

Wessex Wanderers Railway Walks

April to October 2024

Guided Walks from stations along
the Scenic Bristol to Weymouth
(Heart of Wessex) Railway Line

Organised and led by volunteers
who are members of the Avon,
Dorset, Somerset
& Wiltshire Areas of the
Ramblers

Supported by Great Western Railway and
Community Rail Partnerships



www.wessexrailwaywalks.org.uk
e-mail: joyousgooner59@btinternet.com
telephone 07985 472844

Important General Information

Most walks include some ups and downs, others hills.

There may be busy roads to cross or walk along.

Uneven paths both rural and urban and steps. Maybe mud which can be slippery.

Whilst the walks are risk assessed, and may be changed at short notice, if necessary, *it is your responsibility to ensure your own personal health and safety.*

Walks start from the arrival station given for each walk and at the latest arrival time shown.

For linear walks buy a ticket to the station which is furthest from your departure station.

It is important to check travel updates before setting off to join a walk.

Go to www.gwr.com or National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk, tel: 03457 484950

Train Times shown are from **Bristol Temple Meads** Station (BTM) and from **Weymouth** station so please refer to the relevant timetables for services from and to your local station.

Due to changes to the HoW line timetable, not all the trains stop at all the stations and may require a change of train to reach your destination.

ETD Estimated time of departure
ETA Estimated time of arrival

Thornford, Yetminster and Chetnole are request stops. Tell the Train Manager if you wish to alight at one of them.

When joining a train at a request stop, signal your intention to the Driver as soon as the train is in sight.

Thornford, Chetnole and Avoncliff, have short platforms and the front carriage only is used for passengers to join or leave the train.

Please bring your own food and drink, plus waterproofs (just in case).

Trekking poles can be useful on many of the walks.

Most railway stations along the line do not have toilets including Weymouth, so it's advisable to use the train toilets before alighting if necessary.

Leaders endeavour to keep to the advertised programme but reserve the right to make changes or cancellations to suit weather conditions, the needs of the party or any other unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

Any changes to details of walks will be published on our website - www.wessexrailwaywalks.org.uk

Information as known at the time of producing the programme. TBC – to be confirmed.

April

Wednesday 03 April 2024

A Bit of 'This' and Plenty of 'Thats' in Bath

A circular 5/6 miles walk including Parks and Gardens, the unique Georgian canal in the heart of the city and a River, with some snippets of history thrown in from time to time for good measure.

One or two slopes, a few steps here and there, and some muddy paths (but not ankle deep). 20 pence pieces useful for possible loo visits (two free public toilets en-route)

Leisurely Pace (unless rushing for a train!)

Picnic lunch

Sorry, on this occasion Assistance Dogs only please.

Leader Sylvia P

Contact 0117 9793828

07779699848 only in an emergency on the day please

Meet outside the main exit of the railway station (not the rear exit from Platform 1)

Outward trains to Bath Spa

ETD from BTM 1103 ETA 1120

Does not stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

ETD from Weymouth 0930 ETA 1129

Return trains from Bath Spa

To BTM Frequent Service

To Weymouth 1622 or 1722

Wednesday 17 April 2024

A Linear Walk - for a Change

A linear walk of 13 miles from Chetnole to Maiden Newton passing through beautiful villages, past elegant manor houses and parkland. There may be wet patches. There is a stream with stepping stones to cross with a short but steep bank to get up. Tricky in places

Strenuous Pace. Brisk when conditions allow.

Picnic Lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only. Please telephone the Leader beforehand

Leader Sally Morgan

Contact 07834222199

Outward trains to Chetnole

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 0945

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 &

ETD Maiden Newton 0959 ETA 1007

Please purchase a return ticket to the station furthest from your departure station

Chetnole is a request stop. Please tell the Train Manager that you wish to get off there and travel in the front carriage

Return from Maiden Newton

To BTM 1557 or 1757

Neither stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

To Weymouth

1556 or 1756

Saturday 20 April 2024

Tiptoe Through the Bluebells

A circular walk of 6 miles from Avoncliff through flowery meadows, along the river and canal. Past pretty Iford Manor. Undulating in places. Could be muddy.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Well behaved Dogs kept on leads welcome.

