

WALKING FESTIVAL PRIDDY 2011



www.mendipramblers.co.uk

This walks booklet has been written to support the Mendip Ramblers Group annual Walking Festival; this is the tenth. Mendip Ramblers is a local group of the Ramblers, Charity Number 1093577, Company limited by guarantee 4458492.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE: (This is an abbreviated extract. See www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk for the detailed code).

BE SAFE – PLAN AHEAD AND FOLLOW ANY SIGNS

LEAVE GATES AND PROPERTY AS YOU FIND THEM

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

PROTECT PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you do not harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

KEEP DOGS UNDER CLOSE CONTROL

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs but it is every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone – at home, at work and at leisure.

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the footpaths need to be walked in order to keep them open. Please report any problems to the Rights of Way team at Somerset County Council; www.somerset.gov.uk then search on 'Rights of Way'.

GENERAL WALKING ADVICE:

- 1 Wear sensible boots or shoes and socks suitable for walking in the countryside. These walks are not suitable for ordinary town shoes.
- 2 Wear or carry in your rucksack a good quality waterproof (not just showerproof) and windproof jacket; something with at least a hood or provision for a hood to be attached and with spacious pockets for maps, snacks, etc.
- 3 Wear suitable trousers. Everyday casual trousers are fine but may not be comfortable for longer walks. Modern synthetic walking trousers are lightweight, loose-fitting, quick-drying and have handy pockets. Shorts if the weather is fine but beware of nettles, brambles and ticks which are becoming more widespread. Denim jeans are not recommended because they take a long time to dry out if wet and can chafe.
- 4 Take suitable provisions (water/drink, food).
- 5 Use or carry gloves for cold weather.
- 6 Head covering is useful to keep the sun off and also keep you warm in cold weather. Also cream to avoid sun burn.
- 7 A rucksack or backpack is the best means of carrying what you need (including extra clothing); they leave the hands free and are far more comfortable than a shoulder bag over a long distance.

THE WALKS: (Start – Priddy Village Hall car park Priddy – Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference ST 527513)

- The maps in this booklet are sketches. Each map is to scale but the scales vary and no scale is indicated.
- The walk descriptions are written by many different people and vary in style and details.
- The walks have been graded (1 to 4), principally by length and height gain; 4 being the most difficult.
- The walk lengths are accurate to within ½ mile.
- The walks can be very muddy and steep in places.
- It is recommended that you use the map sketches and descriptions in conjunction with the relevant OS maps and a compass (OS Explorer Map 141 – Cheddar Gorge & Mendip Hills West)

Mendip Ramblers cannot be held responsible for any accidents or incidents that may occur whilst on these walks.

Priddy Nine Barrows and Priddy Mineries (3.6 miles)

(Grade - 1, Height gain - 260 ft)

Abbreviations are T= turn, H = half, R = right, L = left

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

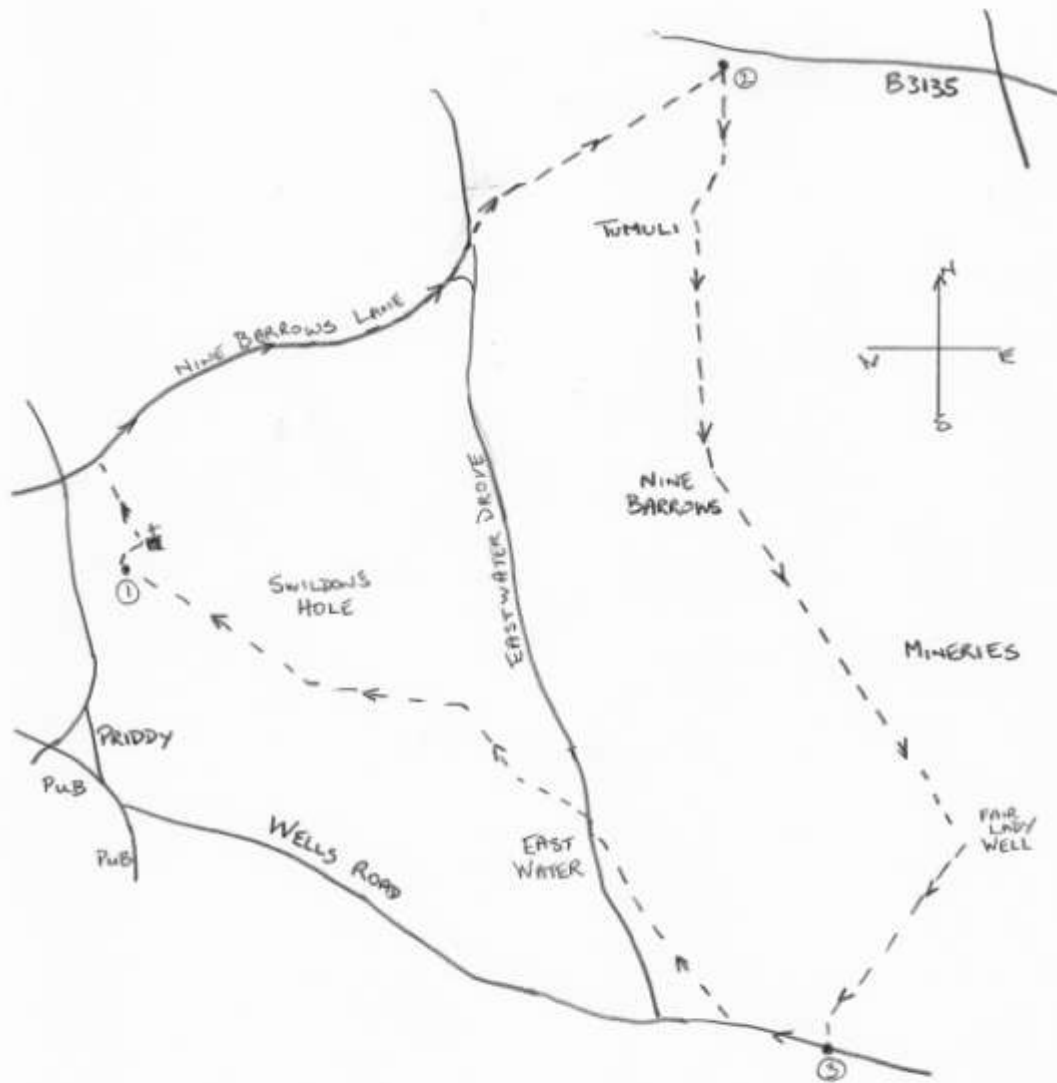
From parking area with school and village hall on your right enter footpath at west corner of school building, proceed through two kissing gates and across churchyard to field gate. Continue straight ahead through second field gate to Nine Barrows Lane. TR and walk along the road for about half a mile, ignoring a footpath on your right. Pass a stony track on your right beyond which is a small lay-by and kissing gate on right. TR through gate to extensive grass field. THL to join a grassy path leading in a north east direction. Keeping electricity poles on right walk over brow towards a single electric pole and a metal field gate and wooden stile in far corner of field.

2. GR ST540524

At this point do not cross the stile but TR and walk towards and through the left hand side of the barrows, keeping the electricity pole on R. Continue south over wooden stile to reach a stone wall on right. Proceed south along wall to reach another wooden stile. (To the left is a well used bridleway gate which leads to the same path).

From here you leave grassland and enter Priddy Mineries. Continue down the rough path, to reach a well defined track. TR with Fair Lady Well lake on L. Take RH fork, pass waymark post and beech trees on R to reach a metal stile. Climb stile and cross track to climb second metal stile. Continue past the front of cavers' bungalow and join the track to walk down to main road.

PRIDDY NINE BARROWS AND
PRIDDY MINERIES
3.6 MILES



3. GR ST542503

TR along road. Just beyond cottages TR over stone stile and head towards white farm buildings, and second stone stile. Continue over stile to gate keeping Eastwater Cavern on your right. TR along road for approx. 50yds. TL through unmarked entrance to caravan park towards and over a wooden stile. Head north westerly with stone wall on L, through boggy area and over a ladder stile. Continue ahead and take left field gate between two trees. Carry on along boundary wall on R to stepped stone stile. Climb stile and walk downhill towards church, over a stone then wooden stile ignoring a stone stile on R which leads to Swildon's Hole Cavern. Climb bank towards Village Hall and take the left hand of two stiles. Proceed past hall to car parking area.

West Mendip Way and Pelting Drove - 4.1 miles

(Grade – 1.5, Height gain - 297 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

With Village Hall behind you, walk downhill, joining main road through Priddy, turn left. Continue until you pass New Inn on the right on the edge of the village green, turning right towards the Queen Victoria pub.

Continue along the road, passing Ebborways Farm B&B on right and after approximately 200yards, cross the stile in the wall on the left hand side of the road, marked West Mendip Way.

2. GR ST526502

Follow field edge round right angle bend, then cross a stile and continue until you reach a stone stile half way along the field on left marked to Wookey Hole. Turn right into enclosed footpath; follow it until you come to a stile onto Dursdon Drove. Turn right and continue until you reach the road (Pelting Drove), passing Ebbor Grove Farm on right. Turn left.

