

Alan Burton Memorial Walk - Bristol

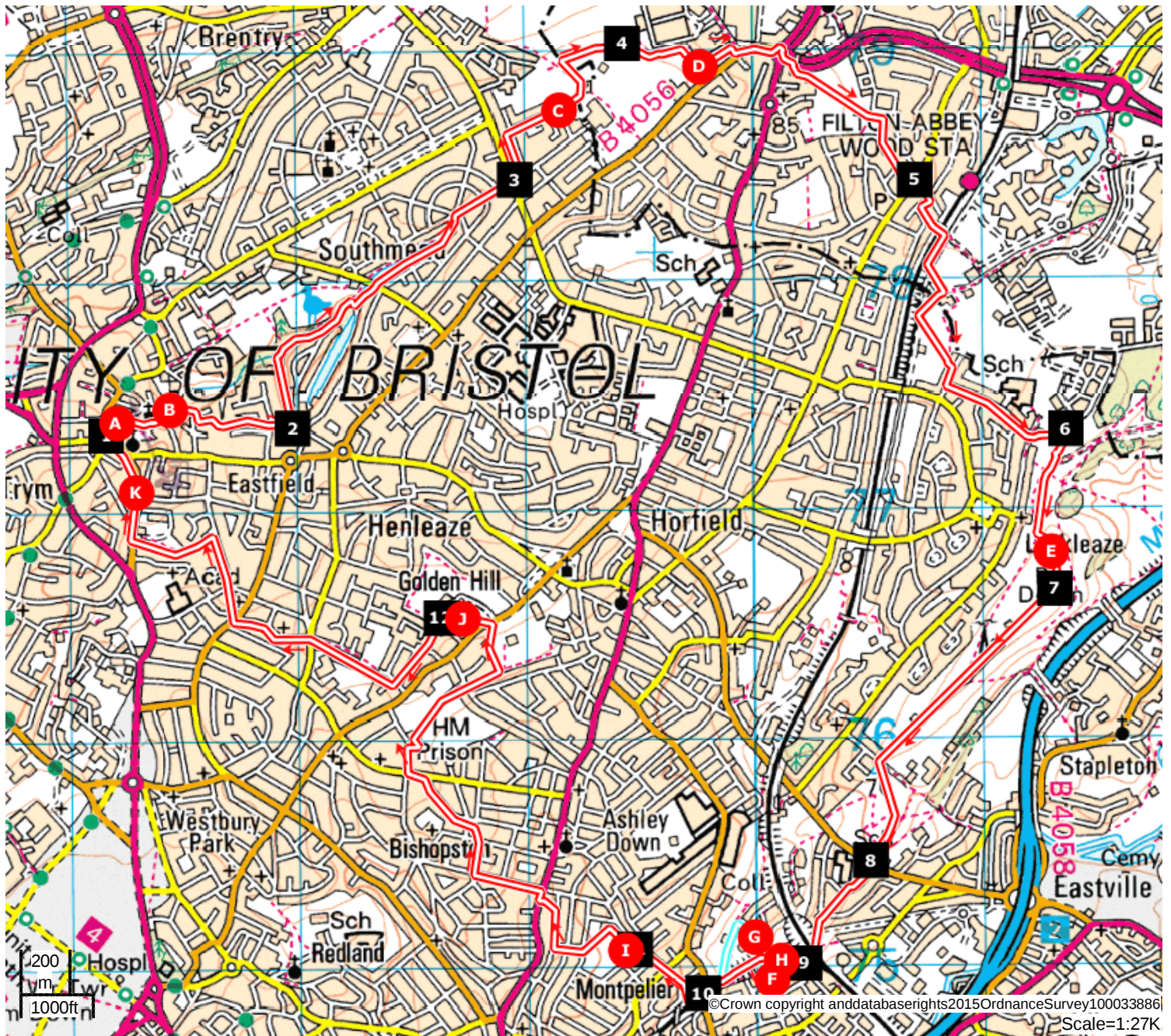
Starts at Westbury War Memorial, Bristol