Leader Dorothy Greaves

Contact 0117 9669070

Outward trains to Avoncliff

ETD BTM 0945 ETA 1015

ETD Weymouth 0733 ETA 0955

ETA Bradford-on-Avon 0914

ETD B-on-A 0952

Travel in the front carriages only

Meet at the top of the steps from the platforms

Return trains from Avoncliff

To BTM 1355

To Weymouth ETD 1413

ETA B-on-A 1417

ETD B-on-A 1434

May

Wednesday 08 May 2024

A Wild Garlic Walk – Love it or Hate it

A circular walk of 7 miles from Bradford-on-Avon. Up through Becky Addy Woods, edge of Westwood, down to Ilford, onto Friary. Through the wild garlic at Freshford (for a shorter walk can get a train from here), return to B-on-A via Avoncliff.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Val Smith

Contact 01225 867454

Outward trains to **Bradford-on-Avon**

ETD BTM: 1021 ETA 1047

Only stops at Bath Spa en-route

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1116

Return trains from **B-on-A**

To BTM Frequent service

To Weymouth 1636 or 1738

Saturday 11 May 2024

Three Lost Gardens, Two Counties and One Bridge

A linear walk of 8 miles from Sea Mills Railway Station, through nature reserves, Sneyd Park, the Downs. Across the Clifton Suspension Bridge and along New Cut to Bristol Temple Meads.

Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome

Leader David Borrows

Contact 07428949433

Outward trains to **Sea Mills**

ETD BTM 1012 ETA 1031

ETD Weymouth 0733 ETA 1031

*ETA BTM 0950 for the
1012 train to Sea Mills*

Return train from BTM to Weymouth ETD 1704

Wednesday 15 May 2024

Wills and Ways

A circular undulating walk of 6/7 from Keynsham via Bitton and Willsbridge Mill. Could be muddy in places.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Jonathan Cooper

Contact 0117 9861052

Outward trains to **Keynsham**

ETD BTM 1103 ETA 1110

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1140

Return trains from **Keynsham**

To BTM 1720

To Weymouth 1711

June

Saturday 25 May 2024

Westbury Down-Under

A new walk for the WWWs starting from Westbury Railway Station. It's a pretty circular walk of about 7.5 miles affording good views of Westbury Hill and the White Horse. It goes via Haywood, Park Lane, lower Westbury Road and Frogmore before heading back to the Railway Station. Fairly flat but with a couple of tricky sections where some care will be needed. Could be muddy in places. Trekking poles would be useful. One busy road to cross.

Leisurely Pace
Picnic Lunch
Registered Assistance Dogs only
Leader Joy
Contact 07985 472844

Outward trains to **Westbury**
ETD BTM 0945 ETA 1032
Stops at Freshford & Avoncliff

or ETD BTM 1003 ETA 1047
Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1107

Return Trains from **Westbury**
To BTM 1640
Stops at Avoncliff and Freshford

To Weymouth 1654

Saturday 01 June 2024

A 'Watery' Walk, followed by a Splash in the Sea (not obligatory!)

A linear walk of 5/6 miles from Upwey to Weymouth, from time to time following streams and the River Wey, via fields and footpaths and Radipole RSPB Nature Reserve. To avoid taking a splash before reaching the sea, care will be needed on one stream bank in particular. There are one or two short up-hills, maybe mud in places. Enjoy the rest of the day in Weymouth.

Option of an extra walk round the harbour and Nothe Gardens.

