10b. West Mendip Way, Shute Shelve to Cheddar

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.

Map
Directions

1. Begin this walk either by continuing on from Cheddar Walking route 10a, or, by catching the 126 bus from Cheddar (either from the Market Cross or Tweentown bus stops, bus destination Weston-Super-Mare) taking the bus as far as the Winscombe Hill bus stop, close to the Shute Shelve petrol station.

   From the bus stop at Winscombe Hill walk up the A38 and carefully cross just before the petrol station using the traffic island. Turn left on the other side of the road then the WMW climbs up from the road immediately on your right, via Winscombe Drove, towards Shipham.

2. Past Rose Wood cottage follow the waymarks uphill to your left. Follow the wooded and deeply rutted Winscombe Drove for approximately 1 mile, out of the woods and along to a public footpath fingerpost with WMW plate, where you turn left (3). At the black letter box on the wall of the farm building, go right over a stile. Head straight across the field, over a visible stile, and continue on the path with the hedge to your left. The path goes down some steep steps, over a stile and wooden bridge before climbing up to the main road through Shipham.

3. Carefully turn right for a few yards (no pavement) and cross the road at Mersyl Cottage, continuing up Templars Way. On the left here is a bench dedicated to Dr Graham Perry (1938-2007) whose flash of inspiration led to the creation of the West Mendip Way. Continue along this drive, bearing left at Hilltop Meadows, and on to a path between two hedges. This leads to another wooded area before opening out into an undulating field. Follow the path around the left-hand side of the field heading for the buildings beyond. Ignore the metal-rod stile by the houses and bear right, continuing to a metal kissing gate. Follow the stony track around to the left and downhill reaching a minor road.

4. At the pink house “Lippiatt” bear right. At the end of the road by Holloway Rocks bear right then immediately left into the Rowberrow Warren woodland, to walk downhill on a bridleway to a stream.

5. Cross the stream and turn right, heading towards Cheddar. Leave the stream at the next ford taking the stony track uphill, joining a wider track, and leaving the woodland after about half a mile. Continue between fields, past stables and outbuildings coming to a road on the bend at Tynings Farm.
7. Turn left along the road for half a mile (again no pavements), passing the GB Gruffy reserve on the right, and turn right on to a waymarked path at a farm entrance with a cattle grid. Take the long straight track towards the farm but before the farmhouse itself follow the track around to your right.

8. Just before the next cattle grid turn left through a gate to follow the right-hand edge of the field. Continue to another gate and follow the wider, stony path downhill with the entrance to Long Wood Nature reserve on your left at the bottom. Continue through another kissing gate and enter Black Rock (to your right). Follow the path around to the right for a few hundred yards, passing the former quarry on your right, until you reach a wooden farm gate and stile.

9. The WMW turns sharply uphill at this point rising steeply through the woods (signposted Cheddar 2.7km). Leave the woods at another kissing gate (signposted Cheddar 2.4km) and head up the steps to follow the well-worn path along the top of the north side of Cheddar Gorge. When you reach a kissing gate by a water trough, continue downhill towards the farm gate ahead. At the “gorge walk” marker post, if you (optionally) go straight ahead for 100 yards, you come to a large stile and wall combination, beyond which there is a promontory with a good view back up the gorge to your left, and across the moors to your right (taking care as the cliff edge is very close); then retrace your steps to the “gorge walk” marker post.

10. Continue towards the farm gate. Do not go through the gate but follow the dry-stone wall on your left until a break in the wall itself. Turn sharp left to almost double back, go over a stile and head mostly downhill for half a mile through woodland, through two kissing gates, to come out on a tarmac drive. Turn sharp left on yourself and walk behind the back of Cufic Cottage. Take the track downhill to the B3135 with The Gorge Café and NT shop opposite.

11. Turn right along the footpath (not main road) passing the old mill pond on your left, and “Rockface” on your right. Continue past the waterfall and crazy golf course, down the slope to pass public toilets on your right and the White Hart pub. Continue ahead into The Bays, bearing left, past the Bays Pond and back onto the B3135. Turn right and you are at the mini-roundabout by the Riverside Inn and Tweentown bus stops.
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 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 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

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
Shanaz
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
Petruath 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