3. Cufic Lane Loop Walk

A pleasant circular walk providing a good vista of Cheddar and the Somerset levels.

Map

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Directions

1. Start from the mini-roundabout outside the Riverside Inn, which is close to the Tweentown bus stops and the Cliff Street car park.

2. Go past the Riverside Inn and after 50 yards turn left into The Bays, by the green railings. Pass the Bays Pond on your left, and onwards up the narrow lane called Dag Hole, and past its row of gift shops. (There are public toilets here if you need them). Opposite the toilets is the Garden of Fragrance which also offers a view over the middle pond and the gushing Yeo.

3. Continue along Dag Hole to the end, turn left and follow the path sloping up hill. Follow this path along the back of the Waterfall Restaurant and Crazy Golf course - it can be muddy in places after rain. At Longleat’s derelict Cox’s Mill there are steps down where you can see the main waterfall. Back on the path continue along the lake side to the black and white Mark Hole Cottage on your left.

4. Go sharp left around this cottage and up the rough track, Cufic Lane. After about 200 yards the surface improves, leading up hill and around bearing slightly left. As the track bears right, on the left you start to see views across the Cheddar valley with Brent Knoll in the distance and Pavey’s tower over to your left amongst the trees.

5. At the end of the track there is a private drive, and the footpath goes off to the right between two stone walls (marked with a footpath sign). Follow this narrow path around the rear of the hillside cottages. Further views open up towards Cheddar Reservoir and beyond. The path comes out at another track, follow this downhill and out to a steep junction with a narrow lane (Tuttor’s Hill).

6. Turn sharp left here and follow the lane downhill with views out to the right.

7. Keep on to the end of Tuttor’s Hill and turn left at the post box into Birch Hill. After 100 yards bear round to the right. As the line of hedges on your left ends, stop and look over the wall for a lovely view up the Gorge. Keep on along Birch Hill as it descends to the main road junction at the bottom, by the fish and chip shop. Turn right and you are back at the Riverside Inn and mini-roundabout where you started.

If you liked this walk you might be interested in the others walks we have checked and written up, ten of them in all. They vary in distance from 1 mile (this walk), to 20 miles. All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or for a donation as a printed sheet from the National Trust Shop and Information Centre near Cheddar Gorge Caves.