

C Turners Paddock and The Waterwheel - drinking water from three springs near the Grotto was piped under the Garden Lake to the pumping house. The waterwheel powered a hydraulic pump that sent the spring water 2.5 kilometers to Stourton Reservoir, above Six Wells Bottom, providing enough pressure to supply the Estate with water.

D Visitors are encouraged by the Trust to explore the estate using the many private tracks and paths as well as the public rights of way.



The waterwheel and Pumping House at Turner's Paddock sent spring water to a reservoir that supplied the Estate with the water.

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

A The Stourhead Estate: The house, park, ornamental gardens, and extensive estate are managed by the National Trust and are open to visitors throughout the year. Full information is available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead>

B The landscaped ornamental gardens contain a wealth of temples, towers, bridges, monuments and other buildings. This walk passes the **Bristol Cross, the Palladian Bridge, the Pantheon, the Iron Bridge and the Temple of Apollo.**

Please remember to keep dogs under control where there is livestock.



Temple of Apollo

Circular walk which explores forests and fields of the Stourhead Estate, taking in the village of Stourton and the hamlet of Gasper.

Start Point: The Spread Eagle Inn, Stourhead OS Explorer 142 | ST776340 | W3W: pills.supposing.topic

Parking: The Stourhead visitor centre car park 'pay and display' (free to National Trust members). From the car park, it is only a short stroll downhill to the Spread Eagle Inn from where our walk starts and finishes.

Terrain: Quiet lanes, bridleways and footpaths in undulating countryside. Generally easy walking with two short steep uphill sections (see points 6 and 7). Stiles and gates.

Length: Approximately 5 miles / 8 km.

Approximate time: 2.5 hours.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

Good to know: Visitor facilities at Stourhead include public toilets. The paths and lanes which together make up this walk are amongst the less visited and more tranquil parts of the estate, away from the more traditional tourism attractions of the ornamental gardens.

Refreshments: Stourhead National Trust café and tea rooms and the Spread Eagle Inn.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs

