



**Walks 1 and 2
from**

**Twenty circular walks
close to**

TIMSBURY

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

THE WALKS

Walks 1 and 2 are two of the twenty walks set in the beautiful countryside close to Timsbury in a book supported by Timsbury Parish Council. There are four further books in the series:

Fourteen circular walks in and around Timsbury

supported by Timsbury Parish Council

Fourteen circular walks in and around Radstock

commissioned by Radstock Museum

Twenty circular walks not far from Timsbury

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All the books are available from **Health and More** in Timsbury, **Radstock Museum**, **Farmborough Community Shop** and **Oldfield Park Bookshop** in Bath. Each book costs £6.00 Once printing costs are recouped all proceeds go to good causes: Radstock Museum, Timsbury Parish Council, WaterAid & The Avon Wildlife Trust. To order copies for postal delivery telephone Oldfield Park Bookshop on 01225 427722.

WALKS 1 AND 2

Newton St Loe

Starting in the pretty village of Newton St Loe, then the longer walk climbs up a quiet lane to enjoy good views. It ends with a delightful walk through the landscaped garden of Newton Park designed by Capability Brown, with snowdrops and bluebells in spring and swans on the lake.



	WALK 1	WALK 2
Distance	2.3 miles (3.6 km)	5.2 miles (8.3 km)
Stiles	0	3
Approximate Time	1 hour	2 ¾ hours
Start/Finish	Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe	Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe
Start/Finish Grid Reference	ST 701649	ST 701649
Map	OS Explorer 155	OS Explorer 155
Terrain	Flat on fields, footpaths, lanes and stony tracks.	Undulating with one climb. Fields, footpaths, lanes and stony tracks.

DIRECTIONS

Nearest Postcode: BA2 9BU. Map Ref: ST 701649. 6.6 miles from Timsbury.

Leave Timsbury and go through Farmborough, then on the A39 toward Bath. At The Globe roundabout take the third exit up the hill then the first right to Newton St Loe. Park on the road near the church.

1 / A NEWTON ST LOE

With the church behind you walk down the road passing the School House on your right. Pause in front of the School House to read the inscription above the door. Ignore the turning going right after the School House and continue straight ahead passing the regional office of the Duchy of Cornwall. Turn right at the T-junction, passing The Mount on your left, to reach



the centre of the village. Turn right down the side of the thatched cottage keeping the island with the tree on your left. Follow the lane passing a playground on your left for 150 yards until you reach a crossroads. Turn left through metal pillared gates beside The Lodge.

A church stood on the site of Holy Trinity church during the 11th century and was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The current building is from the 14th century.

The village school was established in 1698 and closed in 1972. Queen Elizabeth II visited the school on 17th April 1956 when she came to the village following her official opening of the Chew Valley reservoir.

