



Walk 9  
from

**Twenty circular  
walks near**

**TIMSBURY**

**By Peter Bradshaw, Larry Cunningham and Sue Fraser**

# THE WALK

Walk 9 is one the twenty walks set in the beautiful countryside near to Timsbury in a book supported by The Sperring Charity and Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. There are four further books in the series:

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# WALK 9

## Wellow

This walk has quiet valleys and excellent views. Starting in the picturesque village of Wellow with quirky hints of the former railway on the route.



	WALK 9
Distance	6.1 miles (9.8 km)
Stiles	0
Approximate Time	3 ½ hours
Start/Finish	Wellow
Start/Finish Grid Reference	ST 739581
Map	OS Explorer 142
Terrain	Undulating with two climbs, footpaths, tarmac, tracks and lanes.

## DIRECTIONS

Nearest Postcode: BA2 8QB. Map Ref: ST 739581.

The walk starts at the public car park at the end of Station Road in Wellow. The car park is signposted from The High Steet that goes through the centre of Wellow. Parking is free.

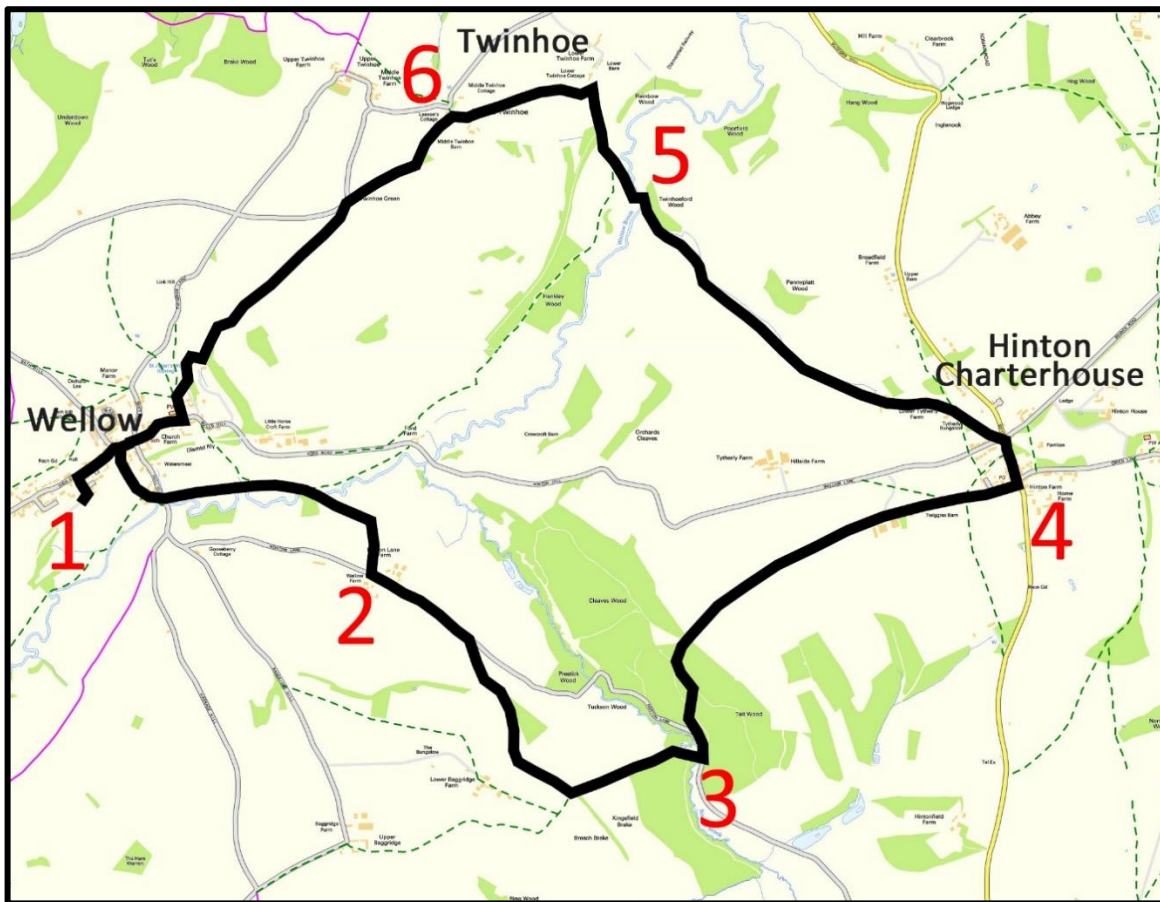
### 1 STATION ROAD CAR PARK

From the car park walk back down the road and continue past the rear of the old station on your right. Follow Station Road to reach a T-junction with The High Street. Turn right and walk along The High Street towards the Fox and Badger pub. Turn right and walk down the side of the pub down Railway Lane, passing the former fuller's earth works on the left and steam mill on the right. At the end of the lane continue straight on, keeping the signal box on your left, down the footpath ahead. Ignore the footpath going off to the right and continue on beside the stone wall. Turn left before the bridge, but do take a look at the ford. Cross the lane and go through the metal kissing gate beside a metal field gate which is a head of you. Keep the wire fence on your left as you continue down the field. Note the railway bridge to your left as you walk down the field. Go through a metal kissing gate beside a metal field gate. Continue in the same direction to a Bristol Gate and stables and farm buildings ahead. Continue straight ahead through the farm buildings and then through another Bristol Gate. Continue in the same direction with a wooden shelter on your left and then go through another Bristol Gate into the next field. Bear right and take the kissing gate on the right before the Bristol Gate. Go through the gate and over the bridge over the Wellow Brook.



