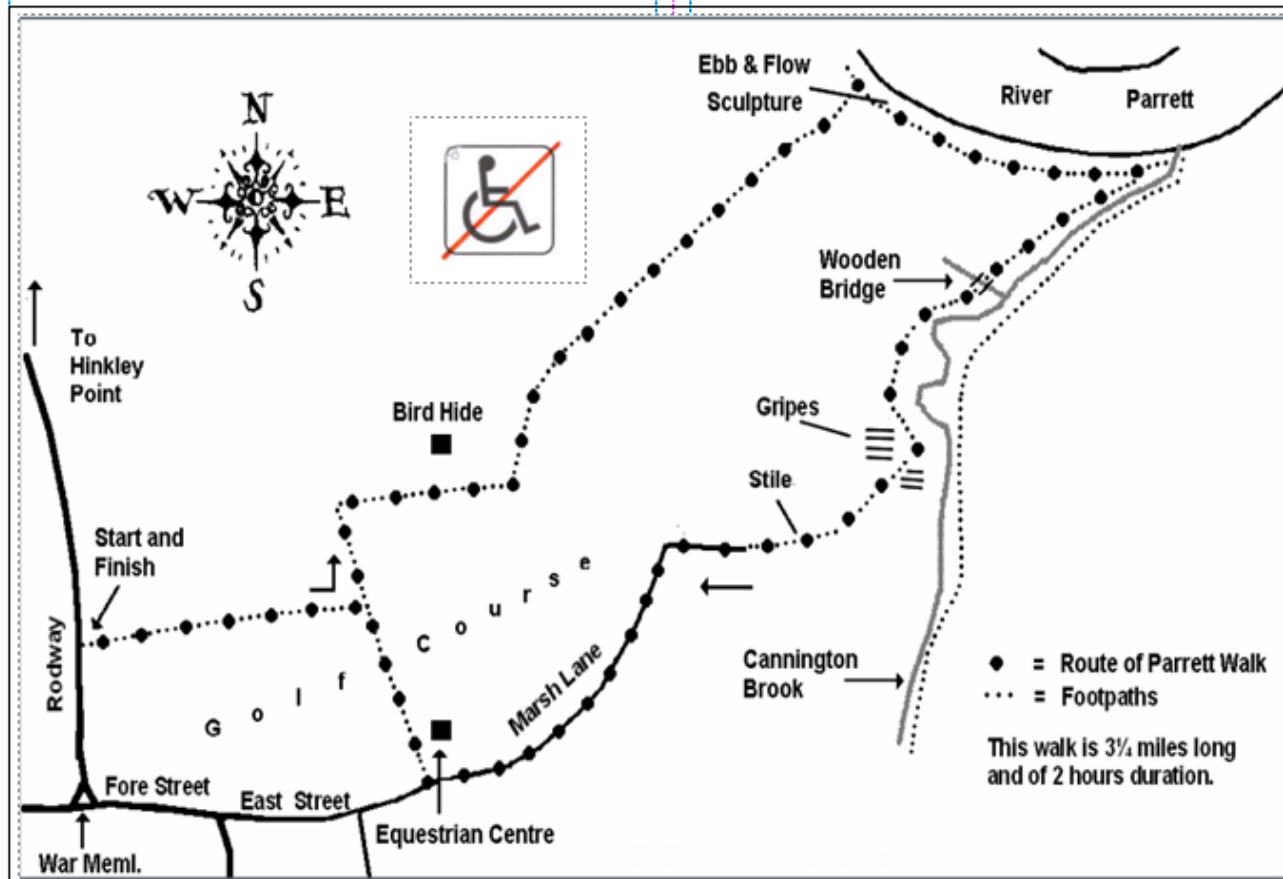


WALK No: 4 River Parret Walk

Walk starts at the crest of Rodway Hill. Move of in an easterly direction along the Downs track. Pass various College buildings and the Constructional skills and Innovation Centre. With the golf course on your right, continue until you reach the T-junction. Turn left, signed "Wetlands", and walk down the hill. To your left the cliffs of the abandoned quarry and Cannington Hill are visible. The track turns right at the bottom of the hill, over a cattle grid and into the field with the bird hide and the wetland scrape beyond. Follow the track to the diagonally opposite corner of the field and cross another cattle grid. Go straight along the track which can be muddy in wet weather. After one third of a mile you will reach the gates of a cattle pen. Climb the stile and climb a second stile from the pen. Now look ahead and you will see the Parrett Trail sculpture on the skyline. Follow the track along the left side of the field onto the flood bank; turn right towards the sculpture. The wooden sculpture, superbly positioned on the flood bank of the River Parrett, is named "Ebb and Flow" and was erected in 1996. It is well worth stopping here to admire the view of the sweep of the river. "Ebb and Flow" thoughtfully incorporates a bench! At low tide the bed of the river is dotted with sea birds, while at high tide the water surges past a few feet below the sculpture. Having recovered your breath, follow the flood bank upstream keeping the river on your left. After one third of a mile you will reach where Cannington Brook enters the River Parrett through a system of sluices. The brook is actually called Stallington's Clyce at this point. Do not cross the brook, but turn right and keeping the brook on your left, pass through a gate on to a footpath. Walk along the grassy bank, which has thoughtfully been left unploughed. Directly ahead you will see an electricity transmission pylon and the stylish bridge erected by the college crossing a ditch feeding Cannington Brook. This bridge was built by Cannington College with the support of the River Parrett Trail Partners. Cross the bridge, (Dogs may have to be carried), walk past the pylon and onto a track which leads into a field. When the brook swings sharply left, keep following the track. This field is criss-crossed with the shallow drainage ditches known as gripes; at first leave the gripes to your right. After a while the brook rejoins the track and then swings away for the second time.



→ Now follow a slightly raised track to your right. Follow this to the far right hand corner of the field and near the corner there is a squeeze stile, cunningly decorated with heron eating eel motifs. Once through this stile, turn left and follow the track. This track leads into Marsh Lane. Walk along Marsh Lane for just over 1/2 mile until you reach the track turning right by the Equestrian Centre. At this point you can bear left along Marsh Lane and East Street to the village centre. Walk along Marsh Lane for just over 1/2 mile until you reach the track turning right by the Equestrian Centre. At this point you can bear left along Marsh Lane and East Street to the village centre. Alternatively you can turn right and walk uphill until you reach the track on the ridge of the downs. From here, people with sharp eyes (or binoculars!) →

→ will be able to make out the Ebb and Flow sculpture on the riverbank. Turn left and retrace your steps over the Downs back to the crest of Rodway Hill.

Please be warned this walk may have diversions due to the construction of Hinkley Point Power Station. Also all roads will have heavy traffic due to the same reason. Please use pedestrian crossings whenever possible

All persons using these walks do so at their own risk and are advised that some areas may be muddy. Please remember to close any gates encountered on the walk. Dog owners are reminded that this walk crosses farmer's land. There may be animals either on this land or in adjacent fields. Please ensure that dogs are kept on a lead at all times. Also be aware that it is a fineable offence not to clear up should your dog foul the area.