

Dundry Slopes Circular

Distance: 3 miles

Walking Time: 2 hours

GRADE: Moderate/Hard 4

5

This is a circular walk from Withywood on the southern edge of Bristol, exploring the slopes of Dundry Hill via Strawberry and Middle Way Lane. Amazing views from Dundry Hill extend for 35 miles; in the north to Bristol and the higher parts of Gloucestershire as far as the Malverns, and in the west to the Bristol Channel and the Black Mountains of Wales. The area is rich with wildlife and archaeological interest and includes features such as Roman roads, medieval trackways, hedgerows, stone walls, overgrown scrub, limestone grasslands and cropped fields.

A section of the walk follows the Community Forest Path, a 45 mile path encircling the green spaces of Bristol and its surrounding countryside.

Maps:

Explorer 155

Bristol and Bath
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref:

ST 563 674



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus

The walk starts and finishes on Sherrin Way, which is off Four Acres in Withywood.

The quickest and most direct route from the City Centre is the number 75 Cribbs Causeway to Hartcliffe service.

This takes about 30 minutes from Broad Quay. Buses run every 10 minutes Mondays to Saturdays.

The 75 service runs half hourly along the same route on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The number 36 City Centre (Baldwin Street) to Withywood service runs every 30 minutes Monday to Friday, every 20 minutes Saturdays and every 30 minutes Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The journey takes approximately one hour via Barton Hill, St. Anne's, Brislington and Knowle.

We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.firstgroup.com or by calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC HOUSES

Carpenters Tavern, Wells Road, Dundry 0117 964 9998.

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Dundry Hill Group has provided information for this walk. This is a community group dedicated to caring for Dundry Hill and its slopes. For information on its activities and details of further walks

Tel. CSV Environment on 0117 964 0114.

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Dundry Hill

It is thought that Dundry Hill derives its name from 'Dun' or 'Draegh', signifying a hill of oak. The hill lies on a roughly east/west axis from the A38 right across to the Iron Age Fort at Maes Knoll and rising to over 700 feet forms a green back cloth for the whole of south Bristol.

Dundry Hill was formed when the earth's crust settled early in the Carboniferous time (350 - 279 million years ago). It was during this time that the famous Dundry Freestone was deposited, forming a cap over the length of the hill. Quarrying of the Dundry Freestone began in Roman times and it was used extensively in the 12th to 15th centuries to build many of the local churches and other important buildings. The Dundry Parish Church, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, was rebuilt in the 19th century using the stone. Quarrying in the area ceased around 1910.

Broad Oak Hill

As you cross Broad Oak Hill admire the view northwards towards Bishopworth, Bedminster Down and the city of Bristol. The road was much straighter in Roman times, but has been given a hairpin bend to enable vehicles to ascend more easily. The first cars had to come up the road backwards - if they drove forwards the petrol ran into the end of the tank and drained the carburettor.

Strawberry Lane

This lane is the rare survival of a medieval or even prehistoric trackway. Such tracks have cut across Dundry Hill since ancient times. It stirs the imagination to think of the Bronze Age huntsmen, Roman soldiers, medieval pilgrims, peddlers, hermits, woodcutters and quarrymen who have walked this track through the ages.

Ingots of Roman Lead

Ingots of lead have been found on either side of Dundry Hill, having fallen off Roman transports into marshy ground. There are some good examples in Wells Museum, inscribed with the name and titles of the Emperor.



Dundry Church

Look for the stile alongside the telegraph pole and head across the field towards the building on your right in the trees. The next stile is hidden behind the tall trees approx. 200m from the left hand corner. Head for the left-hand end of the building. At the top of the field, negotiate the wall and find a gap to the left.

Look for Hersey Gardens, which is off Sherrin Way, and take the path through the zigzag barrier. Follow the path to the right and over a stile into the field. Continue up the field with the fence on your right to another stile. Head for the house at the top of the field and over the stile into Oxleaze Lane. Turn left up Oxleaze Lane.

Turn right down Strawberry Lane, about 50 metres after Hillside Farm, and follow the path back to Sherrin Way.

Turn left and follow the path in the direction of Dundry Church. Note the trig point 165 along the first field. Follow this track (Middle Way Lane) to the junction with Broad Oak Hill. Walk straight across into Oxleaze Lane and follow the road round to the right.

At the junction take the track leading to the mast and follow the path down slope.

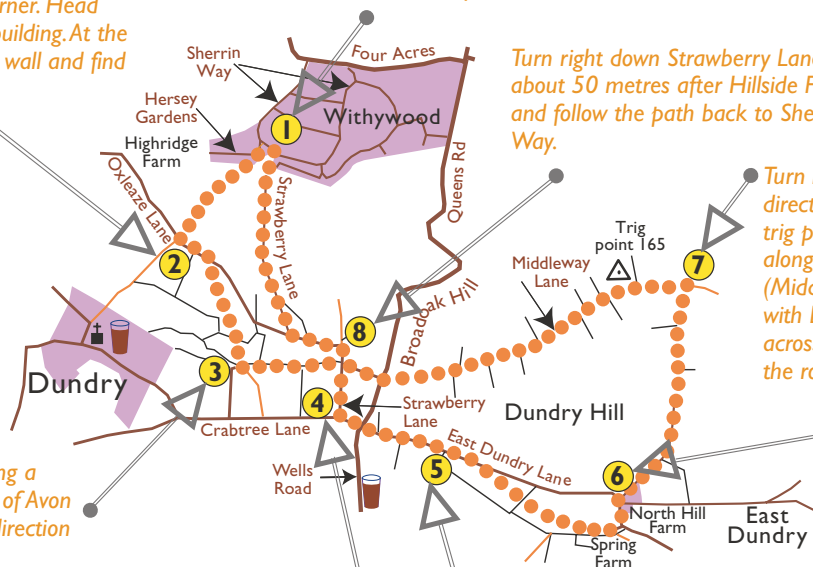
Turn left to walk along a section of the Forest of Avon (F.O.A.) path in the direction of the tall mast.

Follow the F.O.A. sign to the right over the stile and into the field. Follow the F.O.A path until you meet East Dundry Lane, and turn left.







About 20m short of the road the way is obstructed by barbed wire, so go through an opening in the hedge to the gate in the corner of the field. Turn right to follow the narrower lane. Cross Broad Oak Hill (beware of traffic) into East Dundry Lane.



Grazing view of Bristol from Dundry Hill



Key

-  public house
-  circular walk
-  other paths
-  roads
-  field boundary
-  urban area



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