

## TRAIL TYPE

Walking

## GRADE

Easy

## DISTANCE

2.25 Mile

## TIME

Approx. 50 Minutes (add 30 minutes if walking from Cheddar village centre)

## OS MAP

Explorer 141  
Landranger 182

## CONTACT

[contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk](mailto:contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk)

## FACILITIES

Full facilities in Cheddar Village, no facilities on walk.

## TERRAIN

Flat, the walk around the reservoir is on wide paths one half of which is tarmac and the other half stone chips. Access to the Reservoir is via a very wide "kissing gate" off the main car park and should accommodate most wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles.

## WHAT TO SEE

Panoramic views of the Somerset levels and Mendip Hills. Wildlife consists of Swans and various wildfowl, also visiting cormorants out for a spot of fishing. A beautiful viewing location for sunsets.

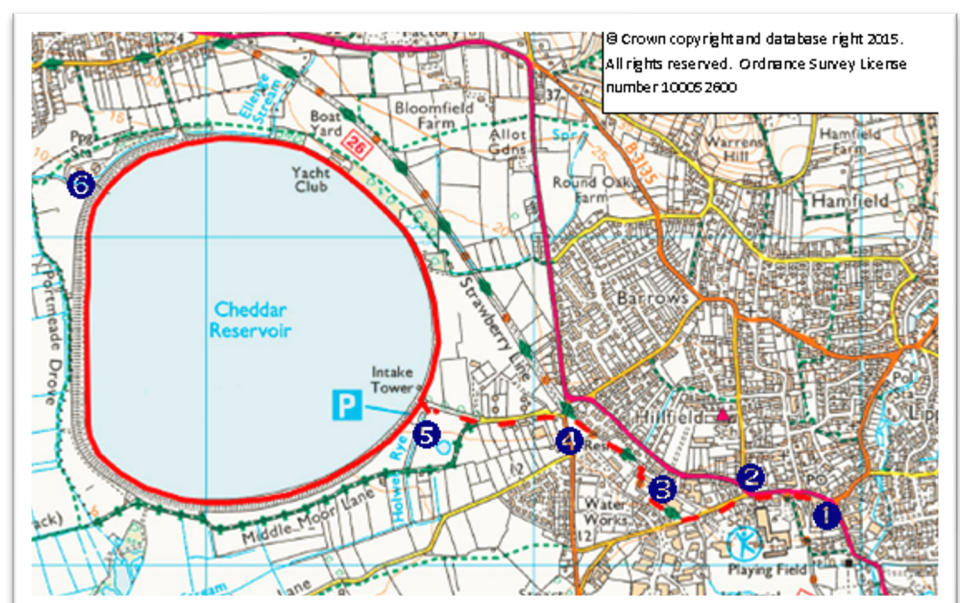


## 8. Cheddar Reservoir

A flat circular traffic free (other than for boating access) route around Cheddar Reservoir offering fantastic views of the Mendip Hills, Cheddar Gorge and Somerset levels.



## Map



# Cheddar Walking



## START/END

OS Grid: ST 44686 53493

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Directions (and GPS) are from the reservoir car park at the end of Sharpham Road, Cheddar.

A linked walk is included for access from Cheddar village. The walk may also be made from the car park on the Axbridge side of the reservoir accessed from Cheddar Road, Axbridge

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

The walk is just off Cycle Route 26 (the Strawberry Line)

### BY BUS

Services 126 Weston-super-Mare to Wells stop at the Market Cross, Cheddar.

### BY CAR

Sharpham Road and the free car park is accessed off the B3151 Cheddar-Wedmore Road on Lower New Road. Immediately after turning off the A371, cross Fiveways bridge and turn immediately right into Sharpham Road.



## Directions

The walk starts and finishes at Cheddar Reservoir car park off Sharpham Road in Cheddar (starting at point ⑤ below).

However, the walk can equally be started from the Axbridge side of the reservoir (near point ⑥).

A linked walk has also been included below for those who wish to start the walk from Cheddar village itself.

For those wishing to walk from the centre of Cheddar village it is a simple and safe 15-minute connecting walk.

- ① From the centre of the village (Post Office) take the pavement west out of the village towards Weston-Super-Mare along the A371.
- ② After 400 yards you will reach the War memorial where you need to bear left down Station Road (marked B3151 towards Wedmore). Continue past the turn for the Kings of Wessex Leisure centre on your left and then cross the main road to enter the road for Valley Line industrial estate. This is also the start of the National Cycle route 26 - the Strawberry line.
- ③ Follow the pavement through the industrial estate to the end to join the cycle path which runs besides Travis Parkins builders merchants. Follow the path until you go under a lovely old stone railway bridge (Fiveways bridge).
- ④ Immediately after the bridge turn left up a ramp to join Sharpham Road. Turn right on Sharpham Road and follow the road until you come to the main double metal gates of the reservoir straight ahead. Do not turn left down the track or right into Sharpham Road playing fields. The access road straight ahead leads to the free car park and the start of the reservoir circular walk.

# 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



5 From the reservoir car park access is through a large kissing gate (radar key compatible) which should be large enough to accommodate most wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles. There is also a wide wooden stile. A wide tarmac path leads up a short incline to the top of banks of the reservoir itself.

There is a choice of either walking clockwise or anti clockwise. The clockwise section starts with another wide gate to your left and the anti-clockwise starts past the pumping station to your right. Half of the route (clockwise) is a wide level stone chipped path whilst the anti-clockwise half is a wide tarmac path. Both halves of the walk are joined by a wide gate (also radar key compatible) on the Axbridge side of the reservoir.

Starting the walk clockwise (left) Crooks Peak can be seen in the distance slightly off to the right. After a while Nyland hill can be seen to your left and on a reasonably clear day Glastonbury Tor can be seen in the distance (also off to the left). Views behind offer a great perspective of Cheddar Gorge. Further around views of the Somerset levels can be obtained as well as Brent Knoll off to the South West.

The banks of the reservoir are populated by free roaming sheep so if you have a dog please keep under control and on a lead when in the vicinity of livestock.

The reservoir is extremely popular with bird watchers due to the varied migratory wildfowl that visit. There are resident swans, ducks and cormorants can also be often seen drying their wings whilst perched on the sailing club buoys. Large flocks of coots can be seen in the winter as well as Grebes in the spring.

6 Follow the path around and pass the Bristol water pump house at which point good views of the Axbridge area can be obtained again off to the left. Join the tarmac part of the path through another wide gate just above the Axbridge entrance (and car park).

Continuing around the tarmac path you pass the Bristol Corinthians Yacht clubhouse and then Sharpham Road sports field on your left. Continue until you reach the pump house which marked the start of your walk.

# 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 National Landscape**  
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](http://www.cheddarwalking.org.uk)  
[contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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  
La Rocca  
Kebab Kitchen  
Lion Rock Tea Rooms  
Mousehole Café  
Razoi  
Simply Gorgeous Tea Room  
Tucker's Fish & Chips  
Zen Thai Restaurant

## 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