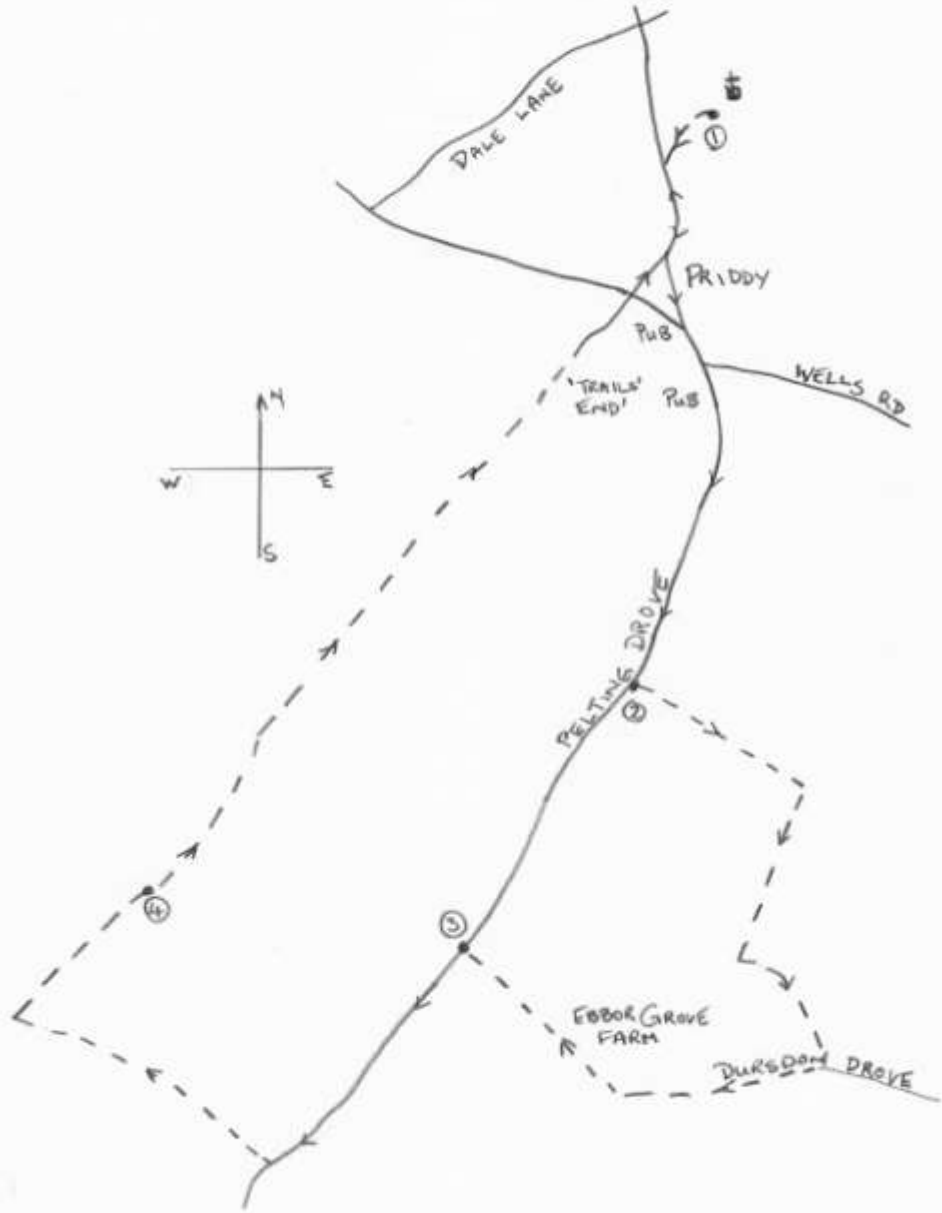
3. GR ST523496

Walk along the road for approx 600 yards until you reach the car park on the right. Go through the car park, on through the kissing gate and follow the worn track straight ahead of you, going uphill to cross the stone stile in the wall. There are fine views to the left and on a clear day you can see the sea at Weston Super Mare. Turn right walking in a NE direction. Do not go through the gap you see almost immediately ahead, keep the wall with shrubby bushes growing in it on your right. Continue in this direction until you cross a stone stile in the corner.

4. GR ST516497

Walk continues towards Priddy crossing several fields with 5 more stiles to be in roughly a straight line. Finally reach field with a green barn on your right and then reach road by dark green cottage ("Trails End"). Follow downhill straight ahead, meeting Priddy Green, this time on your right. Walk back up the road to the start point.

WEST MENDIP WAY AND
PELTING DROVE
4.1 MILES



East Water and Monarch's Way - 3.7 miles

(Grade – 1, Height gain - 205 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Walk between the school on the left and the Village hall on the right. Cross the stone stile. Walk diagonally left to a wooden then stone stile in the bottom left hand corner. Go up the hill and climb the stone stile just to the right of a gate. Follow this field, keeping wall on the left, and go through a gate. Walk slightly to the right and climb wooden steps over a wall. Follow the footpath and, by an electricity pole, turn right and cross wall over wooden steps, then over the next stile to the next field. Straight on down to stile

2. GR ST534505

Cross the Wells road and continue through farmyard (Lower Pitts Farm) and up the rough track. Follow this track as it turns left and then right. At the cattle grid, turn left onto Dursdon Drove. Follow this, ignoring the right hand bend, but walking straight on till, crossing at right angles to the path, you reach Monarch's Way. Take this footpath to the left and follow the field, keeping wall and hedge on the left.

Continue over three more fields till the Wells road is reached again.

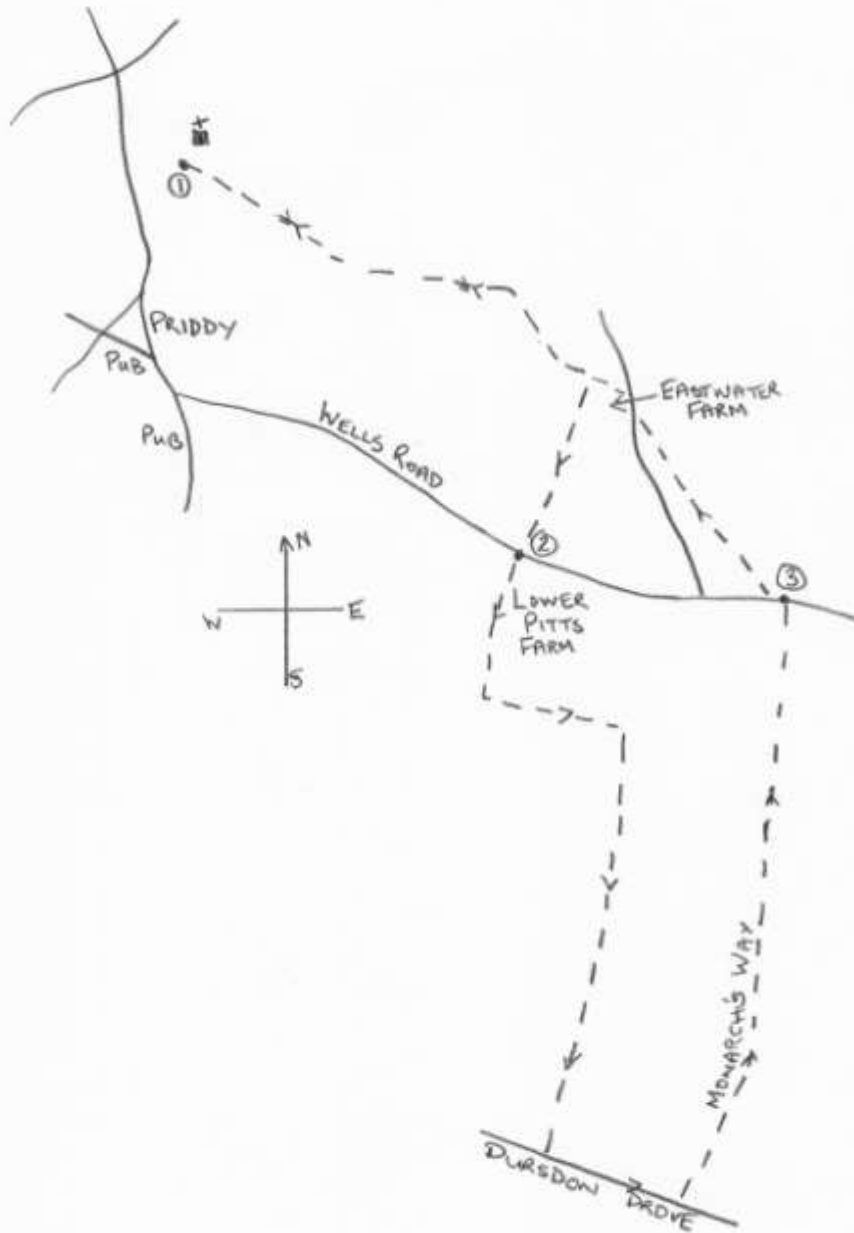
3. GR ST540504

Turn left and, immediately on the right, take the footpath over a stone stile. Cross the field taking a left diagonal path, over the stone stile in wall and continue in left diagonal direction to a gate leading to a track.

Turn right along this track passing East Water Farm and immediately take left hand fork through small caravan park. Cross the stile and follow path to wooden steps over a wall. Walk straight ahead then bear left to a gate. Go through gate and follow path to stone stile with steps. Continue along this path and climb stone then wooden stile.

Climb the hill in left diagonal direction back to the Village hall.