*The Somerset and Dorset Railway was created in 1862 to connect Bath and Bournemouth. Wellow Station dates from 1874 and is now a private house and garden. There were sidings in the field now used as the car park, which enabled processed fuller's earth, agricultural machinery, grain and watercress to be taken away. Wellow signal box was built in 1892. Following the closure of the Somerset and Dorset Railway in 1966, the railway station and signal box were bought by the artists Jann Haworth and Peter Blake. They designed the cover of the Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album by The Beatles.*





*The former fuller's earth works dates from about 1890. Fuller's earth is a clay is used for bleaching and cleaning. The clay was extracted from pits north of the village. The works was used to dry the clay before shipment in railway wagons. The industry ended in Wellow about the time of World War I.*

*Wellow steam mill was constructed as a combined dwelling and steam corn mill in 1837 for Thomas Freeman of Twerton. It was never used as a cornmill, but was used as a wheelwrights and carpenters.*



*The Wellow Brook ford, with packhorse bridge and Irish bridge, is late medieval, but has had extensive restoration. It is Grade II listed.*

## **2 THE WELLOW BROOK**

Go through the kissing gate at the end of the bridge and into the field. Turn left and walk slightly right up the hill and through a small metal gate in the fence.

Continue in the same direction to a metal kissing gate in the right-hand hedge line. Go through and follow the right-hand hedge and then through the metal kissing gate into the lane opposite the entrance to Wellow Farm. Turn left and walk along



this lane for 450 yards until you reach the second double wooden field gates on the left. Go through the gap in the hedge opposite on the right-hand side of the lane. Follow the track up the field; a grassy track goes left. Follow this with the fence on your right until you reach a metal field gate in the right fence line. There used to be a

line of electricity pylons in the fields shown in the photograph which spoilt the views. Go through the gate into the next field. Turn left; walk with the fence on your left towards the three trees on the skyline. Go through the bridle gate in the hedge on the left and, soon after, through the next one. Keep the hedge and fence line on your left as you walk across this field to reach a metal field gate. Go out onto a track; turn left and walk down. The track bends to the right and you cross a metal bridge over the Norton Brook.

