

Brooks, Courts & Mills



This walk is worth spending a day over, travelling from Radstock to the old mining villages, courts and mills of the Cam Valley and a visit to the Camerton Heritage Site.

The walk can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No 142.



KEY

- Walk Route
- Roads
- River
- Bridge
- Woods
- Attraction/Museum
- Refreshments
- Pub
- Viewpoint
- Parking

Start from central Radstock in Waterloo Road, where car parking is available just past the Museum. Coming from Bath direction, visitors should **turn left** immediately past the Bell Inn and before the Winding Wheel - a reminder of the mining history of Radstock. *The Museum, with shop and tearoom, is open Tues. to Fri., Sun. & Bank Holiday Mon. 2pm-5pm, and Sat. 11am-5pm. It is closed Dec. and Jan. (Tel: 01761 437722).*

1 From car park, walk to A367, cross road and take footpath **straight ahead**, leading to play area. Continue along path and pass under former railway bridge, immediately turning **right** over stile. Climb up field to top left corner to find gate to enclosed path. Walk along until reaching cross path and **turn left**.

2 **Turn right** by signpost to Quarry Cottage and follow track past house (you have right of way) to wooden gate, then small metal gate. Continue **straight ahead** down field to bridge/stile and walk uphill to further stile. **Turn left** and walk diagonally uphill to find stile **on right**. Over stile, go **straight ahead** to further stile. **Turn left**, pass house and take path **right** to Clandown recreation field. Walk **diagonally left** to top corner to join road. **Turn right** and walk past derelict sports ground **on left**. Shortly after, **turn left** down track. As track enters field, keep to right-hand edge, follow round past wood, and then **straight ahead** through next field to meet road. Cross road to stile and field, continuing slightly **right** to further stile. Go **straight ahead** to stile, then continue over squeeze stile to road in bottom left-hand corner and entrance to Camerton village. Cross road and **turn left**.

Here, you may visit the Church of St Peters, Camerton. The Rev. John Skinner was rector from 1800-39 and his journals contain interesting insights into the life of the Somerset Coalfields, which employed 9000 people at that time.

3 Meet drive of Camerton Court **on right**. Pass through small iron gate **on left** of drive and cross to kissing gate to field. Go **diagonally** across field **to right** of house, passing woods to further kissing gate. Go **straight ahead** through this gate and downhill to find stile leading to road. **Turn left** and pass old colliery cottages to reach crossroads. **Turn right** to reach *Camerton's Heritage* site. A map explains the industrial remains of the area and a walk can be taken around the heritage trail (literature available). The trail has been constructed on the site of the Old Pit and Batch - a local name for the spoil heaps in the Somerset Coalfield. A miner's statue, which is a replica of an original produced for the Festival of Britain in 1951, stands on a large concrete slab and now caps the shaft. (approx. 1.5 hours). Just past site entrance, take footpath **right**, passing through The Heritage estate and onto track. At signpost go **straight ahead** through Cottage garden (you have right of way) to field.

4 Continue **straight ahead** to stile by edge of batch, join track that leads down and take stile **on left** to go round back of house to join track. Follow track until just before river bridge, **turn left** over stile and walk with Cam Brook **on right**, passing the old Carlingcott water mill on opposite bank. Exit by gate, **turn right** on road and follow downhill before turning **left** through gate to walk with

Cam Brook **on right** again. Cross footbridge with batch of Dunkerton Colliery (closed in 1925) on left. Continue **straight ahead** to reach road.

5 **Turn left**, then **turn right** just before farmhouse through kissing gate. Head up to top of hill to further kissing gate, leading to yet another kissing gate. Do not go through, but **turn right** and walk along with hedge **on left** to kissing gate that leads to fenced path and road. **Turn left** and walk through village of Carlingcott, noting former miners' cottages. **Bear left** past tiny village **green** before turning **right** (past House No 94) down track. Track becomes a path that reaches a field where you continue with hedge **on right** to reach stile. Over stile, walk with hedge **on left** to brow of hill. Then continue downhill to meet stile to road. Cross road, over stile and **turn left** to follow track uphill past woods until it levels out in the open where you will see protected rubber wire stile **on left**, leading across field to woods and further stile to field.

6 Continue **straight ahead** through gate to join busy A367. Cross with care and **turn left** until reaching first drive. **Turn right** and walk down drive that leads to Woodborough Court. Just before house, **bear right** into field, walk down track, turning **right** after 200 yards, which takes you down, then uphill, towards Radstock in the distance. Track becomes concrete and leads to Ludlows Farmhouse where you **turn right** to meet track that becomes road, leading you downhill into Radstock, past houses and playing field. On reaching Waldegrave Terrace **on left**, take footpath that leads you back to Waterloo Road Car Park.