EAST WATER AND MONARCH'S WAY
3.7 MILES



Priddy Nine Barrows, Priddy Mineries and Stockhill **Woods - 6.2 miles**

(Grade – 2, Height gain - 483 ft)

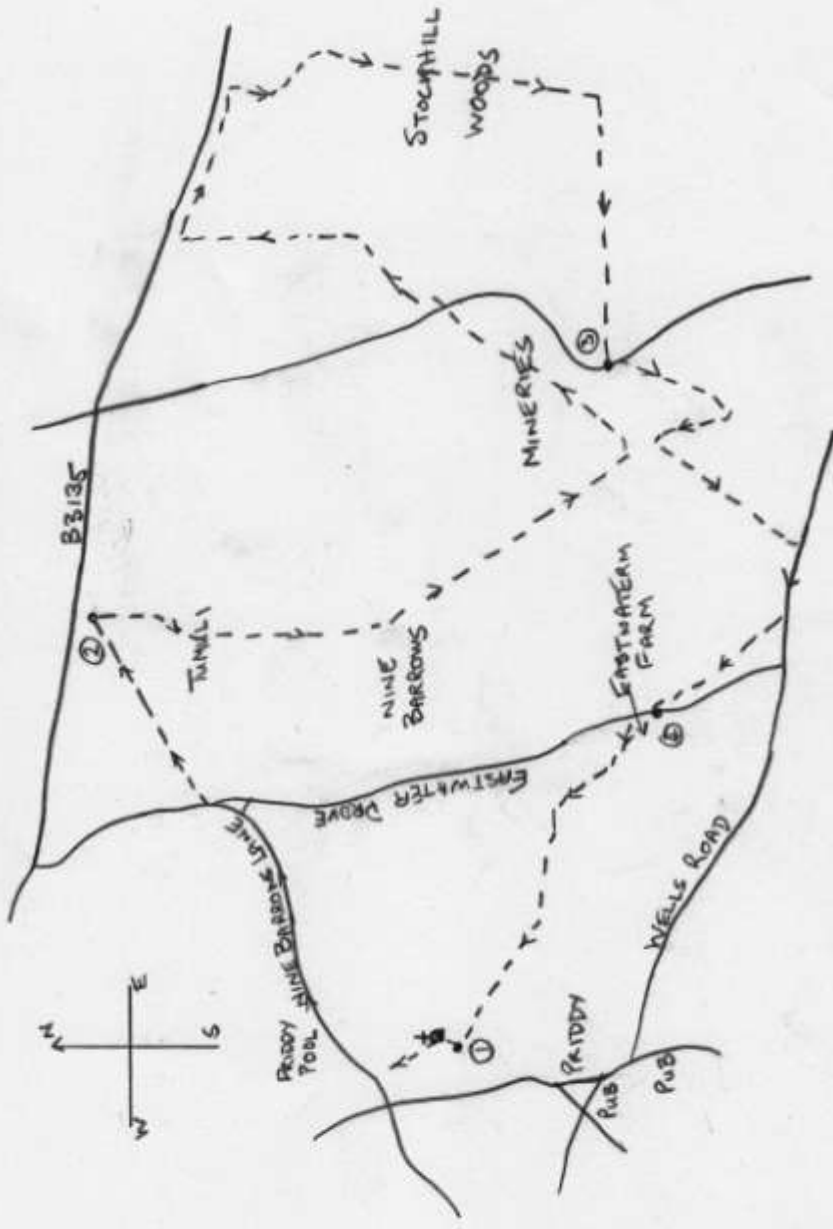
1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

From parking area with school and village hall on your right enter footpath at west corner of school building. Go through two kissing gates towards the church and enter the churchyard. Leave at the gateway in the bottom left corner to cross to another gateway leading onto a lane. Turn right; follow the lane past a pond on the left, onward to the top of a sharp rise with a copse on the right. Turn right through a gate, then climb to the crest of the slope ahead, there, head for the stile to be seen in the line of trees before you.

2. GR ST529523

Reaching this point, turn, and walk towards the tumuli. Passing through these, a stile will be sighted. Cross over and walk to a wall. Here turn left, keeping the wall on your right, follow to a reserve boundary. Take the horse-gate to trace the path down to a track and turn left along it to a road. Cross this at the footpath sign to enter the woods. Immediately turn left on a gravel path. Keep walking straight ahead, ignoring all turns, until you reach a fork with a wooden post bearing a yellow badge pointing right, turn left. Continue to an exit onto a road, then turn right along a dirt path inside the boundary wall towards a second exit. Now turn right on a broad hard track. Walk around an s-bend to a fork, take the right hand way. Again ignore all turns, until a right turn near the top of a long rise, continue uphill to the next crossways and take the green track to the right. Follow this to a road.

PRIDDY NINE BARROWS, PRIDDY MINERIES AND
STOCKHILL WOODS 6.2 MILES



3. GR ST546509

Cross diagonally left to a low sign-board, beside which is a path leading to the down through a reed bed to a pond. Turn right, on reaching a path junction with the pond on your right. Follow this path to another path junction by the end of the pond. Now, turn left on a path along a line of trees, to a farm drive. Cross the drive and over another stile then go to the left through the cavers' bungalow grounds to rejoin the drive and follow it down to the road ahead. On the road, walk right, to a stone stile next to a metal gate. Pass over into the field and head for another stone stile in the wall to the left of a deep gully, then to a gateway onto a lane.

4. GR ST537507

Turn right, then left into a caravan park, crossing a stile in the fence at the rear. In the field, walk to a ladder-stile over a wall. Once over, follow the wall to the left to a wooden gate. Go through to follow the wall, now on your right, to the next stone stile. Here, using the church as a beacon, go downhill to the remains of another stone stile set in a corner, with a wooden fence behind it. Climb over and head uphill towards the top left hand corner of the field. Here, take the left hand of two stone stiles to reach the village hall.

Wookey Hole, Ebbor Wood and Deer Leap – 6.6 miles

(Grade – 2.5, Height gain - 873 ft)

1. GR ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

From Priddy Village Hall go through the 2 gates opposite into the churchyard and continue straight ahead keeping the church on your right to the gate at the bottom of the churchyard. Go through the gate and walk ahead to the tarmac lane.

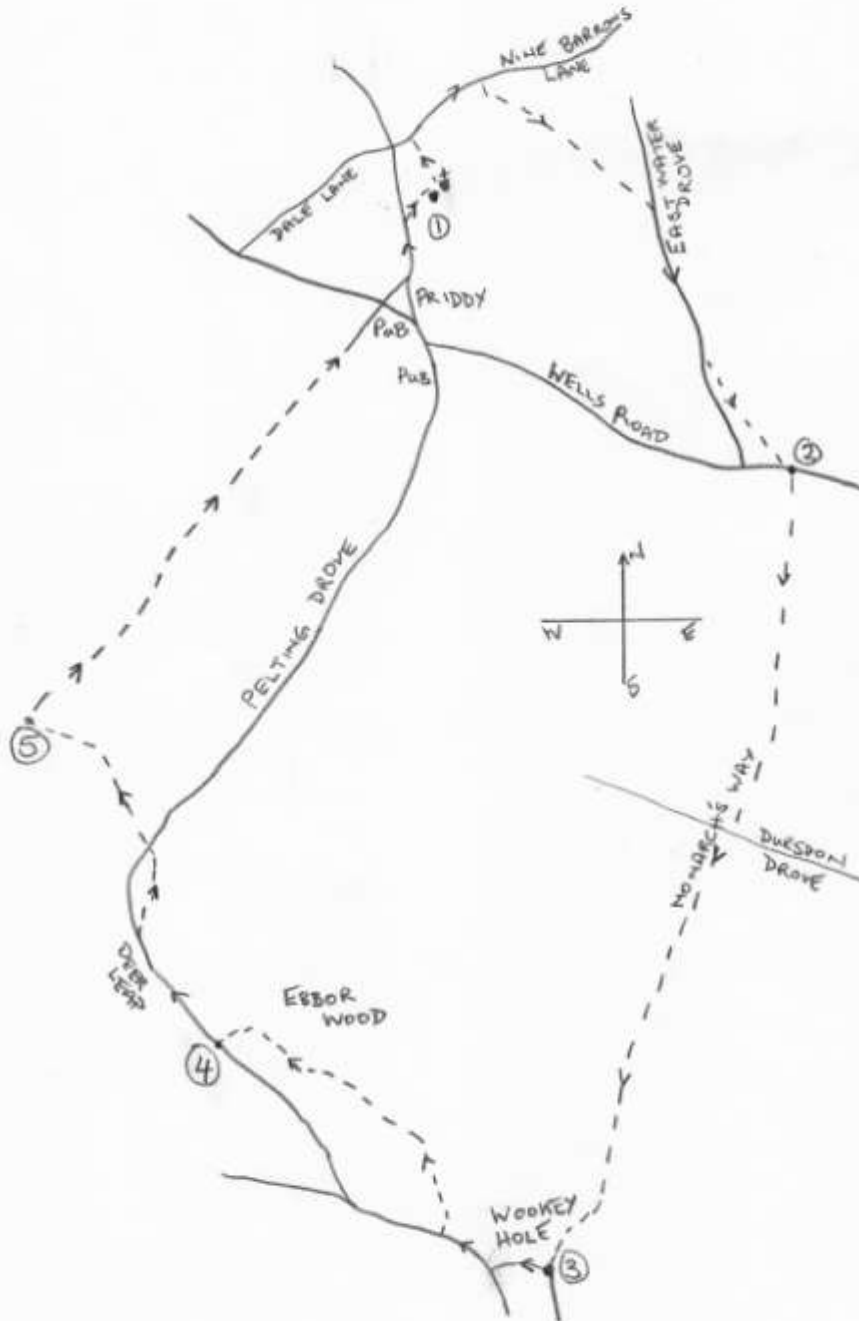
At the lane turn right. After approx 400yds turn right going through a gate at finger post footpath sign. Follow the track and at a gate with Private Property sign go through a smaller gate to the left of this and follow track to stone stile on the edge of small copse. Cross the stile and bear slightly right heading for the gap between trees. Cross the stile in the wall then head towards the right hand corner of the field. Cross into the next field between gateposts. Then bear left to head for a finger post at a stile. Cross the stile. Turn right at the track and follow it until it joins a tarmac lane.

At an iron gate on your left with a footpath sign marked Wells Road go into the field and follow the footpath keeping to the right of the ditch. Cross the stile in the stone wall and continue straight ahead across the field to cross another stile at the main road. Turn left and walk approx 40 yards along this road until opposite a stile and footpath sign

2. GR ST540504

After crossing the road and stile join the Monarch's Way path continue ahead keeping the field boundary on your right crossing several fields and stiles until you reach a grassy track. Cross the track and then cross a stile diagonally opposite to your right in the stone wall into the next field. Follow the footpath keeping the field boundary on your right crossing 2 stiles. After crossing a further stile in a hedge continue straight ahead downhill between the trees to a stile at the bottom.

WOKEY HOLE, EBBOR WOOD
AND DEERLEAP 6.6 MILES



Cross into the open field and veering right, cross this field to join a track to the right of the houses. Follow the track past the horse stable and go through the metal gate onto the tarmac road. Bear right and follow the road downhill to the main road through the village of Wookey Hole.

3. GR ST532476

Turn right at the main road and walk past the entrance to Wookey Hole caves. Continue following the tarmac road ignoring Titlands Lane on your left. Before you go up the hill turn right after the last bungalow. There are 2 metal gates. Go through the smaller one on the left and follow the track keeping the bungalow on your right.

