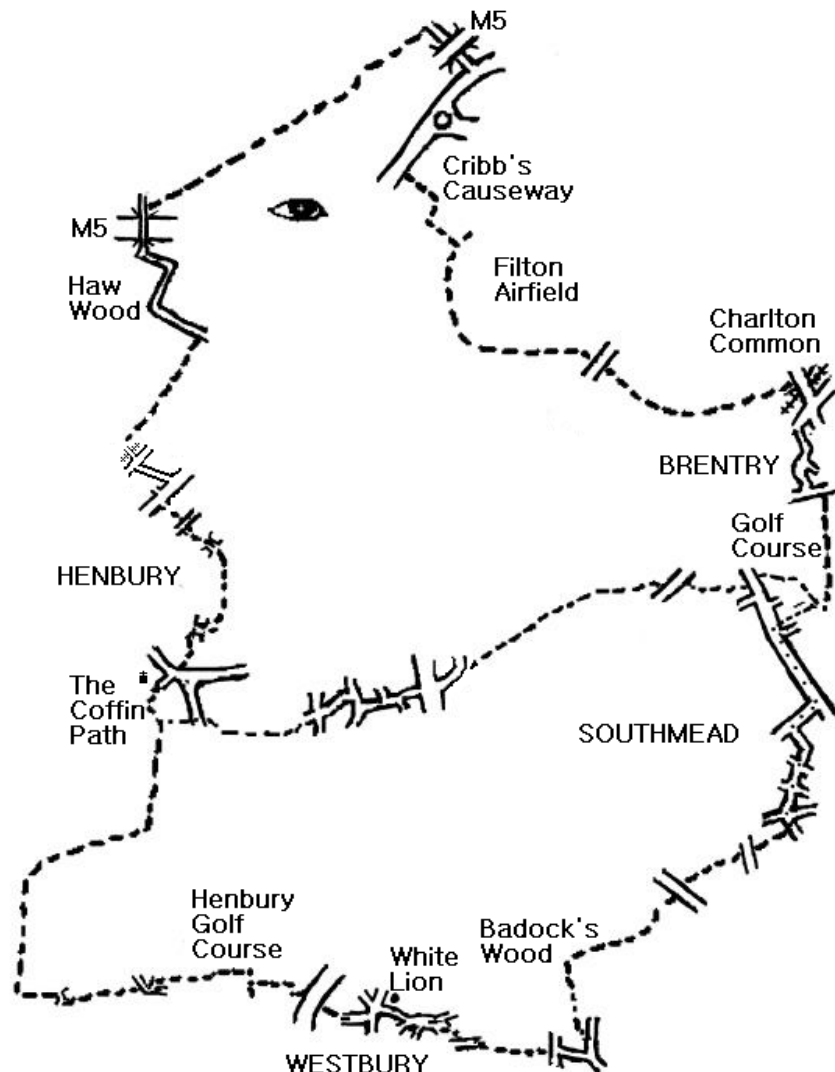


SOURCES OF THE TRYM

OR 'THE HYBRID HARE' 8M, 6M or 5M



The ambiguous beast revealed by this route map has the hindquarters of a hare; but its ears are too short and it seems to be growing horns like a kid. Perhaps this reflects the fact that its lower half is in the city and county of Bristol, whereas its top half is in South Gloucestershire.

(This is the route we ran after I was interviewed by the Evening Post for Seven magazine. We actually missed out the last bit and ran back along Greystoke Avenue, because it was getting dark and we didn't have torches.)

A more consistent creature can be created by taking the shorter route via the recently opened up path through Brentry Wood. But that option breaks the link with Westbury (an estate agent's nightmare!) and misses the chance of a visit to Badock's Wood, whose conservation has been made a priority by Bristol Council.

An even shorter route can be constructed around the creature's hindquarters, which keeps the connection with Westbury, but it loses contact with the Forest Path and does not look like anything in particular!

The main route follows the Trym into the Blaise Estate and then climbs up around the edge of Henbury Golf Course to join the Forest Path alongside the Hazel Brook in Henbury. Over the county boundary, the route goes through a series of horse paddocks and up Berwick Lane past Haw Wood to cross the M5. The section alongside the motorway is only really passable when the nettles are dead or small in winter and spring, which is why it got left out of 'Crossing Boundaries. The return around Filton airfield goes through agricultural land into Brentry before crossing Filton Golf Course and finding a green route through Southmead and Badocks Wood back to Westbury.

The route description begins at the White Lion at the end of Westbury High Street at ST571775 on OS Explorer map 155, although the new path through Brentry Wood and the route across Henbury recreation ground are not shown as rights of way on that map.

Refreshments are also available at the Salutation in Henbury, at the Harvester on Cribbs Causeway and at the Wayfarer in Brentry. The route also passes close to the Victoria on the way back into Westbury village, but I am saving that excellent pub for another route.

Buses numbers 1, 20, 21 and 55 all stop in Westbury village and there is a free car park not far away off the other end of the High Street. It is not fair to use the pub car park as it is quite small.

