



SW2. Short walks from Fyne Court.

Terrain: Mainly on unsurfaced tracks and paths, some fields, lanes (the final lane in walk C is narrow and can be quite busy).

Access: Fyne Court is a National Trust property near Broomfield north of Taunton. Park at Fyne Court (ST 222 321, TA5 2EQ, £, free to NT members). First enter the property and buy a ticket, if the car park is full there is an overflow on the opposite side of the public road. There are a few free spots on the road, but make sure you are not taking up a passing-place. Buses 613 from Bishop's Lydeard via north Taunton and 23B from Watchet and Williton pass the Pines junction (just over a mile from Fyne Court), both once daily on weekdays only. The bus times make for a long day at Fyne Court.

Map: OS Explorer 140 Quantock Hills and Bridgwater.

Refreshments: Café at Fyne Court.

FYNE COURT WAS A SUBSTANTIAL MANOR HOUSE until it burned down in 1894, leaving the stable block, music room and a charming overgrown landscape garden which is free to wander around. It is a favourite spot for families from Taunton and Bridgwater, and can be busy throughout the summer, on weekends and school holidays. There is a small café with mainly outdoor seating. These walks explore slightly further than the estate itself, taking in Broomfield village, common and hill.

Walk A. Five Ponds Wood. 1.8 miles, ascents and descents of 60 metres. Grade 2.

Start in front of the café. Leave the stable block area in the direction of the car park, but turn right almost immediately then left at the first fork and right at the next one. Walk above a pond on your right, then pass between a walled garden and another pond. Where the pink and yellow trails split, keep right and upwards. Come to a circle of timbers among the trees, arranged for stargazing. Walk in front of them and bear left on the purple trail. Soon come to a gate on your right. Go through and cross the field, first heading slightly to the right to a marker post then dropping down to go through a gate into a wood. The path now turns to the right. Follow it through the wood above the stream, which was once dammed to create a series of ponds. This part of the walk has suffered from the loss of several mature ash trees. After descending gently, cross the stream, go through a gate, cross a second stream and walk up steps to a wide crossing track.

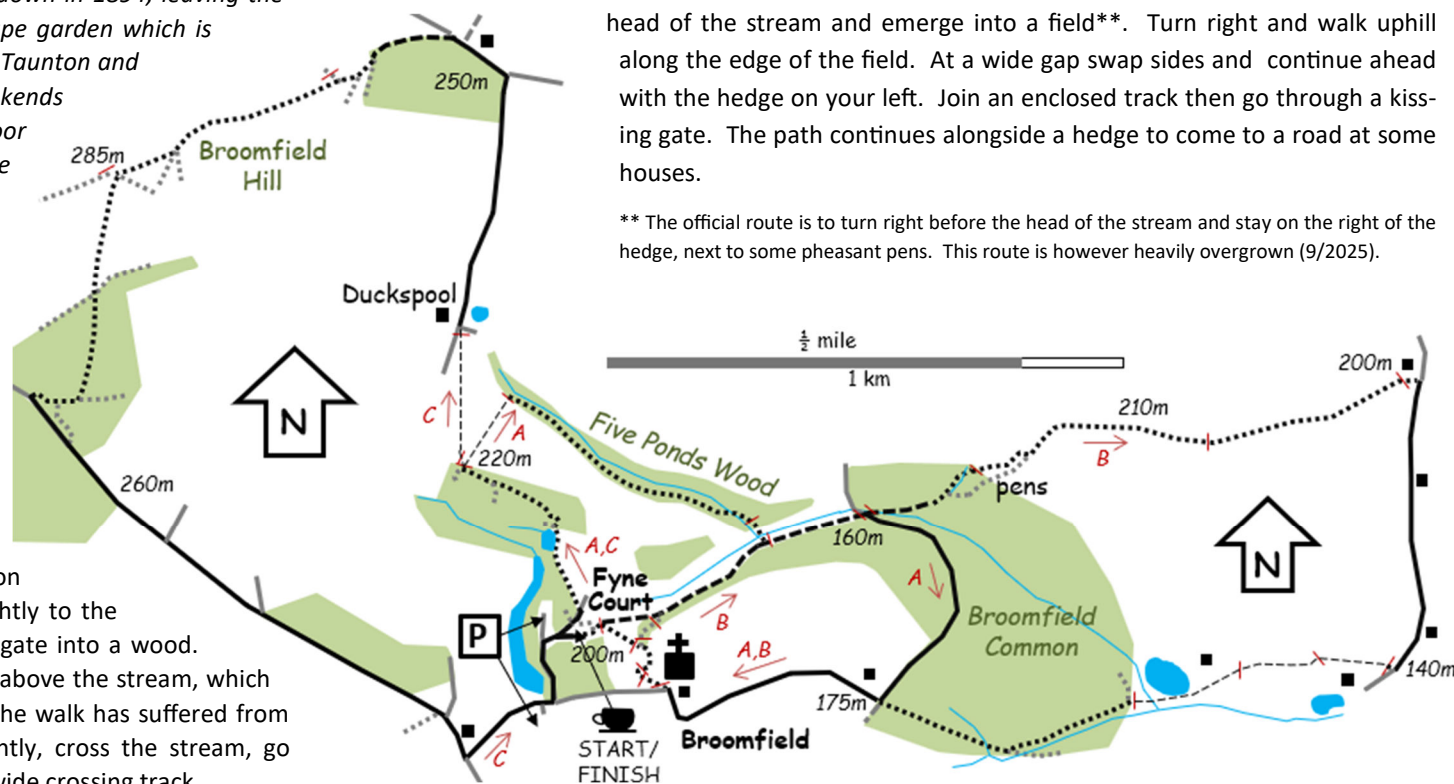
Turning right here will take you back to the café. To continue the walk turn left and follow the track above the valley. Go through a gate and turn right on the road. This should be a fairly quiet lane, but keep a lookout for vehicles nevertheless. A tall house sits back from the road on the right; when you come to it, turn right and follow the road which soon bends right and brings you to the village hall. Enter the churchyard ahead and cross it diagonally to the left. Leaving the churchyard, keep right through a gate on to a footpath. Follow this around to the left, then go through a field gate on the left*. A track worn diagonally across the field brings you to a pedestrian gate on the left, which leads back to the Fyne Court buildings. If you have time, do explore the rest of the gardens.

