

Cheddar Walking



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Moderate: but with one strenuous long climb up the Mendip scarp.

DISTANCE

7 Miles (11 km)

TIME

3 hours approx.
(each way)

OS MAP

Explorer: 141
Landranger: 182

CONTACT

contact@cheddarwalking.org.uk

FACILITIES

Full facilities in Cheddar with public toilets in car park by Riverside Inn (start/end)
In Draycott there is the pub and also a community village store.

TERRAIN

Mostly level but with one long gradient up the Mendip scarp with a steeper descent. Wear good walking shoes – the route can be muddy in places.

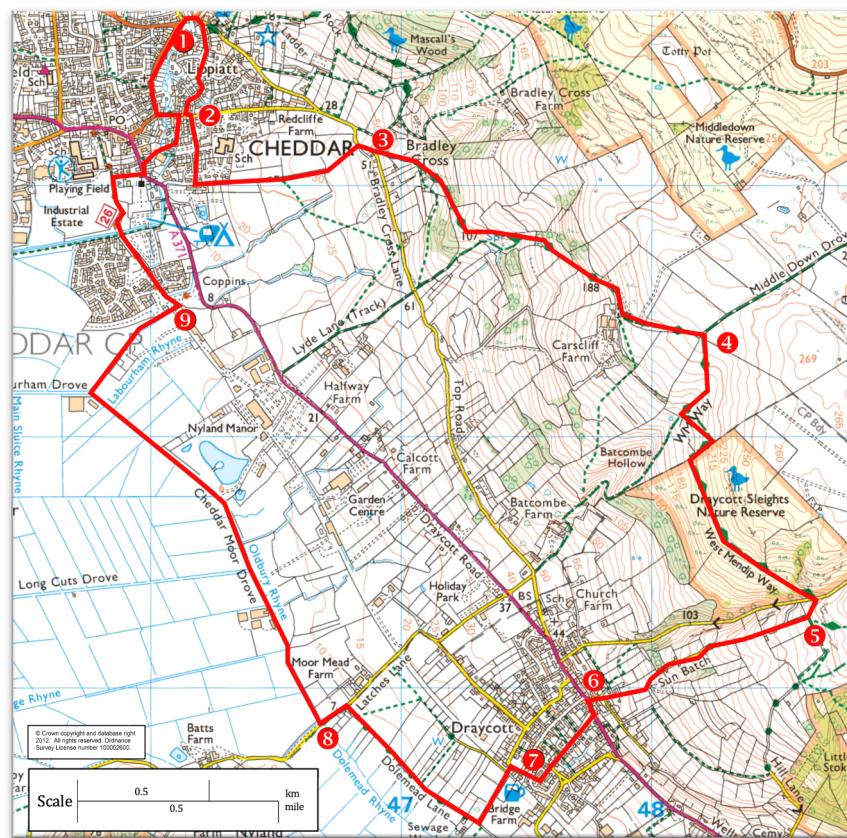
WHAT TO SEE

Views to Glastonbury Tor, Blackdown Hills and the Bristol channel from the top. Views to the Mendips from the return half on the levels.



#16. Strawberry Special Bradley Cross and Draycott

A relatively simple walk-through Cheddar and out via the hamlet of Bradley Cross and then up along part of the Mendip Way to Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve before dropping down to Draycott village and the Strawberry Special pub. The pub named after the special trains that took famous Cheddar strawberries to London and beyond. The flat route back follows one of the many droves across the levels beside the drainage "rhynes"



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START/END

Riverside Inn
Grid ref. ST 4593 5319
N 51.16.45
W 02.46.25
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HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

To Cheddar via Strawberry Line (NCR 26)

BY BUS

**Cheddar: #126 service
Weston-Super-Mare to Wells 126 service stop at Tweentown.**

BY CAR

Council parking at Cliff Street Car Park next door to Riverside Pub.

Directions

Start from the roundabout outside the Riverside Inn in Cliff Street, **1** Cheddar. Walk towards the gorge, over the river bridge and then immediately right and right again down St. Andrews Road, past the Edelweiss, and continue along this winding road of houses for 400m. This road is built over the ornamental grounds of the former 18th century Hall which you pass on your right, followed by a repurposed ornamental bridge between numbers 29 and 31. Continue all the way to the end, cross the road and turn left then immediately right into Penn Road **2**. At the end of Penn Road cut across the end of the green, to continue into Millbourne Road.

At the end of the road go through the gap between the rows of maisonettes and turn left along a track which slopes gently up through trees behind back gardens, to a gate. Continue straight ahead along the edge of the field to where a footpath sign points off to the right. Pop through to the other side of the hedge and carry straight on in the same direction you were going, keeping the hedge on your left. This section can be wet. In 250m go through a gate and head gently uphill across the field, heading left of the small copse of trees, to come to a stone stile and out on to Bradley Cross Lane.

