

## **Over the valley to Collafield and back**

### **(2-2 ½ hours walk)**

This walk takes you across the valley to the top of the hill opposite. From there, there are wonderful views over the River Severn.

You can see the village of Collafield from the cottages. If you look towards the hill opposite with the 3 masts on top, there is a patch of open grassland. This is part of the common land, and you will walk over it on this walk.

Information for dog owners: At one point on the walk there is a house with about 7 standard poodles that rush at the fence of their property barking. Take the detour below if you don't want to meet them. No stiles.

From the car park go down the path past Wren and Robin Cottages. The path joins a more substantial track after a few minutes walking. Follow this path down to the road.

Turn left onto the road and then take the first right at Gunns Mill into Lower Spout Lane. Continue up Lower Spout Lane past the Mill / Asha Centre on your right-hand side, and then a house also on the right.

Just past this house there is a track on the left-hand side. Follow this track uphill until you reach a Forestry Commission track. Go left and through the green barrier. If you want to avoid the poodles, follow the bracketed instructions below.

Turn right on a footpath opposite the old waterworks. You will cross a small stream and then eventually come to another footpath alongside someone's property. Turn left here and follow to the road. (DETOUR: follow this road from the old waterworks to a T junction and turn right on this road until you reach the bend described above and follow the main directions from \*).

Turn left onto the road and after a short distance there is a bend. \*There is a track off this bend, and a footpath. You want the footpath which is opposite you if you are following the main directions. You will know you are on the right track as there are nice views to your left now, (vegetation permitting!).

Follow this footpath, which is an old cart track, uphill until you get to an open grassy area. This is the grass you can see on the hill opposite our cottages. You will quite often see some forest sheep grazing here. Cross the grass uphill to the road and turn right. Follow the road until you get to a house on your left with a long wooden fence. On the right-hand side, just past this there is a forestry commission track.

Follow this track with great views to the right. After some distance you will find a green Forestry Commission barrier on your right.

Go through the barrier and look for a footpath on the right. It is not very far to this footpath, but not easy to see. There are a few short wooden posts on the left opposite it.

Head downhill, through the trees until you get to another Forestry track.

Turn right and look for the footpath you came up earlier on the left-hand side before the barrier. Retrace your path back to the cottages.