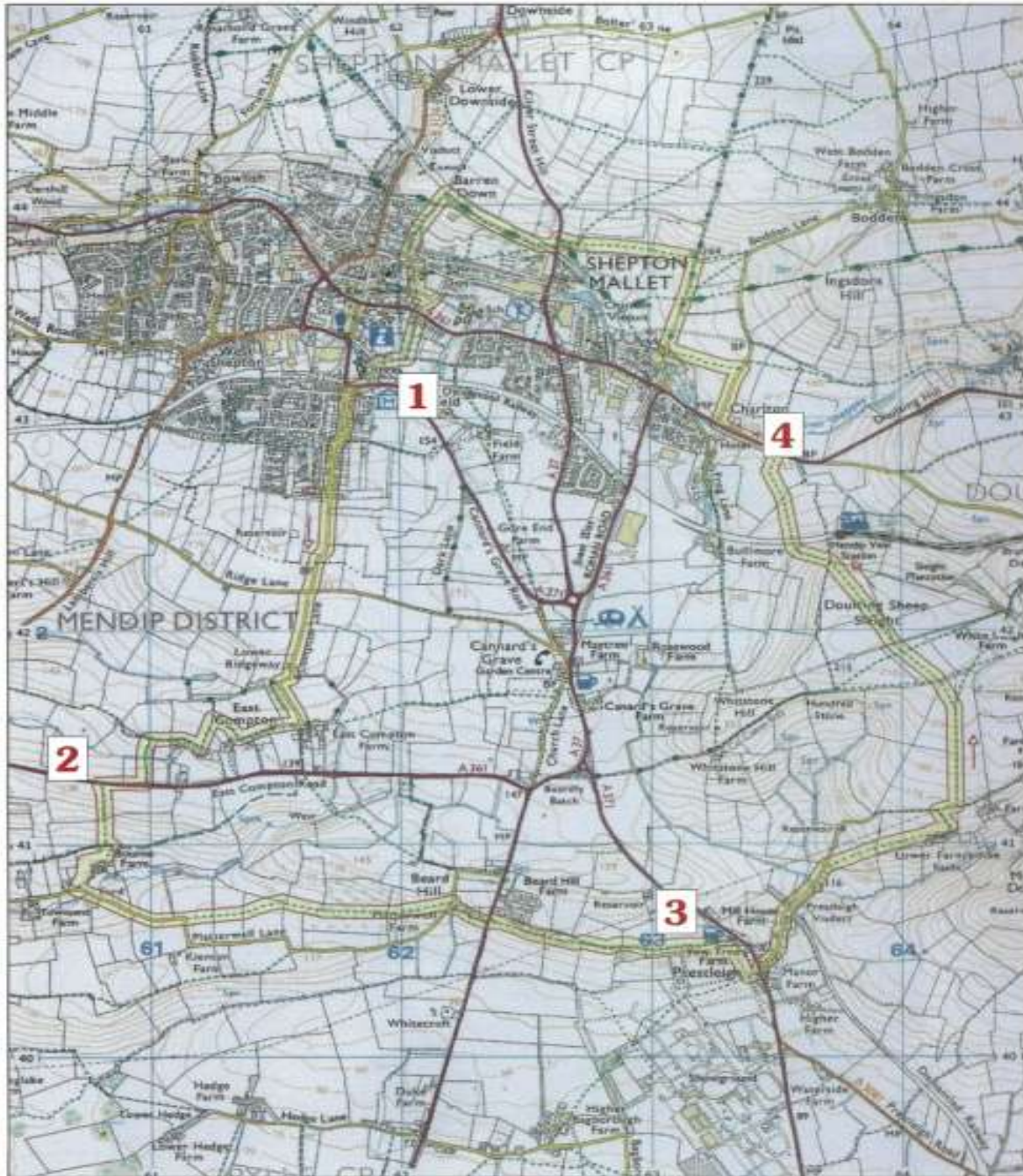


A6 - East Compton / Prestleigh / Mendip Vale Walk - 8mils



A6 - East Compton, Prestleigh, Mendip Vale. 8 Miles.

A moderate walk leaving Shepton via Compton Road over the ridge to the hamlet of East Compton, crossing Beard Hill with its good views on the way to Prestleigh, then climbing up to Douling Sheep Sleight passing Mendip Vale Station as you drop back down to Charlton to return to the start point via the old railway track and then some of the back roads of Shepton. This walk starts from Mendip District Council Car Park Cannards Grave Road, or from the Prestleigh Inn at Prestleigh. If starting from the Pub ask permission to park and start from No. 3.

