7. Yeo River Loop Walk

An ideal walk for a warm sunny day. Starting from the Market Cross by the Bath Arms in the village centre and following the river bank out of Cheddar on to the Levels for about an hour. Returning via a farm track and part of the Strawberry Line railway path to the village centre, ending back at the Bath Arms.

Map

TRAIL TYPE
Walking
GRADE
Medium
DISTANCE
8km (5 miles)
TIME
2-2½ hours
OS MAP
Explorer 141
Landranger 182
CONTACT
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk
FACILITIES
None after leaving Cheddar. Tesco, Sainsbury and Bath Arms close to start and finish point.
TERRAIN
Flat, a few steps and slopes, mostly on footpaths, farm tracks and public footpaths along edges of fields. Paved roadways and pavements nearer the village centre. Lots of gates, and two stiles. Wear good walking shoes – the route can be muddy in places after wet weather.
WHAT TO SEE
Great views back to the Mendip Hills. Take binoculars and a camera, you never know what you might see! Plenty of farmland and water birds, dragonflies, farm animals, wildflowers and hedgerows. Very tranquil walking out on the moor.
Directions

1. Leave the Market Cross heading south towards Wells with Court House on your right. At the church turn right into Parsons Pen. Continue to the end, along the short stretch of footpath and turn left at the playing field fence. This is a short stretch of the Strawberry Line railway path and cycleway. Look out for cyclists.

2. Continue up to the top of the old railway bridge and then turn right to descend the flight of steps to the footpath below. The river is just on your right. Keep walking out of Cheddar along the track by the river, and keep the river on your right (this will be your mantra for the next hour or so). Where the track bends away to the left, shortly after starting along the river, keep walking ahead, following the path along the river bank. Over to your left the tree-covered hill is Nyland Hill. Look behind you any time, for a great view of the Mendips. Keep ahead through a few gates. Depending on the time of year some sections may be bordered by electric fences and others can get overgrown. After a while you will pass the attractive Hythe Bow Cottage across the river on your right and eventually emerge at Hythe Bow Bridge, which up until medieval times had a quayside serving Cheddar.

3. Cross the road carefully via the two stiles and keep following the river on your right. Again parts of the path can get overgrown and watch out for nettles. This is now a path of many pedestrian gates taking you along the sides of about half a dozen fields which abut the river. These fields may contain crops or animals. Remember to close all the gates behind you. The path may become indistinct at times but keep along the field edges with the river on your right. After a short time you will realise you are in the middle of absolutely nowhere with just the sounds of nature around you.

4. After about half an hour of riverside walking you come to a narrow metal footbridge across the river which is the approximate halfway point of this riverside section. The footpath stays on the left of the river but you can stand on the bridge to watch the water flowing beneath you. Do not cross the river, continue as you were, heading out of Cheddar with the river on your right. There are about another six field boundaries with gates to pass through. You are starting to walk in the direction of Crook Peak, which is the hill in the distance with the “tweaked” summit.
After some meandering, the river takes a straight course, and up ahead you will see a large pipe crossing the river, with a bridge beyond. This is where we will cross the river and turn back towards Cheddar. Immediately behind the pipe is a gate with footpath signs on it, go through it. This is a good place for a break to stop and dangle your feet, you are about half way through the walk. The next section of farm track has some geocaches on it for those who would like to seek them out.

Across the bridge, follow the dead-straight track heading away from the river, heading directly towards Cheddar Gorge on the skyline. There can be some patches of mud on this track after rain. After about ten minutes you will start to see the banks of Cheddar Reservoir looming up on your left. As you get close to the Reservoir there is a small gravel parking area to the left but you continue along the track to the right, Middle Moor Lane. Keep along this track for about twenty minutes. It’s a quiet and pretty lane lined with trees and hedgerows, but keep an ear out for traffic as you return towards the village centre.

You come out to a junction at Sharpham Road with sports fields entrance on your left. Keep on along the road in the same direction with the caravan club site and cattery both on your left.

Immediately after the last of the new-build houses on your left, you will see an old railway bridge, with a ramp and steps down to the old railway line path. Go down to this path and turn right, to pass under the railway bridge. This is the Strawberry Line path again, so look out for cyclists. Continue along behind back gardens and round a couple of dog-legs in the path. On your left will be a stonemason’s yard based at the former Cheddar railway station. On your right is a builder’s yard. Exit through an industrial estate and continue on to the main road, and turn left for the village centre.

Pass the entrance to the Leisure Centre on your right, and on the left is Station Road (a cul de sac). If you would like to see the old Cheddar station frontage go up here about 100 yards and it’s on your left.

Then retrace your steps to the main road. Continue on to the village centre, passing the war memorial on your left. After another 100 yards on the right you will pass one of Cheddar’s oldest buildings, Hanam Manor. After this, continue onwards to come back to where you started and a well-earned drink at the Bath Arms.
If you liked this walk you might be interested in the others we have checked and written up. All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or for a donation as a printed sheet at the National Trust Shop near Cheddar Caves. The full set is:

1 – Historic Cheddar Walk (2.1 miles)
2 – Middledown (4.2 miles)
3 – Cuffe Lane Loop Walk (1.1 mile)
4 – Strawberry Line [Bus-Walk] (5.2 miles)
5 – Gorge Circular Walk (3.4 miles)
6 – Black Rock Nature Walk (2.6 miles)
7 – River Yeo Loop Walk 4.9 miles)
8 – Reservoir [wheelchair-friendly walk] (2.2 miles, or 4 from village centre)
9 – West Mendip Way from Wells [Bus-Walk] (12.2 miles)
10 – West Mendip Way from Uphill [Bus-Walk] (20 miles) [in two parts]

Cheddar has many businesses supporting us and all ensure ‘Walkers are Welcome’

Restaurants and cafés
- Café Gorge
- Cheddar Fish Bar
- Edelweiss
- Fortes Ice Cream Parlour
- Franks Restaurant
- Holly House Tea Rooms
- Ice Dreams
- Kebab Kitchen
- Lao Thai Restaurant
- Lion Rock Tea Rooms
- Mousehole Café
- Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
- Tuckers
- The Café

Pubs
- Bath Arms
- Black Dog Saloon
- Galleries Inn
- Gardeners Arms
- Riverside Inn
- White Hart

Accommodation and camping
- Bradley Cross Farm
- Bramblewood B&B
- Bucklegrove Holiday Park
- Gorge View Cottage
- Nyland Manor
- Petruth Paddocks
- Webbington Farm Holiday Cottages

Stores / other
- A Special Occasion
- Cheddar Cycle Store
- Cheddar Library
- Cheddar Sweet Kitchen
- CJ Hole
- Edinburgh Woollen Mill
- Hansford’s Deli and Food Store
- National Trust Shop
- Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
- Post Office
- The Gorge Outdoors