

## Weston under Penyard – Bollitree, Bury Hill and Pontshill

### An easy 4.4 mile circular walk through quite lanes and meadows, taking in Weston village, Bollitree, Bury Hill and Pontshill.

Start from the Village Hall at School Lane in Weston under Penyard.

Grid reference SO 633 231.

Length 4.3 miles. Grade: Easy. 5 stiles

1. Go up the track with the village hall on your left and through a small wooden gate next to a field gate and into the field on the right. Walk towards the church, crossing a wooden stile (WP11/2)<sup>1</sup> and then through a wooden kissing gate (WP11/1). Keep right through the churchyard and down a slope to join Church Lane. Turn right, down to the A40 and cross into The Streete.
2. Follow The Streete and just after the first left-hand bend, turn right into a lane at the waymarker "Ross Round". Turn left just before Rose Cottage and then right to reach Rectory Lane. Turn left up the road for 500m to the T-junction at Bollitree Castle. *The castellated walls were supposedly added in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, in a bid by the owner to woo a Spanish princess. She was not impressed by the house or the English weather and cleared off back to Spain.* Go right for 70m and then right again into Bury Hill Lane opposite Bollitree Cottage. Follow the winding lane for nearly 1Km, passing through the area that was once the industrial Roman town of Ariconium. Just after The Old Chapel turn left at the finger post and through the wooden kissing gate (WP16/4) into a field.
3. Turn left and go up to a stile (WP16/5) in the fence. Go straight up the next field towards a single oak tree and over a wooden stile (WP16/6). Passing the oak tree on your left, go straight up to the top of the field to a waymarker in the hedgerow. Turn right to the corner of the field with a double field gate. Turn right again to follow the left edge of the field, through a small steel gate, keeping left and then right and left along the field edge to find a grassy track going down through a gateway (WP15/4) which is normally open. Follow the track to an arch under the old railway line closed in 1964.
4. Go through the arch and follow the track all the way to the A40. Cross the A40 *very carefully* and go left along the A40 and right at the sign Pontshill. Follow the winding road for 500m and after crossing the stream, go right through a steel gate (WP12/1) opposite Bartwood Lane. Go slightly right to the wooden fence and turn left with a stream on your right and through a steel field gate (WP12/3).
5. Following the stream and the edge of the field, going right and then left. Leave the field through an open gateway (WP12/4) at a solitary tree and go right to cross a wooden stile (WP11/5) in the corner. Go half left up the field to a tree in the hedgerow and then continue with the hedgerow on your right, over a wooden stile (WP11/4) and right, down the track to return to the village hall.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: It may help route finding to note that the stiles and gates in the parish of Weston under Penyard are uniquely labelled by their footpath number and stile number e.g. WP11/2 – Stile 2 on footpath 11.

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