*The electricity pylons were part of a line running from Radstock to Norrington sub-station near Melksham. Due to planned capacity increase on other sections of the system the line became redundant and the pylons removed.*

*The source of the Norton Brook is close to Norton St Philip. The Brook flows north to join the Wellow Brook. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust removed several large blockages from the course of the Norton Brook which has opened up a large stretch to fish and aquatic life.*

### 3 NORTON BROOK

Continue up to the quiet Norton Lane and turn left. Walk for 100 yards and then go through the metal kissing gate on the right taking you into Cleaves Wood. Follow the direction of the footpath arrow to the left to reach a T-junction of paths. Again, follow the footpath arrow left. On reaching a fork of paths, take the right-hand path up the hill. At the top





of the path, go through the left-hand kissing gate and then walk along the track. The track widens out, but continue along passing Hinton Farm on your right. The path narrows again, but continue on in the same direction. Ignore a gate and stone stile on your left. The path comes out into a quiet road, which is Tuggy's Lane. Continue in the

same direction towards the centre of the village of Hinton Charterhouse, passing Tuggy's Cottage on your left, to reach a T-junction. Turn left to reach the post office on your left and The Rose and Crown on the opposite side of the road.

*Cleaves Wood is an ancient, semi-natural deciduous woodland on Oolitic Limestone and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It has a high diversity of tree and shrub species and a large population of the nationally scarce plant spiked Star of Bethlehem. The fly orchid and wild daffodil are found here.*

*The area around Hinton Farm was excavated in 1820 by John Skinner, Rector of the Church of St Peter, Camerton, and Roman remains were unearthed. Further excavations found medieval pottery and remains of buildings.*

*Tuggy's Cottage dates from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is a Grade II listed building.*

*The history of Hinton Charterhouse is closely related to a Carthusian Priory that was set up just to the north of the village. The village is a conservation area with a large number of listed buildings.*

#### **4 HINTON CHARTERHOUSE**

Continue past the post office and walk along the pavement to reach The Stag Inn on your left. Turn left, signposted Wellow, and then immediately right following the public bridleway sign. Ignore footpaths going left and right and continue down this very quiet lane until you reach the bottom of the lane where there is a house in front of you, which is Lower Tytherly Farm. Go to the right of the farm, down what appears to be the drive, until you reach a bridle gate into a field. After the bridle gate, turn right passing the garden of the house and then following the hedge line down the field and a quiet valley. Keep the hedge on your right. Go through two further bridle gates and continue as before, keeping



the hedge on your right. The path bends round left away from the trees. Continue as the field narrows to reach a bridle gate. Go through and turn right over the wooden bridge. Then turn left, following the bridleway arrow, keeping the brook on your left. At the private fishing sign on the tree at the end of the path, turn left over the wooden bridge in woodland, which is Twinhoeford Wood. Then turn right and left over the next bridge, which is over the Wellow Brook. Go through the bridle gate and turn right. Keep the edge of the field on your right until you reach two gates one with a notice saying no public right of way. Look right to see a World War II pillbox close to the river.



*During World War II, the General Headquarters Line ran just to the north of Hinton Charterhouse. The remains of an anti-tank ditch and other trenchworks can still be seen. These rare survivors, as well as rather more robust pillboxes, were constructed as a part of British anti-invasion preparations.*

## 5 WELLOW BOOK

Go straight ahead through the wide bridle gate and walk up the gravel track, turning right then left to go under the Somerset and Dorset Railway Bridge. Walk up the track. Where the track bears right, turn left onto a sign-posted green track which becomes a narrow path between hedges. Continue upwards with a field on your right and trees on your left. Look left to have a view of the Two Tunnels Circuit which runs on the former Somerset and Dorset Railway. The path continues upwards in a sunken gully. The path climbs to the same level as the field. There is a wide gap in the hedge ahead. Go through and walk diagonally right across the field, aiming to the right of buildings ahead, to a wooden kissing gate. As you cross the field, pause and turn around to enjoy good views south to Hinton Charterhouse. Go through the gate and continue ahead past Middle Twinhoe Farm and Barn. This area is on the southern edge of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.





