

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Moderate, some steep ascents

DISTANCE

7.5 Miles (12 km)

TIME

4 hours

OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Full facilities in Cheddar village, public houses near start and finish, a shop and pubs in Axbridge towards the end, none otherwise on-route.

TERRAIN

Varied, some stony and grass tracks and some open heathland. Some steep ascents and descents. Wear good walking shoes – the route can be muddy in places after wet weather.

WHAT TO SEE

Great views across Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset Levels, Crook Peak and to the Bristol Channel. Deer, birds of prey.



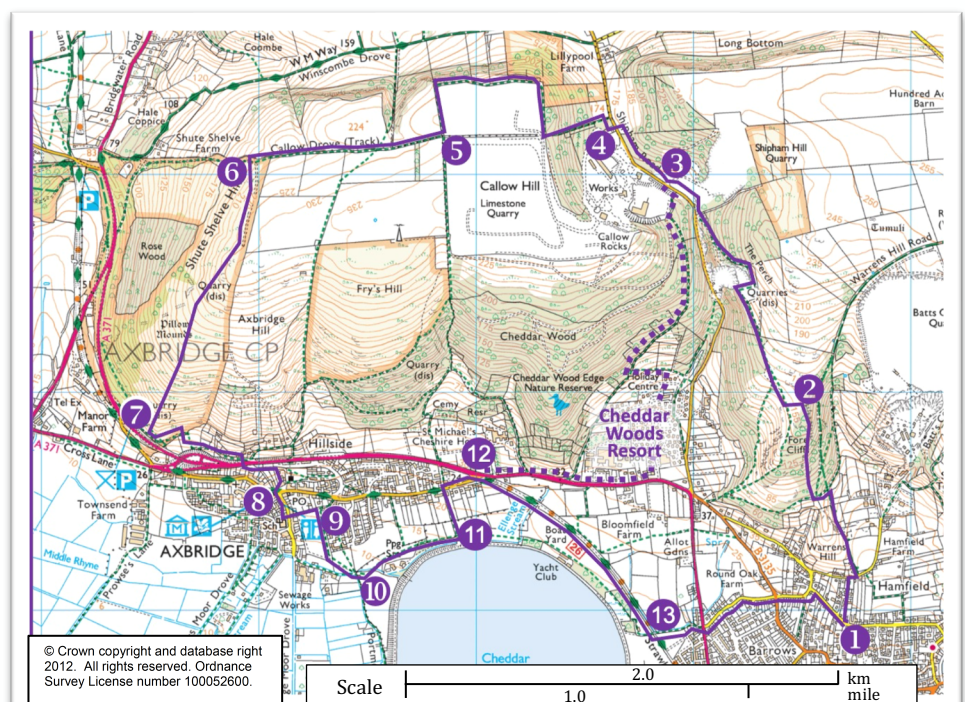
#13. Shute Shelve Circular Walk

A lovely, varied and substantive walk up on to the top of the Mendip Hills ridge with wonderful views to the south and west at Shute Shelve Hill. Then back down through historic Axbridge, skirting the reservoir and then using the Strawberry Line ex-railway path.

This walk is ideal for those staying at Cheddar Woods resort and the walk includes directions to complete the walk directly from the site.



Map



Cheddar Walking



START/END

Kings Head, Silver Street
Cheddar BS27 3LE
Grid ref. ST456539
N 51.16.56
W 02.46.49
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HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

Via A371 and B3135

BY BUS

Service 126
Weston-super-Mare to
Wells. Stop at Round Oak
Turn stop.

BY CAR

Limited on-road parking.
Possible use of pub car
parks if a customer and
with permission. Pay and
display car parks in Cliff
Street, near the bottom of
Cheddar Gorge



Directions

- 1 Begin either at the King's Head in Kent Street or the Gardener's Arms in Silver Street. Both have car parks (please check with Proprietors), or you can street park in the road. From the King's Head, go through the kissing gate to the left of the pub as you look at it, and follow the path between stone walls all the way to the end, and turn right (Warrens Hill). After about 30 yards turn left up the track by the electricity pylon. From the Gardener's Arms, facing the pub walk right and then left up the track immediately past Gardeners Close (Ham Lane) following the footpath signpost. After the allotments, turn left to follow the footpath between two fences. Follow the path round a bend, over a stone stile, across a small field, and out over another stone stile onto the road and turn left (Warrens Hill). After about 30 yards turn right up the track by the electricity pylon.

Entering the Perch, keep to the main track, which bears **left uphill** to a metal farmgate and side gate. Don't take the right-hand gate (bridleway) but use the left-hand gate onto the open hillside. Please note that cows graze here.

- 2 Bearing right take the **middle** grass and at times stony track uphill. After skirting a wood on your left hand side, when the path starts to level out in to a bigger clearing, take a distinct path on your left heading towards some woods. Go through the wooden kissing gate to enter the woods. The path splits here, so take the right hand one. Over a wooden stile, marked with a footpath sign.

A little way on Brent Knoll is off to your left and the fence of the disused quarry. Keep to the left-hand path, **alongside** the quarry fence. The path gradually descends towards the road but where the path meets a main track leading down towards the road, go up this track for a few metres, to turn left along a path that is parallel to the road (this is just before a gate on the track). The path runs parallel above the road for a short distance, before arriving at an entrance to the old (Shipham Hill) quarry.

