



03 SOMERSET SOLSBURY HILL

▶ Distance: 3 miles/4.8km ▶ Time: 2 hours ▶ Grade: Easy



"Climbing up on Solsbury Hill, I could see..."

PHOTO: NIGEL VILE



CHOSEN BY...

NIGEL VILE

Solsbury Hill, immortalised in

Peter Gabriel's song of the same name, is the perfect spot to walk in mid-summer. The hilltop is awash with wild flowers, whilst from high above in skies full of cumulus clouds comes the sound of the skylark. That song, incidentally, did suggest that an eagle flew out of the night on this hilltop... maybe a touch of poetic licence. Below lies Chilcombe Bottom, site of a reservoir in a former life but now a wetland nature reserve. Yellow flag and marsh marigold abound around the water's edge, whilst the signs warning of adders enjoying

seasonal sunshine should be heeded. And the views? Bath lies west, St Catherine's Valley to the north, the Wessex Downs to the east and Salisbury Plain to the south.

1 Start

Walk up Seven Acres Lane and, at the top of a climb, keep on the road as it bears R to soon pass Chris Rich Farm Shop. Beyond this shop, keep on the lane as it bears L and continue for 0.8km to a drive on the R leading to Chilcombe House. Ahead is a small stone building – climb the steps to the R of this building into Chilcombe Bottom Reserve and follow the path to the R of the former reservoir and onto a gate by a property.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking On the roadside in Northend by its junction with Seven Acres Lane, BA1 7HE, grid ref ST779683

Is it for me? Well-defined paths and quiet lanes; one ascent onto Solsbury Hill **Stiles 2**

PLANNING

Nearest town Bath

Refreshments None on the walk but the George & Dragon in nearby Batheaston offers value-for-money traditional pub food

Public toilets Batheaston

Public transport

Regular buses from Bath to nearby Batheaston

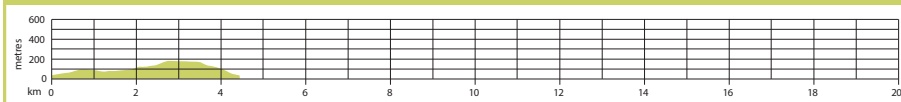
Maps OS Explorer 154; Landranger 172

2 1 mile/1.6km

Turn R and follow what soon becomes an enclosed track through the valley to a gate. Continue along an

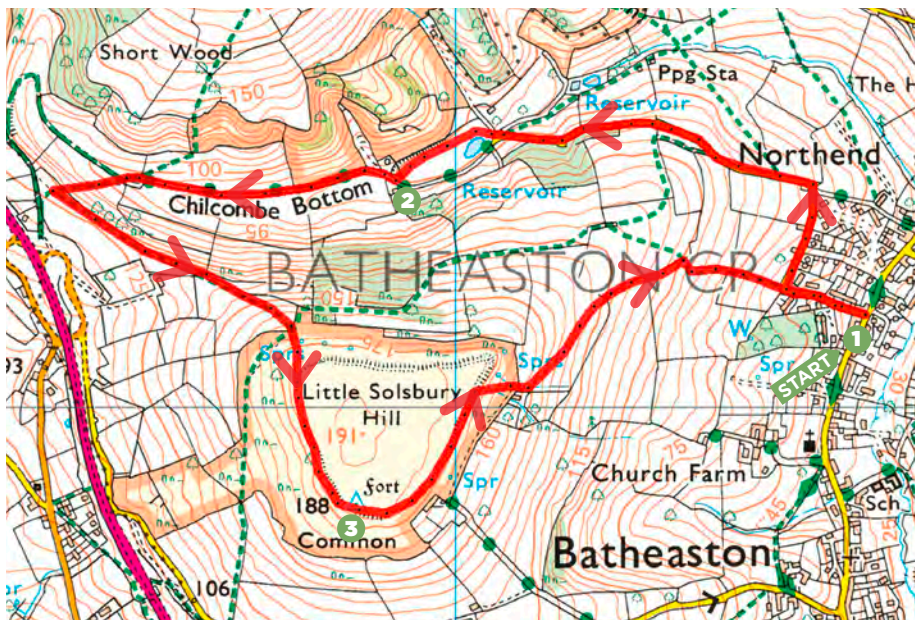


GRADIENT PROFILE



03 SOMERSET
SOLSBURY HILL▶ OS Explorer map 154 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN
YOUR RATING

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enclosed track to reach a derelict barn on the L. Pass through a gateway immediately past this barn and head across the field ahead, climbing uphill and following the line of an electricity power line, to reach a stile at the top of the climb. Beyond this stile, turn L and follow the L edge of a field along to a gate at the far end

of the field. Continue along a section of enclosed path to the next gate before climbing uphill onto the common land of Solisbury Hill. Keep ahead onto the hilltop, turn R and walk around to the trig point with its commanding view.

3 2 miles/3.2km

Continue walking around the edge of the hilltop, passing a farm below on the R, and continue around to the north-eastern corner of the hilltop. Towards the corner of the hilltop, look out for a property below on the R by a telegraph pole. At this point, drop downhill on a rough path to reach a track by the house.

Turn L and, past the property, pass through a handgate on the R and drop downhill in the field ahead to a gate in its far corner. Walk down the L edges of the next two fields to reach a market garden. Walk down the L edge of the market garden to reach a gate and Seven Acres Lane, before dropping downhill back to the 'main' road in Northend. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:**
lfto.com/cwroutes

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