The Mendip Way

Trail guide and map

MENDIP HILLS
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



themendipway.co.uk

#TheMendipWay

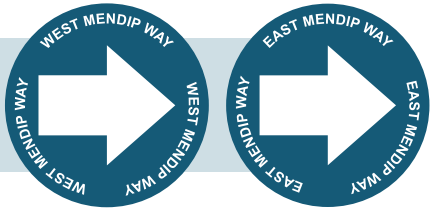


The view from Crook Peak towards Cheddar © Paul Box / Mendip Hills AONB

Welcome to the Mendip Hills

Head off on a breathtakingly scenic 50-mile walking trail that takes in the best of the Mendip Hills.

Follow the West and East Mendip Way round markers



The Mendip Way is maintained and promoted by:

The Mendip Way connects Weston-super-Mare, Cheddar, Wells, Shepton Mallet, and Frome. A perfect 3-5 day walk, starting from either end. This guide takes you from west to east but the trail is signed in both directions on the ground. Look out for the blue Mendip Way arrows on signage and markers.

The Mendip Way comprises of both the West and East Mendip Way. The West Mendip Way goes from Uphill to Wells through the Mendip Hills National Landscape – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – and many sites within the Mendip 'super' National Nature Reserve declared in 2023. The East Mendip Way goes from Wells to Frome, through the beautiful countryside of East Mendip.

The route is suitable for both the long-distance walker and for shorter jaunts. Why not walk it in sections between towns and villages, looping back on the public footpath network?

It passes through many places with refreshments, shops, parking and overnight accommodation. Visit the website for more information and to plan your journey:

themendipway.co.uk

Use this guide to find out what to spot and interesting features along the way. It gives the latest route and terrain information, shows stiles and gates, and suggests where you can stop for refreshments en-route. We recommend that you use Ordnance Survey maps (153,141,142) to aid navigation alongside this guide. Please be aware that the route in this guide varies in some places to the route shown on older OS maps.

Uphill to Loxton



Uphill Beacon © Adobe/JoeW21

Starting off along the England Coast Path, The Mendip Way winds through bird-rich wetlands and climbs up towards Bleadon Hill for spectacular views.

Section stats

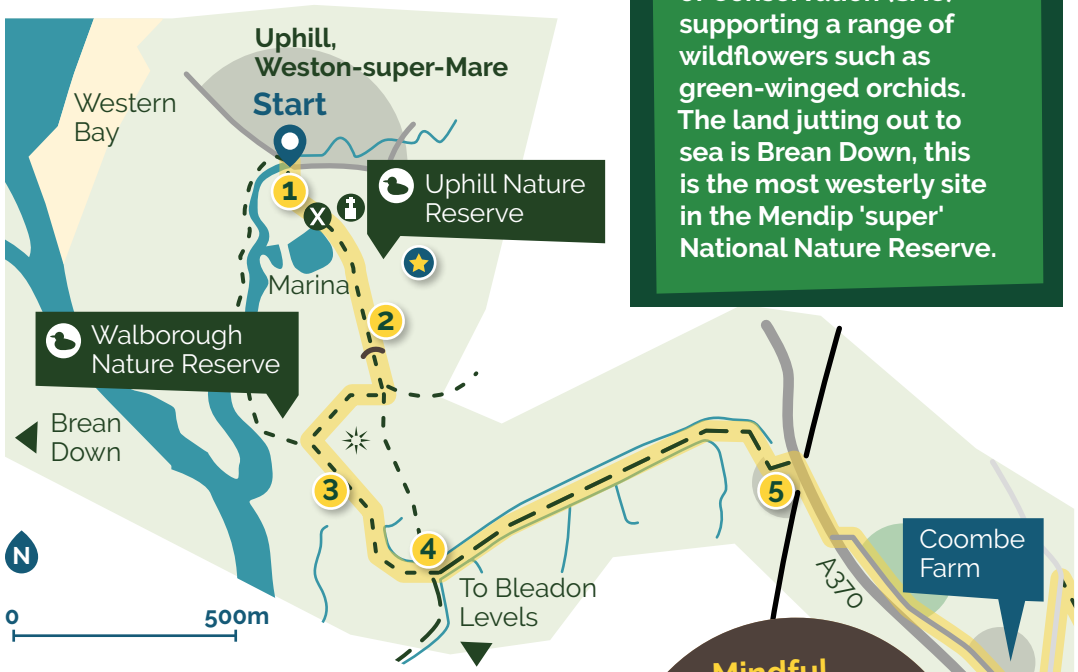
- **Distance:** 6.25 miles
- **Terrain info:** Hard surface to begin with and then a mix of tracks, paths and minor roads. Uneven surface and some sections are muddy when wet.
- **Stiles:** Two
- **Habitat types:** Coastal estuary and saltmarsh; cliffs; limestone grassland; woodland plantation.

Did you know?

Uphill was known as *Axium* by the Romans. Large quantities of lead were exported from here after being extracted from Charterhouse in central Mendip – just five years after their conquest in 43 AD. Roman Road linking to Scratchy Lane is thought to be the route they took.

Start

1. Starting at the sluice and passing the marina, enter Walborough Nature Reserve through the kissing gate.
2. Follow the gently rising tarmac path uphill, skirting the edge of the hill in an anti-clockwise direction overlooking the low-lying land to the right.
3. At the top of the hill follow the path through the gate and downhill following the Brean Down Way.



4. Through the field at the bottom of the hill and kissing gate, turn left towards the A370. Follow the access track bordered by rhynes through the fields and past the pylon, turning right and uphill through a kissing gate until reaching the A370.
5. At the main road, turn right and walk along the pavement passing over a railway bridge. As the road bends, carefully cross and take the side road opposite, passing a tennis court and Coombe Farm. Turn sharp left up a steep hill until you reach the top.

Did you know?

Uphill Local Nature Reserve is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and part of the Mendip Limestone Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) supporting a range of wildflowers such as green-winged orchids. The land jutting out to sea is Brean Down, this is the most westerly site in the Mendip 'super' National Nature Reserve.

Mindful Moments

Observe the changes in habitats and terrain as you leave the coast behind and smell the change in the air.

Key

- Parking
- Nature reserve
- Stile
- Gate
- Church
- Viewing point
- Pub
- Tumuli
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath

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View from Bleadon Hill © Adobe/JoeW21

Along the Way

- Gaze over the Bristol Channel towards Wales and the Brecon Beacons from **Bleadon Hill**.
- Spot glimpses of Crook Peak and the Mendip Hills during a sheltered descent to **Loxton**.

6 Go through the kissing gate on Purn Hill and head down through the reserve into Bleadon. With the village to your left, follow the path to the Farm Shop.

7 Head through the village; at the end of the road turn right following the path anticlockwise, heading through the gate towards the church. Head left up Shiplate Road and as the road starts to rise above a grassy bank on the right, turn left up a steep lane.

