

WALK 5 THE TUNNELS WALK

Distance: 3 miles Time: 1½-2 hours

Parking: On verge in Hatts Lane, off A372 at west end of village (see map).

Turn right (E) onto A372 to Hodge Hay Cottages, Quaker built in 1901 to let to Quaker families.

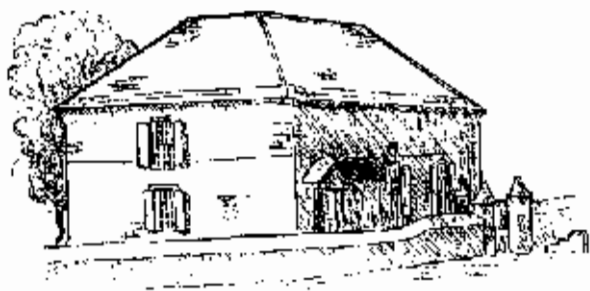
Turn first left (N) along Long Furlong Lane (unsigned), passing Hodge Hay Farm on the right. A few yards further and 'Meadowside' appears—again, Quaker built (1914), originally two cottages, now one house. Just past the house, ash trees have been planted on both sides of the lane to replace the elms lost to Dutch Elm disease in 1971.

A wych elm tree stands at the road junction of Long Furlong Lane and Rowmarsh Lane (not signed) and your route goes straight ahead (N).

The bridge you go under is carrying the Taunton to Paddington railway. Turn right; the house on the left was built on the site of one of the huts used by the navvies who built the railway. The road you are now on is called New Road and was railway property. Continue (E) to the bend in the lane, where you should be able to see the entrance to the tunnel which is almost a mile in length. Continue (N) up the lane and stop at the seat at the top of the hill to enjoy the view.

Continue uphill, bearing right, and cross over the top of the tunnel between two woods. Just before the far end of the lefthand wood (Long Sutton Plantation), take the footpath left, climbing gently up through the trees. As the path dips into the hollow halfway through the wood, look left through the trees and you'll see the small stone and brick magazine, used to store explosives when the tunnel was made.

At the top turn right along a stone track and continue past the farm on the left—Munday's Court. In 50yds. turn left over a stile—a S.P. 'A372' directs you to the road. A story says there is a tunnel from Manor House Farm (on your left) to the Court House. From the gate you will see two unusually shaped cottages. Notice the horse-mounting block outside the gate of the Quaker Meeting House, built in 1717.



Turn right, past the pair of Friends' cottages where Mrs. Palmer started making biscuits—a business which developed into Huntley and Palmers. The building on the opposite side of the road is the Court House, said to have been used by Cromwell.

Continue past road on right and in about another 100yds. cross the A372 to a gateway between houses and S.P. 'Littlefield Lane'. Go across three fields and turn right on emerging into the lane. This will bring you back to the junction with A372 and Hodge Hay Cottages.