Leisurely Pace
Picnic lunch or options in Weymouth
Sorry only Registered Assistance Dogs this time
Leader Sylvia P
Contact 0117 9793828
07779699848 on the day only please

Outward train to **Upwey**
BTM 0803 ETA 1027
Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Please purchase a return ticket to the station furthest from your departure station

Weymouth – Train or bus

Return train from **Weymouth**
To BTM 1735
Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Wednesday 05 June 2024

Bath Tunnel and City Views

An undulating linear walk of 7 miles to and from Bath Spa Railway Station. Bus 41 to Odd Down Park & Ride (Bus pass or £3.60). From here the walk goes down to South Stoke village and Midford to join the old Somerset & Dorset Railway track and the Combe Down Tunnel (almost a mile long, is dark and used by cyclists so a torch would be helpful). Up through Lyncombe Vale to Alexandra Park/Beechen Cliff for fine views over Bath. Down to and along the River Avon to the former Green Park Railway Station, the original terminal for the S&D, before returning to Bath Spa railway station. Could be muddy in places.

Moderate Pace
Picnic Lunch
Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome
Leader Tony R
Contact 07561371166

Meet in the square outside the main exit of the railway station (not the rear exit from Platform 1)

Outward trains to **Bath Spa**
ETD BTM 1103 ETA 1120
Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1129

Return trains from **Bath Spa**
To BTM (direct) 1622
To Weymouth 1622

Wednesday 12 June 2024

Yeovil to Sutton Bingham

An undulating circular walk of 9 miles from Yeovil Pen Mills Railway Station to the pretty Sutton Bingham Reservoir and church via the picturesque villages of East Coker and Barwick. Could be muddy in places.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader: Richard Colls – 01308 422839

Outward trains to **Yeovil Pen Mill**

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 0932

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

or ETD BTM 0903 ETA 1052

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Change at Westbury

ETA 0947

ETD 0956 (South Western Train)

ETD Weymouth 09.30 ETA 10.21

Return trains from **Yeovil Pen Mill**

To BTM 1621

Does not stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

To Weymouth 1732

Saturday 15 June 2024

Beautiful Avon Gorge

A circular walk of 6 miles. From Sea Mills Railway Station, beside the River Avon adjacent to the Gorge and cross the busy A4 road (take care) for a steep climb up through Bishops Knoll Nature Reserve to the Downs. Return to Sea Mills Railway Station via Stoke Bishop mainly via footpaths.

Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome.

Leader Ian Bickerton

Contact 07720 072076

(e-mail: ianbickerton@sky.com)

Outward trains to **Sea Mills**

ETD BTM 1046 ETA 1104

ETD Weymouth 0733 ETA 1104

BTM ETA 0950 for the 1046 from BTM

Return trains from **Sea Mills**

To BTM 1520

To Weymouth 1520

ETA BTM 1542

ETD BTM 1603

Saturday 22 June 2024

Following the River Chew – Choo

A circular walk of 7.5 miles through Abbey Park. Follow the river to Steel Mill Bridge. Up to the Estate into Abbey Wood green space, continuing to Charlton. Across fields to Queen Charlton along the road to the path down to Chewton Keynsham. Follow the River Chew to Chewton Place and back to Keynsham.

Leisurely Pace

Picnic Lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Joy

Contact 07985472844

Outward trains to **Keynsham**

ETD BTM 1142 ETA 1148

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1144

Return trains from **Keynsham**

ETD BTM 1720

ETD Weymouth 1711

July

Wednesday 03 July 2024

Portland Clockwise with a Twist (but please not your ankles)

A linear walk of about 7 miles on the rugged Isle of Portland, including Portland Bill and with great coastal views. Some very uneven and stony paths, with a couple of fairly steep inclines. May be muddy in places.

Trekking poles would be useful.

Bus from Weymouth Railway Station. Bus back to Weymouth and for shorter options

Leisurely/Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Dogs kept on leads welcome accompanied by well-behaved owners but some paths might not be suitable for paws.