Where the track forks take the left hand track and follow it along the valley until you reach the Ebbor Gorge Natural England sign. Cross the stile into Ebbor Wood and follow the wide path through the woods. After passing the Priddy sign on your right take the left hand track at a fork and continue walking up a gradual hill sign posted to car park. Cross the bridge and continue following signs to car park. Go through kissing gate and take right fork climbing up the steps. Walk through the car park to the gap in the stone wall. Continue straight ahead on the grassy track keeping the 'exhibit' on your right. At fork take the left hand track and look for a gate on your left after a large tree to join the Priddy road

4. GR ST519485

Turn right and walk up the road climbing steadily. Go past the finger post on your left and continue to walk up the hill to a stile on your right. Cross this stile into the field and follow the path that runs beside the road. Cross another stile into the next field and then cross the next stile onto the tarmac road. On the opposite side of the road go through the gate onto open access land and follow the grassy track taking the right fork. Where another grassy track joins on your right continue ahead veering to the left to reach a stile in the distant stone wall.

5. GR ST514495

Cross the stile and turn right. Continue ahead on this path crossing several stiles and fields until you reach some farm buildings on your right. Cross the stile at the end of the farm track and follow the tarmac lane down the hill. At the bottom of the hill continue ahead across the main road keeping the Green on your right. At T intersection cross the road and turn left walking along the track beside the road. At fork take right hand road up the hill to return to the village hall.

Ebbor Rocks and Deer Leap – 6.3 miles

(Grade – 2.5, Height gain - 775 ft)

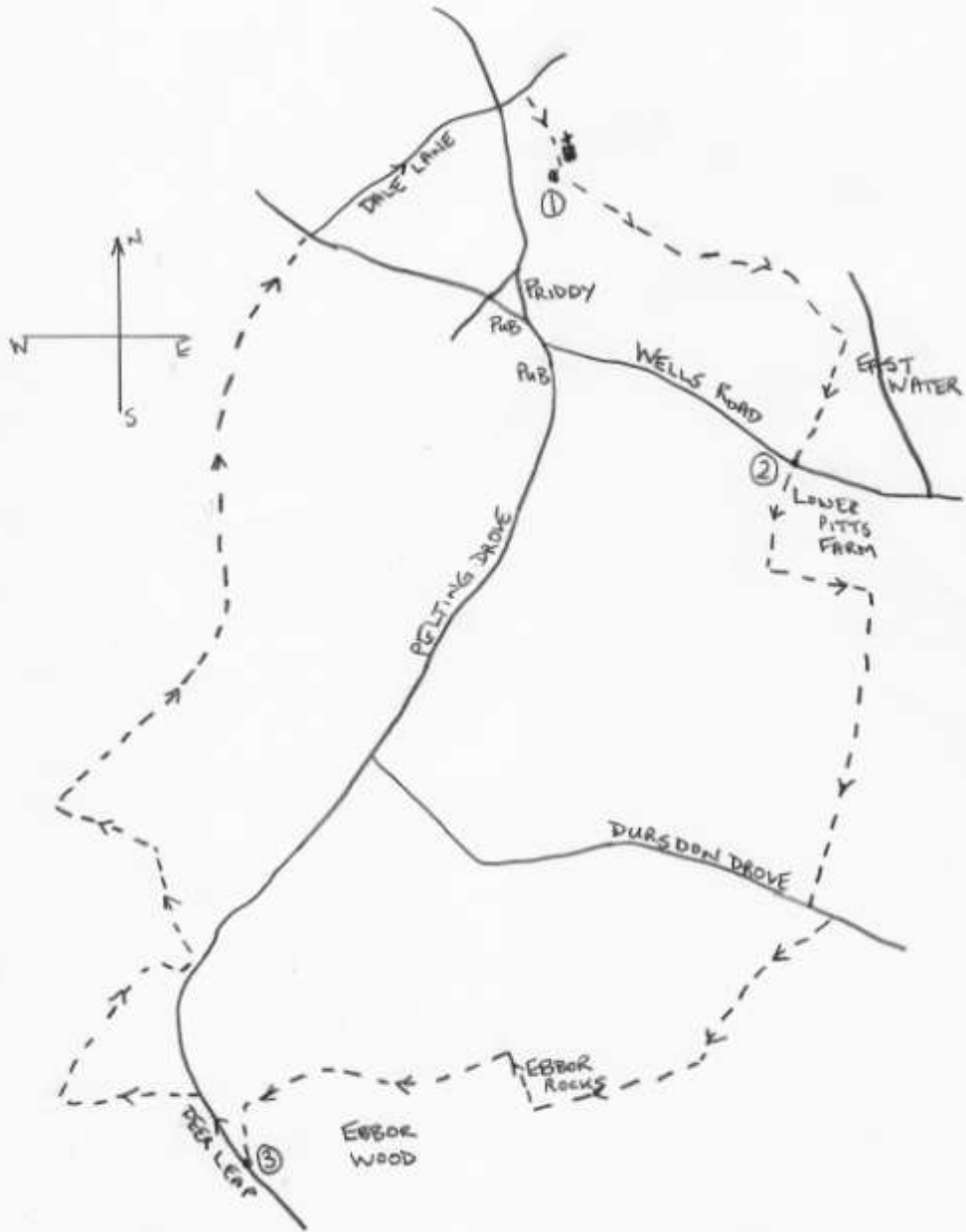
1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

From the front of Priddy Village Hall, follow down the side of the hall to the stone stile that is built into the wall. Go over the stile and head 'angled' left down the field to a wooden stile, followed with a stone stile right in the corner of the wall. Go over the stiles and head straight up the field to a high stone stile, go over and follow the wall on the left to a gate at the far end of the field. Go through a gate, bear right and follow path and go over the ladder stile. Follow wall on the left in the same direction, as you come to a barn in front of you turn right. Take the ladder stile over the wall and over the horizontal stile straight in front of you. Follow the wall on the right down to a stone stile onto the road.

2. GR ST534505

Go straight over onto a track, follow track and go straight ahead around a couple of bends - keep on the track until you come to a cattle grid. At the junction turn left onto Dursdon Drove then after approximately 60 yards, turn right following the track towards Higher Pitts Farm. Walk straight ahead with the farm buildings on your left onto a foot path to a small gate. Go through the gate and turn right up to a small gate by the side of the cattle trough. Keep to the hedge on the right, follow to a gate and go through the gate in the same direction so you have the fence on your right, to a stile besides a gate (Ebbor Gorge). Go over the stile and follow the footpath down through the gorge, with the cattle drinking hole to the right. Follow path down to small stile by the side of the gate. Go over and follow the path down to a crossing path - turn right here (there is a viewpoint hundred yards straight ahead if you would like to take a look!). On turning right continue going down fairly steeply. At the bottom ignore the path to the left, continue straight ahead, now climbing up through trees to a stile besides a small gate. Go over the stile bearing left with a fence and trees on the left to another stile.

EBBOR ROCKS AND
DEER LEAD 6.3 MILES



Go over the stile in the same direction to the corner over some rough stones to the stile ahead. Over the stile and follow grass path through a break in the hedge. Following on down past the marker post to a stile in the bottom on your right, go over the stile and follow path. At the top turn right by a tree by the side of a gate and onto a road.

3. GR ST519485

Follow right up the road approx. 250 yards, you will find a footpath on your left. Go over the stile and head towards (this is Deer Leap) another stile next to a cattle trough. Go over stile and head in the same direction down to a stile roughly in the bottom corner of the field. Go over stile - keeping in the same direction to a stile by the side of a gate (and a recently well built stone wall). Do not go over the stile, but turn up with the wall on your left and follow the wall up the field to a stile next to a gate. Go over and follow the hedge and wall on the left (almost like a track) to a stile in the corner of this field. Go over stile and follow path to a gate on your left, go through the gate and follow the path (keeping roughly the same level to the opposite side of the field) to a wall and a stone stile- just slightly higher than your position now. Go over stile and turn up right following the wall on your right up the field. The wall now is in a bad state (small trees growing from it). Next, go over a stone stile, carry on across field in the same direction over another stone stile. After crossing another field reach a stone wall boundary with two stone stiles, 10 yds apart. Cross the one on the left and carry on, following the line of the stone wall close on your right, over 3 further stone stiles to reach a road. Continue on Dale Lane which is diagonally to the right where you joined the road. Straight across the crossroads onto Nine Barrows Lane, turn right after about 200 yds following footpath through two field gates to Priddy Church. Head towards the school and through two pedestrian gates to reach the Village Hall.