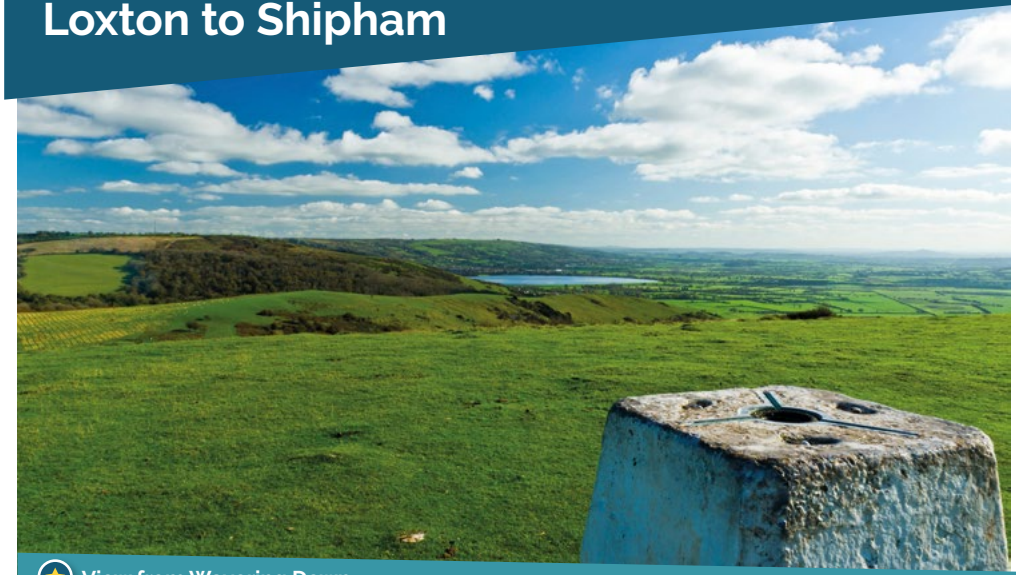
8 Go through the gate ahead onto Hellenge Hill. Take the right-hand path and head up the hill diagonally right. Go through a gate, then over a stile, and keep straight across the field to the hedge. Go through and head diagonally up the hill, around the farm buildings minding any cattle, to Roman Road.

9 Turn right and follow the road for 600 meters, passing a layby on the left and straight on at the sharp left bend in the road onto Scratchy Lane, along a wooded track.

10 At the end of this bridleway turn right up the hill and right again at the next waymarker. Continue to the next junction and take the left-hand bridleway along the side of a plantation of trees.

11 After climbing gently, the path descends steadily, passing Loxton Wood and then descends more steeply on a stoney path into the village of Loxton.

Loxton to Shipham



View from Wavering Down © Adobe / Alan

The route passes through some of the most scenic sections of the Mendip Hills National Landscape. Enjoy 360° panorama from the summit of Crook Peak or Wavering Down.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 5.51 miles
- **Terrain info:** A mix of paths and tracks and some short sections of road. Steep ascents and descents. Uneven and rocky sections which are muddy and slippery when wet.
- **Stiles:** Three
- **Habitat types:** Open downland; unimproved calcareous grassland and rough grassland; heathland; ancient woodland.

Did you know?

As you cross over the M5 you might spot the Lox Yeo River that flows nearby and into the River Axe, having started life in Winscombe and Shipham on the Mendip Hills. Lox is thought to be derived from Lax, meaning a salmon, and Yeo from the Anglo-Saxon Ea, meaning water.

Start

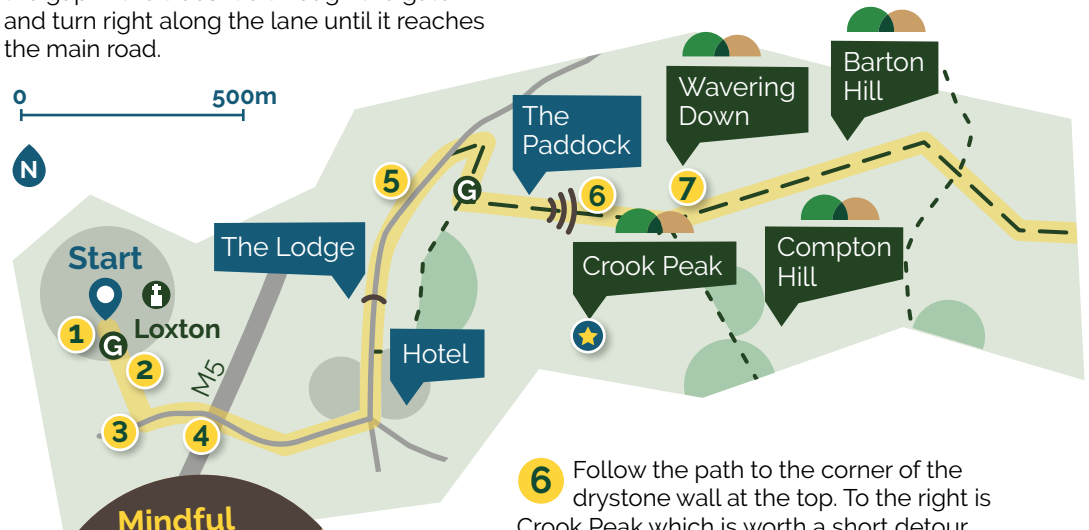
1 As the path turns into a tarmac lane and bears gently left, pass the old hunting lodge. Immediately after the lodge, turn sharp right down a narrow path, which opens up passing a seating area opposite the old schoolhouse on the left.

2 On reaching the road, turn right and walk until Church Lane. Walk along the gated footpath to the bottom and exit the gate on the right crossing the lane. Go up a few steps and turn left, following the path between the farm and outbuildings.

3 Go through the gate and across the field diagonally to the right heading to the gap in the trees. Go through the gate and turn right along the lane until it reaches the main road.

4 Turn left on the road walking over the M5 before gently rising uphill. Take the road on the left signposted Winscombe and follow for 750 metres passing The Lodge and The Paddock, getting to a small open area on the right.

5 Turn right up the slope and through the gate. Go straight following the path along the edge of the woods until a path on the left up – take this up a steep hill towards Crook Peak. The path bears right and eventually reaches the flat ridge at the top.



Mindful Moments

Listen to the bird song amongst the mighty trees in **King's Wood.**

6 Follow the path to the corner of the drystone wall at the top. To the right is Crook Peak which is worth a short detour for the views!

7 Turn left and follow the wall to the left. Keep walking along the wall and carry along as it rises to the trig point on Wavering Down.

Key

- Parking
- Nature reserve
- Stile
- Gate
- Church
- Steps
- Bridge
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Cycle route



Views from Crook Peak towards Cheddar

© Paul Box

Along the Way

- Take a short diversion to the top of **Crook Peak** for panoramic views!
- Take a small diversion down onto the old **Strawberry Line** railway, now a Sustrans cycle route, for an explore of **Shute Shelve Tunnel**.

8 Continue down following the wall as it enters the woodland. Follow the path straight down until it reaches King's Wood car park at the bottom.

9 Go straight through the car park, cross the road, and turn right onto the footpath through the trees. As it reaches the main road, turn left and walk along the pavement.

10 Just before the petrol station, carefully cross over the A38 using the traffic island for safety. Walk up the lane opposite until reaching a farm entrance. Turn left along the bridleway following the track.

11 Eventually the track goes downhill after another lane joins from the left. Keep straight and continue uphill. As the track rises, follow another track to the left. Opposite the farm gate, go over the stile on the right into the field.

