

TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Intermediate

DISTANCE

9km (5.5 miles)

TIME

About 2 hours walking

OS MAP

Explorer 141

Landranger 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Shops, pubs and cafes in Cheddar, Winscombe and Axbridge.

TERRAIN

Flat and mostly off-road on gravel track following old railway track. Some pavement walking in villages. This walk includes a short section through a tunnel with minimal lighting, but it is straight and you can see the far end. The route is good for buggies, bikes and even wheelchairs. The path is shared with bicycles.

WHAT TO SEE

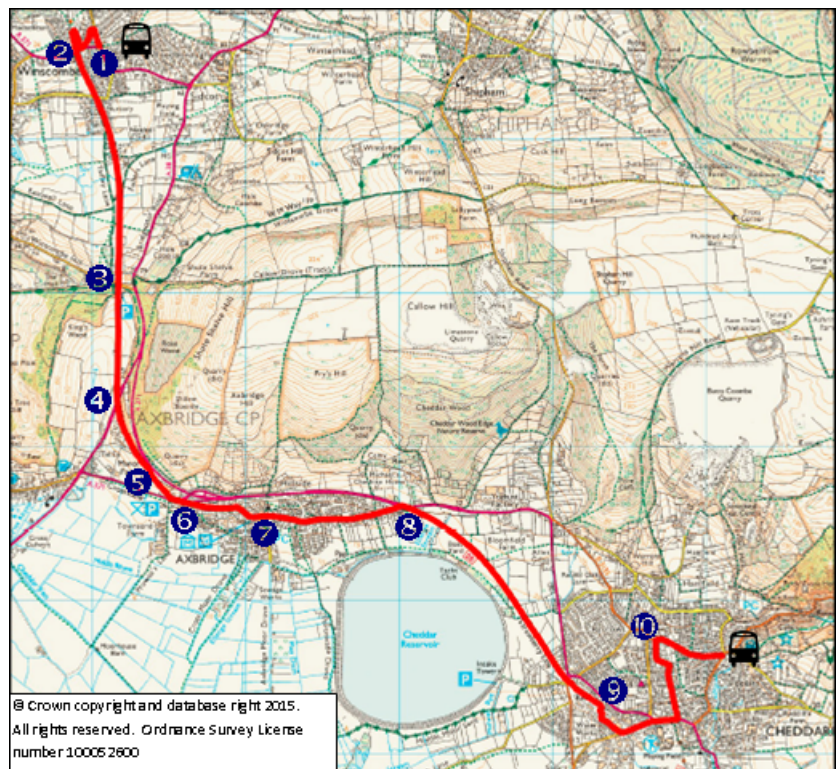
Bits of industrial history as you follow the railway track, through the original tunnel, and eventually passing old railway buildings in Cheddar. Views to the Mendip Hills and across the levels to Exmoor, Brent Knoll, Glastonbury Tor and Cheddar Gorge. You might want to take a torch for the tunnel.

4. Strawberry Line Bus Walk

A long but gentle walk on the old railway line that cuts through the Mendip Hills from Winscombe to Axbridge and on to Cheddar, including fun stretch through a short tunnel. Lovely views in places. Axbridge's medieval town square is a perfect break on route with pub and cafes.



Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

Tweentown / Cliff Street junction

OS Grid Ref ST 460 536

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

The walk follows cycle route 26.

BY BUS

Service 126 Cheddar to Weston-super-Mare stop at Winscombe. For bus times see www.travelinesw.com

BY CAR

There is a pay-and-display car park nearby in Cliff Street.



Directions

Check the bus is running as services are changing

Catch bus no.126 from Tweentown (opposite the Riverside Inn) heading towards Weston-super-Mare. Get off after 15 minutes in the centre of Winscombe (Browns Corner) just after the Woodborough Arms on your right, outside the British Legion.

- ① Walk along Sandford Road for 40 meters and turn left in to Nippor's Way and follow to the end. Turn right along the main road, then right again before the railway bridge, following signs to the Strawberry Line/ Cycle Route 26, passing the public toilets.
- ② Walk straight ahead up the pedestrian slope to the Old Station Millennium Green, the site of Winscombe Station. Turn left, follow the platform to the end, and take the ramp down to join the Strawberry Line. From now on follow the Strawberry Line/ Cycle Route 26 signs all the way to the centre of Cheddar.
- ③ The trail continues gradually uphill to a deep cutting approaching Shute Shelf Tunnel. The tunnel is 165m long and takes about 4 minutes to walk through. It is straight and you can see the far end opening at all times. The surface inside is sealed but a bit uneven, and it can be drippy in places. The tunnel is home to several species of bat and rare cave spiders (but it is unlikely you'll see any). Be particularly aware of cyclists coming along as they may have difficulty seeing you. Out of the tunnel continue on. You will have views to the right to the Mendip Hills and Kings Wood, owned by the National Trust.
- ④ Another half mile along the trail you will come to the A38. Cross the road by going around the bus stop and using the central protected reservation, then continue along the railway path on the other side. You will have views out across the Somerset Levels, southwest to distinctive Brent Knoll hill with its iron age fort. Beyond that are the high hills of Exmoor.
- ⑤ After a short while the Strawberry Line trail now ends temporarily, and the route follows roads through Axbridge. Turn right at the lane (one-way with traffic coming from the right) and follow the road downhill keeping to the cycle lane side of the road. You will have a lovely view to Glastonbury Tor. At the bottom (Cross Lane) keep left on the pavement to the end of the railings and then cross both carriageways.

