

- A** The original **church at Mark** dates from the 13th Century but most of the current building is 14th and 15th century with further restoration in the 1800s.
- B** **Water control** has shaped the landscape across the Avalon Marshes; forms include controlling tidal flows, diverting river courses, canalisation and drainage rhynes.
- C** There are many **WWII Pillboxes** within this area, they are part of the GHQ Line (General Headquarters Line)- green and were considered a vital part of inland defences against possible enemy invasion through the Bristol Channel.
- D** **Brent Knoll** was once an island known as the Isle or Mount of Frogs; Brent Knoll Camp was occupied in the late Bronze Age and became an Iron Age hill-fort around 2,000 BC.
- E** **Southwick** is an historic hamlet within the civil parish of Mark; medieval finds suggest that there has been occupation of the area since that time.

In 1941 a mobile Ground Control Intercept (GCI) radar was stationed along the Southwick Road just SE of Southwick Farm; it began as a convoy of trucks and there were plans to install 'Final' equipment, but the station was moved to Long Load in January 1943.

- F** Trees were planted on **Jubilee Green** to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935.
- G** **Mark Yeo** is part of an ancient canal called Pilrow Cut that was in existence by 1235; it linked the River Brue with the River Axe and was probably used as a connection between Glastonbury Abbey and the main coastal manors.



More Information about this walk and others can be found at www.avalonmarshes.org

Acknowledgements:

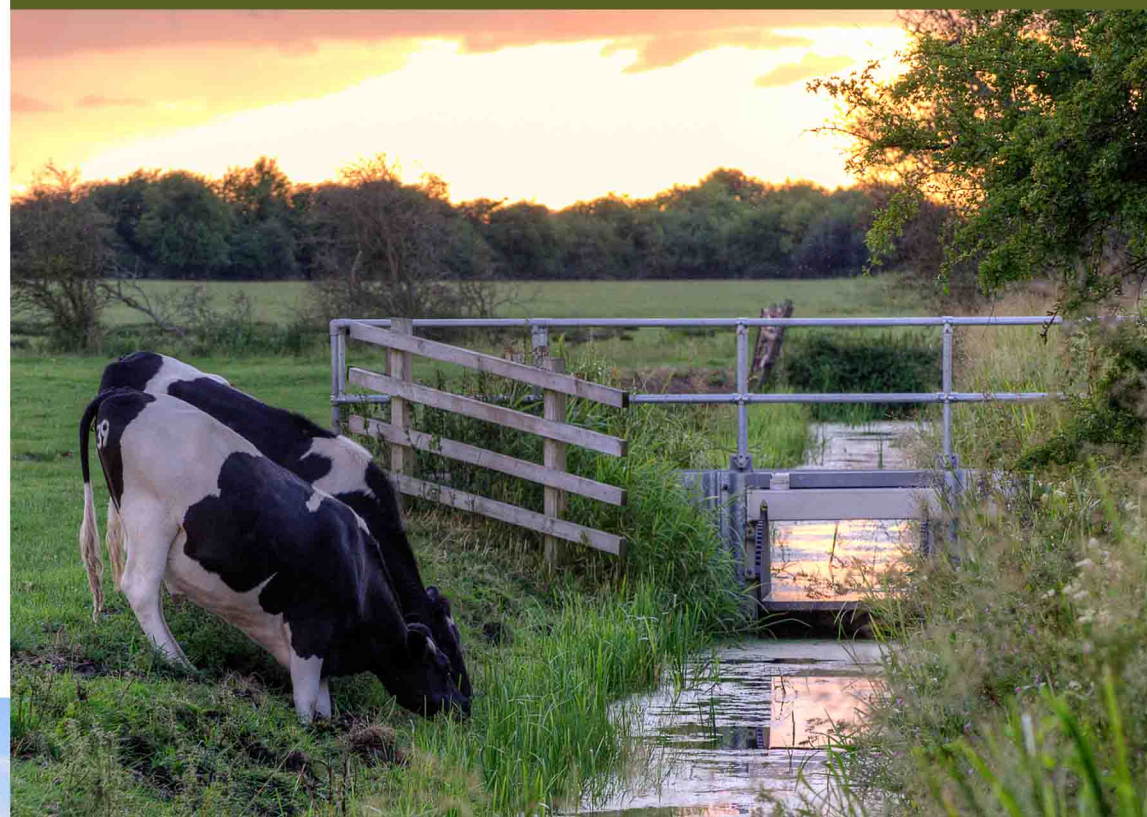
Parking permission kindly granted by the Church of the Holy Cross, Mark.
Special thanks to the many local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of walking routes across the Avalon Marshes.

Feedback:

If you would like to comment on this walk route, please contact us at:
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Specific footpath faults should be reported to Somerset County Council.

Avalon Marshes Heritage Walks: Mark's Ditches & Drovers



One of a series of circular heritage walking routes in the
Avalon Marshes of Somerset

A moderate 7 mile (11km) walk focusing on Mark Moor with its
linear droves, rhynes and ditches that criss-cross the landscape
in this part of the Avalon Marshes.



The Walk: Park in Mark either at the church car park; there are two pubs, a post office and shop in the village. Mark is well served by public transport.

Some of the walk is on quiet rural lanes (but do look out for the occasional vehicle or bicycle), and there are numerous options to shorten the route into a potential 'family stroll'.

- 1 The walk starts at the gated footpath directly opposite the south gate of the churchyard. This path can get muddy in the winter.
- 2 The path emerges on Yarrow Road; turn left here, watching for traffic, and note the sluice gate on the right.
- 3 About 250m after the sharp right hand bend take the bridgeway on the left, noting the wildlife-rich wet ditches behind the hedges.
- 4 When you reach the lane, turn right and follow the road for about 1 km until it reaches River Road and turn right again.
- 5 At Brickhouse Sluice, turn left towards Brent Knoll, looking out for a tilting weir and four distant pillboxes on the left.
- 6 Where the road bends right, carry on straight ahead along the Restricted Byway, which eventually becomes a tarmac road.
- 7 At the T-junction turn left, and follow the road around to the right past Southwick Farm.
- 8 Take the footpath on the right through a gate, and look for a stile and bridge in the top left hand corner of the field.
- 9 Follow the footpath straight ahead to a footbridge in the hedge, passing through the stables, eventually emerging on Butt Lake Road.
- 10 Turn right and follow the road around a left hand bend. Where it bends right, continue straight ahead onto Green Drove (Public Bridleway).
- 11 Where the drove turns sharp right, turn left, and left again when you reach Yarrow Road, which leads you back to the village past Jubilee Green.

THE AVALON MARSHES WALKERS' CODE

1. Keep to the right of way to avoid trespass (droves are not rights of way unless shown as such on the map). If the path is obstructed you should seek a reasonable route around the obstruction.
2. Leave gates and property as you find them.
3. Keep dogs under close control at all times, and on a lead around farm animals and wildlife. However, if cattle chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead.
4. Where the route takes you onto a road, make sure you can be seen by traffic and be especially careful when approaching blind bends, using the verge wherever possible.
5. The marshes can be very muddy at times, so always make sure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
6. Respect the local community and other people enjoying the countryside, and take your litter home.