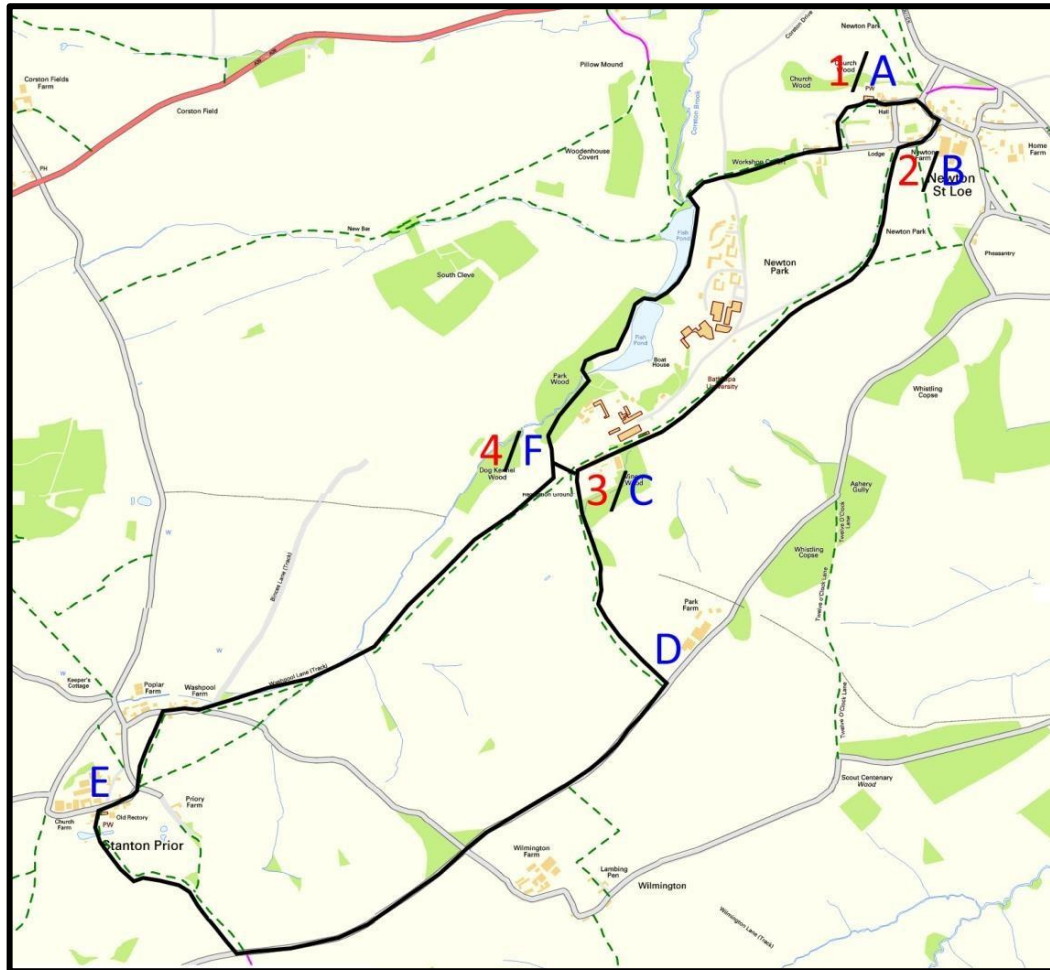


The majority of the village is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. The Duchy purchased the Newton Park Estate, which included much property in the village, following the death of 5th Earl Temple in 1941. Together with the adjacent Manor of Englishcombe that the Duchy already owned, this created the Duchy's largest estate outside Dartmoor. The Duchy's

largest rural office is in the village.

The Mount was built in the late 17th century and remodelled about 1820-30. It is a Grade II listed building.

The Lodge to Newton Park was built in mid to late 19th century in a Gothic style.



2 / B THE LODGE

Go over the cattle grid heading towards Bath Spa University. Continue ahead on the road for 450 yards and go over another cattle grid. Continue on the road then take the metal kissing gate on the left. Turn immediately right and walk across the field keeping the barbed wire fence on your right. Head slightly left towards a metal kissing gate 30 yards before the end of the road. Continue in the same direction across the field, past the original Newton Park house on your right. Continue through the parkland in the same direction keeping the road on your right and aiming to the left-hand side of the car park ahead. Walk down the side of the car park to reach a metal kissing gate and the metal field gate in the corner of the field by the buildings.

Continue ahead keeping buildings on your right towards a signpost. Carry on ahead keeping the walled garden on your left; on the way you can look into the walled garden.





Newton Park was built in 1762–5 by Joseph Langton, Member of Parliament for Bath from 1690 to 1695, to the design of Stiff Leadbetter. The house was used as a Red Cross hospital to house Australian and New Zealand troops in World War I. Newton Park is currently home to the administrative staff of Bath Spa University and is a Grade I listed building. The estate includes a landscaped park designed by Capability Brown. The park is Grade II listed.

In the 18th century, it was widely advised that the kitchen garden should be placed out of view from the house. Capability Brown was known for his dislike of walled kitchen gardens and was one of those who banished them to distant parts of the estate. Newton Park is a classic example of this practice.