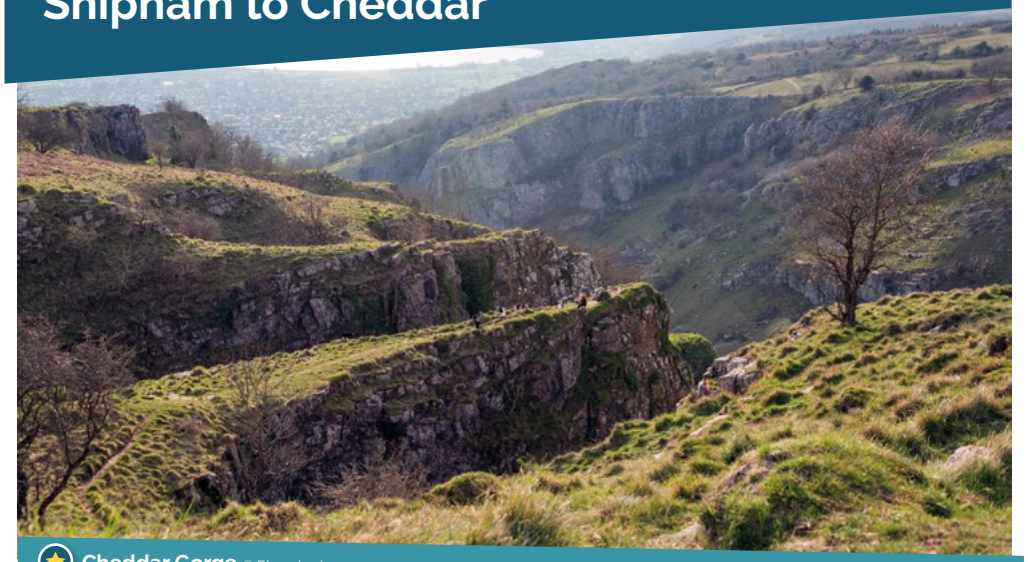
12 Follow the path straight across and over the stile, and head straight on through the next field keeping the hedge on the left.

13 At the end of the field, take the steps downhill through woodland and cross over the bridge. Take the path uphill and left, over the stile, and along the short path to the road at Shipham.

Did you know?

King's Wood is an ancient oak woodland managed by the National Trust, which also includes many other trees including yew, beech, ash, sweet chestnut and small-leaved lime. This wood was one of the first to be included in the Mendip Forest, an ancient royal hunting ground dating back to before 1298.

Shipham to Cheddar



Cheddar Gorge © Diana Jarvis

A varied section with rugged terrain through woodland valleys and ending with the spectacular and iconic Cheddar Gorge.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 5.85 miles
- **Terrain info:** Paths, tracks and minor roads. Rocky and uneven surface in places and muddy when wet. Steep uphill and downhill sections.
- **Stiles:** None
- **Habitat types:** 'Gruffy ground' with rough grassland; woodland plantation; ancient woodland; calcareous grassland with exposed limestone and steep cliffs.

Did you know?

Mining was another successful industry, reaching its peak in the 18th Century where there were about 100 mines evident in fields around Shipham. Lead, calamine, manganese, zinc, iron, copper, silver, and ochre have all been dug, leading to 'gruffy ground' being formed – the name given to ground disturbed by mining.

Start

1 With care, turn right along the road and immediately left up Templars Way. Pass benches on the left and, at the top, take the tarmac drive leading past a house to a narrow path through woods.

2 Follow this path and, when it reaches the open 'gruffy ground', bear left downhill. Ignore the metal stile at the bottom and instead turn right, through a kissing gate and turn left when you reach the lane.

Did you know?

The earliest and most important industry in Shipham was agriculture, reflected by the translation of the Anglo-Saxon names of Ship, meaning sheep, and Ham, meaning an enclosure or farm.



3 At the junction, turn right along the lane into Rowberrow Warren and go straight ahead. Follow this path to the bottom and cross the stream.

4 Turn immediately right along a narrow rising path then right onto a track. At the intersection, cross over and continue straight, out of the woods, past Tyning's Farm, and left when at the road.

Mindful Moments

Enjoy a well-earned break by the trickling stream at **Rowberrow.**

Key

- Parking
- Nature reserve
- Stile
- Kissing gate
- Gate
- Cattle grid
- Church
- Steps
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath



5 Walk along the road, past GB Gruffy Nature Reserve and take the farm track on the right over a cattle grid. Take the right-hand fork past the farm, then left into a field just before the next cattle grid.

6 Continue along the right-hand boundary, passing through a gate at the far corner and take the left, rocky path heading downhill alongside Longwood Nature Reserve.

7 Go through the kissing gate and follow the path past limestone cliffs and a lime kiln on the right. When at a gate, turn right up a steep rocky path through woodland.

8 After passing through two kissing gates, climb the steep series of steps ahead of you!

9 Continue along the path above Cheddar Gorge, through a kissing gate and then gently downhill. Ignore a stile in the wall on the left-hand side signposted 'Gorge Walk' and continue ahead.

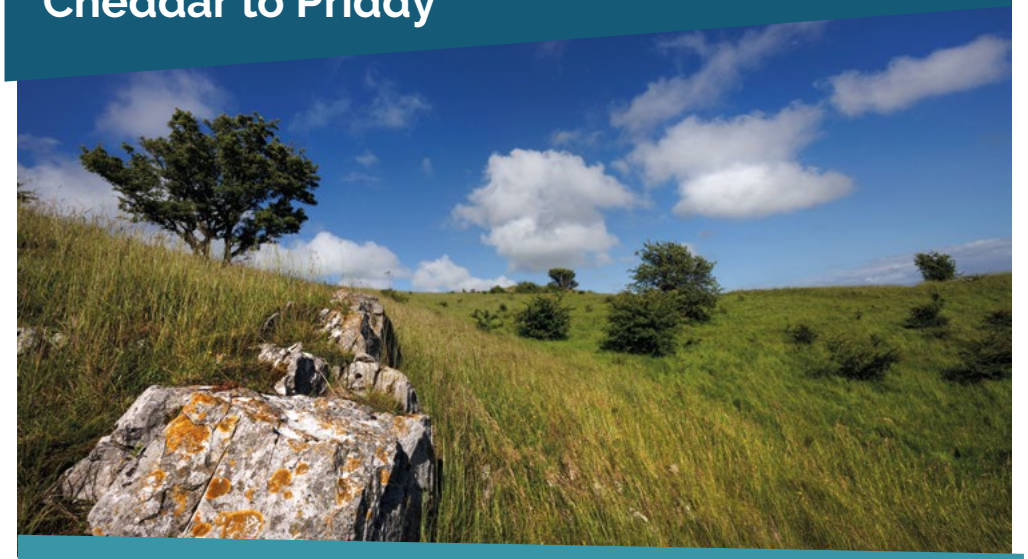
10 Bear diagonally right across open ground to reach a hole in the wall. Turn immediately left through a kissing gate and bear right downhill through woodland until a tarmac road.

11 Turn left along a wall and then left again onto Cufic Lane, leading down to the main road. Turn right by the fingerpost and along the road towards the village.

