

- A** **Battlebury** is actually a natural mound but there have been historical claims that it was a site of battle.

**Hay Moor** OS map of 1888 shows an 800 yard rifle range.

- B** This **14th Century stone cross** is a Scheduled Ancient Monument; it marked the parish boundary and matches another at Cross Farm, Worminster.
- C** Even in 1480 William Worcestre described **Fenny Castle** - a motte and bailey - as a ruin; and 19th Century quarrying revealed remains that may have pre-dated the castle.
- D** Previously known as Doulting Water the river became known as **the Sheppey** in the late 19th Century and is a tributary of the River Brue.
- E** One of many defensive measures taken in WWII, this **Type 24 Pill Box** was built to be shell-proof with an internal anti-ricochet wall.
- F** **Somerset Central Railway** opened in 1854 as a local railway for transportation of manufactured goods; it became the Somerset and Dorset Railway just 12 years later.

The **Bishop's Vineyard** was sited in Coxley Wick and first referred to in 1176. By 1827, the vineyard was almost obsolete with remnants recorded on the south side of Hay Hill.

- G** Some rural houses in the marshes have only installed indoor toilets during the last 50 years, nearly 100 years after the 1866 **Sanitary Act**.



More information about this walk and others can be found at [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org)

#### Acknowledgements:

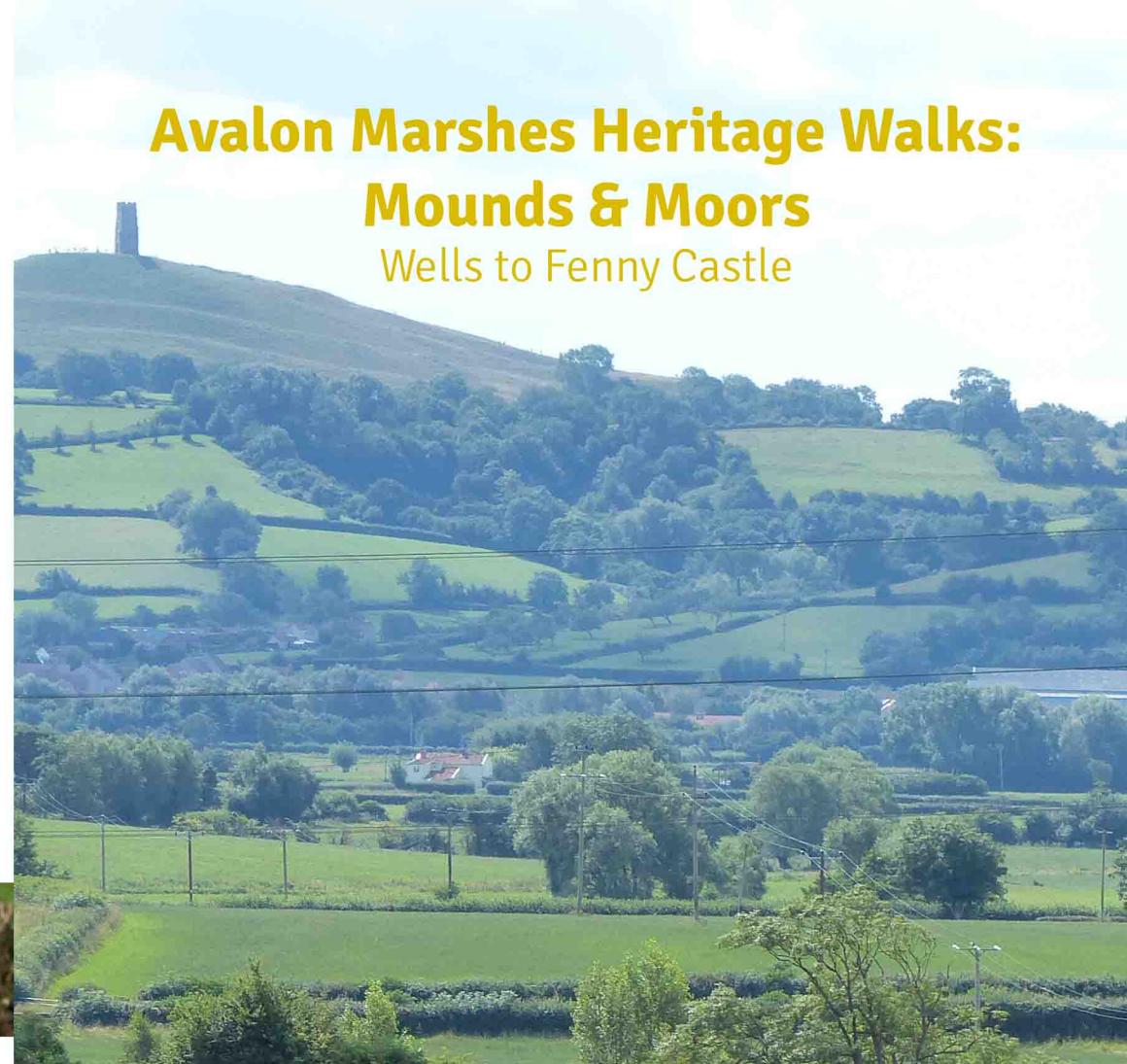
Parking permission kindly granted by Wells Leisure Centre and Fenny Castle Tea Rooms. Special thanks to the many local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of walking routes across the Avalon Marshes.

