

Lea Bailey from Weston 5.8 miles.

Lea Bailey – A 5.8 mile wander from Weston through Dancing Green, The Rudge, Lea Bailey, and Pontshill. If you start and finish in Pontshill, then it is 4.1 miles.

Start from the Village Hall on School Lane in Weston under Penyard.

Grid reference SO 633 231. Grade: Medium. 5 stiles.

1. Go left out of the car park, up the farm track and through the pedestrian gate on the left into the field. Follow the hedgerow on the left until you reach a large tree on the corner of the hedgerow. Go half right down the field to the bottom corner and over a stile. Follow the hedgerow on your left initially and then keep straight ahead, ignoring the footpath to the left. In the left-hand corner of the field squeeze past a wooden stile and down to the stream at an old stone bridge and then continue up the footpath until you reach the Pontshill to Parkfields Road. Go straight ahead at the finger post through a gap in the fence, left up the fruit field and down the grassy bank to the road.



Old 'roman' bridge.

2. Go left on the road for 130 m and then turn right up a road for another 130 m. At the fingerpost fork right and go up the road for 1/3 mile and turn left at the cattle grid at the house "Handley". Keep left in the fields for 1/3 mile, passing through two pedestrian gates to join a road at a steel farm gate. Turn left down to the bottom of the hill and at the waymarker go left for 75 m and left again at the waymarker on the telegraph pole. Go down through the trees for only 30 m and through the pedestrian gate into the field. Keep right to a waymarker post at the corner of the hedgerow and then go slightly right, up the field and through the pedestrian gate. Keep left through two field gates to reach the Pontshill to Drybrook Road.



New bridge.

3. Taking great care, go right on this road for 120m and at the side of the bungalow "Sherbourne" go left through two wooden gates into the field. Go downhill with the tree line on your left and at the waymarker at the bottom go right to cross the wooden bridge, up the steps and through the pedestrian gate. Go up the hill, through the pedestrian gate and follow the permissive footpath signs clear of the house "Broom Hill Farm". Go through the gate on the track which takes you up to the road at Lea Bailey. Go left for 1/3 mile and slip left down a track to join Hoovers Lane. Go down the hill and up again, passing the lovely thatched "Noakes Cottage". Follow the road right and enter the field on the right at a wooden stile.



Noakes Cottage

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4. Keep right and at the fence go right through gap.
You are now alongside a very deep cutting forming the route of the disused Ross to Gloucester railway. Mitcheldean Road Station, serving Lea, was situated ½ mile to the east.

Keeping the 'British Railways' fence on your left, continue to a bridge over the railway where unfortunately the path is blocked and so you must continue 50 m beyond the bridge to turn left and then half left up to a steel field gate (stand on the gate to slide the bolt!). Go straight ahead and through a steel kissing gate up to a stile. Ignore this stile and turn left to the corner of a hedgerow and continue for 1/3 mile, keeping the hedge on your right and crossing two stiles.



Bridge over the old GWR railway cutting.

5. Leave the field at a steel field gate and cross the A40 road onto the pavement. Go left on the pavement for 0.4 mile noting the superb Scots pines at "Wharton Lodge". Cross the road just after the bus stop at the T-junction with the Drybrook Road and enter the cider orchard through an old steel kissing gate. Go down the line of the trees just to the left of the waymarker and then through a kissing gate to follow the path down to the road at Pontshill.
6. Turn right and then left at the T-junction, over the stream and go right through a steel gate opposite Bartwood Lane. Go slightly right to the wooden fence and turn left with a stream on your right and through a steel field gate. Following the stream and the edge of the field, going right and then left. Leave the field through an open gateway at a solitary tree and go right to cross a wooden stile in the corner. Go half left up the field to a solitary tree in the hedgerow and then continue with the hedgerow on your right, through a pedestrian gate and right, down the track to return to the village hall.

Note: Comments and defect reports on footpaths are welcomed and should be sent to the Parish Clerk at clerk@westonunderpenyard-pc.gov.uk

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