- 3 On the far side of this entrance the pathway continues parallel to the road just below. The path ends with a left bend to meet the road. At this point, **carefully** cross the road and taking care for traffic continue up the road for 100m to the brow, using the verge if needed.
- 4 Take the path on your left marked with a wooden finger post and over the stile ahead. Continue straight up the path through the wood (the last major climb). At the top turn right to avoid the extended quarry and skirt the quarry turning left and left again over the next half mile.
- 5 When you arrive at two metal farm gates on your right, turn right through two vertical stones and on through a metal kissing gate to follow the footpath along Callow Drove, a wide green path. Pass through a further wooden gate by a metal fence gate. You soon get some lovely views to your right of Weston, Wrington Vale, the Welsh Coast and Bristol.

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



- 6 At the wooden farm gate and metal kissing gate, you enter Shute Shelve. Heading 80m on down a grassy path, you soon have wonderful views of Kings Wood immediately in front, hiding Crook Peak. Bridgwater Bay is in the distance. Take the **left-hand track**, walking back up to and along the hedge/wall at the top of Shute Shelve Hill, keeping this on your left. A parallel grass track joins the track slightly on your right, but continue along the top. This open ground is littered with gorse and small copses and piles of stones. Tracks just peter out, and there are no definitive footpaths here.

When you reach the top of the hill the circular Reservoir can be seen on your left, and the A38 can be seen below on your right, with greenhouses alongside it, going directly away from the Mendips (SW, 225°). Keep walking towards the A38 but aiming slightly left of it (SSW, 200°). The A38 should be approximately 1 o'clock to your heading of 12 o'clock). Avoid the dense gorse and copses and keep in the open. This is a steep descent, so take care and meander down the hill with the A38 at approx. one o'clock.

- 7 As 3 parallel barns with a round silo come into view at the bottom, left of the Cross intersection of the A38, change direction slightly to walk towards them. Axbridge and the Reservoir are on your left. Make your way down towards the bottom of the hill over the open ground. If you find you are approaching the wood at the bottom skirt around it to the left (wood on your right).

At the bottom of the hill you reach a wide grassy path which runs parallel to the main road. Turn left on this path and at the end there is a metal gate and footpath sign. Follow the path, through the allotments, turning left at the bottom towards some houses. The first house is Moon Acre. Keep on this tarmac road (Fennel Lane) all the way down to the A371. Carefully cross the busy road and just before the road sign on the opposite side, and alongside the gas works metal green fence, there is gap to a footpath leading into Axbridge. Turn left on to the path and follow down eventually passing the Churchyard and Church before heading down the Church steps into Axbridge Square.

- 8 Cross the Square diagonally right, heading towards The Almshouse tea shop on the corner. Turn left into Moorland Street, and then take the first path off to your left, just after No 10 and before Stable Cottage.

- 9 Just before the playground, turn right between some boulders into a playing field. Pass the changing rooms and head for the bottom left-hand corner of the field, going through a metal kissing gate. Diagonally cross the next field to a metal farm gate and track.

Go over the stone stile and then turn left through the next gateway. Follow the track keeping left (you can see the embankment of the Reservoir ahead) through another gate and along through a long narrow field with newly planted trees, towards a small wood of taller trees. Go through the gate into woods and carry straight on along the track, eventually reaching the entrance to the reservoir car park, and the gate to the reservoir (see walk #8)

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.

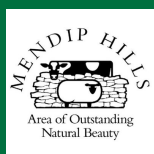
We have met the strict criteria that allows us to be a certified member of the national **Walkers are Welcome** association.

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

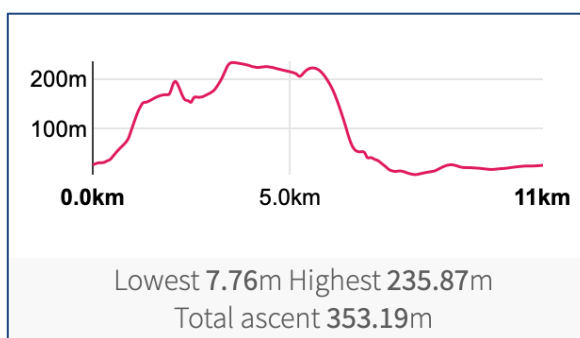


- 11** At this tarmac lane turn left and continue for 200m to Cheddar Road. Carefully cross the main road and then turn right and continue to the A371 junction. Where the pavements ends cross back over following signs for the Strawberry Cycling route 26 towards Cheddar. 50m further on the route turns right to follow the old railway track to Cheddar. **The return to Cheddar Woods Resort deviates here; refer to end notes.**
- 12**

Follow along the cycle path/track for around 1000m. Eventually you come Holwell Lane track crossing the Strawberry Line, just before the playing fields start on your right. Turn left and follow Holwell Lane through the new housing estate to the main A371.

- 13** The walk continues along Round Oak Road directly opposite. Either cross the busy road carefully, or you can turn right and walk to the traffic-light-controlled pedestrian crossing 50m further down and return on the other side.

Walk along Round Oak Road to reach the road to Cheddar Gorge (The Barrows). Carefully cross this road and continue into Hannay Road. Turn right into Kent Street, continuing straight ahead into Silver Street, back to the Kings Head and further along to the Gardeners Arms.



Shute Shelve Walk – Cheddar Woods Resort Link

Shortened walk 5.5 miles (9 km)

Leaving the site by the tennis court, take the footpath up through the woods. Immediately past the gas storage cage turn left, following the path running along the rear perimeter of the site.

At the end turn right to join a further path, still heading uphill. The footpath becomes a wider stony track. Please note all other tracks are closed for safety reasons as per signage, stay on the marked track. After half a mile, at the end of the track, turn right downhill along the edge of the quarry shortly reaching the main road. From here you can view the entrance to the old quarry to your left on the opposite side of the road. Carefully cross the road by taking the stone verge on your left and joining the walk at **point 3** and follow directions above until **point 12**.

To return to Cheddar Woods cross the A371 and turn right to follow the pavement back to Cheddar Woods main entrance.