Rodney Stoke and Westbury sub Mendip – 8.2 miles

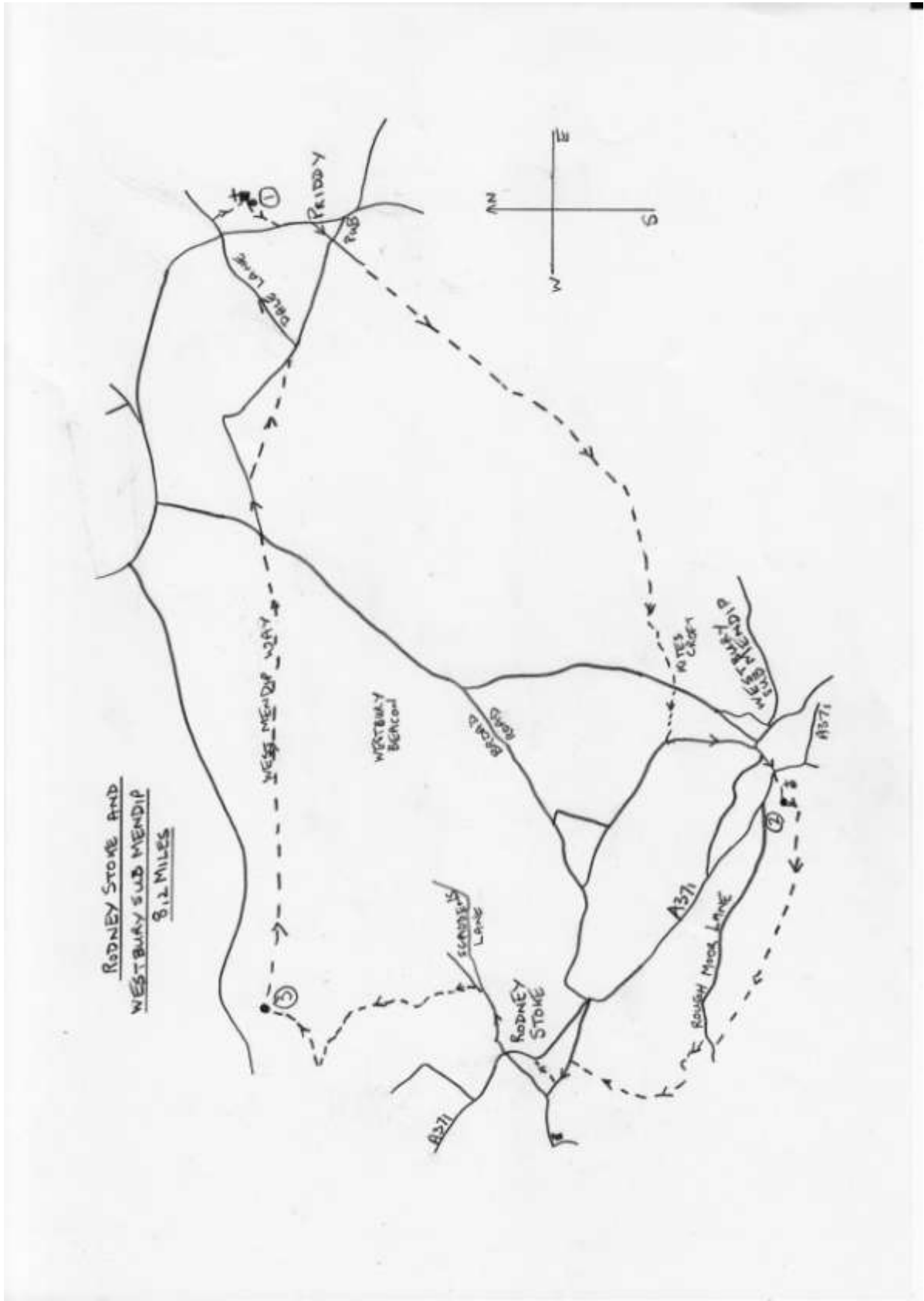
(Grade – 3, Height gain - 1057 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Commence the walk from Priddy church hall, turn left out of car park and go downhill to join the road. Keep left towards Priddy Green, upon reaching the green cross the road to keep the green on your left. Keep straight ahead and go up a no through road. At the end of this road cross a stile to enter a field, carry straight ahead to cross six stiles. After the last stile you follow a crumbling wall on your left. Then cross a stile into Crooks field nature reserve. Continue downhill to the next stile, cross this stile and carry on downhill slightly to the right following an obvious track to reach another stile.

After you cross this stile and bear left down a smooth grassy track, you will come to a row of shrubs and trees on your left, approximately 100 metres past the trees there is a path to the left. Follow this, as you turn you will see a barn in the lower part of the field, head towards this. You leave the field by a gate just after the barn. Continue down the track to reach another gate, pass through this and turn right down the lane. When you reach the T. junction turn left and after approximately 30 metres turn right over a stone stile. Carry on downhill bearing to the left to pass over another stile by a farm gate. Turn left through a small orchard to reach a kissing gate and some steep steps down to the road. Take the lane straight ahead, after a short distance turn at a T. junction downhill towards Westbury Sub Mendip. Follow the road down School Hill to reach the major road at the bottom.

Cross the road by the Westbury cross to a stone stile opposite into a green grass area. Walk towards the church, on the right hand side there is a farm gate, pass through this and then go diagonally right to pass through another gate by the barn. At the end of the barn turn left, when you reach a fence turn right to enter a field.



2. GR ST498487

Head straight across this field keeping the sports field on your right. Pass through a kissing gate in the hedge to go into the next field. Go straight ahead to cross a stile into the next field keeping the hedge on your right, at the end of this field pass through the gate. Continue straight ahead to cross another stile, carry on straight ahead and pass over a stile into a lane. Turn right for a short distance then turn left onto a track road. Follow the track until you come to the gate at the end of the track, go through the gate and turn right. Follow the hedge on your right when the hedge turns right carry on diagonally right, to find a stile and a footbridge in the hedge and follow the field up to the left hand corner.

Pass through the gate and onto a road to turn left and continue for a short distance, as the road bends to the right; turn right to go over a stile by a gate. Continue ahead through a small paddock to reach another stile, cross this to enter an orchard. Cross this slightly to your right going uphill past a building to cross a stile in the fence. Follow the fence on your left to go through a gate onto A371 road. With caution turn left downhill to reach the pavement, carry on down and round the corner and at the cross roads, carefully cross the A371 to go up Scadden's Lane. Continue up past Scadden's Farm to a fork in the road; turn to the left to go up the track by the new building to cross a stile into a long field with woods on either side. Go straight up this field which is a steep climb. When you come to a viewpoint with a seat you pass over a stile into a nature reserve. Follow on up the hill through the nature reserve to reach a stile in a stone wall by a gate. This takes you out of the nature reserve; carry on to pass a derelict house on your left. Continue uphill aiming for the left hand side of a high hedge to a stone stile, cross this stile.

3. GR ST488512

Cross the field to come to another stone stile, cross this and follow the stone wall on your right hand side with the gliding club on your left. Go over three more stiles then leave the field by crossing the fourth stile with a fenced off area on your left and a row of trees to your right. Continue diagonally right to pass a fenceless stile. Carry on to a wooden stile in a stone wall, cross this and continue to another stile in a wall to join a road. Cross the road to join the lane opposite, this is a minor road.

When you come to a stile on your right cross this and continue to another stile, cross this and continue to the far left hand corner to cross a stile onto the road. Cross the road and continue down Dale Lane, at the end of the lane go over the road to go along Nine Barrows lane for a short distance. Turn right down a public footpath towards the church. Go through a gate and across the field to reach the church. Enter the church yard then through to the village hall.

Pen Hill and Rookham – 8.8 miles

(Grade – 3, Height gain - 901 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Walk past Priddy Primary School and Village Hall and go over stone stile next to cycle rack. Continue downhill and to the left to far corner of field and cross wooden then tumbledown stone stile. Keep in same general direction uphill towards gate near corner of field. Ignore gate and cross high stone wall using stepped stone stile next to cattle trough. Walk up gently sloping field, keeping wall on your left. Go through gate at top of field and turn right, then walk keeping parallel to wall on your right.

Note evidence of lead mining in field and look at Priddy Nine Barrows on the horizon to your left.

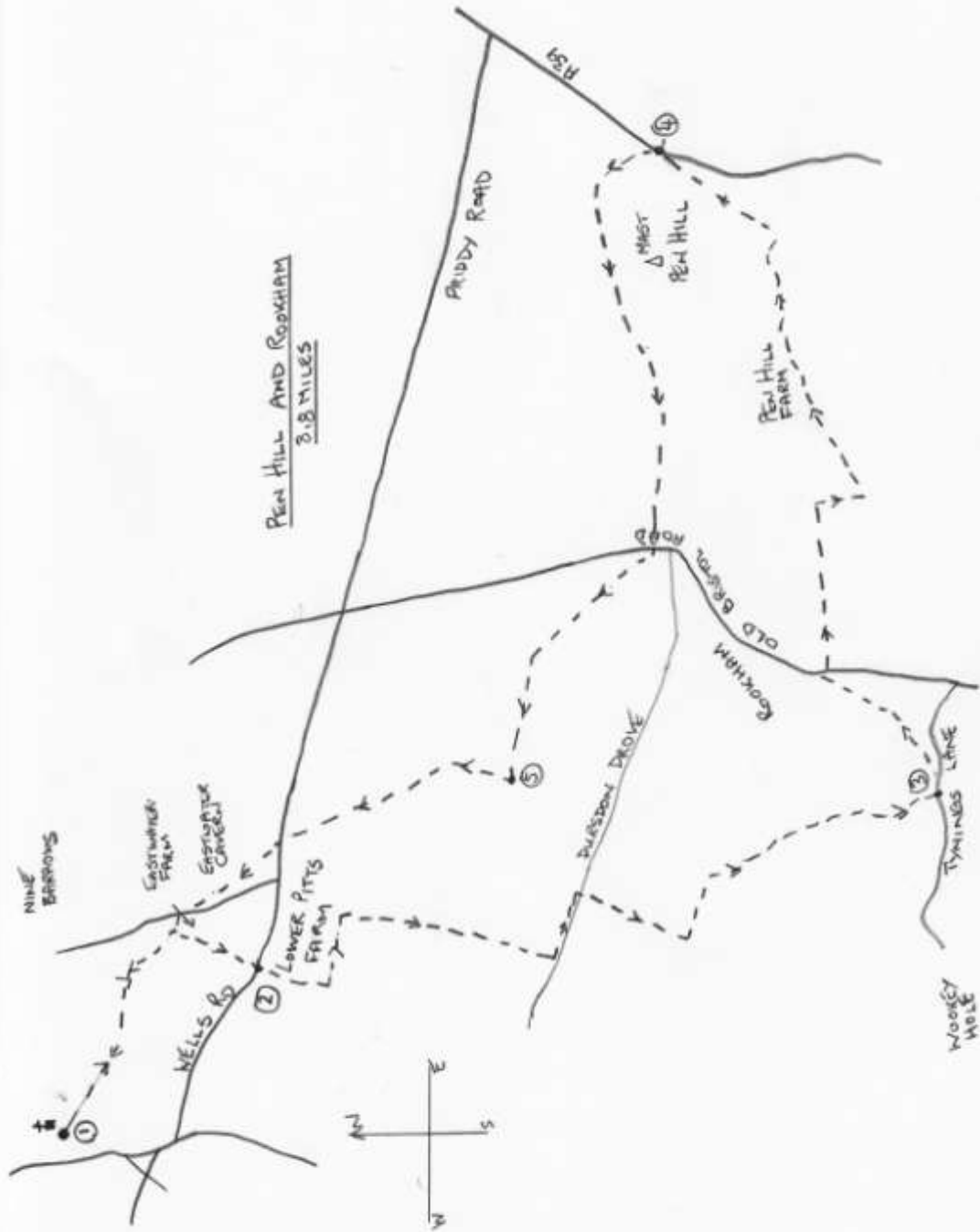
Cross high stone wall using wooden “step stile” and continue gently downhill across damp field towards farm buildings. Just before caravan site, look for and cross wooden stile to your right.

