Cheddar Walking

TRAIL TYPE
Walking

GRADE
Easy. Level with one optional steep climb

DISTANCE
9.5 Miles (16.5km)

TIME
4 to 4.5 hours

OS MAP
Explorer: 141
Landranger: 182

CONTACT
contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES
Full facilities in Cheddar village, public houses, none on-route

TERRAIN
Level, small gradients, one optional steep ascent and descent. Wear good walking shoes – the route can be very muddy in places.

WHAT TO SEE
The route takes in the Rivers Yeo and Axe as well as the option of climbing Nyland Hill. Great views across the Somerset levels and of the Mendips and Cheddar Gorge.

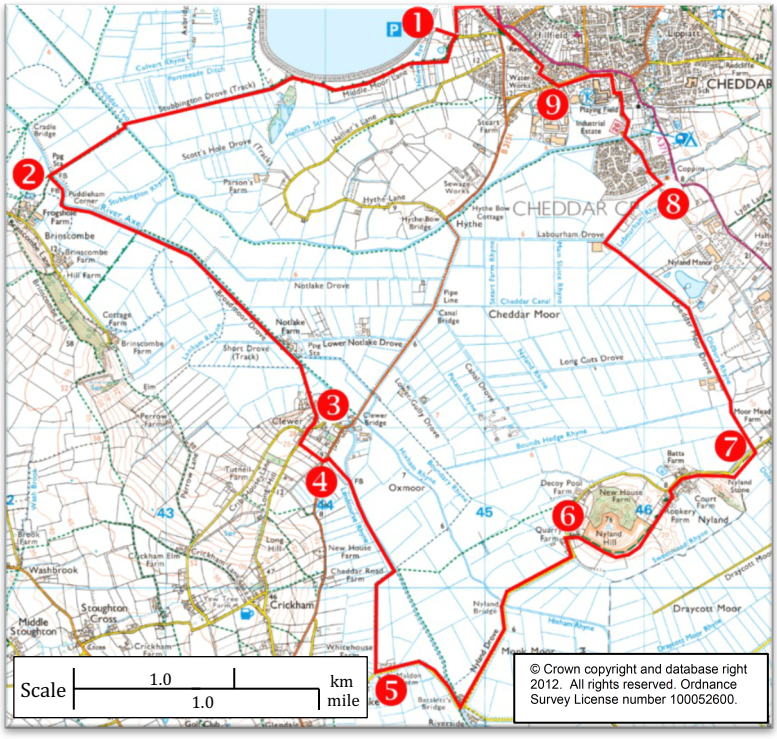
#14. Cheddar Moor Circular

An essentially easy flat but long walk out of Cheddar across the level to the hamlets of Clewer, Cocklake and Nyland. A lot of the walk is along droves and alongside rhynes, a part of the system of drainage that created and maintains the Somerset Levels.

The walk affords wonderful views back to the Mendip Hills: to Cheddar Gorge, and across to Crook Peak to the West. As an option there is a chance to walk up the distinctive Nyland Hill for some better views (adding on about 30 minutes).



Map



Cheddar Walking

START/END

Cheddar Reservoir,
Sharpham Road, Cheddar
Grid ref. ST 44845 53449
N 51.16.39
W 02.47.32

///centrally.observer.carefully

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

Strawberry Line (Route 26) then Lower New Road and Sharpham Road.

BY BUS

Services Weston-Super-Mare to Wells 126 service stop at Church Street Cheddar. Check latest timetables as this may have changed.

BY CAR

Free car parking at Cheddar reservoir and Sharpham playing fields. There is a pay-and display car park in Cliff street at the bottom of Cheddar Gorge and Sainsburys Church Street Cheddar.

Directions

1 From the entrance gate to the reservoir with the reservoir behind you, turn immediately right to follow a narrow, tarmac road (Middle Moor Lane). Soon you can see the embankment of the reservoir on your right. Cheddar Reservoir is an artificial reservoir in Somerset, England, operated by Bristol Water. Dating from the 1930s it has a capacity of 1350 million gallons. The reservoir is supplied with water taken from the Cheddar Yeo river in Cheddar Gorge

The tarmac road turns into a rough track, which you stay on, bearing left. Leaving the reservoir behind, there are soon views of Crook Peak and the Mendips to your right. This is Stubbington Drove, a classic feature of the moors - straight tracks with rhynes either side. Rhynes are man-made, water-filled drainage channels that form a network on the Somerset Levels.

