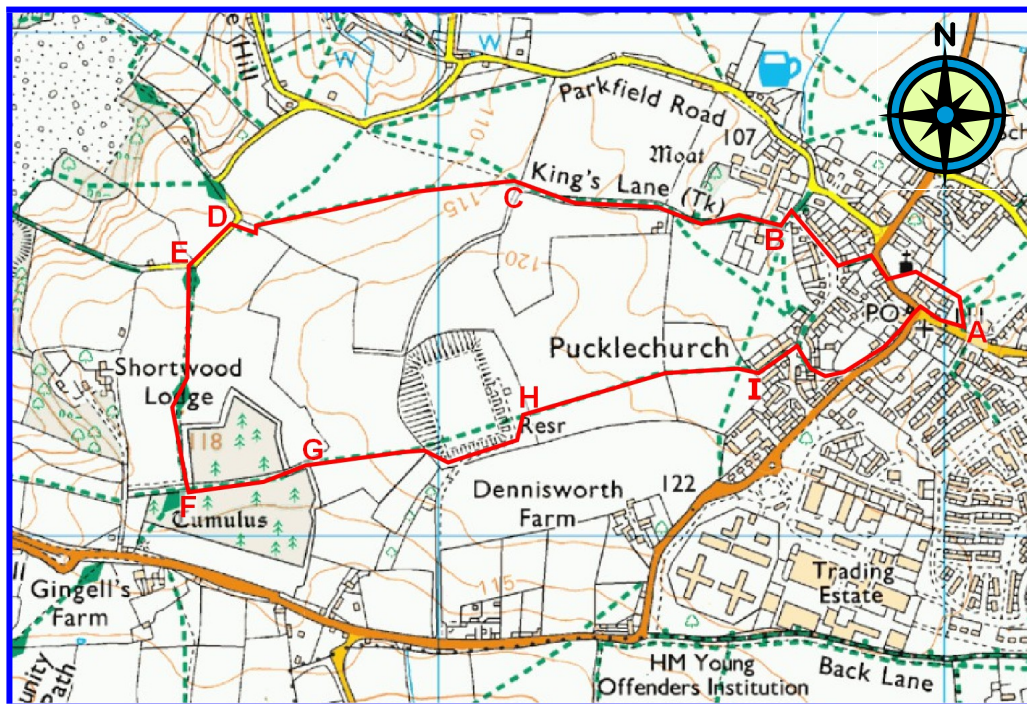




## Walk #8: Community Centre to Reservoir

3.8 km (2.4 miles), about 1 hour, a circular route that includes multiple stiles

This walk takes you out of the village on historic King's Lane, passes near Shortwood Lodge (once a coaching inn), through a planted woodland where deer are often seen, close to a Bronze-age tumulus, and around the reservoir. There are expansive views from several points along this walk.



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Starting from the Community centre car park (A), enter the Rec on the left side of the Community Centre and then turn left towards the churchyard. Go into the graveyard through the gate and follow the path towards the church. Turn left at the church and go out the front gate onto Westerleigh Road. Cross the road and take the footpath that runs next to the Coach House Café's car park. This will lead you out onto Homefield Road. Turn right onto Homefield and walk to the northern end where it meets King's Lane. Turn left onto King's Lane, and walk towards the gates of Grey House, a fine 17<sup>th</sup>-century manor. King's Lane reputedly got its name when the body of King Edmund was carried along this route on its way to his final resting place at Glastonbury in 946 AD. Turn right at the gates of Grey House (B), and follow the lane straight on as the paving stops and it becomes a tree-lined

track. After about 500 metres, the track reaches a large arable field. From the end of the track, the footpath forks, with the right fork heading straight across (12 o'clock) to Coxgrove Hill. Take the left fork at about 10 o'clock and walk across this large field, heading toward the broadcasting tower in the distance and through a gap in the fence. Then, keeping the hedge on your right, follow the path to a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and out onto a paved lane (C). Follow this lane about 100 metres. At the point where the lane veers right, turn left and go through the kissing gate (E).

From here, walk straight across a large arable field along a ridge, heading toward the corner of a hedged woodland. (Shortwood Lodge is tucked amongst the woods beyond the field to your right.) When you reach the corner of the hedged woodland, go straight on, keeping the



hedge on your left. When you reach the hedge ahead, turn back and admire the sweeping views toward Bristol. From here you can see the golden Dower House in Stoke Park and the huge MOD complex in the distance beyond. These modern sights contrast with the ancient round barrow (tumulus) that lies ahead of you between where you are standing and Shortwood Road. This Bronze-age tumulus is believed to date from between 2000 and 800 BC but has not been excavated.

Proceed through the gap in the hedge (**F**) straight ahead and into the wooded plantation. Turn immediately left and stay on the footpath that follows the line of old trees, keeping them on your left. You will come to a wooden stile leading to a grassy field. Walk straight ahead, keeping the hedge on your left. When you come to the end of the hedge (**G**), cross the field diagonally, passing to the right of the telegraph pole and to a kissing gate on the other side. Again turn back and take in the view over Bristol and the hilltop village of Dundry in the distance.

Go through the kissing gate and turn right, following the path round the base of our local reservoir. From here, look right towards Tog Hill and the distinctive line of “caterpillar trees”. Take the road that leads into the waterworks and look for the wooden stile through the hedge straight ahead (**H**). Cross into the arable field and walk straight on, keeping the hedge on your right. You can see the tower of St Thomas a Becket church ahead. Climb the high wooden stile straight ahead and enter the horse pasture beyond. Walk straight across from this stile to another stile behind the houses on Orchard Road. Climb the stile (**I**), then turn right and then immediately left onto Orchard Road. Walk down Orchard Road to Homefield, cross and walk through the parking area for the bungalows and through path that leads behind the Homefield Centre and past Crump House, a well-preserved 17<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse. Turn left onto Shortwood Road, and go back through the centre of the village to the Community Centre.