

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking / bus

GRADE

Strenuous climbs, some stiles.

DISTANCE

20 miles
(plus optional walk from
Weston to Uphill: 2 miles)

TIME

10-11 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.



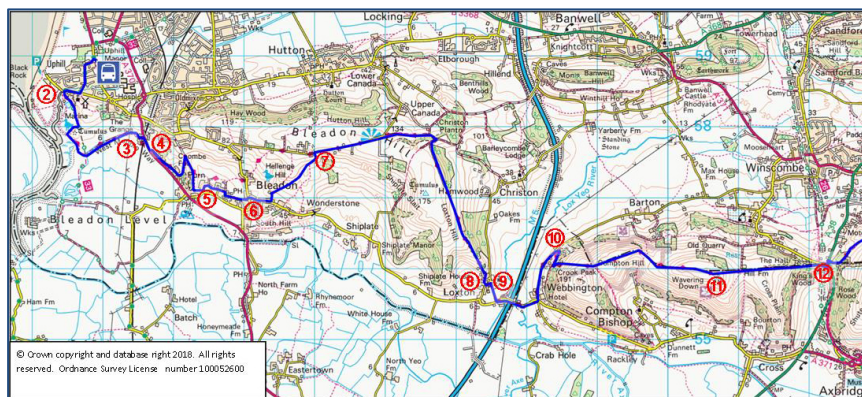
10. West Mendip Way, Weston-Super-Mare to Cheddar

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.



Photo: Mendip Hills AONB

Map (1 of 2)



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

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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. Views over Cheddar Gorge towards the end of the walk.

START/END

Tweentown (ST463537) or Market Cross (ST459532) bus stops.
West Mendip Way Start
GPS
N 51 16.813'
W 002 46.576'

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.

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BUS TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visit First Bus (firstgroup.com) Bristol, Bath and West region, 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, activate it before you board the first bus and show it to the driver. A Weston Outer Zone day rover is approximately £6 (2017 price).

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



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.

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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



- 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

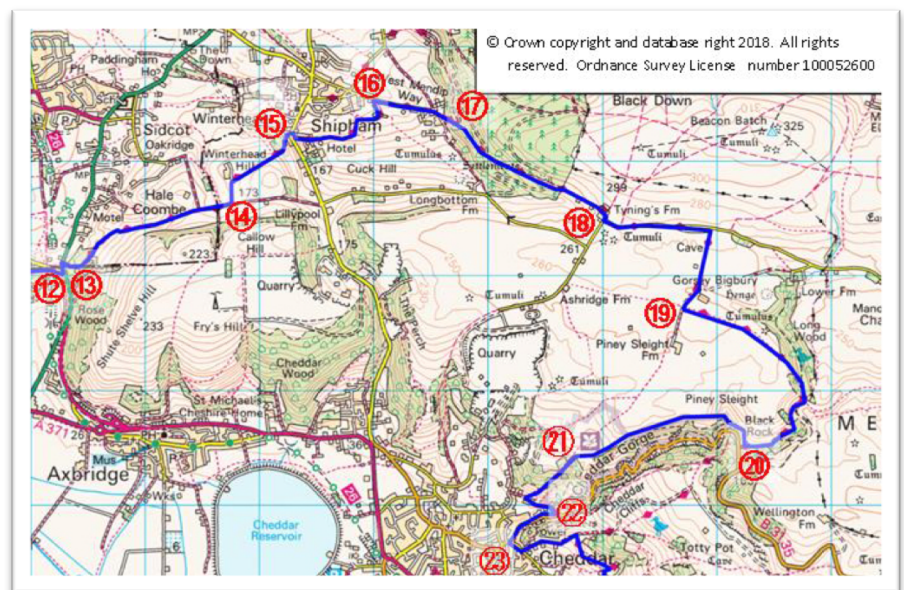
Back down on the main wide path, continue following the dry-stone wall on your left, over Wavering Down and past the trig point **(11)**, then bear downhill to the NT Cross Plain and on through NT Kings Wood to a car park. Continue on the WMW across the car park and the adjoining road and take the waymarked path to join the main A38 at the Winscombe Hill bus stop **(12)**. There is a petrol station shop nearby, if you need drinks or snacks. 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.

At this point you can cut short the walk if needed.

Your options here are:

- a) Catch a **126 bus to Cheddar** (bus stop in lay-by on the opposite side of the road)
- b) 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)

Map (2 of 2)



- 12.** 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 Shipton.
- 13.** 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 **(14)**. 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 Shipton.



- 15.** 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.
- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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.
- 18.** 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.
- 19.** 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.



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- 20.** 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.



- 21.** 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.
- 22.** 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 (**23**).



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.

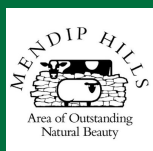
We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

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 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 – Cufic 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 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
 Petruith 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