

JUNE / JULY 2008

Tara and Pip go to Templar's Firs Trail



Last month we featured one of Tara's favourite walks, a nice gentle stroll around Nightingale Wood to get you in the walking mood. This month Tara has chosen her Templar's Firs Trail for readers of Busy Bee to try out.

This is one of the first Trails to appear on Tara's Trails website back in 2005 and is still a firm favourite with Pip and Tara. The walk takes you along a pretty section of restored Wilts & Berks Canal and before taking you through the peaceful countryside of 'Wootton Meadows'. If you're not feeling adventurous enough to do the whole walk, a gentle walk up and down the canal will take about an hour, the whole walk is about 3 miles about 1 1/2 hours. There are a few dog friendly stiles along the way. Visit www.tarastrails.co.uk to print these instructions along with a map.

Directions:

From Wootton Bassett High Street turn into Station Road heading to Broad Hinton. Continue over the Railway Bridge and park in the Wilts & Berks Canal car park on the left just past Templar's Firs.

1. Go through the wooden gate and along the gravel path to reach the canal. Turn Right, and follow towpath.
2. At the end of the restored section of the canal cross the small wooden footbridge and walk straight ahead along the footpath keeping the trees on your right. When you get to a gravel track cross it and continue straight ahead between the trees all the way to a red brick bridge and lock.
3. In line with the far end of the lock is a stile on the right side of the path. Cross the stile into a meadow and walk diagonally across the field to the far left hand corner. The grass may be long and the path unclear.
4. In the corner of the field walk though into the next meadow and turn 45 degrees to the right and walk along the feint footpath towards the farm buildings some way off in the distance.
5. Go over the stile and walk across the next meadow towards the hedge on the other side. Look out for the next stile hidden in the hedge.
6. Cross the stile and continue along the path in the same direction to another stile that is again hidden at the end of the hedge on the right side of the meadow.
7. Cross this stile and continue diagonally across the meadow to the bottom right hand corner passing two large trees in the middle. If the grass is long, walk anti-clockwise round the field to reach the same point. Go through the wide gap in the corner about 100 yards to the right of the large green shed.



8. Take the left hand path back to the canal passing some horse jumps. Turn left at the footbridge to take you back along the restored section of the canal and back to the start of the walk.



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