Leader Sylvia P

Contact 0117 9793828

07779699848 in an emergency on the day only please

Outward train to **Weymouth**

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 1031

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Return from **Weymouth**

To BTM 1728

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

Saturday 06 July 2024

Ups and Downs to Maiden Newton

A linear walk of about 11 miles from Chetnole heading for the Wessex Ridgeway trail and down to Sydling St Nichloas. Some uneven paths, and road walking. Could be muddy in places. Stopping at Sydling Village Green to eat our packed lunches. From here it's uphill to and across the busy A37 (extreme care needed), then down to Maiden Newton and maybe head to the Chalk & Cheese Pub before returning home.

Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Dogs welcome, providing owners are well-behaved.

Leader Simon

Contact 07884 088836

Outward trains to **Chetnole**

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 0947

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 &

ETD Maiden Newton 1001 ETA 1009

Purchase return tickets to the station furthest from your departure station

Chetnole is a request stop. Please travel in the front carriage and tell the Train Manager you wish to get off there

Return trains from **Maiden Newton**

To BTM 1801

Does not stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

To Weymouth 1800

Saturday 13 July 2024

Hidden Corners of Somerset and Dorset

A circular walk of 9 miles from Yeovil Pen Mill to Yeovil Country Park, Mudford, Trent, Nether Compton and Over Compton. Fairly flat but with a few undulations. Tracks and fields. Could be muddy in places.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Well behaved Dogs kept on leads welcome.

Leader Sonia Chant

Contact 01935 321607

Outward trains to **Yeovil Pen Mill**

ETD BTM 0905 ETA 1051

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1023

Return trains from **Yeovil Pen Mill**

To BTM 1621

Does not stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

or 1825

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

To Weymouth 1532 or 1736

August

Wednesday 17 July 2024

Freshford with a Difference

A hilly circular walk of 9 miles (or about 5 miles if leaving at Freshford). From Bradford-on-Avon it's up to Winsley and down to the canal; along to the edge of Limpley Stoke and on to Freshford railway station. Up through Freshford to Friary, Iford and up to the edge of Westwood, down through Becky Addy Wood to return to B-on-A.

Strenuous Pace (Moderate if leaving at Freshford)

Picnic Lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Val Smith

Contact 01225 867454

Outward trains to **Bradford-on-Avon**

ETD BTM 1045 ETA 1118

Stops at Freshford & Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1116

Return trains from **B-on-A**

To BTM Frequent service

To Weymouth 1738

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Around the Cerne Valley – A 'Giant' of a Walk

A hilly circular walk of 11 miles starting from Dorchester West Railway Station. Walking the chalk hills that frame the valley, via Charminster and Godmanstone, returning on a route parallel with the River Cerne.

Walking boots or stout walking shoes recommended.

Strenuous Pace

Picnic Lunch

Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome.

Leader Alison Ridge

Contact 01202 905464

Outward trains to **Dorchester West Station**

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 1008

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Weymouth Train or bus

Return from **Dorchester West Station**

To BTM 1742

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

To Weymouth Train or bus

Wednesday 07 August 2024

Bradford-on-Avon and Beyond, History and Golf

A circular walk of 6 miles. Stretch your legs walking uphill via Tory and beyond to the top of the town. It's then an easy and flat walk around Ashley and Cumberwell Golf Course (well away from flying golf balls!). Worth it for the lovely views. Options to vary the length and route depending on the weather.

Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Val Smith

Contact 01225 867454

Outward trains to **Bradford-on-Avon**

ETD BTM 1045 ETA 1118

Stops at Freshford & Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1116

Return trains from **B-on-A**

To BTM Frequent service

To Weymouth 1636

September

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Freshford Frolics

An undulating linear walk of 5 miles starting from Avoncliff and meandering through the Avon and Frome valleys to finish at Freshford. Could be muddy.