FROM THE WHITE LION TO HENBURY ROAD

From the pub, turn left and cross Trym Road.

Turn right across the High Street into Westfield Road.

At the end of the road, take the path through to Falcondale Road.

Cross the road with care and turn right. (You may want to make use of the traffic lights on the left to accomplish this!)

Take the path on the left between the allotments and the Trym.

Take the footbridge across the stream and follow it downstream to a T-junction.

Turn right and look for a stile into the golf course on your left.

Cross the fairway to the narrow wood opposite, watching out for gold balls from the left.

Follow the right hand edge of the wood until you find a path down to the other side.

Follow the opposite edge of the wood past a tee, a spring and another tee to a stile into a meadow.

Go through the meadow to find a metal footbridge over the stream on your left.

Turn right and go straight ahead on the path through the wood on the left bank of the stream to a locked horse gate with a gap beside it.

Keep going through a field until the path descends to a kissing gate beside the stream.

Turn right through another kissing gate to a footbridge over the Trym.

After about 50m, ascend the path up some steps to the right of a wall.

Keep going up to the top of the track.

Turn left along the path to the right of a low wall. The path follows the wall first on one side then other with a steep slope supporting fine beech trees on the left and a golf course on the right.

When the path emerges near the edge of a cliff, keep going along the edge, but take care. ***There are magnificent views across the limestone gorge through the trees.***

The track eventually emerges on to a metalled drive near a bark covered lodge that looks as if it were a refugee from an early Walt Disney film.

Turn left and then right down some steps. (Not the first steps, which lead to the lodge's outside privy.)

Keep going down the path to emerge in a meadow at the bottom.

Bear left on the distinct path across the grass to the far corner of the field.

Go down the steps that lead to Hazel Brook and cross the footbridge into the tunnel that emerges into the light of day in Henbury churchyard.

Turn right and go down the steps at the western end of the church.

Follow the road (Rectory Gardens) down to Henbury Road, which fords Hazel Brook (a flood in wet weather!)

The Salutation (a Toby Carvery) is off to the right if you need some refreshment.

Cross the road and turn right to find a stone stile.

5M ROUTE FROM HENBURY ROAD TO PEN PARK ROAD

Keep going past the stile and across Crow Lane and Trymwood Close to a kissing gate into the Recreation Ground.

Bear right across the grass to the corner of an enclosed football pitch.

Go around the top edge of the pitch to find the way out of the field beside some flats on the far side.

Cross the road and find your way into Challender Avenue.

At the far end, turn right and then left into Dragonswell Road.

At the far end of that, carefully cross the busy dual carriageway of Passage Road and cross the grass into Brentry Lane.

Almost immediately, find the gap in the wall into the grounds of the old Brentry Hospital and climb the steps, which lead into Brentry Wood.

Make your way through the wood until you have to descend to the grass behind some houses.

Keep right along a metalled path, which guides you around some houses and uphill into Charlton Road.

Cross the road and turn left along the pavement to find a kissing gate into the field on your right.

Keep left until you reach a gap in the remains of an old hedge and bear right across another piece of grass to a gate onto Pen Park Road.

Turn right to rejoin the main route **FROM PENPARK ROAD TO THE WHITE LION**. (**The Wayfarer** is off to the left.)

FROM HENBURY ROAD TO THE HARVESTER

Over the stone stile, continue along the bank of the stream to a bridge.

Cross the bridge and turn left. (The second left along the flood-bank is the easier path.)

Follow the path to the second bridge across the stream.

Over the bridge, go straight ahead along a metalled path into a cul-de-sac.

At the other end of the cul-de-sac, turn left and look for a Community Forest Path sign on the right, beside a pedestrian snicket.

Follow the path across another cul-de-sac to a main road.

Cross the road and turn right.

Take the first turning on the left and follow the right hand pavement to a T-junction.

Go straight on across road to a railway bridge and through a kissing gate into a field.

The railway marks the boundary between the City of Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

In the field, turn right and follow the hedge on the right to another kissing gate into a horse paddock.

Keep going in the same direction through two more kissing gates through paddocks and then through a wicket gate onto Berwick Lane beside Norton Farm.

Turn left and follow lane up the hill past Haw Wood and over the motorway.

There is a splendid view down the motorway towards Avonmouth.

Over the bridge, turn right immediately over a stile into a field where quad bikes are cultivated.

Follow the right hand fence through two gaps until you reach a stile and bridge into the narrow copse on the right.

Turn left along the mown path through the wood. (***There is a pond to the right.***)

This path can get overgrown with nettles if the managers get behind with the maintenance.

At the end of the path, turn left through a gap onto a metalled track and turn right. ***The track was made to service the army camp whose remains can still be seen. The sides of the track show signs of fly-tipping, but if you look up at about eleven o'clock, you get one of the best views of the Hollywood Tower.***

At the end of the track, go through a narrow gate in the chain-link fence and turn right.

Under the motorway, turn right to find **the Harvester**

FROM THE HARVESTER TO PEN PARK ROAD

Past the Cribbs Lodge Hotel and Restaurant, turn left across the dual carriageway towards Harry Ramsden's Fish Restaurant (now shut) and turn right.