1. Leaving the car park via the entrance to Cannards Grave road, turn right, then left over the pedestrian crossing, once over this turn right and follow the road to your left into Compton Road, follow the road for roughly 1/2 mile. At the end of the houses keep straight on into the narrow lane ahead to reach a T-junction, cross into the No Through Road to East Compton following the lane as it twists and turns to reach the track at the bottom. Turn right and follow the track until you reach two gates. Go through the one straight ahead bearing a little to your right to reach a stile in the hedge ahead, follow the marked path round to your right to reach a small marker post pointing to a stile on your right, go over the stile turn left and walk down the field through the gate onto a track. Turn right and follow the track, just after the end of the buildings on your left, cross a stile on your left, and follow the hedge on your

left down hill over a plank bridge at the bottom then climb back up to a stile at the top of the hill. Ignore the stile onto the road but turn right walking along the edge of the field to cross a stile and bridge, keep straight on by the hedge to cross a stile on your left halfway along this field to reach the A361.

2. Cross the road with great care to the footpath opposite, once over the stile follow the hedge on your right to reach the bottom of the hill, cross the stile onto a track then cross the stile opposite, bear slightly to your right to skirt the car park and drive of Bourne Farm to reach a stile at the bottom taking you out to Platterwell Lane. Turn left along the lane until it turns sharply to your right. Carry straight on over the stile then pass through the gate ahead and then over the stile in the next field boundary after which you go half left heading for the bottom left hand corner to cross a stile,

for the barn in the bottom corner of the field where you will find a stone stile taking you onto the lane.

3. Turn right and walk down the lane to reach West Compton. At the junction keep straight ahead then as the road bears to the left go straight on again signed Knowle cottages 1/2 mile, walk up the lane and take the first lane on your left, follow this as it turns to the left to bring you back to a T-junction where you turn left again, follow the road as it bears to the right and walk back up the lane straight ahead of you which you walked down earlier. When you reach a sharp bend to the left take the stile straight in front of you and follow the footpath *over* the stile ahead to eventually reach and cross a small stream, follow the track uphill through a farm gate then head a little to the right uphill to reach a stile next to a gate on the far side of the field.

4. Cross the road with care *over* the modified gate, head straight across the field to a double stile and bridge, keep on in this direction for two more fields to come to a farm track. Follow this past the renovated farm buildings and as you approach the farmyard turn left through an old gateway and, with the hedge on your right, walk up the field to find a stile halfway up, cross this, turn left and follow the path through the bushes bearing to the

left. At the end follow the hedge to a stile, cross this and aim for the gate. Cross a field to your right which brings you back onto the farm track which you follow, passing the farm and houses to emerge into a field, turn half left and aim for the large tree where you will find a stile, cross this and, still in the same direction, aim for the corner of the hedge in front of you. Now follow the hedge on your right until you emerge into a large field, go straight across this to a stile to the left of a barn, through an enclosed path, cross a stile onto Church Lane. Turn left to reach The Highwayman pub.



Its name is as recent as 15 years. Although it is an early 17th century building with some huge cellars it is by no means certain that it has been an Inn for much of that time. There is no record of it having been a pub in the 19th century at all. In fact, in the 1960's and 70's (possibly earlier) it was run as a cafe called 'The Little Blackbirds'.

5. From the pub car park continue along the minor road pass the cottages on your right and follow the lane out to the main road into Shepton. Cross the road and look for stile in the fence/ hedge on your right, cross and aim for the back of the house on your left where you will find a stile, cross this and follow the path across the next field to emerge into a new housing estate. Follow the path down Walnut Grove to turn right, passing a grassy area on your right, follow the road round to Starling Way. Continue into Cannock Square keep in the same direction through an alley, cross a road and keep straight ahead to reach the old railway line. Turn left and follow the tar mac track until you come to a path off to your right taking you

back into Collett Park.

This park was given to Shepton Mallet in 1906 by John Kyte Collett and, as you will see from the commemorative gates, it has just celebrated 100 years of existence. It had been an unofficial playground for children and when John Kyte Collett was removed from here as a child he is reputed to have said he would one day give an official play area for the children of Shepton Mallet. His grandson, also John Collett, and wife Esme came from Australia to celebrate Collett Day in 2006 as did other members of this family.

Walk past the lake and turn left to walk up past the play areas back to Park Road, turn left then right to reach your start point.