Along the Way

- Look in awe at the sheer limestone cliffs of **Cheddar Gorge.**
- Marvell at the black limestone walls at the aptly named **Black Rock.**

Cheddar to Priddy



Fantastic views of the Somerset Levels as you climb out of Cheddar onto the Mendip Plateau, arriving at the historic village of Priddy.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 5.49 miles
- **Terrain info:** Mainly easy terrain on lanes, tracks, and paths. Occasionally muddy when wet. One short steep section at the beginning of the walk.
- **Stiles:** Approx. 12
- **Habitat types:** Mainly open, south-facing grassland, with rocky outcrops and patches of woodland.

Did you know?

Famous for its cheese, caves, and the gorge! In 1903, a human skeleton was found in Gough's Cave dating back 10,000 years to the Mesolithic period (Middle Stone Age). Known as Cheddar Man, it is the oldest almost complete skeleton ever found of our species in Britain.

Start

1 Just before the road bridge – with Cheddar Gorge & Caves car park on the right – take the narrow Lippiatt Lane to the left, uphill.

2 Turn left and walk up Lynch Lane, continuing on the wide rocky track. Go through a gate and continue uphill. Turn right through a kissing gate and follow the narrow path through another gate, following the path downhill.

Did you know?

The area is home to a variety of wildlife including the threatened hazel dormouse and many bat species. It is also home to the Cheddar whitebeam – the only place in the world where this tree is found.



3 Walk past a barn and turn left, past Owley House. Continue along the track, through a gate and follow the lane downhill.

4 Just before reaching the road, turn left and head up the lane past Bradley Cottage and through a gate onto a grassy track. Continue uphill, go through another gate just before the top and follow the track as it curves left above a sloping field.

5 Pass through a gate in the wall and along the bridleway through woodland. At the end, go through another gate and take the track directly opposite, heading uphill and ignoring a path on the right to Carscliff Farm buildings.

Mindful Moments

Mark the seasons: spot wild garlic, elderberry, sloes, blackberries, or fungi as you traverse through **Mascall's Wood**.

Did you know?

Carscliff Farm is the source of bottled spring water from Cheddar! Drop down into the local villages along the main road to sample locally grown strawberries in the summer!

Along the Way

- Look out across the Moors and Levels to the **Quantock Hills AONB** and **Exmoor beyond.**
- Take a welcome rest by the sheep hurdle stack on the village green of historic **Priddy.**



6 As the track bears to the left, head through a gate on the right and follow the path across the field to a gate on the far side.

7 Enter Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve on the bridleway and turn immediately right down the hill. At the bottom, turn left through the gate and follow the track to New Road.

8 Cross the road and either go over the stile or through a gate slightly to the left, and bear right. On reaching a stile to the right, take the left-hand narrower path uphill.

9 At the top, cross over a stone stile, follow the path ahead and over another stile, walking with a wall on the right until reaching a further stile by a farmhouse.

10 From here follow the waymarked path through several fields and over a number of stiles until reaching the road.

11 Cross over and follow the road opposite until reaching a stone stile and footpath sign on the right. Continue straight, crossing over another stone stile and eventually passing over a final stone stile onto the road.

12 Turn right and follow the road down to Lower Priddy Green with the sheep hurdle stack to the left and finish at a bench around a Sweet Chestnut tree planted for the AONB's 50th Anniversary in 2022.

Key

- Parking
- Nature reserve
- Stile
- Gate
- Church
- Pub
- Tumuli
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath



Look for adders basking on the drystone walls in the spring and summer © A. Chamberlain

Did you know?

The small village of Priddy is situated in the centre of the Mendip Plateau. The area is known for the ancient Priddy Circles; a group of four circular earth banks in a line, each approximately 200 metres in diameter and built around 2,500 BC.

Priddy to Wells



The view of the City of Wells from the Wells Bowl

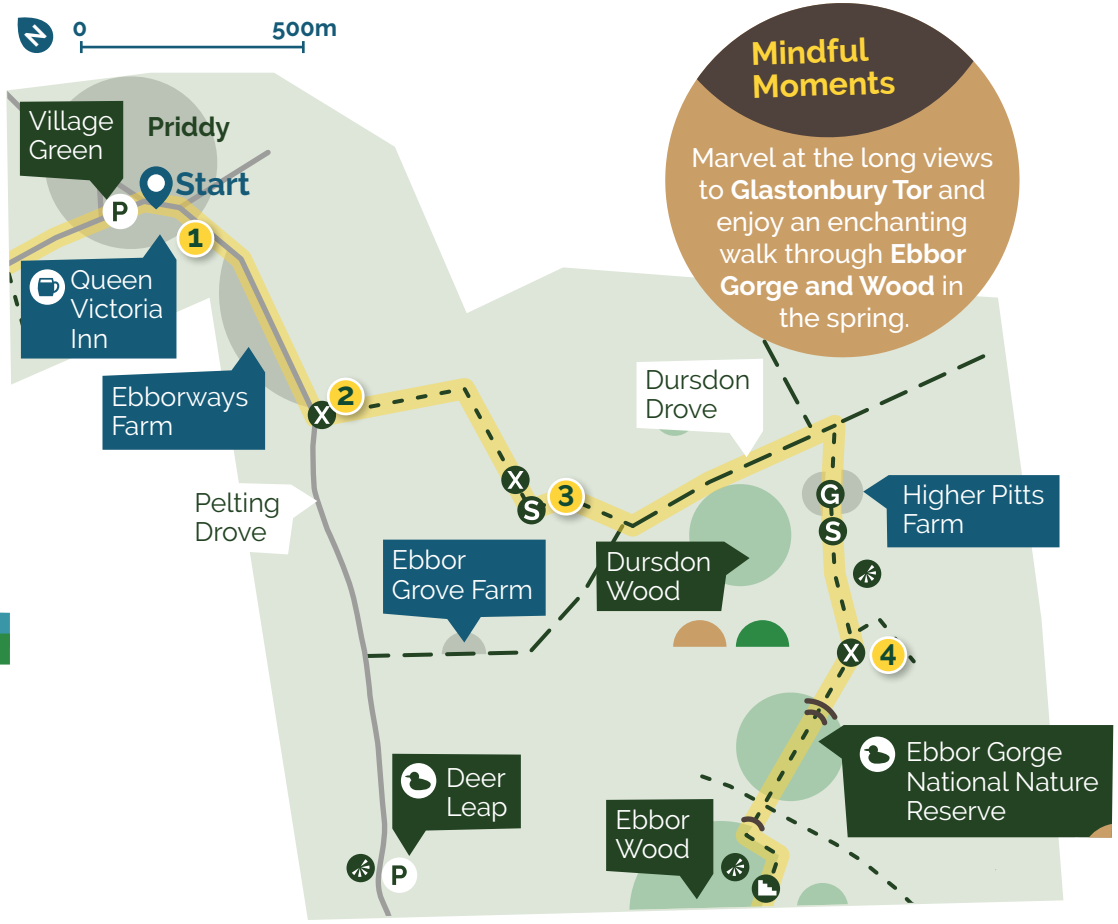
A varied route taking in beautiful Ebbor Gorge as the route descends into Wookey Hole. A final, short climb before heading down to Wells.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 5.55 miles
- **Terrain info:** Paths, tracks and short sections of minor roads and pavements. Some steep ascents and descents. Rocky and uneven surfaces which become muddy when wet.
- **Stiles:** Five
- **Habitat types:** Lanes and droves with drystone walls and hedgerows; rough grassland; ancient woodland.

Did you know?

