

The Litton Walk

Litton Reservoirs & Alpacas

OVERVIEW

This is a gentle 2.2-mile loop around the Upper and Lower Litton Reservoirs; a pair of Victorian lakes built around 1850 when the Bristol Waterworks Company dammed the River Chew to help supply water to Bristol.

The result, 170 years later, is a wonderfully peaceful landscape: two long, narrow reservoirs tucked into a quiet valley, edged with woodland, wildflowers and the occasional fisherman.

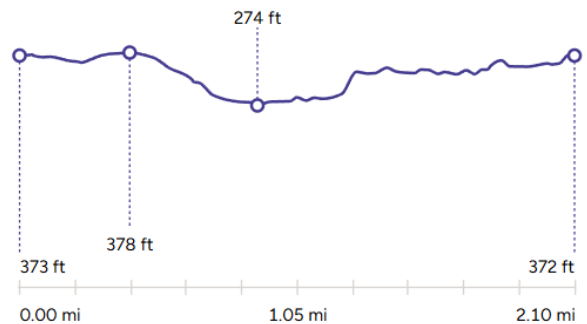
And then there are the alpacas. Halfway round, the path skirts a field of them. They give the route its title and a moment of unexpected delight.

Take a moment to visit St Mary's Church at the end of the walk. There has been a church on this site for over a thousand years. For 800 years a Wells Cathedral canon acted, in effect, as Litton's Lord of the Manor.



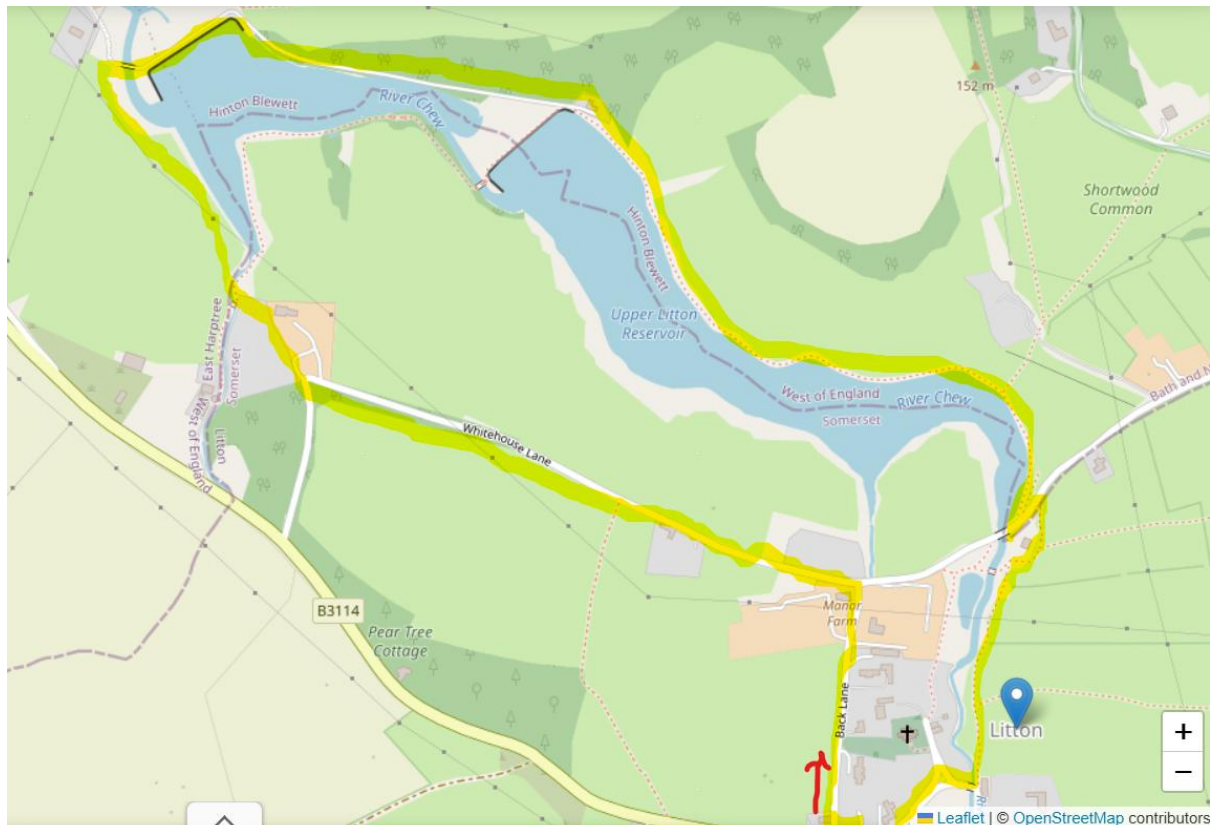
Elevation

Total ascent: 148 ft



| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Start/Finish | The Litton BA3 4PW. 01761 241 554 | | |
| Parking | The Litton main car park at the front of the pub. | | |
| Grid Reference | ST 594 545 | | |
| What3Words | ///trending.contain.vines | | |
| Distance | 2.2 mil/ 3.5 km | Time | 1 hour |
| | | Ascent | 150 ft / 50 m |
| Paths/Terrain | Country lanes, field paths, well-marked paths. Fields might contain livestock. Some gates & stiles. | | |
| Difficulty | Easy | | |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Public Transport | No direct link that I could find. The 376 service to/from Wells passes within 1 mile of Litton. Tell the driver that you'd like to get off at the Ston Easton turn (near Chewton Mendip). |
| Toilets | At The Litton |
| Other Pubs Nearby | The Waldegrave at Chewton Mendip; The Crown, West Harptree; The Horse & Jockey, Binegar. |



DIRECTIONS

1. Exit the upper pub car park where you came in and turn right, sticking to a raised path along the roadside. Cross the first lane on your right (your return route, via the church) to take the second lane to the right, called Back Lane.
2. Follow Back Lane to the T junction at its end, just beyond Manor Farm. Turn left onto Whitehouse Lane. At a sharp left-hand bend in the Lane, turn to your right towards a grassy footpath in front of a few houses.
3. Continue down into a wooded area. A footpath sign points to the right, but stay straight ahead up to gates into horse fields.
4. In the field you're heading for a gated exit to the right along the hedge at the far end of the field. Take the field boundary to the gate.

5. Cross the next field aiming for the pumping station. When you exit, there's a kiss gate immediately to you right, across the head of the Lower Reservoir.
6. Take the path over the dam and keep right to follow the reservoir edge uphill, towards the Upper Reservoir.
7. The path along this reservoir is ahead of you, to the right of the hedge boundary of the house.
8. Follow all the way until the path exits onto a lane, back on the edge of Litton.
9. On the lane, turn left and immediately spot the footpath on the other side of the road, up into a field.
10. Once in the field, follow the path, soon heading right passing behind a house. You'll soon spot some pools ahead and to your right. Stay on this side, so follow the path to the left and now in straight line through fields parallel to those pools.
11. Look out for alpacas in the fields (they're smaller than llamas apparently, but both spit!).
12. Continue straight ahead, passing the gardens of some lovely houses on the right— you'll see a gate to exit the field between houses of Litton.
13. Leave the field through the gate, and continue to the lane. Turn right over the small bridge to follow the lane, which bends to the left. Take time to visit St Mary's Church, up a lane on your right.
14. Opposite the drive of the Old Rectory, look out for a gap in the hedge by a large horse chestnut tree – it takes you into the rear of car park of The Litton.