



TRAILS

ST CATHERINE'S VALLEY & CHARMY DOWN

6 miles / 10km

4.5 hours



START/FINISH

Steway Lane, Batheaston, Bath (opp. Stambrook Park)

What3Words: closes.storms.firm



WALK INFORMATION AND ACCESSIBILITY:

Mixture of rough paths, tarmacked lanes. Steep uphill to Charmy Down, total elevation 310m.

There are pubs, cafes, shops and public transport in Batheaston.

It is waymarked for the Limestone Link for the first half, short sections on tarmac, track and permissive footpath. There are some stiles, one set of steps, some sections of muddy path/loose stones, and narrow footbridges.

There may be livestock in some of the fields and a small brook for half the walk.

Some of the walk is on quiet country lanes, so look out for traffic and cyclists.

Mobile phone signal might be lost in a couple of the dips.

EXPECT TO SEE

- Dragonflies, buzzards, wildflowers
- The beautiful and tranquil St Catherine's Valley
- The remains of Charmy Down airfield
- Views in all directions

THINGS TO DO

- Enjoy the wildflowers in summer on the north slope up to Charmy Down
- Stop at Wessex Water's Chilcombe Bottom nature reserve and enjoy the dragonflies and flowers
- Explore the village of Batheaston

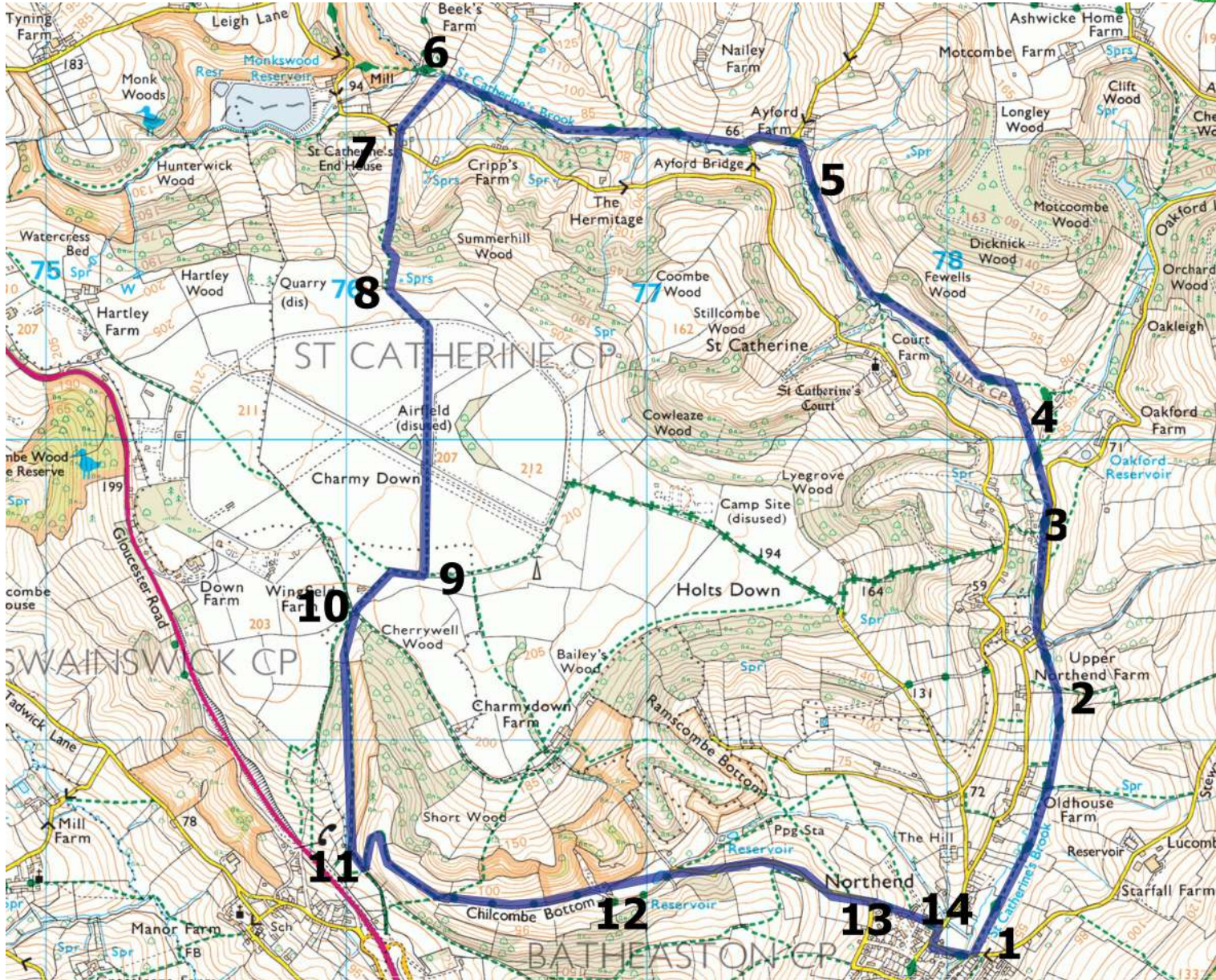
DID YOU KNOW?