Ebbor Gorge is a National Nature Reserve (NNR), now part of the Mendip 'super' NNR; many of the caves here were inhabited by people in the Neolithic period. The caves have been excavated and the tools of Stone Age people have been found. They are now home to bats, such as the rare greater horseshoe bat.



Mindful Moments

Marvel at the long views to **Glastonbury Tor** and enjoy an enchanting walk through **Ebbor Gorge and Wood** in the spring.

Start

1 Setting off from Lower Priddy Green with the sheep hurdle behind, walk along the road and turn right at the fork past the Queen Victoria Inn.

2 Leaving the village, turn left through a kissing gate opposite Ebborways campsite. Follow the wall on the left and turn right along the top of the field.

3 After a stone stile, carry on until the trail meets Dursdon Drove at a marker post. Turn left and follow the drove until another track comes in from the left. Turn right just beyond into the marked route through Higher Pitts Farm.

4 After the kissing gate, keep to the line of trees on the right. Bear right after the next stile and cross into Ebbor Gorge National Nature Reserve.



5 Take the path down through the woods towards the viewpoint – well worth a visit although the marked way turns left just before it. Go down the path and steps. Turn left at the bottom, cross a stile, and follow the path along a small valley to the road.

6 Turn left along the road. As it swings right at Wookey Hole Caves take the narrow path to the left of the bus shelter at the bottom of School Hill. After the stone stile, follow the hedge on the right. At Myrtle Farm, turn right down the road.

7 At the junction, turn left and then left again through a kissing gate. Follow the hedge on the right and, at the end of a boardwalk, turn left up the hill just before the path joins a paved lane.

8 Ignore the trails off to the right and left and climb the hill – Arthur's Point – to the top.

9 Carry on from the waymarker and bear right down through the woods to re-join the lane near the lime kilns, then turn left leaving the Mendip Hills National Landscape behind you.

10 At the gate, turn right along the road and bear right down the track by the bin. Follow the path downhill with houses either side. Cross an estate road to reach the busier Ash Lane. Take the path almost opposite and follow it through school grounds.

11 After the road bridge, turn left into Lover's Lane and right at the stone wall at the end. Turn right again on the main road, cross the mini roundabout and bear left at the traffic lights.

12 Turn left through the archway opposite the White Hart Hotel to arrive on Cathedral Green. Walk along the road and arrive at Wells & Mendip Museum, the end of the West Mendip Way!

Along the Way

Explore the **Wells & Mendip Museum** to find out more about the local area – look out for The Mendip Way plaque on the front of the building!

Wells to Shepton Mallet



Wells Cathedral © Adobe / Ian Woolcock

Setting off from the majestic Cathedral through the city of Wells, discover some of East Mendip's woodlands before heading into Shepton Mallet.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 6.1 miles
- **Terrain info:** Initially on pavement crossing roads. Largely gentle terrain along tracks and paths, but with several steps and steeper gradients.
- **Stiles:** Approx. 8
- **Habitat types:** Urban and amenity land; rough grassland; hedge-lined lanes; ancient woodland.

Did you know?

The West and East Mendip Way routes meet at the Wells & Mendip Museum on Cathedral Green – look out for the plaque on the wall. This was erected to mark the year of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and the Mendip Hills' 50th Anniversary of designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2022.

Start

1 Begin the East Mendip Way from the Wells & Mendip Museum and cross Cathedral Green to enter the Market Place through the archway.

2 Turn left through the larger arch leading to the Bishop's Palace. Follow the moat all the way round and cross the road to a track.

3 Turn right up the steps through Tor Hill wood and the fields beyond. Turn left at the stone stile on to a track.

4 Follow this past the golf course through King's Castle Wood. On leaving the wood, turn right onto a large open area, marked Lyatt. Keep the woods and a hedge to your left to join a track at the gate.



Key

- Stile
- Kissing gate
- Gate
- Steps
- Tumuli
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath

Mindful Moments

Enjoy the tranquillity of **Tor Hill** and **King's Castle woodlands** as you leave Wells; listen to the bird song and gaze at the tree canopy above. These are the furthest east sites in the Mendip 'super' National Nature Reserve.



5 Bear left and walk a short way to the bridleway post. Turn right through and head for the far end of Dinder Wood to the right. At the gate, carry on and bear right on a path through a patch of scrub to join Sleight Lane.

6 Turn left along the lane past the solar farm. A little way beyond, turn right over the stone stile set back in the hedge. Walk across a narrow field, along the middle of a bigger one, and into the left-hand corner of the third.

7 Turn left onto Thrupe Lane. After a short distance, turn right over a stone stile in the hedge and bear left towards Ham Woods over another stone stile and through a gate.

8 Keep the woods to the right and take the trail down into them from the kissing gate at their edge. Cross the stream at the bottom, near the viaduct, and turn right, carefully up a steep bank with steps.

9 Follow the path through the quarry keeping the cliffs to the right. At the end of the cliffs go up the stone steps and turn sharp right and immediately right again up wooden steps.

10 At the top, turn left through the gate and follow the field boundary to the gate on the far side. Turn right on the road then immediately left onto the narrow track on the left.

11 Halfway down the track take the path off to the left past the equestrian centre. At the end turn right on the farm track then immediately left on the road. A short way along the road turn right up the track, then right through the kissing gate and head diagonally left.

12 At the end of the field go straight on and follow the hedge on the left bearing left at the end to a stile. Cross the field diagonally right to the gate, then left, then diagonally right down the steps.

13 Go through the gate at the bottom, down the steps and left down a steep lane to a road. Cross the road and go slightly right into an alley between two houses.

14 Go up the alley to emerge on another road beside cemetery gates.

15 Cross slightly to the right and take the footpath up steps. At the top of the hill, bear right on a path to follow the hedge until a building at the bottom right of the field.

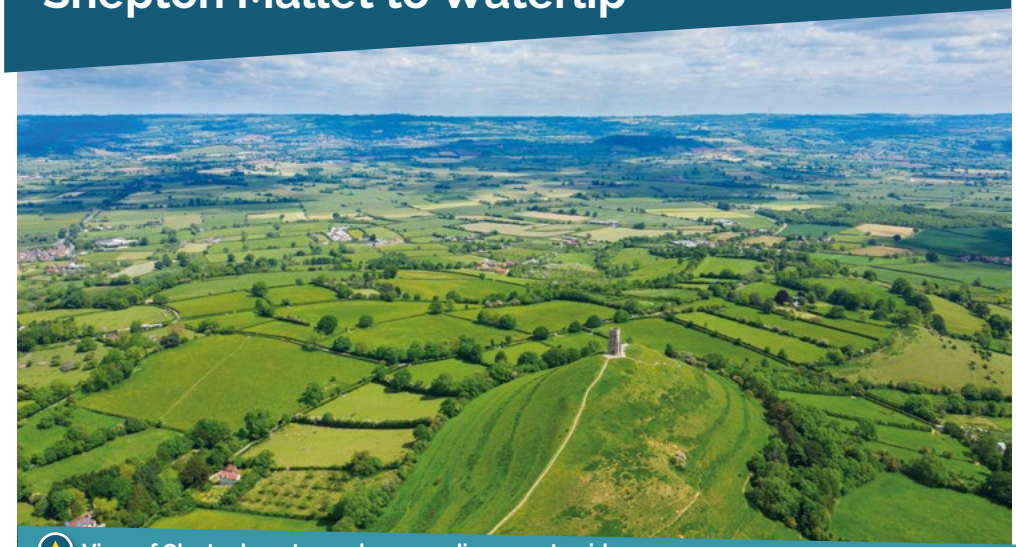
16 Turn left up the field to a pair of kissing gates on the right. Go through and follow the path between the wall and fence.