Just past the Premier Travel Inn, turn left up a footpath between an industrial estate on the right and housing on the left.

Go through the kissing gate at the end of the enclosed path and follow the trail down hill to a double-styled bridge over a stream.

This is the Hazel Brook, whose source is off to the left near Asda.

Over the bridge, clamber across a ditch and turn right to follow the path around the corner of the field.

Look for a stile half hidden by some thorns on the right, which leads to a footbridge and another stile into a field on the right.

Follow the left hand hedge to a pair of kissing gates. (There was a tree down between them in January 2007.)

Keep following the left hand fence (which becomes the perimeter fence of Filton Airfield) until you go through a gap into another field.

Bear right toward a kissing gate next to a mobile phone mast.

Through the gate, turn left on the road to look for a stile on the right.

Over the stile, bear left to a stile near the far left hand corner of the field.

Over this stile, turn right and follow the distinct path alongside the railway line.

The fine cedar trees at 11 o'clock belong to Cedar House, a remnant of Charlton village, which was flattened when the runway of Filton Airfield was extended in 1949 to accommodate a huge white elephant called the Brabazon.

When the path comes out on a road called Charlton Common, turn right to a T-junction.

Turn right again and take the second turning on the left (Pensfield Park).

Turn left up Matford Close and cross the grass under a magnificent redwood into Northwoods Walk.

Go straight up to the T-junction and turn right to look for footpath on the left.

At the end of the path, go through a kissing gate onto Filton Golf Course.

Go straight ahead through a gap in a bank and then straight ahead to a low wall.

Turn right along the wall to a kissing gate and turn right.

If you are going, to **The Wayfarer** keep straight on following the path through a cycle trap into a small park.

Bear left to a gate onto Pen Park Road. **The Wayfarer** is off to the right.

Turn left to rejoin the main route to the **WHITE LION**.

Otherwise, turn left to the end of the cul-de-sac, and left again on a path that leads out into Pen Park Road.

Cross the road and turn left.

6M ROUTE STARTING AT THE WAYFARER

From the pub, turn left and then right through a kissing gate into a green open space.

In the field bear right to a gap in a hedge.

Through the hedge, turn right to emerge on a road via a kissing-gate on the right.

In the road, turn left and then right on a road-crossing to a tarmac path.

Follow the path down hill and round to the left.

Keep straight ahead ignoring a path and a track on the right to emerge in a green at the back of some houses.

Turn left, where paths cross, into a wood.

Bear right on a cinder path through the wood.

Ignore kissing gates on the right and continue straight on until the path emerges at the top of some steps in a green open space.

This wood has only recently been opened up to the public. The green open space used to belong to Brentry Hospital, but access seems to have opened up since part of the grounds of the hospital were sold for housing.

Descend steps to a hole in the wall and turn right to a dual carriageway.

Cross the dual carriageway carefully and go down Dragonswell Road.

At a T-junction, turn right and then first left down Challender Avenue.

At the end of this road, go straight ahead past some flats onto some playing fields.

Go around the top edge of a fenced football pitch and then turn bear right across the grass to a cycle trap in the far right corner of the field.

Turn right on the pavement. (The Salutation is off to the right, and you can see the stone stile onto the Forest Path ahead; but the Coffin path is worth a short diversion.)

Turn left across the road to a kissing gate into a footpath beside a wall.

At the end, turn right and go down the steps that lead to Hazel Brook. Cross the footbridge into the tunnel that emerges into the light of day in Henbury churchyard.

Turn right and go down the steps at the eastern end of the church.

Follow the road (Rectory Gardens) down to Henbury Road, which fords Hazel Brook (a flood in wet weather!)

The Salutation (a Toby Carvery) is off to the right if you need some refreshment.

Cross the road and turn right to find a stone stile.

JOIN THE MAIN ROUTE FROM HENBURY ROAD TO THE HARVESTER

FROM PEN PARK ROAD TO THE WHITE LION

Turn right into Greystoke Avenue and then left into Eastleigh Road.

Follow Eastleigh Road across two crossroads to a T-junction.

Turn right and then left down Shetland Road.

Almost immediately, turn right into the green open space along side a stream.

This is the visible source of the Westbury Trym.

Follow the tarmac path alongside the Trym through two kissing gates on either side of a road.

Keep going past a footbridge over the Trym with Southmead written on it.

Go through another pair of kissing gates on either side of Doncaster Road.

Follow the path past an adventure playground to a cross path and turn right and then left alongside the stream.

Keep going until you meet another cross path in the middle of Badocks Wood and turn left along a tributary stream to a kissing gate onto a road and turn right.

At a T-junction, turn right up Vintery Leys to another T-junction.

Go straight across onto a footpath and follow it until it squeezes between the houses into a cul-de sac.

Go straight ahead toward Westbury Parish Church and look for a path on the right between nos. 8 and 9.

The path descends some steps and passes the entrance to the old wildlife park, long since closed.

Follow the road alongside the river (Trym Road) until it emerges into the High Street next to the White Lion.