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

3 WALLED GARDEN AT BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

At the end of the walled garden wall, bear right to the end of an avenue of trees and then take the metal kissing gate to the right.

For the shorter walk continue with 4 / F.

C WALLED GARDEN AT BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

At the end of the walled garden wall bear left and walk diagonally across the car



park. Cross over the grid and aim for the metal kissing gate beside a metal field gate. Turn left and walk up the slope keeping the hedge close on your left. Pass through a metal field gate beside a double metal field gate. There is a good view of Stantonbury Hill Fort on the right. Just beyond the metal kissing

gate you cross The Wansdyke. Twenty yards after the kissing gate, turn round and enjoy the view including, on a clear day, Beckford Tower on Lansdown on the horizon. Carry on up the slope to a metal kissing gate next to a double field gate. Just before turn around again and the view to the right of Stantonbury Hill Fort includes, on a clear day, Clifton Suspension Bridge. Go through the kissing gate to go out into the lane. To the left is Park Farm. On the other side of the lane, there are good views towards Priston Valley.



Stantonbury Hill is the site of an Iron Age hill fort. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Hill forts developed in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age, roughly the start of the first millennium BC.

The Wansdyke is a long ditch and bank, also known as a linear defensive earthwork dating to the Dark Ages, roughly between 400 and 700 AD. It runs from the Avon valley south of Bristol to Savernake Forest near Marlborough in Wiltshire.

D PARK FARM

Turn right and continue along the lane on top of a ridge for 850 yards, ignoring a footpath sign on your left, to reach a crossroads. Proceed ahead and 800 yards after the crossroads there is a crossing of a bye way and bridleway. Turn right and walk down the bye way towards Stanton Prior. There are good views of the University to the right. Continue down and pass through two stone pillars. Twenty yards after the pillars, a wood appears on your left. Shortly after, pass through a wooden kissing gate up some steps on your left. Walk through the woods to another wooden kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate into the field and enjoy good views down to the church in Stanton Prior. Go diagonally left down the hill. Just behind where the hedge juts out there is a wooden kissing gate. Go through



the kissing gate and carry on ahead towards another wooden kissing gate to the left of the Church of St Lawrence. Go through the kissing gate and continue along the path between the two walls (a drung). Pass around the church to the front door and continue out to the road over a four bar wooden stile or through the gate. Church Farm is opposite.

The lane from Park Farm is an ancient Ridgeway, one of the branches of the north south Jurassic Way, which was called the Bath herepath (military road) in a Bath Abbey charter in 963 AD.

Church of St Lawrence has its origins in the 12th century but is mainly 15th century. The yew tree to the right of the gate is on the site of a plague pit of Black Death victims. The church has been designated a Grade II listed building.

Stanton Prior derives its name from the Old English 'Stantona', meaning Stone Town. The Bath Chronicle of 23rd July 1932 reported that Somerset County Council had suggested that Stanton Prior be known as Lower Marksbury. Clearly this didn't happen!

E STANTON PRIOR

Turn right pass the Type K6 telephone kiosk and then a former chapel until the road bends to the left and there is a no-through road going to the right. In between the two roads there is a metal field gate and an overgrown stile. Go through the open