* If the gate is locked, go through the pedestrian gate ahead of you, descend on a track, go through a second gate and turn left on a wide grassy path. This brings you to the gate and the Fyne Court buildings.

Walk B. Broomfield Common. 2.6 miles, ascents and descents of 110 metres. Grade 3.

Start in front of the café. With your back to the café, turn left beside the green go through a pedestrian gate beneath a large tree. Follow the path ahead, above a small valley on the left. Pass a footbridge and go through a gate. The path continues to a road. Cross it and continue through another gate, the path climbing gradually. Ignore any turns to the right. Splash through a small stream (this part may be slippery), then keep uphill to pass the head of the stream and emerge into a field**. Turn right and walk uphill along the edge of the field. At a wide gap swap sides and continue ahead with the hedge on your left. Join an enclosed track then go through a kissing gate. The path continues alongside a hedge to come to a road at some houses.

** The official route is to turn right before the head of the stream and stay on the right of the hedge, next to some pheasant pens. This route is however heavily overgrown (9/2025).



Turn right and walk down the lane for about 600 metres, passing first Spring Cottage and then Stream Farm Cottages. Soon after the last houses, look for some steps up to the right leading to a footpath. Follow this along the field edge ahead; there may be cows here. Go over a stile and follow the path diagonally into a second field; a pond is downhill on your left. Keep right, following a well-worn path across the grass. Arrive at a gate marked with a footpath sign and enter a large garden. Cross the stream ahead of you and keep the pond on your right. Cross a second stream and go through a gate into woods. Follow the path ahead, soon coming alongside a stream. At a T-junction turn right and head uphill, partly on bedrock which can be streaming with water after heavy rainfall. Soon arrive at a junction, and turn left on a tarmac lane. After a sharp right-hand bend this brings you to the village hall and, just beyond, the church. Enter the churchyard and return to Fyne Court as described for walk A.

Walk C. Broomfield Hill. *2.6 miles, ascents and descents of 95 metres. Grade 2/3.*

Start the walk as for Walk A as far as the gate into the field. Go through, then head left through a wide gate or opening. Head down to the far corner of the field: aim for the roof of a house then a gate leading out to a road. Turn right on to the road and follow it until it arrives at a T-junction. Turn left here, and in a minute or so come to a white house on the right. Turn left opposite it to join a sunken path.

When the path comes to a junction keep right, then swing left and again right (don't go over the stile). Keep to the right, rising gradually on to heathland: views open up to the Blackdown Hills to the south. Walk alongside a line of gorse, ignoring any paths that turn off to the left. Just before coming to a field gate on your right, turn left on a broad grassy path that continues along the edge of the heathland. Bear right at a T-junction, following the path first downhill then up slightly. When it arrives at a road, turn left; you can stay in the woods a little longer by turning left about 50m earlier and picking your way on indistinct paths. Either way, the rest of the walk is now on narrow lanes; take care as this is the route that most visitors use to drive to Fyne Court. In half a mile ignore a road on the left, then after a pair of houses turn left and return to the entrance to Fyne Court. The drive brings you back to the main parking area and café.

Longer walks in the area: walks 98 and 99 both start from Fyne Court.



Fyne Court