17 Continue and head left under the disused railway bridge. Follow the path to the right and down steps to the A37.

Along the Way

- Visit the resident swans on the moat at Bishop's Palace – they ring a bell on the side of the gatehouse for food!
- Eat local in one of the cafés along the route or visit the **Wells** and **Shepton markets** for a range of local produce and artisan crafts.

Shepton Mallet to Waterlip



View of Glastonbury tor and surrounding countryside © Adobe / baarisa

A short section out into the countryside over Ingsdons Hill, with fine views behind looking over Shepton to Glastonbury Tor.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 2.6 miles
- **Terrain info:** Field paths, tracks and lanes. Mostly firm, level terrain but can get muddy in places when wet. One steep uphill section.
- **Stiles:** Approx. 9
- **Habitat types:** Hedge-lined lanes and tracks; farmland with rough grassland and patches of woodland.

Start

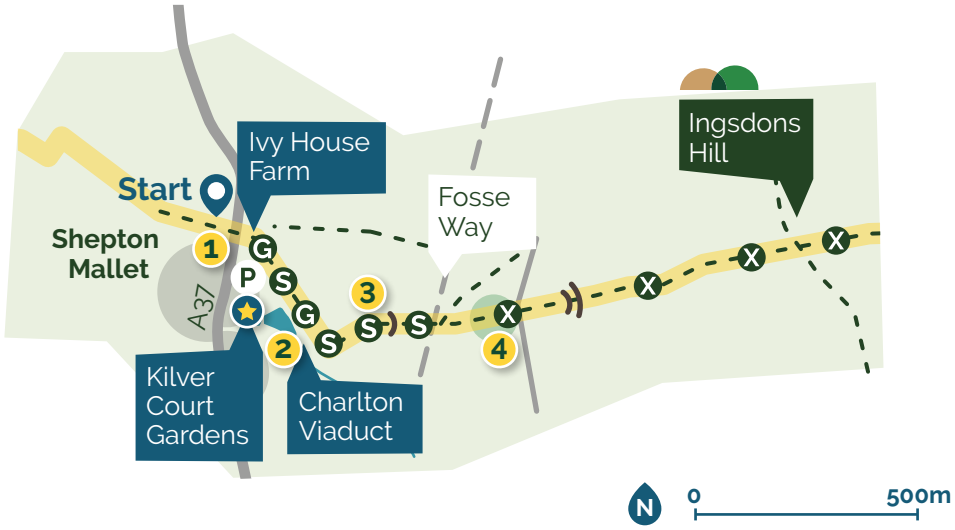
1. Cross the road to Ivy House Farm and follow the footpath signs, taking the right-hand gate after the farm, and heading over a stile on your right.
2. Walk with the viaduct on your right, over a metal stile then left past a second metal stile to head uphill and over two stone stiles.
3. Head up the field and just before reaching the gate, turn left through the trees to reach a kissing gate onto the lane.
4. Continue through another kissing gate and head up Ingsdons Hill.

Did you know?

Shepton Mallet Prison was once the oldest prison in the country and housed its first inmates in 1625. It closed in 1930 but reopened at the start of World War II to become a British – and later a US – military prison. It housed top-secret archives for safe keeping during this time, including such priceless items as the Domesday Book and the Magna Carta. The prison was finally decommissioned in 2013 and is now open for tours.

Did you know?

The historic market town of Shepton Mallet has three viaducts, which are part of the old Somerset and Dorset Railway. You will see the largest of the three – the Charlton Viaduct – on the route. It was built out of limestone for the railway's extension to Bath in 1874 and is 290 metres in length with 27 arches.



Key

- Stile
- Kissing gate
- Gate
- Steps
- Pub
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath



Mindful Moments

Explore the hedgerows along the route and see if you can spot wildlife living in them in the summer or eating berries in the winter.

Along the Way

- Spot the grand railway viaduct and get up close by visiting **Kilver Court Gardens** – an old Victorian park.
- Enjoy the views extending to Glastonbury Tor from the top of **Ingsdons Hill** as you leave Shepton Mallet.
- Enjoy the flatter terrain around **Waterlip!**



Wild Blackberries growing in the hedgerows © Adobe / JeremyRichards

5 After the summit the path becomes a track and, where this turns left, continue straight ahead now keeping the field boundary on the right.

6 Follow the signs through two kissing gates to reach a lane. Turn right and, at a T-Junction, turn left. After passing the Poachers Pocket, take the lane on the left.

7 Turn right up steps and over a stone stile and continue straight ahead. At the next stone stile, do not cross over. Instead, turn left to walk with the hedge on the right and over a stone stile concealed in the hedge.

8 Continue straight across the field, passing through 2 kissing gates onto a lane in front of Newman Street Farm. Turn right and then take the marked footpath on the left, following this through a double kissing gate and over a stone stile.

9 Go through a field with Temple House Farm on the left and head over a stile onto the lane.

10 Turn left and then right down Ball Lane. Follow this until reaching the main road.

Waterlip to Great Elm



Panoramic view towards Buckland Dinham from the East Mendip Way © Adobe / Nigel

Reach the highest point of The Mendip Way at 280 metres above sea level as you pass the 19th Century folly of Cranmore Tower.

Section stats

- **Distance:** 7.5 miles
- **Terrain info:** Open fields, woodland paths, tracks and minor roads with two busy road crossings. Rocky, narrow and uneven surface in places and muddy when wet.
- **Stiles:** Three
- **Habitat types:** Farmland, ancient woodland and plantation with streams and quarries.

Start

1 Cross the road and over a stile opposite onto a grassy path that curves to the right and leads to a kissing gate. Go through the gate then cross the field and through a field gate opposite.

2 Bear slightly right to reach a kissing gate in the right-hand corner next to a field gate.

3 Head diagonally right across the field to go through a kissing gate. Turn left and almost immediately through another, then another, to reach a track.

4 Turn right and walk past a house, then through a gate and into a field.

5 Keeping the field boundary on the right, cross over two more stiles and eventually pass through a gate in the right-hand corner.

6 Turn right downhill on a stony path and at a junction, go through a kissing gate sharp left and head diagonally uphill to a kissing gate.

7 Go through and turn left, heading through another kissing gate and into Battlefield Wood and towards Cranmore Tower.

8 Pass the tower and continue straight ahead on a broad path heading downhill.

9 At an intersection of paths, take the narrower right-hand path on the flat, which widens after crossing a track and, eventually, head through a kissing gate to the left out of the wood.

10 Veer right and through another kissing gate into a field and continue straight passing through another kissing gate and heading downhill, until reaching gates to the right of a barn.

11 Head through and onto a track with a stream running along the left-hand side. Pass through a kissing gate on the left to continue along the stream.

12 Go through a kissing gate to cross the field then through another onto a lane. Turn right and at the junction turn left, walking along the road and ignoring a footpath sign on the left.

