

River and Canal

A pleasant route of reasonable distance, taking in a beautiful stretch of Taunton's crowning glory the River Tone, and a quiet tract of the Bridgwater and Taunton canal. Wildlife abounds.

- Start:** Venture Way, Priorswood, TA2 8QY
- Terrain:** First stretch is a dirt track, but everything after is tarmac
Walkers need appropriate footwear
- Distance:** Approx 2.8km
- Approx time:** 30 - 40 mins
(with extra 15 - 20 min/1.6km loop if desired)
- Notes:** This walk links up with Viridor WildWalk 3 (see map)



Get Away
from your
Desk

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Kingfisher

Watch out for the electric blue flash of the Kingfisher as it flies low along the river or look for it perching on nearby branches.



Viridor

River and Canal

Start: Venture Way, Priorswood, TA2 8QY

Water Vole

Look for holes in the river bank as this is where the Water Vole lives. Try and listen for the 'plop' as it drops into the water.



Get Started!

- 1** To start, step through the narrow metal stile to the right of the entrance to the recycling centre on Venture Way. Walk down the steps and follow the path for 400m.
- 2** *Caution* - The path leads to a main line railway track. This is an unmanned 'Stop - Look - Listen' crossing. Take care crossing the railway line and pass through the gate on the far side.
- 3** Turn right and follow the path alongside the River Tone, lined with willow and birch trees. This is a great place to spot kingfishers and herons.

Keep Going!

- 4** After 900m you pass under the A358. Continue on the main path to a metal gate. You can complete the extra loop or go straight to 5.
 - a. Walk up a slope leading to a footbridge on the left. Cross the footbridge and turn right to continue on the river path. You will pass under another large bridge
 - b. Continue along the path and pass a small metal bridge over the Firepool Weir. Cross back over the river using the footbridge a little bit further on. From the bridge you can see where Walk 3 starts outside Viridor House.
 - c. Turn right, follow the path past the lock, then follow the blue sign to Bridgwater and Creech St Michael, over

a brick footbridge and down to the Children's Wood information Board.

- d. Follow the path alongside the canal, back under a bridge. You'll see a small orchard to the right (keep to the left hand path here). Eventually you'll pass a row of large Cypress trees, continue on the path then under a large metal pipe and bridge. Continue and join up with the way marker in 5.

- 5** Turn right at the metal gate and follow the path round to the right, past a way-marker for the national cycle network. Keep following the canal and pass under a metal bridge. The path here is lined with Field Maples and Hawthorns.

- 6** Pass back under the A358. Coots (white beaks) and Moorhens (red beaks) often nest on this stretch of the canal.

- 7** Pass under a low, concrete bridge and keep following the canal. Finally you will pass a large oak, before coming back up onto Venture Way. Turn right and follow the road round to the left and the starting point.

Feeling Better?

Grey Heron

Spot this long-legged bird wading out into shallow water to catch small fish and insects with its pointy dagger-like beak.

