



Walk 14 Backwell & Brockley

Start Backwell Church (restricted parking) (ST493683).

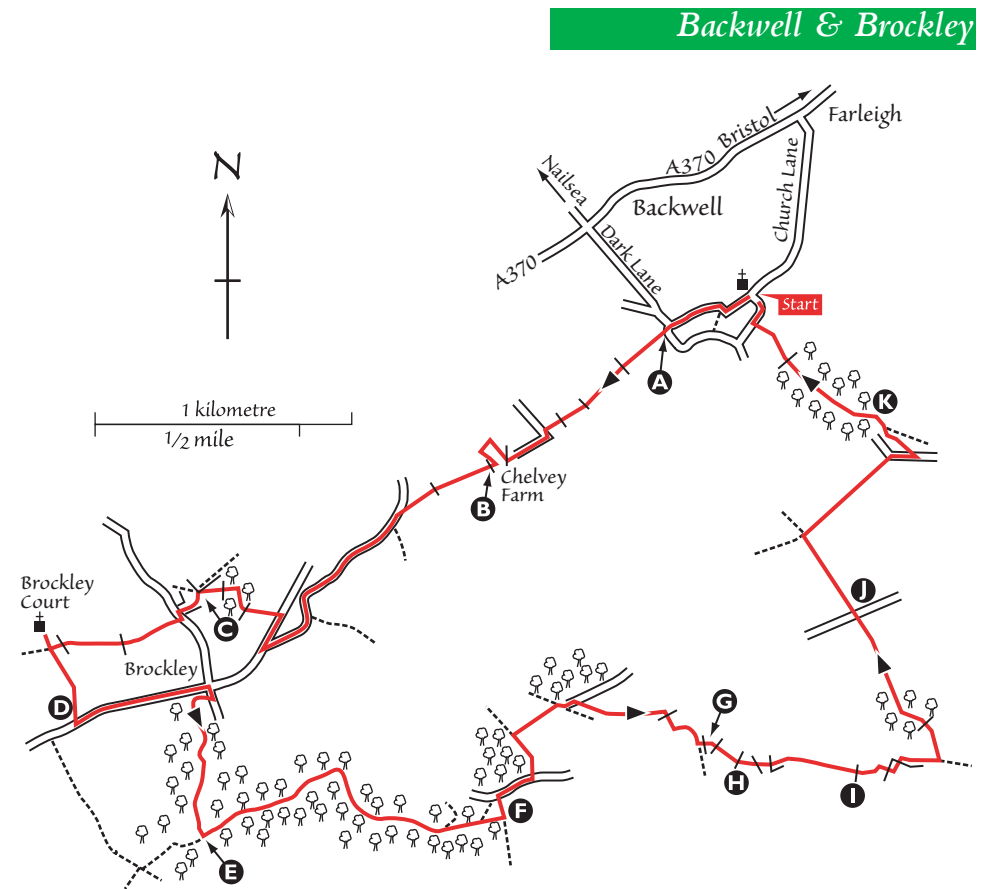
Distance 7.5 miles / 12km.

Refreshments None.

Getting there From Bristol, take the A370 towards Backwell, turning left at Farleigh into Church Lane. Follow this and park near the church.

A fine walk of two halves, the first an easy, level ramble passing imposing houses including Brockley Court, once the family seat of wealthy North Somerset landowners, the Smyth-Piggotts and Brockley Hall with its early 19th century pleasure grounds and park. The second part, takes you climbing into woodland, and from there you follow an undulating route of farmland and wooded areas with fine views. Take a packed lunch and allow four hours.

