

Mayors Blog 9 - The Bridport Green Route

A wonderful new circular walk around Bridport has recently been established - Bridport Green Route.

The new Bridport Green Route has been developed by Bridport Town Council with input from volunteers from local health and access groups, who kindly gave their time to help research the easy going walking trail that takes in many of the valuable green spaces that help define the town.

The launch of the new Bridport Green Route comes at a good time; the warmer weather and the easing of the lockdown means that we, the residents of Bridport and our visitors, can take advantage of the trail for daily exercise or simply exploring some of the many special green spaces within the town.

A few days ago I took the opportunity to explore the Green Route and what a treat it turned out to be. Because it is a circular walk you can join it at any point and just keep going in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction until you reach your start point again.



For me the starting point was Asker Meadow and I followed the route in a clockwise direction. As I walked along the wide path the River Asker was on my right. Asker Meadow is one of many wildlife havens in the heart of the town. On the day of my walk the fields were abuzz with insects and dozens of butterflies.

There are three footbridges over the river that lead to South Street and the town centre. The one in the image below takes you to St Mary's Church via South Street car park and the public toilets.

The cattle grazing the fields are a regular sight much loved by local people. At other times of the year this is the site of the Food Festival, Jurassic Rocks music festival and a visiting circus.





Junction 5 on the Green Route Map - Bothenhampton Hill

At this point you have three options:

to cross the river using the bridge shown and head into the town via South Street,

to explore Bothenhampton Hill,

To continue on the Green Route



Just ahead you will see the Morrisons supermarket, but follow the path as it curves right past the picnic benches towards South Street.



On arriving at South Street Palmers Brewery is straight ahead of you. The brewery was founded in 1794 and is the only brewery in the UK with a thatched roof.

Turn left, cross the road at the traffic lights and take the road that separates the two halves of the brewery, Skilling Hill Road.



As soon as you pass between the brewery buildings you will find yourself on a bridge.

On one side of the bridge you can see the point where the River Asker merges into the River Brit. See if you can spot the salmon ladder.



On the opposite side look back towards the brewery and you will see the waterwheel.



Junction 6 on the Green Route Map - West Bay

Immediately after crossing the bridge turn right and follow the path. You now have the River Brit on your right hand side instead of the River Asker.

On your left you will pass the Bridport Town Football Club followed by St Mary's Playing Field



Junction 1 on the Green Route Map - Skilling and Eyepe

The recently refurbished footbridge takes you towards South Street and the town centre

It is worth taking a short detour here to see the 1937 Coronation arch, visit the Community Orchard and St Mary's Church and the public toilets in South Street carpark.

Alternatively you can head in the opposite direction towards Skilling and Eyepe.



Follow Green Route beside St Mary's Playing field until you reach the children's playground.



The path skirts left around the playground and emerges at a T junction. Take the left turn and aim for the path shown in the image below left.





Follow this path until you reach the footbridge and cross it.

Once over the bridge you will pass through what could be described as a large playground with tennis courts, skatepark and children's play area.



Follow the path until you reach the next footbridge and cross it into the bus station and car park.



Walk straight ahead through the bus station and turn left at the public toilets onto Tannery Road towards West Street.

Cross West Street and take the path beside West Mill shown below left.

Continue past the Amsafe factory and take the path that runs alongside it shown below right.



Follow the path until you reach the footbridge over the River Brit and cross it.



The path meanders through a small industrial area and emerges at a gap in the stone wall shown below left.



Junction 2 on the Green Route Map - Allington Hill

Turn right and follow the Green Route path as it crosses the bridge, above right, over River Simene towards North Mill meadows.



The footpath across the meadows and emerges onto North Mills Road.

Turn right and follow the road until you reach Victoria Grove



When you arrive at Victoria Grove turn right and walk towards the town centre.



Turn left into Rax Lane. Don't be fooled by the street sign labelled Charles Mead Road!



Walk along Rax Lane until you reach the driveway on you left that leads to the Town Council Offices at Mountfield.



Follow the road as it skirts the offices and take the path leading to Coneygar Hill.

NB at this point you can take a less steep route along Bedford Place and St Andrew's Road.



The path climbs steadily through beech trees and offers glimpses one views to the NE of the town.

You reach a point where have two options: to the left which skirts the hill along a tree lined path, and to the right over the top over the open meadow.



Whichever route you choose you need to keep an eye out for the narrow path the leads off to the left and down off the hill.



The path from the hill weaves its way down through the tress and emerges at the metal gates shown left.

Junction 3 on the Green Route Map - Watton Hill

Turn left onto Coneygar Park Road and after a short distance turn right onto Coneygar Road towards St Andrews Road.



When you reach St Andrew's Road, cross over and take the short lane beside the King Charles public house - now closed sadly.



When you reach the end of the lane you arrive on Sea Road North. Cross over via the lights and follow the path through the hedge around the Co-op car park.



On the opposite side of the carpark take the path towards the fenced pathway shown.

Junction 4 on the Green Route Map - Happy Island and Bradpole

Turn right and follow the path until you reach Jessopp Avenue. Here you will be reacquainted with the River Asker.



Cross straight over Jessopp Avenue and take the path through the gap in the hedge as shown in the adjacent image.



After a short walk beside the river take the footpath on the right and enjoy the beautiful beech trees that tower over you.



The path emerges on Sea Road North. Cross over and turn left and walk along the pavement until see a gap in the fence.

Take the path through the gap in the fence and follow it until you reach East Street.



Turn left and cross the road at the lights. Take the path beside the river towards Asker meadow.



On the opposite bank is the site of the Old Priory where Richard the Third stayed overnight on his way to Exeter to deal with the remnants of a rebellion led by the Duke of Buckingham. Look out for the stone marking this.

Another 100 metres and I am back at my starting point.



Bridport Green Route

A 3-mile walk linking the green open spaces around this eventful market town

KEY

- Green Route
- Alternative route including Long Hill
- Roads
- Green spaces
- Rivers
- BC Heritage of the Island Footpath as they cross the route
- Electric cables (as they cross) will be visible in certain places
- Public
- Bus Station
- Shop to visit

NB: This route is intended to be a loop, but certain sections are one-way and not all are fully accessible.