13 At The Old School, take the minor road on the right. On reaching Little Manor, continue over the cattle grid and along the private road, passing through a kissing gate.

14 Continue straight, passing through gates into Asham Wood. Continue through the wood.

15 Cross over a stream and take the lower path on the right. Continue through the wood and, as the path rises, keep to the left at a fork and continue uphill until reaching a path at the woodland edge.

16 Turn right and follow the track through two gates and under a road bridge.

17 Pass through a gate and follow the road ahead, passing Rock House Farm. At the road junction, turn right.

18 Pass the entrance to Greystones Farm then go through a kissing gate on the left. Cross two fields to reach kissing gates, then turn right onto a track.

19 Follow this track until it reaches a gate on a no-through road. Cross and head through a kissing gate into the woods with Whatley Quarry to the left.

20 The path eventually crosses a stream and goes through a kissing gate into an open field. Just before you reach a stile on the road, turn left to continue over a stream and through a field to reach a kissing gate.

21 Turn left along the track, passing quarry buildings and climb steep steps to a busy road. Go right and then cross carefully to climb steps opposite.

22 Continue straight ahead through fields and kissing gates, with the woodland on the left, eventually heading out of the fields and right onto a tree-lined path.

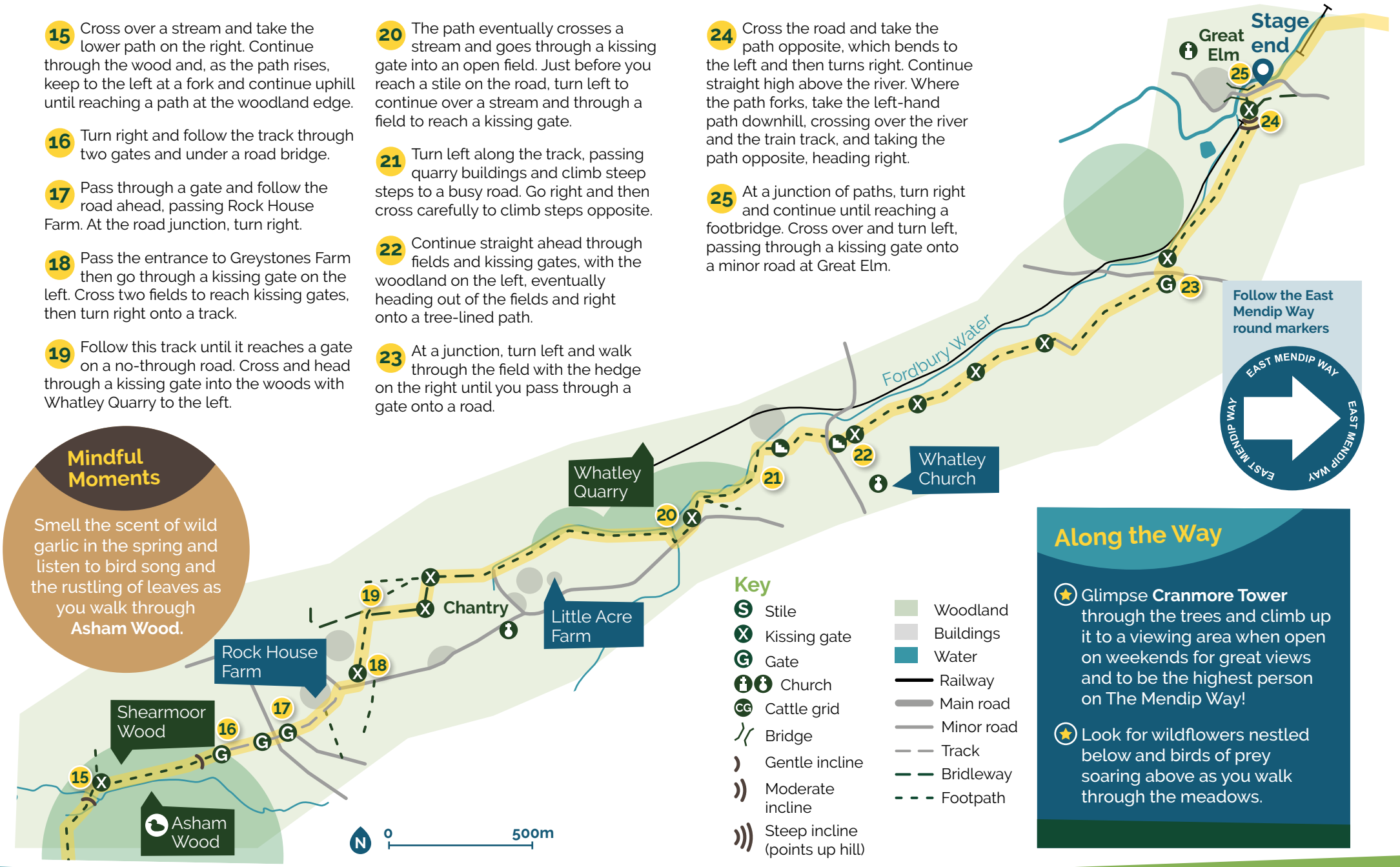
23 At a junction, turn left and walk through the field with the hedge on the right until you pass through a gate onto a road.

24 Cross the road and take the path opposite, which bends to the left and then turns right. Continue straight high above the river. Where the path forks, take the left-hand path downhill, crossing over the river and the train track, and taking the path opposite, heading right.

25 At a junction of paths, turn right and continue until reaching a footbridge. Cross over and turn left, passing through a kissing gate onto a minor road at Great Elm.

Mindful Moments

Smell the scent of wild garlic in the spring and listen to bird song and the rustling of leaves as you walk through **Asham Wood.**



Along the Way

- Glimpse **Cranmore Tower** through the trees and climb up it to a viewing area when open on weekends for great views and to be the highest person on The Mendip Way!
- Look for wildflowers nestled below and birds of prey soaring above as you walk through the meadows.

Great Elm to Frome



Frome © Adobe / Helen Hotsun

Venture along wooded valleys and into the vibrant market town of Frome where the 50 mile journey ends!

Section stats

- **Distance:** 2.6 miles
- **Terrain info:** Paths, tracks and minor urban roads. Mostly firm but with a few uneven surfaces in places and can get muddy when wet. One steep uphill and downhill section.
- **Stiles:** None
- **Habitat types:** Wooded streams; disused quarries; farmland; urban parks and gardens.

Did you know?

