

THE SHORTWOOD SHORT (5M)

This route celebrates a true community pub, The Bridge Inn at Shortwood . Amongst its other virtues, it is the home of The Bridge Inn Winter 5K, Bob Todd Memorial Series put on by Bristol and West AC. Bob Todd owned this pub as well as another community pub, The Star at Pucklechurch, where he was killed challenging some hooligans on the village green. It also serves good rough cider, which is an added bonus.

We had to leave it out of Crossing Boundaries, because it did not fit in with the theme of the book. It is nevertheless depicted in the map of route 10: Two Rivers or the Lion/Fish. There it appears in the form of a shy little creature peering out from behind its mother, a deceptive impression because it is there to join two long routes into a longer one.

The Bridge Inn is at ST673760 on OS Explorer Map 155 for Bristol and Bath. It is also on South Gloucestershire bus no. 689, which runs an hourly service during the day from the Centre to Pucklechurch and Yate.

FROM THE BRIDGE INN TO BRANDY BOTTOM

From the pub, turn right and cross the road to some steps down to the cycle track.

Turn right and follow the track to a tunnel under the road to Pucklechurch.

Through the tunnel, go straight ahead and then right along the Dramway path.

Carry on for about 800m until the track forks.

Take the right fork, which leads to the remains of Brandy Bottom Colliery, and look for signs to the Community Forest Path beside the chimney on the right.

FOREST PATH FROM BRANDY BOTTOM TO WARMLEY FOREST PARK

Follow the path to a stile beside a gate.

Over the stile, go straight ahead up a grassy track beside the quarry on the right.

At the top corner, turn right to a gateway on your left.

Through the gateway, go straight on up through the scrub to a stile.

Keep going on up to an iron gate.

Squeeze through a gap to the left of the gate onto a drive and follow it up onto a road.

In the road, go straight on up the hill and round one bend to the right.

Just before a second bend, look for a stile on the left.

In the field, go straight on along a tractor track, past a hedge corner to a gap in the hedge ahead to a tall kissing-gate in a deer fence.

Through the fence bear right through the trees of a **new plantation** to another tall kissing gate and a wicket gate onto major road. If you are attempting this route at the end of the summer, the path can be hard to follow as it gets overgrown.

Cross the road and turn right along the verge to find a stile on your left into a field.

In the field, bear right to a gate in the bottom right hand corner.

Through the gate, go straight-ahead, keeping hedge on right to another gate.

Go straight ahead across a large field to find a kissing gate just below the middle of the far opposite hedge.

In the next field, bear right to a gap beside the golf course in the diagonally opposite corner.

Through the lower gap make for a gate in the opposite side of a triangular field.

Through this gate, bear slightly left of a wooden electricity pole across the field to a kissing gate thirty metres from the field corner.

In the next field, go straight-ahead, keeping a hedge on your right. (This field and the next contain horse paddocks and temporary fencing. In this field there are insulated grips that allow you to open a gap in the electric fences.)

Go through two kissing gates on either side of a track.

In next field, follow the left hand hedge to a gate in the corner. (The

Follow a nettly track up to a small stile into a tarmac drive.

Go straight up the drive to the road at Goose Green.

Cross Goose Green Road and turn left and immediately right down a drive to a kissing gate.

In the field, carry straight on with a hedge on your right to kissing gate on the right.

Through gate turn left and carry on in same direction with the hedge on your left to look for a kissing gate into Warmley Forest Park on the left.

In the park, turn right and follow the hedge on your right until you find a kissing gate out of Forest Park on the right.

Make your way around some houses on the right to some Dramway Path signs.

FROM WARMLEY FOREST PARK TO BRIDGE INN

Follow the Dramway path to the right across Siston Common.

The line of the path after it crosses a road is not entirely clear. It ought to go through some paddocks onto the cycle path, but it is usually easier to keep right and join the cycle path a little further on.

Turn right when you come out onto the cycle path and keep going straight on past the cycle bridge over the Ring Road.

Keep going along a rough track until you reach a roundabout.

Cross over the road from Siston and Bridgegate to a gate on the other side, which leads onto the Dramway.

Follow the Dramway under a tunnel and continue alongside the ring road for a kilometre until you can turn right past a converted railway station.

Turn left on the drive and follow the right of way up on to the road to the Bridge Inn.