- Charmy Down is a disused 1940s airfield. You can still see the runways and some of the buildings
- Chilcombe Bottom nature reserve is on the site of a reservoir dating back to 1848, restored by Wessex Water in the 1990s. It is now home to over 400 species of invertebrates



MAP

6 miles / 10km
4.5 hours



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ROUTE

1

Join Limestone Link on Steway Lane by Emhurst Estate, opposite the end of Catherine Way and Stambrook Park. Start walking up the valley with the brook (stream) on your left. There may be livestock in some of the fields. Ignore a footpath to the right.

2

When the footpath goes left over the stream and then right, take this route, following the footpath signs, with the stream on your right. Continue across the bottom of the field towards the left of the blue buildings. Leave the field via a narrow path. At the end of the path turn right along the lane, round the corner then through the gate on the left (marked Limestone Link).

3

Cross that field with a hedge on your left and follow the Limestone Link as it leaves the field and joins a driveway, go ahead to the end of the track, crossing a lane and entering the field opposite via a kissing gate, still marked Limestone Link.

4

Leave the field through a gap in the hedge and follow the path. Take the footpath marked Permissive Path over the stile, crossing the brook. Follow the well-worn path around the tree on your left, following the route of the brook round the field. The footpath isn't very clear till you're halfway across the field, where you pick up a track with a large fine building ahead (St Catherine's Court) (don't go uphill). The track leaves the field through a gate, with a yellow waymarker. Follow this path across the middle of the field with the brook on your left and woodland on your right. Leave the field via a stile, continue straight (marked Limestone Link). Keep following the path roughly parallel to the brook. This is likely to be muddy.

5

Follow the track to the end/corner of the field nearest the brook. Turn immediately right following the Limestone Link sign. This takes you over a stile and up a narrow path tree lined on both sides. Emerge at the top of the track onto a road and turn left. Stay on this road as it bends right then left, between high hedgerows. Just before the road goes over a bridge, take the gate on the right and follow the brook across two fields. In the third field, there's a footpath off to the right, ignore that and continue following the brook. Ignore another right hand footpath and keep going over a footbridge.

6

You'll eventually reach a kissing gate, and the path is then marked out by electric fence on either side. Approx. 50m from the kissing gate, leave the Limestone Link, turning sharp left and crossing the brook via a wooden bridge with a stile. Go straight up the hill and head for just to the right of the house, leaving the field via a kissing gate. Turn left along the road.

7

Leave the road at the top of the incline, via a track on the right with a wooden gate set back from the road. Then take the steps up to the left, entering a field. In summer this field is full of wildflowers, please stay on the obvious path. Leave by the kissing gate at the top and go through a short section of woodland, then up through the next field (this is the final uphill section). Stick to the right-hand tree line and continue to the top of the field.

ROUTE

8

Go through the gate and head to the left of the mound in front of you and to the left of the two bushes, picking up the footpath. You'll see a footpath sign in the perimeter fence. Take the track as indicated and head straight across the plateau/airfield. You can see Beckford's Tower to the right.

9

Carry straight across, until you reach the memorial stone. Turn right along the track. Follow the track as it bends to the left towards the metal barn, passing with the barn on your right.

10

At the end of the track, you'll reach a road, ignore the footpath signs to left and right, but follow the road downhill. There are a number of different routes down, but this is a gentle route avoiding busier roads. Keep on the lane as it bends to left.

11

The road is very straight and goes downhill until a slight left-hand bend. Just after that, take the bridleway through a wooden gate on your left, and take the track to the left downhill. At the bottom of the track turn right across the flat small valley and then right again, through the gate, with a low hedge on your right. There's not an obvious path, but follow the hedge. Ignore footpaths to right and left. It becomes a recognised bridleway between two hedges. Go through a gate into wooded path.

12

At the end you reach a track and a house, take the permissive path on the left into the Wessex Water nature reserve. Leaving the nature reserve you'll reach a road, take the road to the right (ignoring the footpath). Stay on the road until you reach a sharp (90degree) right hand bend.

13

At the bend, take the footpath ahead (not marked). This is loose stone and likely to be wet/muddy. You may prefer to stick to the road and walk through Batheaston village (to do this, stay on Severn Acres Lane, then turn left onto Eagle Road, go to the end and turn left onto Northend, then right onto Steway Lane).

14

At the end of the rough path, join the track to the road ahead, turn right and then first left into Steway Lane. Arrive back at the start.