



## **Wells - Milton circular walk – 2.5 miles long and takes approx. 1.25hrs.**

**Includes a hill, steps, stiles and possibly livestock at certain times of the year.**

**The red text identifies points of interest to look out for.**

Standing on what was the drawbridge, with your back to the beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century Bishop's Palace, turn right and walk over to the viewing area beside the moat. **1) From here you can see a little window on the side of the gatehouse.** If you look carefully you can see the metal bell beneath it that the swans here on the moat have been ringing for food for over 150 years.

The large swan floating on her nest on the water, was one of sixty swans here in Wells during 2012, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Leaving the moat behind you walk through the large gateway known as the The Bishop's Eye into the Market Place and then right again through Penniless Porch and onto Cathedral Green.

**2) Built over 800 years ago, Wells Cathedral** is regarded as one of the finest cathedrals in the country. The West Front has the largest collection of medieval statues in Europe. Walk past the West Front and turn right, passing under The Chain Gate bridge and then turn left. **3) Vicars Close was built in 1363 and is the longest continually inhabited street in Europe.** Walk to the end and then up the steps to the right of the chapel and over the pedestrian crossing.

Turn right past The Cedars, one of the buildings of Wells Cathedral School, and then left into College Road. Walk straight up College Road until you reach the busy Bristol Road. Cross with care onto Ash Lane and then turn right up the Old Bristol Road for about 30m (there is no path). Up on your left you will see a kissing gate in the hedge line. Pass through (please put the rope back to keep it secure) and head up and across the hill. **4) Glance back for wonderful views of the cathedral and, on a clear day, Glastonbury Tor.** Keep the bench on your right and head over the stile ahead.

Carry on up the hill and through the kissing gate in the top left hand corner of the field. Cross the driveway and climb the steps ahead. Go through the kissing gate and straight ahead until you meet a gate onto the road. (Please look carefully at the map for the next section). Only a couple of metres away on your left is a kissing gate that takes you back into the field next to the one you have just come out of! Enjoy the views to your right towards Wookey Hole and up to the Mendip Hills.

Head across the field towards the woods and then over the stile next to the large gate that will bring you onto a tree-lined track and onto Reservoir Lane. Walk past the houses on your right and at the bottom of the lane turn right onto Milton Lane. Walk up the hill and then turn left past the last house on your left, to follow a narrow path downhill with gardens backing onto it. Cross over two roads and then take a few steps left to follow a path on your right between the houses into a field. This leads you to a gate into the grounds of **7) The Blue School, the largest school in Somerset dating back to 1641**, founded by Ezekial Barkham, to whom the first building on your right is dedicated.

Go straight ahead on the path through the school field and over footbridge. Turn right after the skatepark and then keeping Waitrose on your left continue to the pedestrian crossing. Walk left past Waitrose to the corner and turn left onto Chamberlain Street. Cross the zebra crossing leading to Priest Row.

Then cross over to **6) St Cuthbert's Church** which is the largest parish church in Somerset and in its grounds are **7) the oldest almshouses in Somerset**. Cross back over the road to the High Street and on the corner is **8) The City Arms, once a jail**. Carry on up the High Street, noticing the gutters with the famous water running down them. On returning to the Market Place you will pass **9) The Conduit**. The original Conduit was given by Bishop Bekyton in 1451, a practical and symbolic gift of water from the springs to the civic part of our city.

Continue through the Market Place and the Bishop's Eye gateway, returning to The Bishop's Palace.

**For more information about this and other walks, please visit [www.wellswalkingtours.co.uk](http://www.wellswalkingtours.co.uk)**