#### Feedback:

If you would like to comment on this walk route, please contact us at:  
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T: 01458 860556 E: [info@avalonmarshes.org](mailto:info@avalonmarshes.org)

Specific footpath faults should be reported to Somerset County Council.

## Avalon Marshes Heritage Walks: Mounds & Moors Wells to Fenny Castle



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

A moderate 5 mile (8km) walk providing some wonderful views  
of the surrounding moors and taking in a number of interesting  
historical features, including a Motte & Bailey at Fenny Castle.



**The Walk:** Nearest parking is at Wells Leisure Centre (BA5 2FB), which has a café and toilets. There is a nearby pedestrian crossing for the A371 to reach the start point. Alternatively in the summer months you could start the walk from Fenny Castle Tea Rooms (BA5 1NN), starting at No. 7 on the map.

- 1** The walk starts just off Wookey Road at the B3139/A371 junction.
- 2** After you cross the lane, take the stile to the right and cross the field towards Lower Burcott Farm.
- 3** Turn left into Burcott Lane, follow the lane for about 100m and turn right over a stile which takes you towards Hay Hill.
- 4** As you walk past Hay Hill look out for a path to the right, which crosses the fields towards Battlebury.
- 5** When you enter the lane, go straight ahead keeping Glastonbury Tor to your left.
- 6** At the T-junction turn left into Castle Lane, but beware fast-moving traffic along this stretch of road.
- 7** Turn left before Fenny Castle Tea Rooms into Swanshard Lane. If you start the walk at the tea rooms, turn right out of the car park and right again into Swanshard Lane.
- 8** From the bridge, do not take the public footpath; instead, follow the lane for another 150m and look out for a permissive path (marked in red on the map) on the left which avoids walking through Melsbury Farm.
- 9** Pick up the public footpath again, cross the river, keeping it on your left, passing a pill box along the way.

- 10** At the old stone railway bridge, climb up the steps, turn left onto the road and pick up the footpath almost immediately right.
- 11** At the end of the path, follow the lane left until you reach the t-junction.
- 12** Take the path to the right, crossing the field and a small bridge.
- 13** The path leads to the disused railway line, where you will find a large stone bridge. Turn left here following the railway for a short distance and then down towards the Sewage Works.
- 14** Cross the lane back to the start point. If you started the walk at the tea rooms, turn left over the stile and follow the route from number 2 on the map.

#### THE AVALON MARSHES WALKERS' CODE

1. Keep to the right of way to avoid trespass (drones 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. The marshes can be very muddy at times, so always make sure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
5. Respect the local community and other people enjoying the countryside, and take your litter home.

