

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking / bus

GRADE

Strenuous climbs, some stiles.

DISTANCE

Part a: 11.5 miles
(plus optional walk from
Weston to Uphill: 2 miles)
Part b: 8.5 miles

TIME

Part a: 6-7 hours' walking
Part b: 4-5 hours' walking

OS MAP

Explorer: 141
Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Shops, toilets and refreshments in Cheddar and Weston-Super-Mare. Wharfside Café in Uphill, Catherine's Inn and The Queen Arms Bleadon. Bleadon Farm Shop/Café. Webbington in Loxton. Sidcot Arms, Shute Shelve (Nr Winscombe).

TERRAIN

Very varied from woodland, open fields and heathland to steep hills. Open areas especially on top of the Mendips. Can be exposed. Rocky in places. Can be muddy in places when wet. Correct walking attire essential. Due to the walk distance adequate provisions, especially water, required.



10a. West Mendip Way, Weston-Super-Mare to Shute Shelve

A long, varied, sometimes strenuous but rewarding walk along the newly waymarked West Mendip Way (WMW). The walk has been broken into two sections (10a and 10b) at Shute Shelve.



Photo: Mendip Hills AONB

Map



To start the walk, catch the 126 bus from either the Market Cross or Tweentown bus stops in Cheddar to Weston-Super-Mare.

UPDATE: The 126 service currently does not run to Weston-Super-Mare. It terminates in Axbridge. The only real alternative is a taxi to Uphill and the start of the walk. Start the walk from point **2** Uphill Boat Yard. These sections are greyed out for now.

Cheddar Walking



WHAT TO SEE

Spectacular 360 views. Walking through two Avon Wildlife Reserves offers a huge variety of wild flowers and animals including deer and birds

START/END

Tweentown (ST463537) or Market Cross (ST459532) bus stops.

West Mendip Way Start
GPS

N 51 16.813'

W 002 46.576'

Kings Wood Car Park

GPS N51 18.046'

W 002 49.873'

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

From the Strawberry Line (National Cycle Route 26)

BY BUS

Service 126 Wells to Weston-super-Mare

BY CAR

Pay & display car parks in Cliff St and Church St, Cheddar. NT Car Park at Kings Wood. Limited on-road parking in Uphill

CREDITS

The West Mendip Way is a joint project from: Mendip Hills AONB, Rotary Club, the Mendip Society and Mendip Ramblers



Directions

- 1** To walk the two miles to the start of the West Mendip Way, stay on the 126 bus to the terminus on the seafront at Marine Parade. From the bus stop walk towards the end of the promenade with the sea to your right. At the end of the promenade pass some beach huts and take the slipway to the beach. Keeping the sand dunes to your left walk across the beach past the on-beach car park until you reach a stone wall with a further slipway leading left. Take the slipway and walk along Links road with the golf course to your left. Walk along Links Road until you arrive at Uphill Boat Yard, to your right.

Alternatively, to catch a bus to the start of the WMW, get off the 126 outside the Tesco Superstore (stop BB) and cross through the gardens to stop CC to catch a no. 20 bus towards Burnham-on-Sea (sometimes open-topped). Alight at the first stop after the bus turns off the A370 into Uphill (Uphill Road South). Walk back up the road 50 yards to St Nicholas Church and go left, following the path past the pre-school and church hall on your right. The path curves left round a play area and ends in a residential street (New Church Road). Walk to the end of the street and turn left. Continue past the village shop towards the old church on the hill. Turn right at the T-junction (Uphill Way) and continue to Uphill Boat Yard on your left.

- 2** Follow the brown sign through the boatyard and head for the signposted path to Uphill Hill and Walborough Lake Nature Reserve. The gate ahead at Uphill Hill, marks the start of the West Mendip Way. Follow the blue waymarks along the tarmac path, through several kissing gates until you reach the Wildlife Trust Information boards for Walborough. Immediately after a further gate where a new cycle path starts, follow the WMW-waymarked left turn to follow a grassy track towards Bleadon.
- 3** Follow the track until you reach a lane leading up to the main A370 road. Go up to the main road, turn right, and follow the pavement along the road railway bridge. Shortly after the railway bridge very carefully cross the busy road at a waymarked post (on your side of the road).
- 4** Follow the track opposite along to the right past Coombe Farm and some tennis courts. Near the end of this track, by Coombe Cottage, turn left up hill on a rocky path, then after the woodland finishes, turn sharp right at the gate into the Purn Hill reserve. After the next kissing gate take the left-hand track downhill all the way to Bleadon village.