Cross two fields and two stiles, keeping close to wall on your right until crossing further stone stile and reaching moderately busy road. Care please as this is a blind corner.

2. GR 534505

Cross road and follow track through Lower Pitts Farm and stay on track after farm, turning sharp left, then right. Continue south on track until reaching a wide lane known as Dursdon Drove. Turn left onto Dursdon Drove. Walk straight ahead down the grassy track in front of you and ignore the path going round to the right. Continue down the grassy track and cross stile on your right with a horizontal scaffolding pole at the top. Cross two fields, keeping the stone wall and hedge close to your right until you reach the edge of the Mendip escarpment.

This is a good place to stop and rest and admire the view.



Turn left (east) and follow well defined path for one field before reaching and crossing awkward stile. Turn right, downhill, 45° and look for metal gate with stile on left-hand side. Cross stile and continue downhill on ancient trackway. After passing through a wooded section and emerging onto open fields, DO NOT be lured by track on right. Continue downhill across field, keeping the numerous buildings of Model Farm ahead of (and below) you. Eventually you will see a gate hidden in the hedge. Pass through gate into next field and continue downhill to far left hand corner at the bottom of the field.

*# Notice uneven lines in field caused by mediaeval ploughing.
These are known as Strip Lynchets.*

Cross a wooden stile to reach a lane (Tynning's Lane).

3. GR ST542476

Turn left and walk for 75 metres until you see a wooden stile on the left by a small brook. Cross stile and small field to another stile and gate and enter wood. Follow stream uphill, keeping to the right bank. On leaving the wood, you enter a steep grassy field through the left hand gate with a stile on the right. Ascend field towards thatched cottage and cross stile to reach narrow but busy road. (Old Bristol Road). CAUTION.

Cross road to track on opposite side. (Ignore noisy dogs.) Follow track/footpath almost due east. Continue uphill and ignore prominent track turning right after 200 metres.

After just under 1 km, follow track as it turns down right down side of field to reach farm track. Turn sharply left up track and continue up track/road for 1 km, keeping farm and associated buildings on your left. You are now at a T junction with a private lane and public bridleway. Pen Hill transmitter is on your left, uphill. Turn left and walk up lane almost to its junction with the A39. Look for the bridle gate on your left.

4. GR ST568488

Go through the bridle gate and turn right. Circle anticlockwise around Pen Hill, keeping the hedge fairly close on your right. (*Do not be tempted by the road up to the transmitter*). After crossing one fence through gate, walk past guy ropes attached to Mendip Mast to a stone stile in the corner of the field. Ignore this and look for wooden bridle gate 50 metres to the left. Cross two fields and one gate keeping wall and hedge to your right to reach Old Bristol Road again.(Caution). Cross road and go over stone stile. Turn 45° right and cross two fields with a stile in between. After second field, turn 45° left and walk parallel to stone wall on your right for two more fields.

5. GR 542494

Turn right over stile and walk north along edge of field. Negotiate stile and turn 45° left and cross field towards barrows on horizon. Go through gate next to animal enclosure and continue in the same direction to stile at corner of field by road keeping houses to your right. (*Caution - Care needed as you are on the inside of a corner and invisible to approaching traffic*).

Cross road and walk left along grassy verge for 40 metres to a stone stile. Go over stone stile and proceed 45° left across first field and stone stile. Keeping Eastwater Cavern to your right. Cross second field to gate opposite Eastwater Farm. Turn right up lane for approx 50 metres until you reach a small caravan site on your left. Enter caravan site and walk straight through towards a stile to right of a barn. Ignore step stile on the left and cross damp field towards wooden "step stile" ahead. Cross high stone wall walk up field, keeping stone wall on your left and head towards gate on left. Go through gate and walk towards stone step stile, keeping hedge on your right.

Continue downhill and cross tumbledown stone stile. Walk uphill towards school and village hall, cross a final stone stile and you are back at the start.

Priddy Mineries and Ebbor Rocks – 8.3 miles

(Grade – 3, Height gain - 648 ft)

Abbreviations are T= turn, H = half, R = right, L = left

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

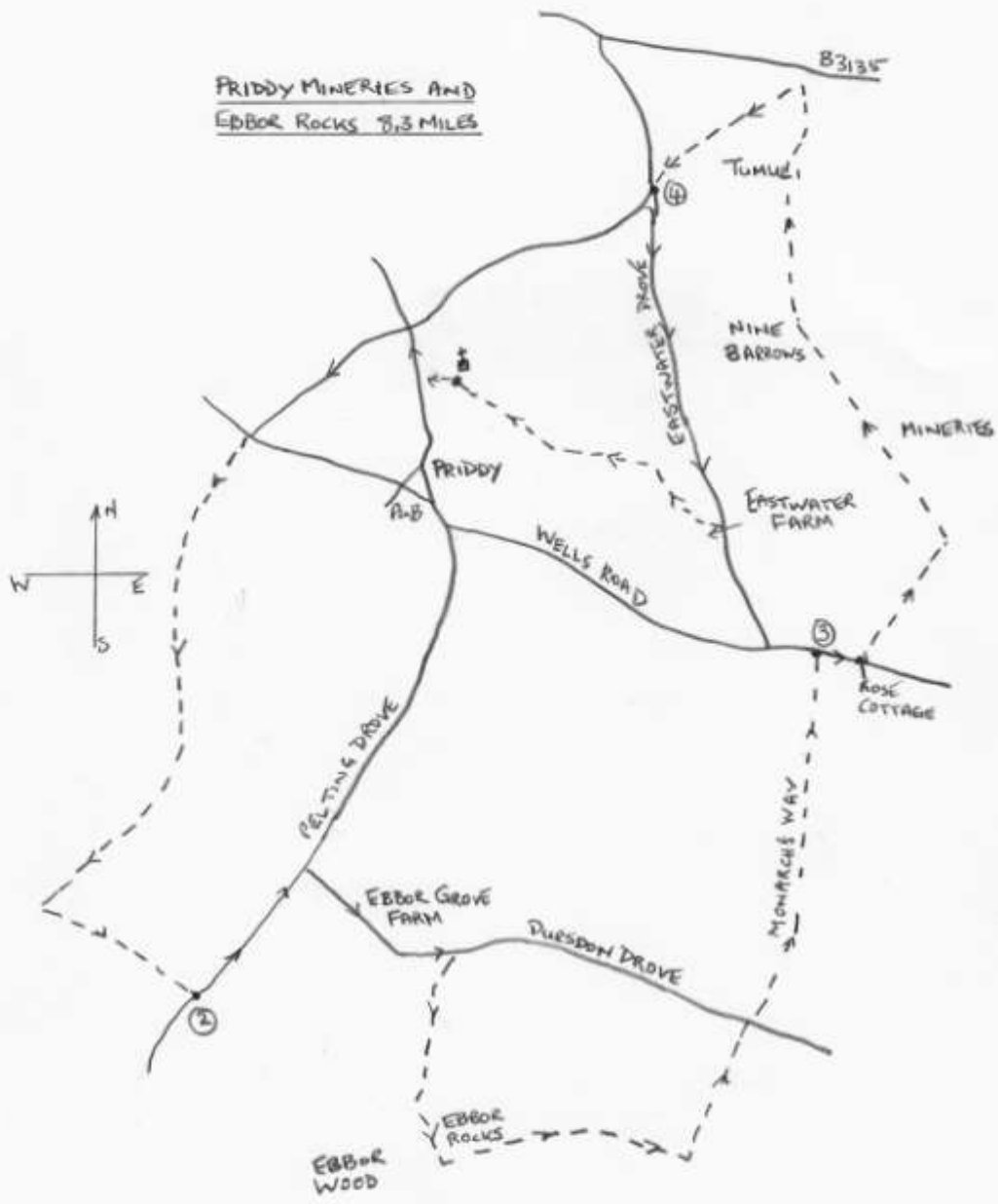
From car park with end of the village hall behind walk along tarmac drive to reach main road through Priddy. TR on road and at next crossroads TL along Dale Lane. Goes gradually downhill then rises shortly before the T-junction. Over stone stile, to R of the field gate, opposite and slightly to R at the T-junction. Continue straight ahead (South West) following the farm track with dry stone wall on your L. Over a stone stile (To L you can see the Pen Hill communications mast), continue straight ahead over two more stone stiles with the wall still on L.

After the 2nd stile you continue straight ahead merging with another path from Priddy going south. Cross 2 more fields and 2 more stone stiles. After this 2nd stile there is a tumbledown dry stone wall immediately to your L. Continue along and where the wall turns L go straight ahead for a further 30 or so yards to reach 2 stiles in the corner of the field. Go over the stone stile on the L and continue straight ahead and slightly downhill on the grassy track (SE). Ignore other tracks to the R and L but where the track forks take the L fork going gently uphill to reach a kissing gate to a car parking and picnic area. Across the car park to reach road (Pelting Drove).

2. GR ST519492

Turn L; would eventually take you back to Priddy but after about 800 yards TR along byway (Dursdon Drove) towards Ebbor Grove farm. Continue past farm and about 200yds after a HL turn look for a wooden stile on your R. Over the stile and straight on with a dry stone wall on your L. Where the wall bends L continue straight ahead uphill to reach a double stile (stone and wood).