At the end of the drove, carry on to the metal bar gate to cross the River Yeo over the old stone bridge. Follow the footpath sign pointing straight ahead, keeping to the left of the field boundary (and another rhyne!). Crook Peak and the Mendips dominate the distant landscape to your right.

At the far end of the field, pass through another metal bar gate onto a farm track to continue in the same direction, to reach a pumping station on your right and the River Axe.

2 Cross the river over a walled stone bridge and then turn immediately left through another metal gate to walk alongside the river. The River Axe is on your left.

Go through another metal field gate and continue along the river to join a track straight ahead (Broadmoor Drove) alongside the river. On the opposite side of the river you can now see the whole length of the Mendips, including Cheddar Gorge

There are three more metal gates to go through before the river divides by another pumping station. Keep on the track, again straight ahead (now Long Hill), bearing right to follow the footpath sign. Red arrow).

Go through another metal gate to reach a narrow tarmac road to enter the village of Clewer. 3 Carry straight on up the hill, arcing round to your right. At the T-junction, bear right along Long Hill. Just as you reach the brow of the hill, and pass Rose Cottage on your right, look for a wooden gate in the hedge on your left in about 30 yards (easily missed).

Head down the field towards a poly tunnel, keeping the hedge on your left. Cross a broken stile to continue straight down to a metal gate leading to the main Cheddar to Wedmore road B3151. Diagonally left, carefully cross the road towards a large wooden barn on the opposite side, to take the footpath waymarked by a finger sign. 4 Follow this direction to reach the Axe once more and continue along the bank with the river on your left to pass through another two metal gates.

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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

Approximately 170 yards from here, with a large upright stone standing on the opposite bank (the remains of the old foot bridge), leave the river at right angles to another metal gate. Passing through this, follow the rhyne on your right around the field towards some farm buildings. You have to pass through three more metal gates to reach the road (Dungeon).

5 Turn left onto the road and in ½ mile go over the stone bridge and take the left- hand forked road (signposted Nyland) to walk directly towards Nyland Hill along the tarmacked Nyland Drove Road. In 0.7 miles, after a hard right bend and just before Quarry Farm, take the footpath on the right up towards Nyland Hill 6 . Go through a wooden gate and continue straight ahead to follow the footpath around the base of Nyland Hill, keeping the boundary fence/wall on your right. Also, on your right, there are great views of the Somerset Levels and Glastonbury Tor. A walk to the top of Nyland Hill is possible for views across the Somerset levels and back towards the Mendips (allow a half hour for the ascent/descent)

Head around the hill down to a gate and onto a tarmac path towards farm buildings below. Bear left on the track adjacent to Rookery Farm to reach the road again, turning right (Nyland Drove).

Follow Nyland Drove road onto Latches lane and in 0.3 miles, turn left onto a drove (marked private but acceptable for walkers) 7 . This is Cheddar Moor Drove. Keep on this drove, and after 1 mile, when you reach some big barns on your left, turn right, heading towards Cheddar – this is now Labourham Drove. The campsite of Petruth Paddocks is on your right.

8 On reaching Draycott Park Housing Estate on your left and industrial estate to your right, turn left here to join the signed cycleway/pathway and follow this through the estate into Cheddar. At the end of the cycleway continue to follow the footpath to Bath Street/Station Road, to arrive at the entrance of Kings of Wessex Academy School. Turn left on the pavement, towards the War Memorial.

Stay on the pavement into Station Road and just past the entrance to the Kings Of Wessex Leisure Centre, carefully cross the road and turn right into the Valley Line Industrial Park 9 and the start of the cycle path along the Strawberry Line (Route 26).

Continue on the cycle path under the old railway bridge until you reach a housing estate on your right, with access steps in red brick, and Sharpham Road playing fields to your left. Cross the playing fields, heading towards the Pavilion building on the left. Just beyond this building, the Sharpham Road playing fields car park can be seen. Return to the start point at the reservoir gates

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
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 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)** (7 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

v4 September 2026