

Visit Somerset's 360°s

Brent Knoll



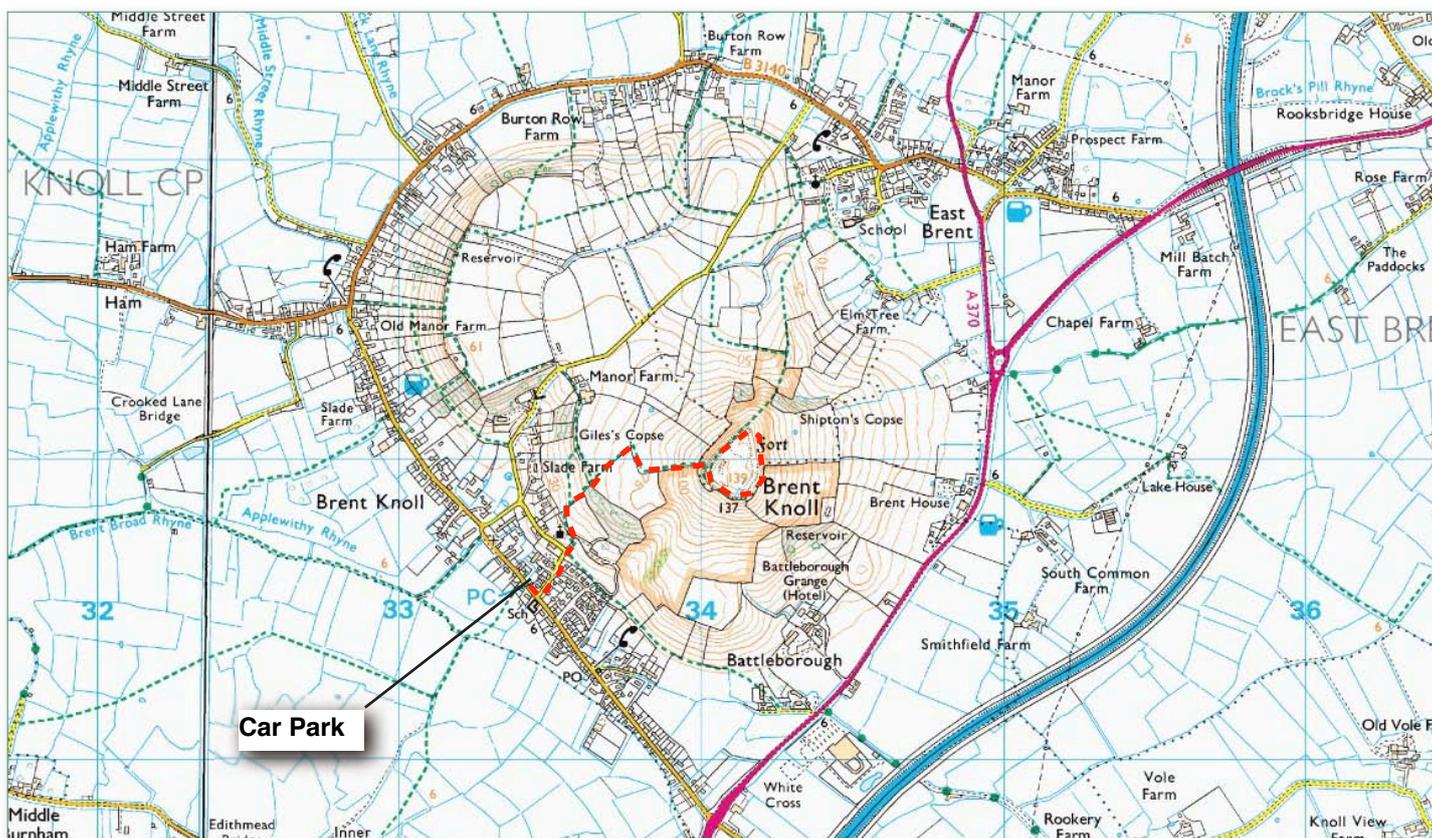
Photograph: Greentraveller

Views to Exmoor and Wales!

The Iron Age hill fort on the summit offers sweeping vistas through 360° to the south-west: Bridgwater Bay, the Quantock Hills and Exmoor; north-west to Brean Down, Sand Point, South Wales with the Brecon Beacons; north to Crook Peak; north-east to Cheddar Gorge, and to the south-east, Glastonbury Tor.

Legend tells how the islands of Flat Holm, Steep Holm and Brent Knoll were formed when the Devil was cleaving Cheddar Gorge and hurling great spade fulls of earth out from it.

It was also known by the Romans as 'The Mount of Frogs', as it stood as an island surrounded by water and marshes before the Somerset Levels were drained.



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HOW TO GET THERE

By bus: Burnham – Brent Knoll – Weston-super-Mare
http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/bristol_bath/journey_planning/

By car: 1.5 miles from exit 22 of M5

Walk route: 2 miles – approx 1-2 hours

This is a moderate walk following clear footpaths that rise steeply and pass through one gate at edge of National Trust land with some steps.

Start/end: From Brent Knoll church **Grid Ref ST335508**

Facilities: Free car park in Brent Knoll next to village hall. Village pub and Post Office.

Directions: From the Church take the footpath up to the knoll. It gradually steepens until you arrive at a gate which leads onto the knoll.

Take the steps up on to the hillfort ramparts and walk anti-clockwise round the top of the rampart, heading towards the Jubilee commemoration cairn. As you walk around the ramparts you will descend slightly as you come to the gate of the fort. Remains of the gate houses and Hollow way that led into the fort can be seen.

You will then pass some V-shaped trenches ringed with iron stakes. These are slit trenches dug by the Home Guard during World War II. The stakes would have had sand bags piled up against them.

Continue back to the steps you came up, passing more trenches and noting the dips and mounds in the centre of the fort, which are remains of Medieval quarry workings. Take in the views before heading back down to the village the same way you came up.

Finding out more: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mendip-hills/things-to-see-and-do/>