5 hours 0 minutes | 10.2 miles 16.4 km | Leisurely



Developed by: Bristol Ramblers

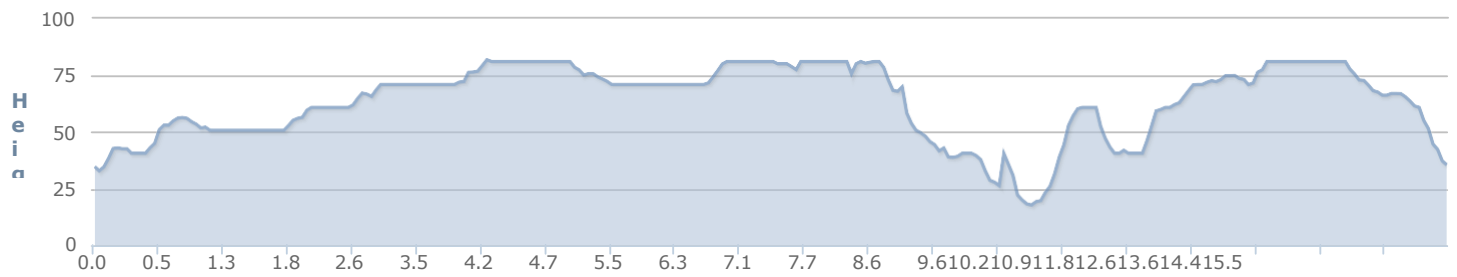
A circular walk through woods, parks and city streets with some wide views and plenty of historical interest.



— Main Route — Alternative Route H Point of Interest 4 Waypoint

Distance: 16.34km Ascent: 186m Descent: 186m

Route Profile



[*move mouse over graph to see points on route](#)

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity. We work to safeguard the footpaths, countryside and other places where we all go walking. We encourage people to walk for their health and wellbeing. To become a member visit www.ramblers.org.uk

Starts at

Westbury War Memorial, Bristol

Ends at

Same as the start – Westbury Village, Bristol.

Getting there

The start is easily reached via bus routes 1 (from City Centre via Blackboy Hill), 18 (from Filton and Southmead), 20 (from City Centre via Bishop Road/King's Drive), 501/502 (from Filton Church).

Route instructions

1. Start from the south side of the road, near Mogfords Ironmongers and go down the High Street away from the war memorial. There are toilets on the opposite side of the road. Turn right into Church Road and walk towards Westbury Parish Church. [A] Pass through the churchyard, keeping the church on the left. Turn left down Chock Lane and then right into Trym Road. On your right note the culverted River Trym. Fork right by Dial House [B], climb the slope and then the steps, past the iron gates on the left.
2. Turn left at the top and then right into the alleyway in the far corner, passing through Cote Lea Park and Vintery Leys to reach Lakewood Road. Turn left and left again into Badocks Wood, following the footpath alongside a minor stream down to meet the River Trym again. Cross the footbridge and turn right to follow the Trym through and out of the woods, turning right at a path T junction and then immediately left to cross Doncaster Road into Trymside Open Space. Continue beside the river across Trowbridge Road to Shetland Road. Turn left, then right into Charfield Road, staying on the right-hand side of the road. Cross Pen Park Road via the zebra crossing and enter Stanton Road.
3. Turn left into Fonthill Road and then right into Ascot Road. Go into the playground at the end of Ascot Road [C] and follow the path ahead and then curving round to the left. Keep along the edge of the field until a gap in the fence/hedge is reached. Go through the gap and cross the ditch with care to reach Filton Golf Course. Follow the right-hand hedge for a few yards to a footpath sign by a fairway. Cross this with care and make for a footpath signpost by the perimeter fence of the British Aerospace complex.
4. Follow the footpath keeping close to the factory perimeter fence [D] through the car park, keeping left, to reach Golf Course Lane. Cross over and turn right and follow the pavement round to the left all the way past the Air Balloon public house to the pedestrian crossing. Cross and turn right on the other side (or turn left first towards the church, near where there are toilets and shops). At the roundabout, cross the road using the pedestrian crossing and go into Filton Community Garden where there are seats for a flask coffee stop and/or rest. Continue into the recreation ground and cross towards the far corner, bearing left to the prominent corner where Shellard Road meets Brabazon Road. Go down Brabazon Road a short distance and take the lane to the right between the playing field and garages. Bear left at a corner and continue to emerge on Filton Avenue.
5. Go down Walliscourt Road South and then turn right into Kipling Road. Take a footpath on the left and go over the railway bridge. Turn right and follow the footpath alongside the railway cutting. Before the Lockleaze Sports Centre buildings and pitches, turn left across the playing field to join and follow the path that follows the fence on the eastern side of the Sports Centre. This brings you to Landseer Avenue. Turn right up Hogarth Walk. At the top cross over the road and turn right in front of the adventure playground.
6. Turn left to enter Stoke Park. Turn right and keep to the top of the open space. Pass through a gap