Moderate Pace

Picnic lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Barrie

Contact 07791 492224

Outward trains to **Avoncliff**

ETD BTM 0945 ETA 1015

ETD Weymouth 0733 ETA 0955

ETA B-on-A 0914

ETD B-on-A 0952

Travel in the front carriage to alight at Avoncliff

Please purchase a ticket to the furthest station from your departure station

Return trains from **Freshford**

To BTM 1458

To Weymouth 1412

ETA B-on-A 1418

ETD B-on-A 1434

Wednesday 04 September 2024

Bristol – A City of Pubs & Churches

Further details to follow.

Leisurely Pace

Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome.

Picnic Lunch

Leader Sylvia P

0117 9793828

07779699848 in an emergency on the day only please

Train from **Weymouth to Bristol Temple Meads**

ETD 0733 ETA 0949

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Return train from **Bristol Temple Meads**

To Weymouth ETD 1603.

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

Other options

Saturday 07 September 2024

Two Hillforts of Roman Dorchester

A circular walk of 7/8 miles starting from Dorchester West Railway Station heading towards Poundbury and Maiden Castle Hill Forts. On returning we visit Maumbury Rings Neolithic Henge and Roman Amphitheatre. Mainly paths and tracks. Could be muddy in places. Care needed when crossing the busy A35 road.

Leisurely/Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Registered Assistance Dogs only

Leader Joy

Contact 07985 472844

Outward trains to **Dorchester West Station**

ETD BTM 0803 ETA 1010

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Weymouth Train or bus

Return train from **Dorchester West Station**

To BTM 1748

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

To Weymouth Train or bus

October

Wednesday 18 September 2024

Frome to West Woodlands and Return

A circular walk of 7.5 miles from Frome Railway Station out towards Rodden Church and meadows, on to Friggle Street, Lower Woods and down into West Woodlands and the church. Returning via Feltham following the River Frome back to the town and up to the Railway Station. Generally flat. Could be muddy in places.

Moderate Pace

Picnic Lunch

Well behaved dogs kept on leads welcome.

Leader Tony R

Contact 07561371166

Outward trains to **Frome**

ETD BTM 1003 ETA 1101

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

ETD Weymouth 0930 ETA 1054

Return trains from **Frome**

To BTM 1530 (*South Western train*)

Change at Westbury

ETA 1530

ETD 1559

Does not stop at Avoncliff or Freshford

To Weymouth 1501

Times to be confirmed.

Saturday 21 September 2024

Yeovil area

Details to follow.

Wednesday 02 October 2024

The Best of Bristol

A circular walk of about 6 miles, taking in the Harbourside, the Suspension Bridge, Clifton, Brandon Hill and Queens Square to make our way back to Temple Meads Station. Mainly hard surfaces with one uphill section through woodland which may be muddy. Walking boots recommended.

Leisurely Pace

Picnic lunch (opportunity for you to buy en-route).

Well behaved dogs welcome if kept on leads for the whole of the route (*please contact the leader before the day of the walk*).

Leader Margaret R

Contact 0117 9684140

07790 538725 on the day only please

Outward train to **Bristol Temple Meads**

ETD Weymouth 0733 ETA BTM 0949

Does not stop at Freshford or Avoncliff

Return from **Bristol Temple Meads**

To Weymouth 1603

Stops at Avoncliff & Freshford

Meet outside at the front of the main exit (and to the right of the approach road) at 1000 after the arrival of the train from Weymouth.

Saturday 05 October 2024

Dursley Walking Festival

Details to follow.

*Note: you will need to book to participate in this walk.
To secure a place booking will be via the Festival
website when it goes live at the beginning of
September*

<https://dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk>

Ramblers
Dirty Lane
London
SE1 9PA

telephone General Enquiries 020 3961 3300
Membership Enquiries 020 3961 3232
e-mail ramblers@ramblers.zendesk.com
website www.ramblers.org.uk

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