FRIDDY MINERIES AND
EBBOR ROCKS 8.3 MILES



Continue over and straight ahead then go round another wooden stile set in the line of a broken down wall. Continue ahead, gently downhill then TL over a wooden stile to reach almost immediately another wooden stile at the edge of a wooded area. Over this and follow the stony, uneven path steeply downhill. At the bottom, continue straight ahead, ignoring a track to the R. Continue uphill to reach a cross-paths junction at the top of the short climb. (The direction we want is L uphill but if you turn R and follow the path for about 50 yds you come to an excellent view point, well worth the detour.) At the path junction turn L and follow the well defined track uphill and over 2 stiles by the side of field gates. After 2nd stile the ground levels out with clear views over the broad valley to the south. Continue straight ahead, with field boundary to L, for about 800 yds going over a wooden stile and then crossing the line of a flattened stone wall.

Go almost immediately over metal stile on your L and continue straight ahead with hedge and stone wall to your L. Cross 2 further metal stiles to reach a farm track (Dursdon Drove). Turn R and then almost immediately L off Dursdon Drove through a squeeze gap. Continue straight ahead with a dry stone wall on your L, over 2 wooden stiles, gap to the L of a wired-up field gate and over another wooden stile to reach a road.

3. GR ST540504

L would take you to Priddy, instead TR and after about 200 yds TL along driveway immediately after Rose Cottage. After about 50 yds the public footpath goes through the gateway to the caving club cottage. TR when you are level with the front door to the caving club cottage and cross two metal bar stiles on either side of the driveway to Underbarrow Farm. Follow track round to the L, over a two-plank wooden bridge and with stone wall about 30 yds to your L. As the wall turns 90 degrees L you reach cross paths. TL and continue uphill on the meandering and often muddy path with wall a few yards to L.

Over the stile in the wall/fence boundary (If it's easier there is a kissing gate about 50 yds to the R of the stile.) and continue straight on going gently uphill with a wall to your L. Towards the top of the hill, over the wall, there is what looks like a large, round concreted water tank and shortly after the first of the Priddy Nine Barrows. Public footpath turns half R at this point to reach a stile in the fence about 100 yds away. (You can however go straight ahead following the wall to reach a kissing gate and cross the fence that way). With the aforementioned stile behind you see 8 burial mounds (Tumuli). Path passes between the 3rd and 4th mounds from R side. Aim for that, pass through the line of the mounds and continue downhill then turning slightly L to reach field gate before the road. Do not go through the gate; with the gate behind you and facing the burial mounds turn HR. Looking in that direction, head for the leftmost edge of a stand of conifers in the distance. (There is no sign of the footpath on the ground although there are many confusing sheep tracks.) As you get closer to the leftmost edge of the conifers you see a wall just behind them. Follow the line of this wall to the L until you reach a kissing gate. Through the kissing gate you reach a fork with Nine Barrows Lane (tarmac) to the R and East Water Drove (rough track) to the L.

4. GR ST534519

Follow East Water Drove; it can be quite muddy in places. After just over half mile it becomes a tarmac lane and shortly after that you reach East Water Farm on your R. Just before the farm houses TR into a small field containing some static and mobile caravans. Cross the field, over a wooden stile then straight ahead over a ladder stile in stone wall. At the end of this field go through a field gate in the wall to the L. Continue with a low wall to the R and over another stone stile at the end of the field. Go straight ahead downhill and at the bottom over a stone stile (looks like a pile of stones) and a wooden stile. Continue with stone wall on R, past a stile for the path leading to Swildon's Hole Cavern, then uphill to reach the stone stile by the village hall.

Rookham, Walcombe and Wookey Hole – 11.8 miles

(Grade – 4, Height gain - 1686 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Leave village hall car park by stone stile east of school. Walk to stile in far left corner of field, cross and straight up slope to stile set to right of gate. Cross stile and follow left hand field wall, through the gate and bear right. Climb ladder stile and exit next field through far end and caravan site onto road. Turn right on road and exit through first gate approx 25yds on left. Bear right (towards white house) and straight across two fields to join main road.

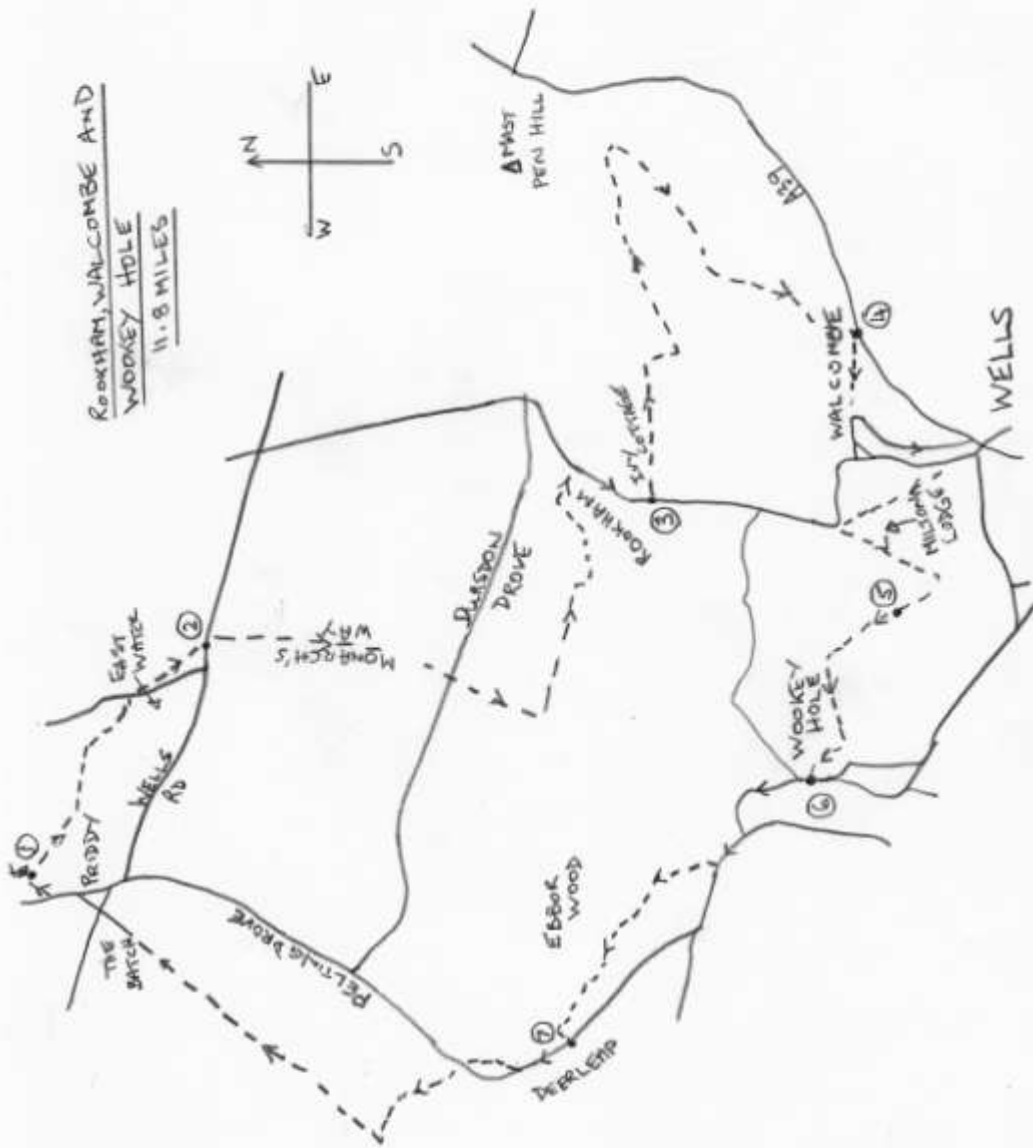
2. GR ST539504

Turn left on road and take stile 20 yds on right onto Monarchs Way path. Follow right hand field wall straight across 4 fields, cross Dursdon Drove, cross 2 more fields following right hand wall. At end of second field after drove you meet views and land drops away.

Turn sharp left and follow left field wall along brow of hill to stile and gateway. Carry straight across next field to stile on horizon. Cross it and bear right to right hand corner of field, cross fallen wall and turn left along left field wall to stile on corner. Cross and enter wood following left (top) boundary of wood until you reach track. Cross stile onto track and carry straight along approx 400yds, past bungalow, and take stile on right, taking you down steep hill to main road. On road turn right approx 400yds to first exit on left, bridleway in front of Ivy Cottage.

3. GR ST547481

Take bridleway and keep left uphill approx $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. On reaching corner of second wood (Penhill) turn right down hedge to track. Turn left on track towards farm and mast, and follow track and farm road for approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. At end of road turn right down bridleway towards Wells. Follow for approx 1.5 miles until junction with main A39 road.



4. GR ST555470

Don't cross road but take stile on right at junction. Walk diagonally down to stile in far left corner, left on track and join lane in Walcombe. Turn left and follow lane to main A39 road. *(There is an alternative much more attractive, permissive route, if it's open. Turn right instead of left up Walcombe Lane. After about 100 yds go through pedestrian gate on left into The Combe private gardens. Turn half right, follow grassy track with high wall to right through orchard to a field gate. Through gate and almost immediately left down path, after a few yards turn right where there is a high earth bank in front of you. Follow this path, lined with shrubs and trees and a ditch to the right. Cross to the other side of the ditch when you reach a plank bridge and continue in the same direction to shortly reach a broad, grassy area. Continue to the bottom of the grassy area, onto a short stretch of driveway and through metal gates to the A39 and rejoin main route).* Turn right into main road (past metal gates of permissive route) and first right into Old Bristol Road and right again following Old Bristol Road. Walk approx 50yrds up lane and take kissing gate up steps on left. Walk straight up 2 fields to kissing gate and steps to right of Milton Lodge. At top of steps carry straight on to lane. On lane turn almost immediately left through kissing gate and back towards Milton Lodge. Exit through gate/stile and follow track and road in front of houses. At next road junction turn right up hill for about 400yrds to where road splits.