ahead into a second open space in which there is a seat. After maybe 200 yards a hedge comes in from the left. There is a gap in the left-hand boundary at this point which leads through to the open hill and a well-used grass path ahead which rises to the crest of the ridge [E]. At this point, aim for the communications tower.

7. Turn right along the ridge and pass through Purdown Camp, a World War II anti-aircraft gun battery site, and go past the communications tower. Follow this tarred track (Sir John's Lane), named after one of the Smyth family who owned the land hereabouts, go through a kissing gate, turn left and then through another kissing gate at the bottom. At the car park turn left down the lane and take the second turn right, after about 200 yards, opposite the first house and a door in the wall. Go down the field keeping the hedge to the right and enter the wood at the bottom. Go down the steps and onto Muller Road. Note the steps opposite. If there is little traffic, cross the road with care. Otherwise, go right down 200 yards to the pelican crossing and cross there.
8. Onward to Ashley Hill: return to and go up the steps, following the footpath round to the left of Fairfield School. Do not turn right in front of the school, but go straight ahead along Allfoxton Road, to the footpath opposite the end of the road. This leads down to Narrowways Junction, where the railway lines from Temple Meads to Severn Beach and to Parkway diverge. Cross over the first railway bridge and go right through a kissing gate into the Narrowways Junction Millennium Green Nature Reserve [H] where there is a large grassy area suitable for picnics. From the highpoint of the Nature Reserve descend alongside the metal fence on the left, which joins an old railway track bed on the right of the current line to Severn Beach, high above the City Farm and allotments. It turns slightly right by the sign post marking the end of the Nature Reserve and goes through a kissing gate. Turn left and follow the path up to Ashley Road.
9. An alternative route leaves at this point, descending down steps past St Werburgh's church [F] instead of going through the nature reserve. At the bottom of the steps, turn right through the road tunnel, then left up Watercress Road, to the City Farm café or the Farm pub [H]. Afterwards take the path opposite the café to rejoin the main route as it rises to Ashley Hill.
10. Cross over Ashley Hill into Hurlingham Road. Turn right and go up Somerville Road South and then Somerville Road as far as St Andrew's Park, one of the largest and most popular neighbourhood parks, with a bowling green, children's playground and toilets.
11. Go into the park [I], turn right towards the toilets and leave by the bottom exit and cross Effingham Road into Grenville Road. Take the second turn right into North Road and, near the end, go down an alleyway on the left into Gloucester Road. Cross the road, turn right and then left up Berkeley Road. Take the second turn right into Wentworth Road and go through the alleyway at the end. Turn half left up Cornwall Road to Bishop Road. Turn left and then right into Kings Drive. Turn right into the lane on the left hand bend, then left and right to walk along a path between a sports ground and allotments. Continue on to Longmead Avenue. Cross over and enter the alley way opposite which leads into Ardagh Park Recreation Centre. This has tennis courts, a bowling green, attractive gardens and clubhouse. Turn left and go up past the children's playground to Kellaway Avenue. There are seats if a rest is needed. Use the controlled crossing lights to cross this busy road to the Tesco supermarket.
12. Leave Tesco [J] by the far end of the car park and turn left into Lime Trees Road. Continue straight on into and along The Furlong and take a footpath out the end into Brookland Road. Turn right and then left into Stadium Road. Turn right into Phoenix Grove and follow the footpath alongside Golden Hill Sports Ground. Go along Henleaze Park and down The Drive. Cross over Henleaze Road and turn right along

Waterford Road and Grange Park. Towards the end of Grange Park look out for the footpath on the left and follow it past Red Maids School into Westbury Road. Turn right down Westbury Hill [J] to the starting point.