Cheddar Walking



WALKING ADVICE

Please observe the Countryside Code:

- Wear sensible clothing and footwear, and sun or rain protection if needed
- Take a drink or snack if on a longer walk
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and wildlife and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Be considerate of other users

If you find any animal in distress please contact the RSPCA help line:
0300 1234 999



⑥ On the far side turn left and follow the pavement, bearing a little right to go to Axbridge town centre along West Street (do not turn right in to Houlgate Way). West Street has examples of terraced rows of medieval houses, mixed with Victorian and Edwardian frontages as you approach the centre. You arrive at the town square with the 15th Century wood-framed King John's Hunting Lodge on your right (now the town museum). On your left is The Lamb pub and also in the square is a teasshop and the Oak House pub and restaurant, so a perfect point to stop and refresh. The old medieval town of Axbridge is worthy of a visit on its own.

⑦ Leave the square on St. Mary's Street (town hall on your right), and continue on as it becomes Jubilee Road and then Cheddar Road. Half a mile from the centre keep to the left-side pavement and follow up the slope to the road junction with Axbridge by-pass. Follow the Strawberry Line/ Route 26 signs and cross the two carriageways to reach the right-hand pavement. Continue on for 50 metres and find the signed start of the final section of the Strawberry Line path to Cheddar once again on the original railway track.

⑧ Follow the path as before, and to your right are views of Cheddar Reservoir and to your left good views of the Mendip Hills including Cheddar Gorge. After 1 mile the path passes under a road bridge and now follows behind house gardens and wiggles a bit.

⑨ The Strawberry Line ends with the Wells Cathedral Stonemasons yard on your left, using the old railway station building. Continue down the industrial estate and at the main road turn left for the village. Passing the entrance to the Leisure Centre on your right, Station Road is on your left and if you'd like to see the old station frontage pop up here for 100m, and back.

⑩ Continue towards the village centre. At the zebra, cross the road and continue to Lloyds Bank, turning left into Lower North Street. Continue to the end, passing the historic Hannah More Cottage on your right. After the bends in the road you arrive at Tweentown, facing the Catholic church. Turn right and in ¼ mile you are back at the bus stop where you started.

Cheddar Walking



Cheddar Walking is a voluntary group promoting the wonderful walking to be had in and around Cheddar, Somerset.

Our walks are designed for all types of people from those looking for a short simple walk, through those wanting something a bit more stretching up on to the Mendips or out on to the levels. We also have historic walks, bus walks (bus out, walk back) and walks suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

We get great ongoing support from several key groups in the area, without which we could not function:

Mendip Hills AONB
Sedgemoor District Council
Cheddar Parish Council

And we partner with other non-profit groups including the National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, the Mendip Society and Mendip Ramblers.

www.cheddarwalking.org.uk
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk



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 pre-printed for a modest cost at the Visitor Information Centre near Cheddar Caves. The full set is:

1. **Historic Cheddar** (2.1 miles) [Grade: Easy]
2. **Middledown** (4.2 miles) [Grade: Moderate, strenuous in places]
3. **Cufic Lane Loop** (1.1 miles) [Grade: Easy]
4. **Strawberry Line** [Bus-Walk] (5.2 miles) [Grade: Moderate]
5. **Gorge Circular** (3.4 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
6. **Black Rock** [Nature Reserves] (2.6 miles) [Grade: Easy/Moderate]
7. **River Yeo Loop** (4.9 miles) [Grade: Moderate]
8. **Reservoir** [wheelchair/buggy friendly] (2.2 miles, or 4 miles to/from village) [Grade: Easy]
9. **West Mendip Way from Wells** [Bus-Walk] (12 miles) [Grade: Moderate, one steep incline]
10. **West Mendip Way from Uphill** [Bus-Walk] (20 miles) [Grade: Hard, Strenuous]
Can be split in to two separate stages 10a (11 miles) and 10b (8.5 miles)
11. **Four Pubs** (11 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
12. **Quarry Loop** (4 miles) [Grade: Moderate, long continuous climb for first half]
13. **Shute Shelve** (7.5 miles) [Grade: Hard, strenuous in places]
14. **Cheddar Moor Loop** (9.5 miles) [Grade: Easy. One optional steep climb]
15. **Wedmore via Nyland Hill** [Bus-Walk] (6 miles) [Grade: Easy. One optional steep climb]
16. **Strawberry Special (Draycott)** (3 miles) (Grade: Easy)
17. **Labourham Drove Loop** (2 miles) [Grade: Easy]
18. **Blackdown and Burrington Combe** (10 miles) [Grade Moderate to Hard]

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

Restaurants and cafés

Café Gorge
Cheddar Fish Bar
Edelweiss
Holly House Tea Rooms
Kebab Kitchen
Lao Thai Restaurant
Lion Rock Tea Rooms
Mousehole Café
Simply Gorgeous Tea Room
Tucker's Fish & Chips

Pubs

Bath Arms
Gardeners Arms
Kings Head
On the Rocks
Riverside Inn
White Hart

Accommodation and camping

Bradley Cross Farm
Bucklegrove Holiday Park
Gorge View Cottage
Nyland Manor
Petruth Paddocks
Velo Loft
Webbington Farm Holiday Cottages

Stores / other

A Special Occasion
Cheddar Library
Hansford's Deli and Food Store
Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
Post Office
The Gorge Outdoors
Visitor Information Centre