

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

(A) The village of Zeals: The name 'Zeals' is an Old English word for a small willow or sallow. In 1086 the Domesday Book recorded two estates at Sele, Lower Zeals and High Zeals. Originally a tithing of the parish of Mere, Zeals was made a separate civil parish in 1896.

(B) Zeals Airfield lies to the north of the village. It was in operation from 1942 to 1946 and was used by the Royal Air Force and the United Airforce, variously for combat and aircraft servicing and also for glider training for action against Japan. In 1943, a Dakota carrying twenty United Statesmen took off from the airfield but crashed into a clump of beech trees to the east of the village. All twenty were killed and are commemorated by a memorial which stands to the side of the ancient drove way that passes through the beech clump, between Stourhead and Whitesheet Hill.

(C) The parish of Pen Selwood is situated at the meeting of three counties, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire, enjoying extensive views over the Blackmore Vale to Glastonbury Tor and beyond. This would have been part of the great royal Selwood Forest, a private forest licensed by the Crown and managed by the King's Officers, with local people having been granted rights of common;

Path to Moldrams
Nature Reserve

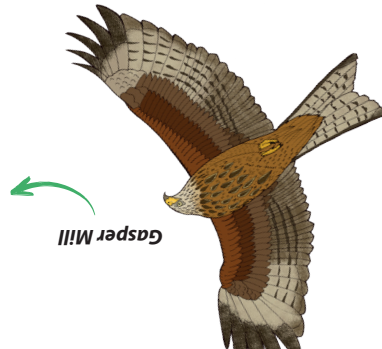


Zeals War Memorial

(E) Our walk takes us through com/page/parish-council. website: <http://penselwood.ning.com/page/parish-council>. including selected local walks, is available on the parish council's of landowners. More information, including selected local walks, is available on the parish council's website: <http://penselwood.ning.com/page/parish-council>.

Moldrams Ground which is owned by Somerset Council. This beautiful woodland and grassland wildlife site has many ponds providing a habitat for dragonflies and newts and is a lovely place for birdwatching and picnicking.

(D) The village of Pen Selwood has an atmosphere of serene tranquility and history, with a strong sense of community. There are 1.5 miles of footpaths and bridleways and many permissive paths which are provided by courtesy of landowners. More information, including selected local walks, is available on the parish council's website: <http://penselwood.ning.com/page/parish-council>.



Gasper Mill

Walk the borders of Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset taking in the ancient royal lands of Selwood Forest, Zeals and Pen Selwood and a wildlife reserve at Mottram's Ground.

Start Point: The War Memorial, New Road, Zeals
OS Explorer 142 | ST781317 | W3W: first.luck.argue

Parking: There is no formal provision for car parking in Zeals, so roadside parking is the only available option. Please consider others and park without causing an obstruction to residents and other traffic.

Terrain: Quiet lanes, bridleways and footpaths in undulating countryside with several steep uphill sections. The bridleways and footpaths can be muddy in parts. Stiles and gates.

Length: 5 miles / 8 kms.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

Good to know: The Monarch's Way, 625 miles between Worcester and Brighton via Bristol and Yeovil passes through Zeals. It approximates the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1561 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester.

Refreshments: None available on the route. The Bell and Crown public house in Zeals. White Lion Inn, Post Office and shop in Bourton, 1 mile.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs

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Zeals and
Penselwood
All the King's men

WALK #
W42





Directions

- 1 From the war memorial cross New Road and turn to the left along the roadside footway, towards Bourton, then fork right into and uphill along High Street. At the top of the hill, turn right along Forge Lane.
- 2 At the end of Forge Lane cross the road onto the signposted public bridleway through the woodland ahead. Continue straight ahead along the track through the next field until reaching a road junction. Go straight ahead along the road, then turn left at the next road junction and continue downhill until the road bends sharply to the left.
- 3 Cross the grass verge on the right into a narrow hedged path between hedges that leads uphill to a gate into a field. With the hedge to your left, continue along the edge of the field to a stile then continue along the narrow lane to the road.
- 4 Turn left to go downhill along the road. Pass the entrance to a road that leads to the left and continue uphill to the next road junction. Turn left, then almost immediately left at the sign for 'Gasper Mill' onto a public bridleway that leads downhill and to the right of the Mill. Stay on the bridleway and when it enters the forest take the track that forks to the left as it starts to climb the hill. Where another forest track crosses the bridleway, forming a staggered crossroads, continue ahead. still climbing steeply to reach the top of the hill.
- 5 Continue along the bridleway as it turns right here, inside the edge of the forest. At the end of the forest, go through a bridlegate into a large field and in doing so, cross the county boundary from Wiltshire into Somerset. Keep straight ahead beside the hedge to the left. Pass but do not go through a bridlegate on the left and continue along the field edge to go through a gap into the next field until reaching a gate onto a road.
- 6 Cross the road onto a signposted public footpath through a gate into a field. Keep straight ahead, steeply downhill, to a gate into the Moldrams Ground Nature Reserve. Follow the stepped path downhill and then around to the left, past a gate onto a road and keeping within the nature reserve where the path leads along a timber boardwalk and then curves to the left then to the right to lead to a gate onto the road.
- 7 Turn left along the road, which leads to the village of Pen Selwood. Go straight ahead at the next crossroads then at the next road junction, where five roads meet, look to the right where the roof of the village hall with its distinctive bell can be seen. Take the road that leads to the village hall and the church of Stephen and All Angels.
- 8 Beside the village hall stands a tall sign that bears the name 'Pen Selwood'. Two plaques affixed to the sign commemorate the silver and golden anniversaries of Queen Elizabeth II. Turn left here into Field Lane to pass the church and, to the right, the Community Field. At the next road junction, turn left and follow the road around a bend to the right. At the next bend where the road turns sharply to the left, go straight ahead along the signposted bridleway (also signposted as part of The Monarch's Way) along a fenced path beside Pits Farm. Continue along the fenced path beside a field, to a gate into the wood. The bridleway continues through the gate and alongside the wood then bends right onto a tarmac driveway before reaching the road, Coombe Street.
- 9 Turn left to go downhill to Penmill Farm then stay on the road as it climbs steeply uphill. At the junction with a road that leads to the left, keep straight ahead along Pen Hill Lane to the next junction with Forge Lane. You are now back at Point 2 of these directions. Keep straight ahead here along the road, Tulse Hill, which leads into the village of Zeals and back to New Street, opposite the war memorial from where this walk began.