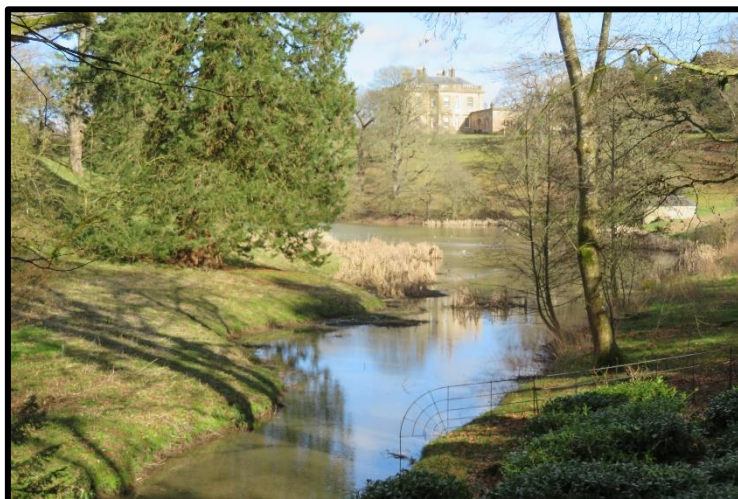
metal field gate and walk across the field, following the left-hand arrow of the footpath sign and aiming to the left of a wooden clad cottage in the distance. Cross the stile and go down a few steps to join a lane. Turn right and continue on the lane pass The Priors on your right and Lower Farm House on your left. Continue on the lane until you reach a fork in the road with a wooden stile and metal field gate between the two forks. Cross the stile and continue ahead keeping the hedge on your left to a metal kissing gate. Go through the metal kissing gate into the copse. Pass over the wooden bridge into the field. Turn right and walk ahead, keeping the stream, which is the Corston Brook, on your right until the path curves right to a black metal kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and walk up the slope with the hedge on your left. At the top, follow the avenue of recently planted trees towards the University to reach a metal kissing gate. Go through the metal kissing gate and continue along another avenue or recently planted trees to reach another metal kissing gate. Go through and continue along the avenue of older trees to a further metal kissing gate passing playing fields on your right. At the end of the avenue of trees take the metal kissing gate to the left. Go down the hill to go through the double wooden gates on your right that lead into Melancholy Wood.

The telephone kiosk is a Type K6, designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. It is a Grade II listed building.

The Chapel opened in 1863 and was principally for Primitive Methodists who had worshipped in a cottage. The chapel is built of White Lias stone with Bath Stone facings and was capable of seating 100 persons. It was erected at the sole cost of W M Hooper.

The shorter walk joins here from the right

2 / B MELANCHOLY WOOD



Pass through the wooden gates into the woods and follow the gravel path. At the T-Junction of paths turn left and cross a bridge over the Corston Brook. Continue on the path as it bends round the lake, passing a Garden Temple on the left. At the end of the lake there is a weir that goes down to the second lake.

There is an ice house to the left of the weir. At the end of the lake there is a good view of the old castle on the hill at the opposite end of the lake. Continue on the path and as you reach the metal gates in front of you turn left on the narrow path downhill to the stream. Go through the metal kissing gate and continue along the edge of the lake.

Pass the man-made waterfalls on your left to reach a double metal kissing gate. After the kissing gates, turn right and walk on the path towards the drive to the University. Go through the gap beside the metal field gate (the kissing gate is not in use), cross the drive to the gap into the Bathampton Anglers' car park opposite. Go across the car park and follow the tarmac footpath ahead. The footpath then joins the road. Continue along this road, passing the Send a Cow Project on the right. At the twenty mile per hour sign and footpath sign turn left. Turn right after the garage and go through the metal kissing gate. Walk straight ahead to the church and another metal kissing gate into the churchyard. Go past door to the church, through gates to reach the start of the walk.





Capability Brown was renowned for his work with water features. His plan for Newton Park involved the creation of three lakes by damming the Corston Brook and making a circular path ornamented with specimen trees and shrubs, providing a variety of views across the water to features of interest. The digging was completed by hand with shovels. The top lake is now silted up. The Upper Lake was restored in 2000.

The Garden Temple was specifically placed to achieve Brown's desire of circular walks with views and was also restored in 2000.

When Newton Park was sold to the Langton family in 1666, the family occupied the fortified manor house before it was considered 'insufficient as a seat of power'; it was replaced in 1760 by the manor house seen earlier in the walk. The Castle is one of the tower fortifications and the only surviving element of the original house.



Send a Cow was set up by a group of Christian dairy farmers from the UK in 1988. Due to EU milk quotas healthy dairy cows had to be slaughtered. In response to an appeal from Uganda for milk, they embarked on a project which resulted in cows from their own herds being sent to Uganda.



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