With the church on your right follow the lane passing Backwell junior school on your left, beyond which Church Lane makes a sharp right turn. Here turn left into Church Town **A** and go through a gate on the right to enter a field. Follow the path through this field and a further three, to reach a lane where you go left, following the lane as it goes immediately right. At the end of the lane you reach the white gates of Chelvey Farm; go through the kissing gate then follow the recently diverted path that



skirts the north side of the property between a metal fence and the hedge, eventually reaching a further kissing gate **B**. Pass through to enter a field, then walk ahead now with the hedge on your right and continue in the same direction to climb a stile next to a gate at the far side of the field. Carry on with the hedge to your right, passing Bristol Waterworks property up to your left, beyond which you follow a track to reach a lane. Turn left and walk the length of the lane to the main road.

Turn right and use the traffic refuge to cross to the opposite pavement then walk with the parkland of Brockley Hall on your left, entering it in a short distance via a stile. Follow the field edge and climb a stile into woodland. Now take the well-defined path through the wood, leaving at a stile on the right then walking half-left to a path junction at the field corner **C**. Here, leave the well-worn route and go left, keeping

the cottages on your right. Hidden in the hedge you will find a stile that gives access to a lane.

Walk left for a few yards towards the gates of Brockley Hall, then go through the kissing gate on the right. Follow the left boundary of the pasture, passing a dew pond on the right, to reach a stile at the far side. Climb over and head towards the left end of the farm buildings, where you go through a gate and on to a lane. Walk ahead passing Brockley Court on your right to reach black iron gates. Go through and take the path up to Brockley Church. The headstones in the graveyard make contemplative reading. Now retrace your steps to the gates, go left and then take the lane to your right, following it to the main road **D**.

An obstructed and impassable bridleway opposite necessitates a stretch of road walking now. Turn left, crossing where convenient, and continue to crossroads where you turn right into Brockley Combe Road. In a few yards, leave the road and take a track right, which enters the woods. You have level walking for a short distance, then beyond a left bend, you climb steeply, eventually reaching a cross-track with the remains of a walled enclosure to your right **E**.

Turn left and walk for about 600 yards, after which the track turns right. When you reach a fork in the track with a wall on the right, keep right by the wall and stay close to it until you reach a short, steep descent to a lane **F**.

Turn left and walk to a road junction then go right, crossing with care on the bend to a footpath that climbs up to the left. At a junction, go right with fields either side, to reach a lane by white gateposts; continue up the lane to climb a stile on the right. Now walk ahead, parallel with the field boundary on the right, soon losing height to reach the field's bottom right-hand corner. Here, go through the gate on the right and follow the track to reach a farmyard through which you pass, then go immediately left after the outbuildings and through a metal gate **G**.

Now walk with the hedge on your right to cross a stile into a garden **H** then keep left to exit via a further stile into a field. Go ahead and through a kissing gate opposite, keeping the hedge on your right and walking to the far end of the field where you climb a stile **I** then bear left, down to the farmyard.

Walk with the house on the left to enter an open barn (the waymark nailed to the post on the left confirms your route). Pass through the barn to exit via a gap in the far corner. Beyond the stile, go left to climb another, after which you turn right. Walk with the hedge on the right, to the next field then turn left to climb to the top left

corner. Before reaching the woodland, there are views back towards Bristol airport, and left, out to the islands off Weston-Super-Mare.

Enter the woods and follow the track for just over half a mile, crossing a tarmac lane **J** and eventually reaching a junction with stile ahead. Take the track right and walk for a further 500 yards to a road where you turn right. In a short distance you pass through the kissing gate on the left into Jubilee Stone Wood Nature Reserve. Follow the path ahead to join another on the right, then continue a few yards to reach the Jubilee Stone **K**.

As well as being home to rare species of mammals and plants, the reserve also has a long archaeological history, containing the ruins of a 14th century rabbit warren and cottage, 17th century lead mines and a 19th century limekiln.

The limekiln is just off your route, so walk downhill from the Jubilee Stone for about 100 yards, then look left for a side path edged with stones & logs. The Kiln is about 20 yards along this path. To end the walk, return to the downhill path, turn left and walk to a gate. beyond is a driveway and beyond that, a road. Go right here and follow the lane to reach your starting point at the church.