Additional 'Point of Interest' information

- A. Note the Elsie Briggs House of Prayer at the churchyard entrance on the right. This, at over 600 years old, is the oldest house in Bristol. The oldest part of the church is the twelfth century north aisle and nave. It is open daily from 9.00am to 6.00pm.
- B. The River Trym was navigable by ships up to 1099 when shifts in the land reduced it to a stream. Dial House used to be a toll house for traffic crossing the river over a packhorse bridge.
- C. The tumuli-looking mounds dotted round the playground are only contractors' spoil heaps and are not significant. Note that the River Trym appears again by the fence on your right but is now reduced to a trickle in a ditch.
- D. The British and Colonial Aeroplane Company was founded in 1910 by Sir George White, owner of the Bristol Tramways Company, a concern known for its low wages, high fares and anti-union policy. It expanded during the 1914-18 war and changed its name to Bristol Aeroplane Company to avoid Excess Profits Duty. After the war it enjoyed Air Ministry support but failed to develop a civil market. It made both engines and airframes, not entirely to the satisfaction of the Ministry 'making useless and obsolete aircraft - many of which never left storage.' The aircraft side was a muddle without a marketing man and key items were imported. When war came the company was bailed out by the supply of American machine tools. After the war the firm ignored the jet. Eventually, the aircraft side was amalgamated with Vickers and English Electric in BAC. The engine division amalgamated with Armstrong Siddley and was absorbed by Rolls Royce.
- E. Norborne Berkeley, later Lord Botetourt, rebuilt his family home in a gothic style. His sister, wife of the fourth Duke of Beaufort, inherited it. Hence it came to be known as the Dower House, or 'the Duchess's'. In later years, it was a mental institution. The house has been refurbished and the immediate surroundings residentially developed.
- F. This church formerly stood on the original cross-roads centre of Bristol (junction of Broad Street, Corn Street and High Street) but was removed to make way for road widening and rebuilt brick by brick in the 1870s. It is now a climbing centre.
- G. Note the curiously decorated house back on the left, which was built by the same local builders who decorated the café beside the pub.
- H. At Narroways junction, the branch line from Severn Beach joins the mainline to Cardiff. The branch line used to be directly linked to the Midland line to Bath via Mangotsfield. It is still possible to work out where the link left the branch line and crossed the GWR line here on its way to Kingswood junction.
- I. The park is on the site of an old quarry. In 1882, the developer of St Andrew's offered the City twenty-two acres at a price the Corporation was unwilling to pay. Under pressure from local residents, the Corporation bought half the site in 1890 and for some years allowed its use as a tip, possibly to fill up the quarry, perhaps to raise revenue. Part of the park was laid out formally, part left for young people to amuse themselves. As usual, complaints followed attempted improvement. A plain park would have been preferable to a 'dressed up white elephant'. The bandstand, drinking fountain, railings, sundial and

elaborate planting have gone, though some timber remains from the original conception and the lay-out of the walks survives.

J. This supermarket was built on the Golden Hill sports ground after a lengthy protest. Nevertheless, it has a cafe and toilets.

[K] Note the lock-up in the wall near the top of the hill just below and opposite the Post Office Tavern.

Acknowledgements

Developed by: *Bristol Ramblers*

Thanks to the many members of Bristol Ramblers who helped Alan and others devise and publish the 'Bristol Backs' collection of walks.

Route and text checked and updated by Tony Kerr and Nigel Andrews.



Westbury Church
Photo taken by: Tony Kerr



Westbury Church
Photo taken by: Tony Kerr



The Dial House
Photo taken by: Tony Kerr



The Dower House
Photo taken by: Tony Kerr



St Werburgh's
Photo taken by: Tony Kerr

