edge on right to a gate. Pass through the gate and then walk diagonally to the left across the field to a small metal gate in the fence. Pass through the gate and then continue in the same direction across grassland and on into a small orchard. At the end of the orchard cross a stile into a field and turn immediately right. Follow the field edge on your right and at end of field cross a stile and continue in next field in same direction to reach a small wooden gate in the right hand corner. Pass through the gate and bear left round a farm house into a farmyard. Go straight ahead in the farmyard and follow the exit road to meet a major road.

[7] Turn right and follow road **taking care as traffic moves at high speed along this stretch**. After approximately 250 yards turn left and follow a minor road downhill. Where the minor road reaches a junction with a major road joining from the right continue ahead down a long straight.

[8] At the end of the long straight continue around the left hand bend for approx. 75m where you will find a bridge on the right over the river, and a sign stating Glaston Manor AA private fishing banks. Do not cross the river, but climb over the stile to the right of the bridge onto the river bank. Follow the path which now runs along the top of the river bank (river on your left) in a straight line over several fields until it turns right and then left to continue onwards to a road at Wallyer's Bridge.

[9] Turn left onto the road and follow it across the bridge and continue to point where road turns sharp left. Here turn right through a gap in the hedge (opposite Willow Moor cottage, and just before a 30mph sign) on to a footpath and follow alongside the backs of houses on the left and a river on the right and out into a field. The path then continues along the top of the river bank towards a stone footbridge. At footbridge turn left and cross the field to a gate. Pass through gate and turn right and follow road straight ahead over the crossroads and back to the village hall car park.

Acknowledgements

Developed by: *Edward Levy*

Checked by: *anthony strange*



The banks of the River Brue near
Tootle Bridge
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



West Lydford Church & Bridge
Photo taken by: Edward Levy

