

Find the Festival Way in Long Ashton



Walk information

Distance: approx 4 miles.

Difficulty: easy – a paved, level walk suitable for bikes, buggies and wheelchairs.

Duration: approx approx two hours (if walking).

How to get there

Start at map ref: ST535699 (OS 154) Please note, on the 2005 OS map, the new housing estate where the walk begins is not shown.

Car: The walk starts in Pear Tree Avenue, off Wildcountry Lane. On-street parking. Please park considerately and do not block driveways or road junctions.

Bus: 55|352|353|354|362|363

Complete this flat, circular walk by foot or on bike to take in Long Ashton's history and discover a new route into Bristol. From here, you could also join the Long Ashton village round, if you want to stretch your legs through fields.

The research station was an agricultural and horticultural government research centre. It was created in 1903 to study and improve the West Country cider industry and then expanded into fruit research, resulting in products such as Ribena and Babycham. In the 1980s it moved into arable work before finally closing in 2003. A

commemorative cider mill on

Pear Tree Avenue marks the site.

Walk along Pear Tree Avenue and turn right into Blackcurrant Drive, following the Sustrans National Cycle Route 33 sign.

Turn right and continue on Blackcurrant Drive, then continue on the path between the houses, following route 33 sign.

Follow the path ahead of you, which winds round and leads out into

Paulman Gardens. Turn right into Fenshurst Gardens, then left Elmhurst Gardens. At the end turn right into Lampton Road, leading into a park.

If you are on a bike, you can follow the main paved path. If on foot, you could

go through the wooden gate and walk through the wooded area alongside the brook.

Continue through the park, following the route 33 signs. The paved path continues straight on, between a small housing development and brook.

Eventually this leads out onto Copford Lane. From here, turn right into Brook Close then take the footpath which runs behind Northleaze Primary School and leads out into Yanley Lane.

Cider is a firm favourite in the southwest and this walk starts by delving into the history of the sweet stuff.

Start in Pear Tree Avenue, which runs between Bramley Copse, Blackcurrant Drive and Perry Road. The names are derived from the Long Ashton Research Station which once stood here.



Across the road is the Festival Way, the new 1.3km-long section of route 33 between Yanley Lane and Ashton Road.

The walk and cycle route, which meets a public right of way at Parsonage Farm, opened last December and it significantly reduces the time taken to cycle between the two points.

The £370,000 scheme was jointly funded by North Somerset Council, Sustrans and the Department for Transport.

At the end of this section you come to Ashton Road. To continue onto Bristol, cross the road with care and follow the Festival Way as it leads off to the right.

If you want to head back to Long Ashton, turn left and head up Ashton Road. On your right is the impressive Church Lodge entrance to the Ashton Court Estate.

The 850-acre Ashton Court site has many habitats and is a great place to wander if you have time. The wildflower meadows are good places to spot insects and butterflies.

The mansion house was owned by the Smyth family for 400 years but is now owned and managed by Bristol City Council.



If returning to Long Ashton, turn into Long Ashton Road.

You will pass many historic buildings on this road, including The Angel Inn which dates from 1485 and sits next to the 600-year-old All Saints Church.

Across the road is Sunnymead, an historic house which dates from 1403. Part of the present house dates back to the 1600s and a butcher's shop opened here in 1730.

Further up Long Ashton Road, on your right, is Hobwell Lane. Here you will see a sign pointing out the village circular walk. This route leads around Long Ashton and featured in the July 2008 issue of *Life*.

For a more direct route back to your starting point, continue on Long Ashton Road. You will see some interesting buildings on the way, with Georgian town houses, cottages, a former forge and pretty almshouses.

One such building is Lampton House, which will be on your right. The former vicarage, dating from 1446, was on this site but the original building was demolished and rebuilt in 1798. In 1989 it became a 'home for retired ladies and gentlemen'.



Further up the road you will also pass the original Northleaze School. The foundation stone was laid in November 1860 and it officially opened in January 1862.

Continue on Long Ashton Road until you reach Perry Road. Here, you can walk past the play area to get back to Pear Tree Avenue and your starting point.



The Long Ashton village round featured in the July 2008 issue of *Life*. View this, and all other walks from the magazine, at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks



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