Turn right and climb the tarmac road for 50m and at the post box **3**, turn left and follow the track immediately on your right leading uphill, to the right of Bradley Cottage. Quickly you come to a gate, go through and keep following this stony wide path (the Mendip Way) uphill for ever-improving views across the Cheddar Valley towards Glastonbury Tor and also behind you, across the reservoir and out towards the Bristol Channel. Keep climbing the track, after another gate follow the path around a hillside for approximately 400m climbing to a gate which leads to a rocky path section through woodland. There is also a natural spring close to the path here, so the surface is often wet or muddy. Continue climbing the path through the wood for another 400m to another gate by Carscliff farm, go through and keep following the farm track which is bearing left up the hill ahead of you.

Follow the track uphill and come to a metal gate signed West Mendip Way. go through and after 200 meters there is a gate on the right again signposted West Mendip Way **4**. Go through and head gently downhill across a field before gently ascending to a gate leading into Draycott Sleight Nature Reserve. Go through and turn right downhill for 100m before turning left through another gate. Continue along the side of the hill with views to your right, after 400m coming to a line of trees which you follow on your right. Carry on along the track to leave the nature reserve and cross over New Road, and then over the stone stile opposite.



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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



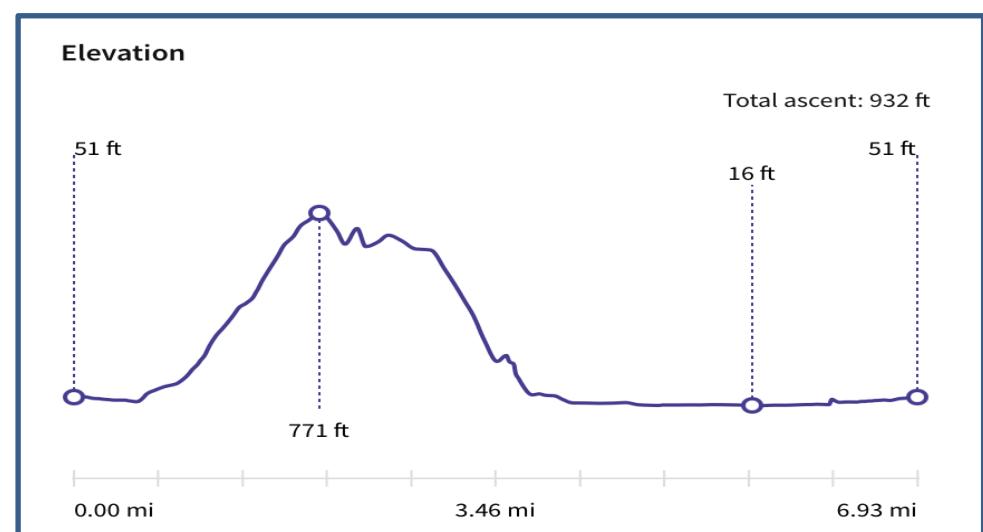
5 Bear right on a track which follows the edge of the field and after 100m go over a stone stile on your right. Continue straight ahead downhill, over another stile by a gate and on to a track (Sun Batch). Follow Sun Batch downhill all the way (keeping to the right) to the John Card memorial on the main A371. 6 Carefully cross the A371 and turn left, and then shortly right into Wet Lane. After a further 300m follow the road round to the right into Station Road. The "Strawberry Special" pub is just ahead on your right.

7 From the pub, continue in this same direction, passing the old station buildings and turn left downhill into Milking Lane. After 200m this lane bears right into a farm track (Dolemead Lane). After 700m come to a road and turn left, then after 100m turn right into Cheddar Moor Drove. 8

Signage may indicate otherwise, but this relates to vehicular access - these droves are in regular use by pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders. However these are working droves so please ensure that farming activity is not obstructed. Very large farm machinery may appear at any time, and cattle may be driven along, so please stay alert and be prepared to step aside or be helpful if asked. Help us to work with landowners to ensure "walkers are welcome"!

Follow this drove more or less straight with a couple of kinks, for 1.5km to a junction with farm buildings on your left. Turn right here and continue for 400m to the end, by Petruth Paddocks. Turn left, heading across the road towards the post box. 9 Follow this split cycle/footpath all the way into Cheddar, for about 700m. After passing the school playing fields on your left reach a barrier and turn right to reach the main road by the church entrance. Turn left here, cross over at the zebra crossing, and head down Roynon Way to the supermarket. Turn towards the store front then head towards the covered trolley park, then into the pathway behind, and across the bridge which leads into Felsberg Way. This housing estate is built on the site of old paper mills. Felsberg is a German twin town of Cheddar.

To continue, turn left and follow the road around to the right noticing a small waterfall over the bridge on your left. At the end of the road left into Redcliffe Street. Continue for 100m over the river footbridge and turn right at the main road junction. Cross over and follow this road (Cliff St) up past the Methodist Church for 400m back to the Riverside Inn (take care with narrow pavements in places).



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
- Cheddar Lounge
- 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
- Crafty Fingers
- 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
- Cheddar YHA

Stores / other

- Cheddar Library
- Hansford's Deli and Food Store
- Visitor Information Centre
- Old Rowlands Gift and Christmas Shop
- Post Office
- Regatta Cheddar
- The Gorge Outdoor