

# Mendip Hills AONB



## TRAIL TYPE

Walking

## GRADE

Easy

## DISTANCE

4km (2½ miles)

## TIME

1-1½ hours

## OS MAP

Explorer 141: Cheddar Gorge & Mendip Hills West;

Explorer 154: Bristol West & Portishead  
Landranger 182:

Weston-super-Mare

## CONTACT

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## FACILITIES

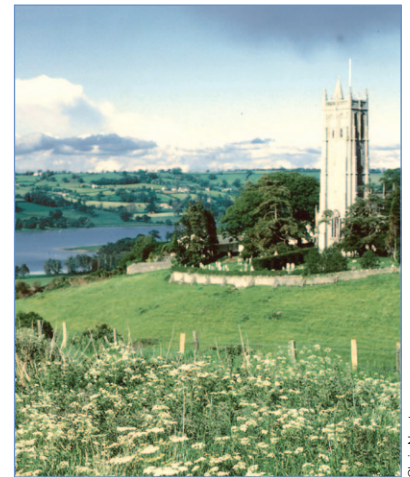
Pubs in Blagdon: New Inn, Seymour Arms and Queen Adelaide.

Village post office and stores in Blagdon.

Free parking at the Blagdon village club car park.

# Blagdon Lake

Blagdon takes its name from nearby Black Down and you could be forgiven for thinking that this was a natural lake. In fact the 440-acre reservoir has been there so long – the dam was built back in 1891 – that it has long since blended into the landscape of the northern flanks of the Mendips. The dam took eight years to build and the larger materials had to be brought in on the Wrington Vale Light Railway Company's branch line. A large Gothic-style building was constructed to house four massive steam-powered beam engines to pump the water. They have now been replaced by electric motors, but two of the original engines were preserved and can still be seen at the pumping station. A rich variety of wildlife soon colonised Blagdon and it has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Its meandering 11km (7 miles) of shoreline alternates sheltered bays, reedbeds, carr woodland and grassland. Species-rich meadows border parts of the north shore and many interesting insects, including a wide variety of butterflies and moths, frequent them in summer. The trout, stocked by the water company for anglers since the lake was created, have a rich variety of food to choose from – particularly the larvae of insects such as damselflies, dragonflies, and water beetles. There are also sticklebacks, eels, perch and gudgeon. The lake's rich supply of food ensures a thriving population of waterfowl, including coot, moorhen, tufted duck, teal, wigeon, mallard, grebe, reed bunting, sedge warbler, shoveler, goldeneye, ruddy duck, Bewick's swan, heron and kingfisher.



Chris Newton



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## START/END

Free car park next to Blagdon Village Club, OS Grid Ref ST 501 591

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

Blagdon is 3 miles off the Sustrans National Cycle Route 3  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### BY BUS

Service 672 Bristol to Blagdon stops near the start of the walk.

### BY CAR

A free car park is signposted from the A368 in the centre of Blagdon.

## DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

**Waymarking:** Look for the waymarkers wherever there are stiles, gates or changes of direction.

From the car park, walk north down through the village **(1)** – note the lane becomes steeper here.

Turn right into Dark Lane **(2)**.

At the bottom, turn left **(3)** along the road towards Blagdon pumping station **(4)**.

Follow the road across the dam; at the end on the right there is the entrance to a footpath **(5)**.

Take this footpath along the lake shore. At the very northern tip of the lake, look out for a footpath bisecting the path you are on.

Take the left path **(6)** across two fields to Blagdon Lane.

Turn left down this lane **(7)** and return to the dam **(8)**.

Retrace the route you have already taken back to the car park.

## Things to look out for at or near Blagdon Lake

- Bristol Water's Blagdon pumping station (open days only) (*see right*)
- Blagdon village and Church
- Eldred's orchard, Blagdon



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Mendip Hills AONB Unit