

- A** Listed as Waltone in the Domesday book, this area was an estate of Glastonbury Abbey since at least the 8th century. **Walton** is situated on a woody hill, also known as a wold, which is where the name Walton may have derived from; it is also suggested that it could mean settlement of the Welsh. During 1753 the main road through Walton (now the A39) became a turnpike road; the route is part of the Wells Trust, with the road being known as the 'Western Road' south west of the City of Wells and the 'Bristol Road' to the north. The Church of the Holy Trinity in Walton was built in 1866 by John Norton; the first church recorded was Norman, built around 1150.
- B** **Whitley wood** gave its name to the Whitley Hundred (a county administrative division) which was probably formed in the latter part of the 12th century; it still contains the ruins of the Hundred house which was a meeting place for the Hundred court.
- C** **Small Moor** was added to the parish of Walton during inclosure; prehistoric flints and fragments of medieval pottery have been found there.
- D** On 22nd April 1707 Henry Fielding was born at **Sharpham Park**, a novelist and playwright well known for the novel 'The history of Tom Jones, a foundling'. Fielding was also London's Chief Magistrate for a time and with the help of his half-brother John, formed the Bow Street Runners.
- E** **Abbot's Sharpham** was built by the Abbott Richard Beere of Glastonbury Abbey; it was here the last Abbott of Glastonbury, Richard Whiting, was arrested before his execution on Glastonbury Tor. Originally it was a single manor house, then became a farmhouse, and eventually split into 2 dwellings; it is now listed as Sharpham Park Farm on the map.
- F** **Asney** is a hamlet of Walton and the name describes 'the island, or dry land in marsh where as trees grow'. In the 1470s a quarry was in use, probably for lias.

More information about this walk and others can be found at www.avalonmarshes.org

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to the many local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of walking routes across the Avalon Marshes.

Feedback:

If you would like to comment on this walk route, please contact us at:

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Specific footpath faults should be reported to Somerset County Council.

Avalon Marshes Heritage Walks: A wander around Walton and Small Moor



One of a series of circular heritage walking routes in
the Avalon Marshes of Somerset.

An easy 2 mile (3 km) walk taking in Small Moor and Sharpham.
There are lots of opportunities to make the walk longer with many
adjacent footpaths to explore.



The Walk: Starts opposite Walton Primary School, Meadow Lane (BA16 9LA), near the village hall. Walton is on a main bus route serving Wells, Taunton and Bridgwater, and there are two nearby public houses. There may be livestock in some of the fields on this walk.

1. Opposite the Primary School look for a passageway between the houses: this takes you to a gate; head straight on with the hedge on your left.
2. After about 200m turn left over a stile, and across the field, keeping the church in the distance to your left. When you reach a concrete path in the field, turn right and make your way down the hill towards a stile on Small Moor Lane.
3. Cross the lane to another stile, and head half left to a bridge (can be muddy here). Do not cross the bridge, but continue around the edge of the field keeping the ditch/hedge on your left.
4. Go across the next bridge and then turn right, looking for the Tor in the distance.
5. At the end of the path, go through the gate, turn right over the stone bridge and head right along the lane, but beware of traffic, towards Asney Farm.
6. At the farm turn right past Asney Cottage, and after about 400m turn left over a stile and walk uphill.



7. Go around the left hand side of the copse, and then head half right with the church in the distance, which leads to the gate at the start of the walk.

THE AVALON MARSHES WALKERS' CODE

1. Keep to the right of way to avoid trespass (drones are not rights of way unless shown as such on the map). If the path is obstructed you should seek a reasonable route around the obstruction.
2. Leave gates and property as you find them.
3. Keep dogs under close control at all times, and on a lead around farm animals and wildlife. However, if cattle chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead.
4. Where the route takes you onto a road, make sure you can be seen by traffic and be especially careful when approaching blind bends, using the verge wherever possible.
5. The marshes can be very muddy at times, so always make sure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
6. Respect the local community and other people enjoying the countryside, and take your litter home.