*The Bath Two Tunnels Circuit is a 13-mile walking and cycling loop which uses the former track of the Somerset and Dorset Railway on sections of the route. Farm*

*Middle Twinhoe Farm dates from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is a Grade II listed building.*

*The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1966. The area is defined by the bedrock of Jurassic limestone that creates a type of grassland habitat rare in the UK and that is quarried for the golden-coloured Cotswold stone. Middle Twinhoe is also part of the Bathscape Scheme. There are 25 projects restoring and conserving the green landscape surrounding the city of Bath.*



## **6 MIDDLE TWINHOE BARN**

Continue past the buildings and go through a wide wooden field gate. After the gate, turn right along the drive. When the drive bends round to the right, go through a wooden kissing gate on the left. Walk ahead keeping the hedge on your right. When you reach the corner of the field there is a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate. Go through and turn left keeping the hedge on your left. Look to your right for good views towards the southern slopes of Bath. When the hedge turns to the left, bear slightly right aiming to the left of a clump of trees ahead. Go through a wide gap in the hedge to the left of the trees. Continue in the same direction to reach a metal kissing gate which comes out onto a quiet lane. Turn left and walk 10 yards and then go left through a Bristol Gate. Walk ahead



keeping the hedge on your left. When the hedge bends to the left continue in the same direction following the footpath post arrow. As you cross the field there are wide-ranging views ahead up the Wellow Brook valley. Further on the tower of the Church of St Julian in Wellow comes into view.

Continue ahead aiming for the church tower to reach a metal kissing gate. Drop down through the trees to reach a disused metal kissing gate. Walk ahead across the field still aiming for the church tower. Drop down through trees to reach another metal kissing gate. After the gate keep the trees on your left and the wire fence on the right. You reach a grassy area; follow the grassy area keeping the wire fence on your right. This marks the line of the Somersetshire Coal Canal. The path bends round to the left and joins a grassy track. On the right is the site of St Julian's Well. Continue ahead to reach a metal kissing gate on the right of a wooden field gate. Go through the kissing gate and walk straight ahead to a pair of metal kissing gates. Take the left-hand metal kissing gate and walk ahead keeping the stone wall on your right to reach a Bristol Gate. Go through and walk down the track to a metal gate on the right before the T-junction. Go through the gate, walk past the entrance to Church of St Julian and through gates to a raised path. Continue to reach a crossroads with Wellow Primary School and former Schoolmaster's House on your left. Continue straight ahead to reach the Fox and Badger pub on the left. Continue on to reach Station Road on your left and the car park where you started the walk.



*The Church of St Julian in Wellow has origins before the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although the present building dates from 1372. It is likely there was a church in the parish since the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century. It is a Grade I listed building.*

*The Somersetshire Coal Canal consisted of two lines: the main line connected the collieries around Paulton and Timsbury directly with the Kennet and Avon Canal, whilst the other line ran from Radstock to Midford. Both were dug between 1795 and 1801, but the Radstock branch never operated fully as it suffered from levelling and other problems. By 1815, a tramway had been built on the route of the canal.*

*St. Julian's Well flows out of the hillside. It is likely that the well takes its name from the parish church, rather than the reverse. The water was used in the font at the Church. The Manor House in the village possessed a family ghost. Tradition has a fair white lady appearing beside the well when a calamity was about to happen.*



*Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was an annual sheep fair on St Julian's day on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Sheep and cattle were penned from the former Schoolmaster's House to the Square by the Fox and Badger pub. The pub dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Wellow Primary School, the former Schoolmaster's House and the Fox and Badger are Grade II listed buildings.*



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