Cheddar Walking



BUS TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visit firstgroup.com, for the 126 and 20 timetables and fare details.

First Bus offer an m-ticket service which means you can pre-purchase a day rover ticket on your mobile phone. A Weston Outer Zone day rover is around £6 (2017 price).

Allow 90 minutes from leaving Cheddar, to getting to the start of the WMW.

WALKING ADVICE

Please observe the Countryside Code.

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

CREDITS

The West Mendip Way is a joint project from:



- 5 Turn left along Purn Way towards Bleadon Farm shop and café. Follow the road around to the right with Weston-Super-Mare croquet club to your right. Bear right at the end, by Westdown Cottage, and shortly afterwards carry straight on along the footpath where the road turns left, towards a kissing gate. Continue out along Rectory Lane, turn left into Coronation Road then right into Shiplate Road.
- 6 Follow the road upwards past houses, taking care as there are no pavements in places. Stay on the higher road and turn left just after Beech Field House (just before bus stop, at waymark post for Loxton) and head left along a tarmac track. At the gates of a property bear right onto Hellenge Hill (Avon Wildlife). At the information board take the right-hand path and where the path later forks take the left path continuing uphill. At a kissing gate (cautionary sign for clay pigeon shooting) leave the reserve and continue uphill on a grassy path, over an old stone stile. Head diagonally across the next field, through a metal gate in the fence line and again head diagonally left and up across the field heading for end of the row of houses on the horizon. After you reach the houses follow the path around to the left through the yard to join the main road.
- 7 Turn right along the road and continue until just after the Hunters Lodge entrance, and where the road bends down to the left take the path to your right. After a while turn right uphill along the track, at the top turning right, way marked Loxton. Follow the track around to the left through a metal farm gate. Avoid the next field but go left, slightly uphill for a short while, and then a long gentle descent.
- 8 After about 1.5 miles the stony track meets a tarmac drive at Barley Firth house, continue downhill to your left. Just after North Lodge take a sharp right turn downhill past the old School house on your left, before coming to a road where you turn left.
- 9 Turn right down Church Lane towards the 13th century church. The footpath continues on the right, opposite to the Church, via a wooden farm gate. Cut diagonally across the field towards a wood with the sound of the M5 beyond. After passing through another farm gate turn right by the small building. At the road take a left to cross the M5 bridge. Follow the road into Compton Bishop (no pavement) until shortly after a post box set in the wall you turn left along Barton Road signposted Winscombe.

- 10 Follow Barton Road (no pavements) for almost a mile before you reach a mobile phone mast on your left and shortly after, turn right at a green area with haphazard boulders. Take the path upwards at this point through the woods on the steeply inclined bridleway waymarked Shute Shelve. Where the path flattens out, you can take a path off right for a few hundred yards to the rocky outcrop of Crook Peak and enjoy the views.



Photo: GreenTraveller

Back down on the main wide path, continue following the dry-stone wall on your left, over Wavering Down and past the trig point, then bear downhill to the NT Cross Plain and on through NT Kings Wood to a car park. Continue on the WMW across the car park and the adjoining road and take the waymarked path to join the main A38 at the Winscombe Hill bus stop. There is a petrol station shop nearby, if you need drinks or snacks.

This marks the end of the first section of Walk 10.

Your options here are:

- Continue with **Walk 10b** (8.5 miles back to Cheddar)
- Catch a **126 bus to Cheddar** (bus stop in lay-by on the opposite side of the road)
- Turn right and follow the A38 pavement downhill for a few hundred yards to a central barriered pedestrian reservation, then follow **Cheddar Walking route 4** (at step 4) back to Cheddar along the Strawberry Line path (3 miles, via Axbridge)
- For more substantial refreshment, turn left, carry on past the petrol station for 500 yards, to the **Sidcot Arms** (Brewers Fayre / Premier Inn) pub, set back up the hillside on the right – cross over the A38 opposite the pub for best visibility. The 126 bus back to Cheddar also stops here, by the Netherdale camping sign.

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, to this walk at 20 miles total (parts (a) and (b) combined). All of them are downloadable from our website, www.cheddarwalking.org.uk, or for a donation as a printed sheet from the Visitor Information Centre near Cheddar Caves.