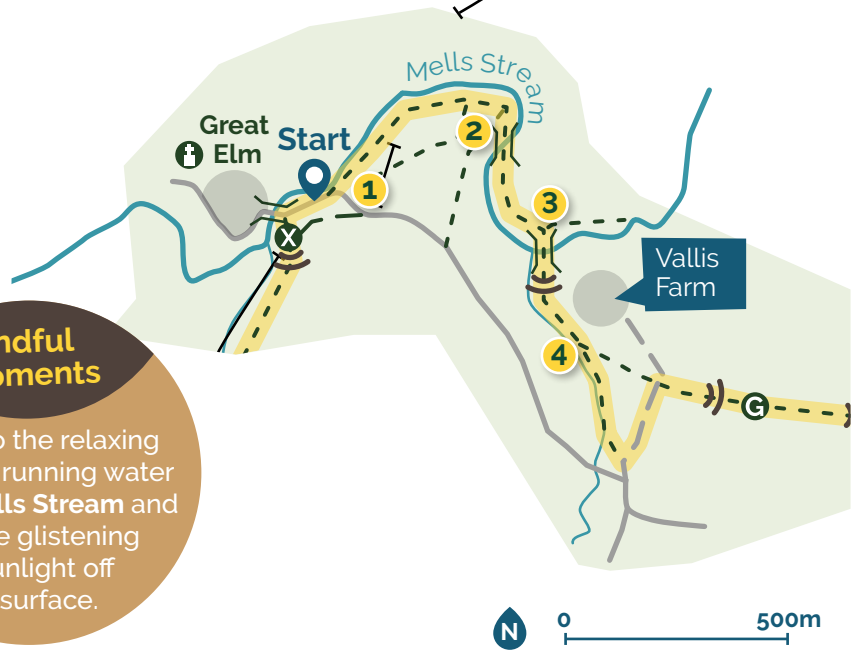
Frome has been highlighted as one of the Times 'best places to live in Britain' with a thriving arts scene and creative industries. It is also the original Somerset Market Town and was a very important destination, hosting a market since the time of The Domesday Book that continues today.

Start

1. Cross the road and follow the path beside Mells Stream, passing a cottage next to a weir.
2. Ignoring any paths to the left, pass under two bridges and then cross over a footbridge ahead.
3. At a fork, take the lower path to keep the stream to the right, passing restored lime kilns on the left.
4. Ignore the first bridge on the right but cross the second and continue to follow the path by the stream until reaching a signpost on the left. Instead of carrying forward, turn right (for a small diversion to avoid difficult terrain), continuing along the stream for 250 metres.

Did you know?

Mells Stream flows from Gurney Slade, through the geologically important Vallis Vale, to the River Frome. In the 18th Century the stream powered the Old Iron Works in Mells. The ruined works are now of archaeological and ecological importance, designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and used as a breeding and hibernation site by protected horseshoe bats.

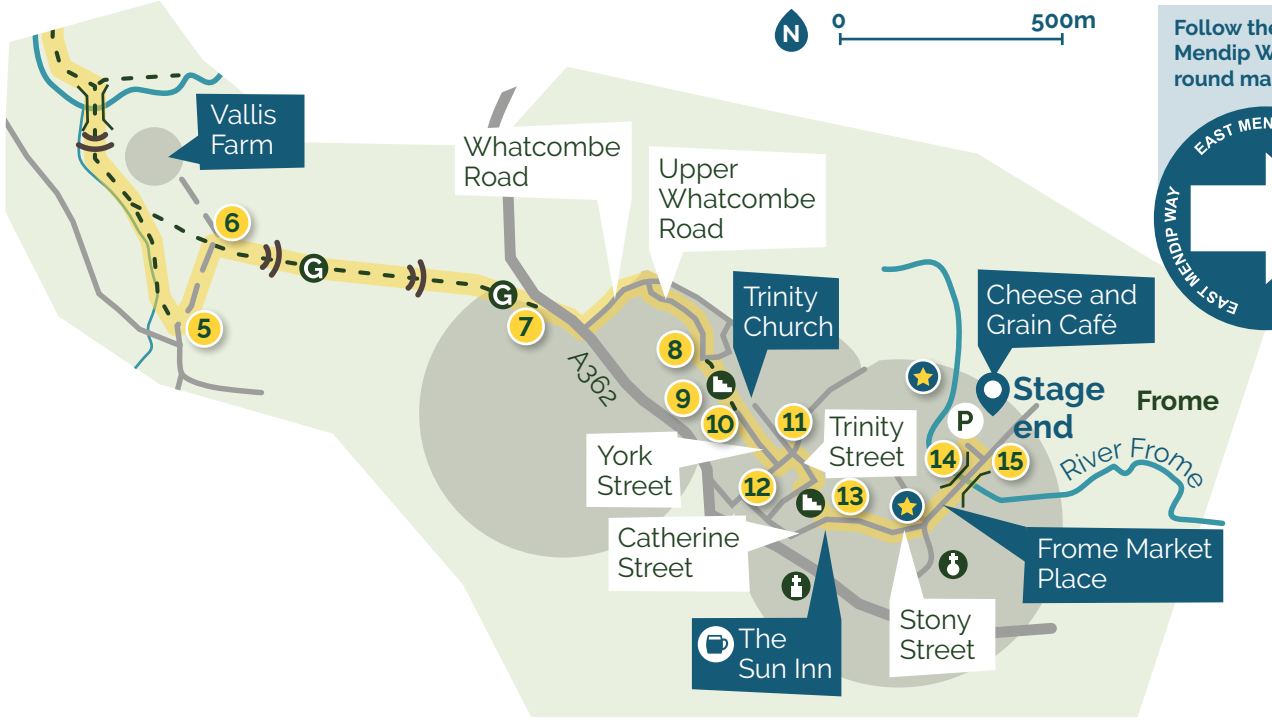


Mindful Moments

Listen to the relaxing sound of running water along **Mells Stream** and see the glistening of sunlight off its surface.

Key

- Kissing gate
- Gate
- Steps
- Church
- Gentle incline
- Moderate incline
- Steep incline (points up hill)
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Railway
- Main road
- Minor road
- Track
- Bridleway
- Footpath



Follow the East Mendip Way round markers

Along the Way

- Explore the trendy and charming town centre of **Frome**, including some of the beautiful historic buildings and independent shops.
- Visit the **Cheese and Grain café** at the end of The Mendip Way and sample some of Frome's local culture – take a selfie next to The Mendip Way plaque on the front of the building!



View from the bridge in the Market Place, Frome © Adobe / Lance Bellers

5 Turn left where a footpath joins before reaching the road and follow this footpath back up for about 200 metres, turning right where it meets a road.

6 Take the track ahead and, as it bends to the left and uphill, pass through a gate and straight ahead through a field, past houses on the right and eventually descending to pass through a gate and onto the road.

7 Cross the road on the left, then turn right and left down Whatcombe Road.

8 Cross over to take Upper Whatcombe Road on the right. Where the road turns sharply to the left, take the path ahead, curving left up a grassy slope.

9 Follow this footpath onto a lane between houses, passing Goulds Ground behind Trinity Church.

10 Continue straight and, at Wiltshire Barton, head down York Street to reach Selwood Road.

11 Turn left, passing the Printing Works on your right, and then turn right into Trinity Street.

12 Take the second right into Castle Street and head down the set of steps on the left opposite 'The Keep' and walk ahead onto Catherine Street, emerging opposite The Sun Inn.

13 Turn left and follow the street downhill until it becomes Catherine Hill, where the cobbles start. Turn left into Stony Street and into Frome Market Place.

14 Cross Cork Street and pass the George Hotel, continuing along past the shops and over the bridge spanning the River Frome.

15 Take the first left towards the Market Yard car park. Enter the car park and head for the Cheese and Grain where The Mendip Way ends!

The Mendip Hills AONB Service is working in partnership with local Walkers are Welcome Groups, The Mendip Society, local Rotary Clubs, and the Mendip Ramblers to enhance The Mendip Way by improving accessibility, signage, and information.

Find more detailed directions, along with directions to walk the route in reverse, from Frome to Uphill, at **themendipway.co.uk**

#TheMendipWay

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