Share your pictures with us at **#cranbornechase**



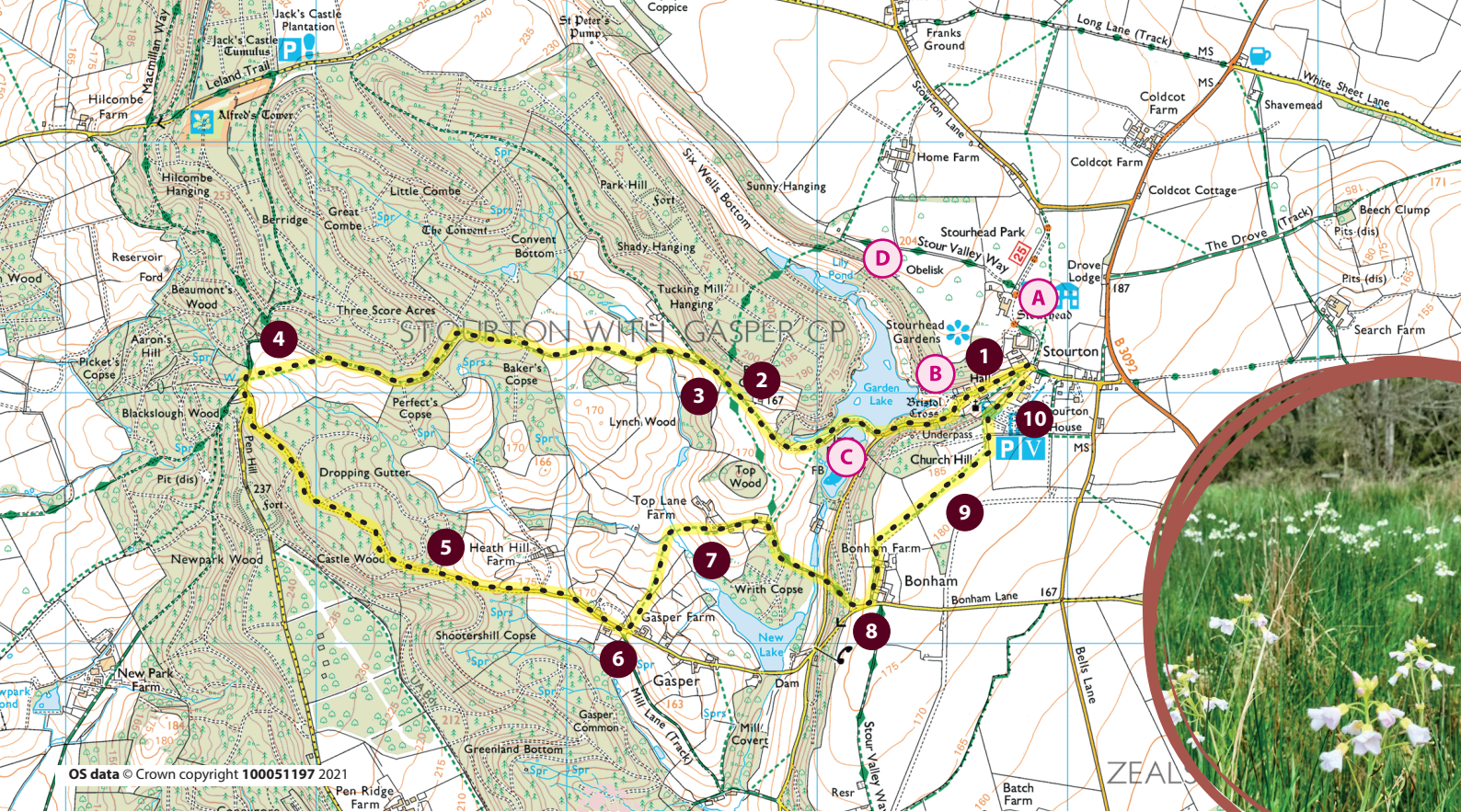
cranbornechase.org.uk

Cover image - Bristol Cross and Garden Lake, Springhead

Stourhead and Gasper Follies, Fields and Forests

WALK #
W39





Directions

- 1 From the Spread Eagle Inn, walk downhill along the road. High on the bank to the left of the road stands the Temple of Apollo, one of the many ornate buildings within the magnificent parkland of the Stourhead Estate. The temple features in the film 'Pride and Prejudice'. Stay on the road until you pass under the rustic Grade 1 listed 'Rockwork Bridge', then immediately turn right onto a signposted public footpath along a broad track to cross the 'Iron Bridge' between two ornamental lakes. To your left, there is a waterwheel which you may see gently turning. Ahead on the hillside is The Pantheon, another of Stourhead's ornate parkland buildings.
- 2 Continue as the track curves left and then right and passes below and to the left of Beech Cottage. Keep straight ahead to a gate across the stone track. Go through the gate and stay on the track; do not take the path on the right, waymarked as the Stour Valley Way.
- 3 The track descends into the valley, passing a gated footpath to the right, then climbs to a gate across the track, into a field. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead uphill following a grassy and slightly sunken path between the fence on your left and the line of trees on your right until you come to a gate into the forest. Follow the forest track straight ahead passing the end of one stone track that leads away to the left and another that leads away to the right. On reaching a T-junction follow the stone track around to the left, continuing through the forest then alongside a field on your left, to an ungated entrance into the field where a waymark on the post to the right of the opening points the direction of the path, bearing to the right across the field.
- 4 On the far side of the field, you will see a gate. Head for the gate, crossing a narrow stream (which is easy to step over; there is no bridge) then continue up and through the gate. Turn left onto the tarmac road. Follow the road uphill, taking the left fork at the junction and continuing along the road with views to the left across the field you have just crossed.
- 5 The single-track road as it winds through the forest before the view opens up to fields on your left, with the buildings of Heath Hill Farm ahead.
- 6 Stay on the road to pass Gasper Terrace on the left, then look for a signposted public footpath on the left which leads to a gate and stile into fields. Waymarked posts guide the way across the fields to two footbridges over the stream, then up a steep climb towards the houses ahead and to a gate onto Top Lane.
- 7 Turn right along the lane and downhill over the bridge to a T-junction. Cross the road onto a signposted footpath that climbs steeply through the wood to the road at Bonham.
- 8 Turn left along the road and at the houses at the top of the hill turn left along the signposted footpath towards the farm buildings. As you reach the barn directly ahead go through a gate on the left and then a second gate to the left of the barn, into a field. The path runs alongside a tall post and wire fence on the right and through a gap in the hedge at the end of the field. At the time of preparing these directions there are proposals for tree planting within these fields with the possibility of a new permissive path being created in addition to the present one and which will also connect with Point 10 of these directions.
- 9 Keep the fence immediately to your right as you cross the next field then go through a gate at the end of the field. Keep straight ahead again, crossing the field to a stile in the far corner.
- 10 Once over the stile, go straight ahead across the next field to another stile. Ignore the gate and stile into the field on your right. Follow the track downhill to the right, then fork right again until it reaches a tarmac path. Turn sharply to the left onto this path as it zig-zags through the wood and takes you through the car park of the Spread Eagle Inn, back to the starting point of your walk.

Cuckoo
Flowers