

TIMSBURY CIRCULAR WALKS 3

TIMSBURY - MEADGATE - CAMERTON - TIMSBURY

This walk illustrates the industrial past of both Timsbury and Camerton. The walk goes past the large coal mines of Lower Conygre, Camerton Old and Camerton New. There is clear evidence of the Somerset Coal Canal and the railway lines used to transport the coal. Outstanding views of the Cam Valley are also seen during the walk.

Location 1 – Entrance to Great Tynning

This walk starts at the entrance to Great Tynning. Go through the metal gate and walk straight down the slope, keeping the fence/hedge on your right, until you reach the metal gate on the Radford Hill road. Turn left and follow the road down the Hill for 240 yards until you reach the entrance to Lime Kiln Farm.

Location 2 – Entrance to Lime Kiln Farm and Lower Conygre House

Turn left at the entrance to Lime Kiln Farm. The footpath is immediately to the right of the metal gate and marked with a yellow arrow. Follow the path round keeping the fence/hedge on your right. When you reach the metal gate at the rear of Lower Conygre House, turn right and then left keeping the wooden fence on your left.

Go through the first narrow wooden gate and cross two tarmac drives to the next narrow wooden gate. Go through this gate to reach a junction with a bridleway. Immediately opposite is a wooden stile. Cross the stile and then walk diagonally across the field in the direction of an electricity pylon on the other side of the valley. The route is an obvious path through the field until you reach a wooden stile at Lower Conygre Pit Batch.

Location 3 – Lower Conygre Pit Batch

Cross the stile, walk down a few steps and follow the path round to a brick lined tunnel. Overhead ran one of the tramways that connected the pit with the Somerset Coal Canal.

Go through the tunnel and follow the path ahead. On the left, you can see the wooded batch (spoil heap) of Lower Conygre Pit. Continue ahead until you reach a wooden stile and Weekesley Lane. Turn left and then walk 10 yards; there is a wooden stile on the other side of the road. Cross the stile and walk across and down the field towards the shed/greenhouses and Camerton Hill in the background.

Location 4 – Somerset Coal Canal Wharf

Go through the metal gate and then turn left after the shed following the path marked with a yellow arrow which passes behind the cottage. Walk through two conifers and follow the path through several gates at the rear of the cottage. The area behind the cottage was the wharf where barges were filled with coal from Lower Conygre Pit. A tramway connected the wharf with the pit head.

Location 5 – Somerset Coal Canal Tow Path

After the last gate, you come to a well defined path which runs along the back of the buildings on Durcott Lane. Follow this path for 400 yards until you reach a side road called Canal View. This leads into the main Meadgate - Camerton Road. Go straight across to the wooden gate.

Location 6 – Camerton Local Nature Reserve

Enter Camerton Local Nature Reserve. Stop at the information boards to gain an insight into the history of this site. Then walk up the slope for about 150 yards. The path splits into two; take the left hand branch. You then reach another information board entitled 'Wider Landscape'.

Location 7 – Camerton Old Pit Batch

This is the top of the batch. Ignore the path goes down to the right of the information board. Take the path to the left of the information board, go down some steps and then continue along the ridge of the batch. You will then reach a stepped path down. At the bottom, turn left and then right down a few steps and then follow the path round until you reach Bridge Place Road.

Location 8 – Bridge Place Road

Turn left and walk along Bridge Place Road passing a rank of cottages. At the cottages, look left to see the tunnel that goes under the tramway that joined Camerton Old Pit with Camerton New Pit. Ignore the footpath sign immediately after the cottages and continue on until the road veers round to the right. The footpath goes straight on.

Location 9 – River Cam

Follow the path, keeping the River Cam on your right. In front of you is a metal gate leading into open field.

Location 10 – Camerton New Pit Batch

Walk ahead until you come to the end of the wooded batch of Camerton New Pit on your left. At this point, walk diagonally left across the valley bottom, aiming for a wooden stile to the left of a small stone outbuilding. Cross the stile, turn right, and walk with the hedge/back of cottage on your right until you reach another wooden stile. Cross the stile and turn left along a lane, walking past the back of another cottage. Follow the lane round to the right until you reach the entrance to Sellar's Stile. Turn left; the path is to the right of the gate. Walk up the drive; as the drive turns to the left a metal gate is straight ahead.

Location 11 – Sellar's Stile

Go through the metal gate and continue up the slope keeping the hedge/fence on your left. As the fence ends, continue straight ahead keeping to the left of a line of trees. Continue upwards until you reach a metal gate. Go through the metal gate, turn left, and follow the line of the hedge/Bengrove Wood for 270 yards until you reach another metal gate. Go through the metal gate and walk straight ahead to the next metal gate.

Location 12 – Bengrove Wood

Go through the metal gate and continue walking ahead with the wood on your left. When the wood ends ignore the path that is signposted left and go straight ahead through a large gap in the hedge to the right and above the stile. Continue walking ahead for 350 yards, keeping the hedge on your left, until the hedge does a short right turn. At this point, the footpath goes diagonally right across the field towards Meadgate. If the field is muddy, you may need to walk around the edge of the field.

Location 13 – Meadgate House

Carefully cross the Timsbury - Tunley road, turn right and walk towards Tunley. After a few yards turn left into Parkway Lane - Camerton Autos is on the corner of the lane. Walk up Parkway Lane for 350 yards until you reach a footpath which crosses the lane. Turn left, go through the metal gate and walk straight ahead across the field to the next metal gate. Go straight ahead again to a double set of metal gates and then straight ahead to the metal gate at the rear of the houses in Lansdown Crescent. Turn left and then right to enter Lansdown Crescent. Turn left and follow the road round to join the main Timsbury road.

Location 14 – Entrance to Parish's House

Turn right and walk up the ramped path towards Timsbury until you reach the junction with South Road. Cross the main road carefully and walk along South Road to the start of the walk.