5. GR ST541468

Leave road carrying straight on up track and outside right edge of wood for about 400yrds. Take 2nd gate on left (past white farm on right). Follow path through woods around hill to exit on far side of hill, turning right following tree line and ridge to bottom of field. Exit and turn immediately right at junction away from Lime Kiln Lane, following path into Wookey Hole village.

6. GR ST532473

Turn right and follow main road through village, past Caves entrances, to far end of village. By last bungalow on right at bottom of slope (by Wookey Hole village road sign) turn right through gate and follow along bottom of valley into Ebbor Wood. Enter woods and follow green signs climbing up to car park. Exit on path at top of car park and then after 50 yds exit through stile/gate on left out onto lane.

7. GR ST519485

Turn right and follow lane uphill to stile /gate on right at end of woods. Cross into field and continue up to second field exiting back onto lane going straight across road to gate. Enter field and carry on straight ahead rising slightly to stile on distant field wall.

On crossing stile turn sharp right, across corner of field, and then follow right hand field wall/hedge across 3 fields. In 3rd field bear slightly left to stile, and then continue straight on across 4 more fields before exiting to left of barn, beside green bungalow at The Batch. Walk down lane onto the end of Priddy Green, going straight across and turn left along lane and then first right back to village hall and school.

Rodney Stoke, Easton and Ebbor Rocks 12.1 miles

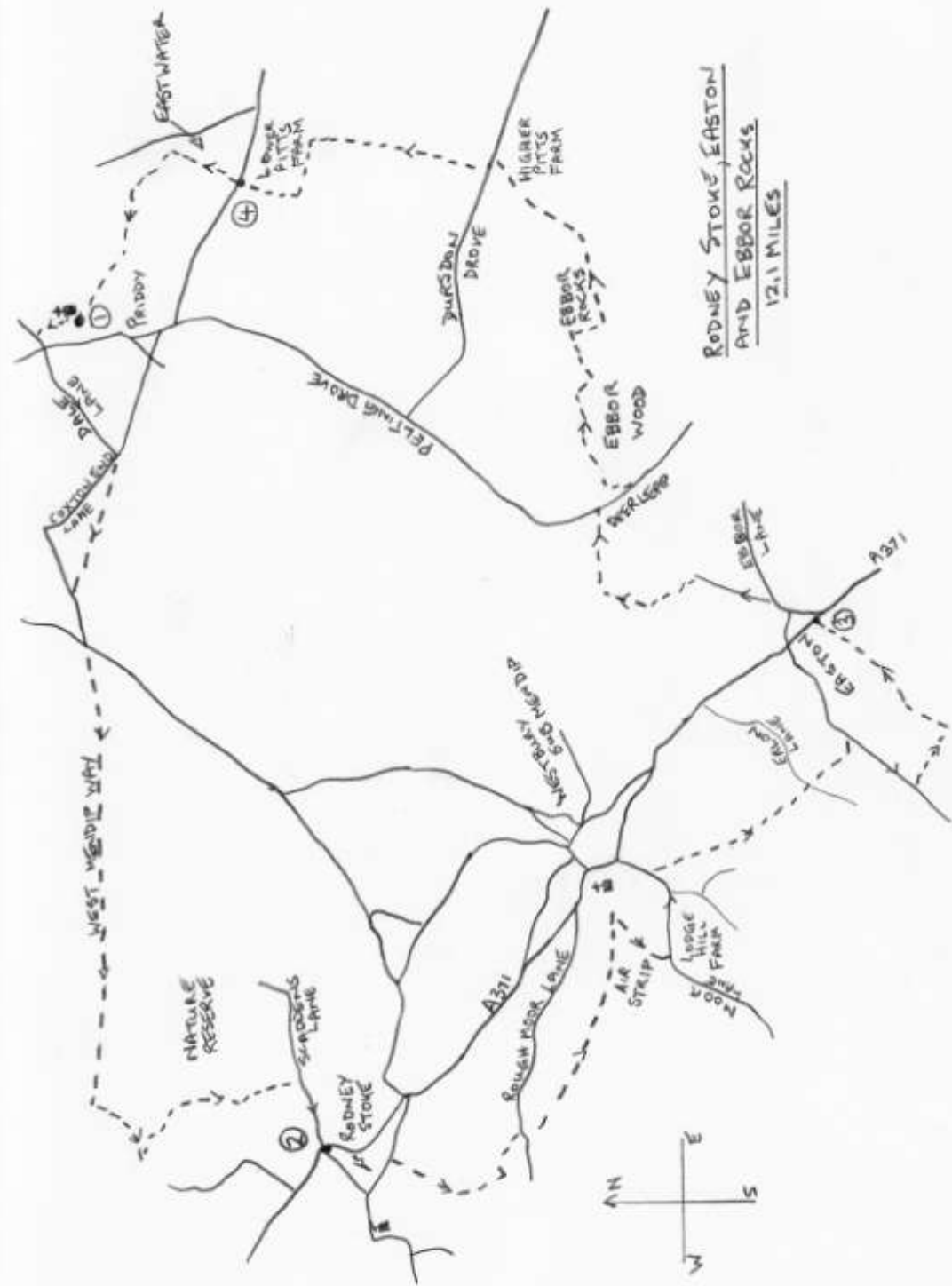
(Grade – 3.5, Height gain - 1414 ft)

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Starting at the village hall, walk to the church and take the path, in front of the church to the gate. Go straight across the field to the gate and continue through another gate to the road. Turn left along 9 Barrows Lane. At the cross roads go straight across on to Dale Lane. Walk along the lane and at the end, where it meets Coxton End Lane, cross over and take the stile opposite. Take the right hand path, the West Mendip Way. Cross the field, heading towards the rocks, and go over the stile. Continue to the stone stile, then turn left down Coxton End Lane. Cross the road and take the stile opposite continuing down the West Mendip Way over nine stiles. Stile seven is by a wooded copse to the right of a bungalow. As you walk towards the eighth stile, the view opens up and you start to walk downhill. The ninth stile is to the right of a short line of trees. When you come to the last of the nine stiles do not continue along the West Mendip Way but take the path on your left. Head downhill towards a ruined building and turn half left to a stile into Rodney Stoke Nature Reserve. Continue downhill through the woods and over a stile into a field. Continue downhill to the bottom right hand corner. Walk down to Wood Lane and continue on to Scadden's Lane. Take the path ahead marked Main Road and walk by the side of the stream to reach the A371 Wells Road.

2. GR ST486501

Cross the road and turn left. Walk down the road and take the path on your right, marked "Millway". Keep right and take the stile on the right into the orchard. Keep left and walk to the stile ahead. Once over the stile, take the gate ahead; horses are often kept here. Take the gate straight ahead and walk to the stile onto the road. At the road, turn left, and, shortly, take the path on your right. Keep to the right and cross the bridge in the hedge at the bottom of the field. Bear round to the left until you come to a gate leading to a track.



Follow the track to Rough Moor Lane and turn right. After a few yards, take the path on your left. Continue to the next stile. Pass through a gate, cross another stile and a stile across a track. Keep straight on to a stile. The path goes towards the farm. Just before you enter the farm, turn sharp right and walk through the field to the steps leading up to the air strip. Go through the kissing gate, cross the airstrip, old disused railway line, and through the kissing gate on the other side. Cross the fields to a bridge and come out onto Moor Lane. Turn left and walk down the lane. Pass Lodge Hill Farm and Rodmead Lane. Cross the railway bridge and take the path on the right. Cross the field to the kissing gate and continue on to the stile, turn left to the sewage works' gate and then over the stile on the right. Take the left hand path to a gate and through the gate ahead and right behind the fenced enclosed area. Cross the stile followed by a plank bridge and then a stile. Bear right to bridge and stile, cross double stile and further stile to track. Cross over track, Erlon Lane, and walk to stile in left diagonal corner. Cross over the next stile and you come to a bridge. Cross this and turn right down the track. Pass Lower Manor Farm and take the diverted path on your left. At the end of this path turn left over the gated bridge and walk on to go over bridge and gate. Continue to the gate at the side of a house and take the track at the back of the houses to Easton and the A371.

3. GR ST512476

Turn right and then first left down Ebbor Lane, marked 'Village Hall'. Walk down Ebbor Lane, past Pound Lane and High Green. Just over the old railway bridge, take the track, Priddy Veal Lane, on the left. Pass the farm and climb the hill to the finger post. Turn left and continue to climb. Cross the stile and a further stile, by a gate, and take the right fork. Continue over two more stiles. Cross the field and come to a stile onto the road at Deer Leap. Turn right down the road and take the first path on your left into Ebbor Gorge. Go through kissing gate and turn left at the track. Cross a board walk and over the next stile take the track up hill and out of the wood. Cross the fields to a stile and bear right around the perimeter of the field.

Cross over broken wall in top right hand corner. Keep the wall on your left and cross over the stile. Go over the next stile in the right hand corner into Ebbor Gorge. Go steeply down and follow sign to car park up the hill. Turn left at the track along the West Mendip Way.

If you turn right here and walk for about 100 yds following signs to cliff edge you will be rewarded with a beautiful view. You will need to retrace your steps.

Follow the West Mendip Way crossing 2 stiles and exit Ebbor Gorge. At the next gate keep left and continue along the West Mendip Way through two gates and past Higher Pitts Farm. Turn right along the track and to Dursdon Drove. At the drove turn left and leave the West Mendip Way by turning right over a cattle grid and follow the path to Lower Pitts Farm.

4. GR ST534505

Go through the gate and cross the Wells Road and walk towards North Hill Swallet. Cross a stile followed by a ladder stile. Do not take the private stile ahead but turn left to trees and go through the gate in the left hand corner. Cross the stone stile and head for the church. Cross the stone stile immediately followed by wooden stile and walk uphill to the stile by the village hall.

**Priddy Mineries, Stockhill Woods, Ebbor Wood and Kites Croft –
12 miles**

(Grade – 4, Height gain - 1669 ft)

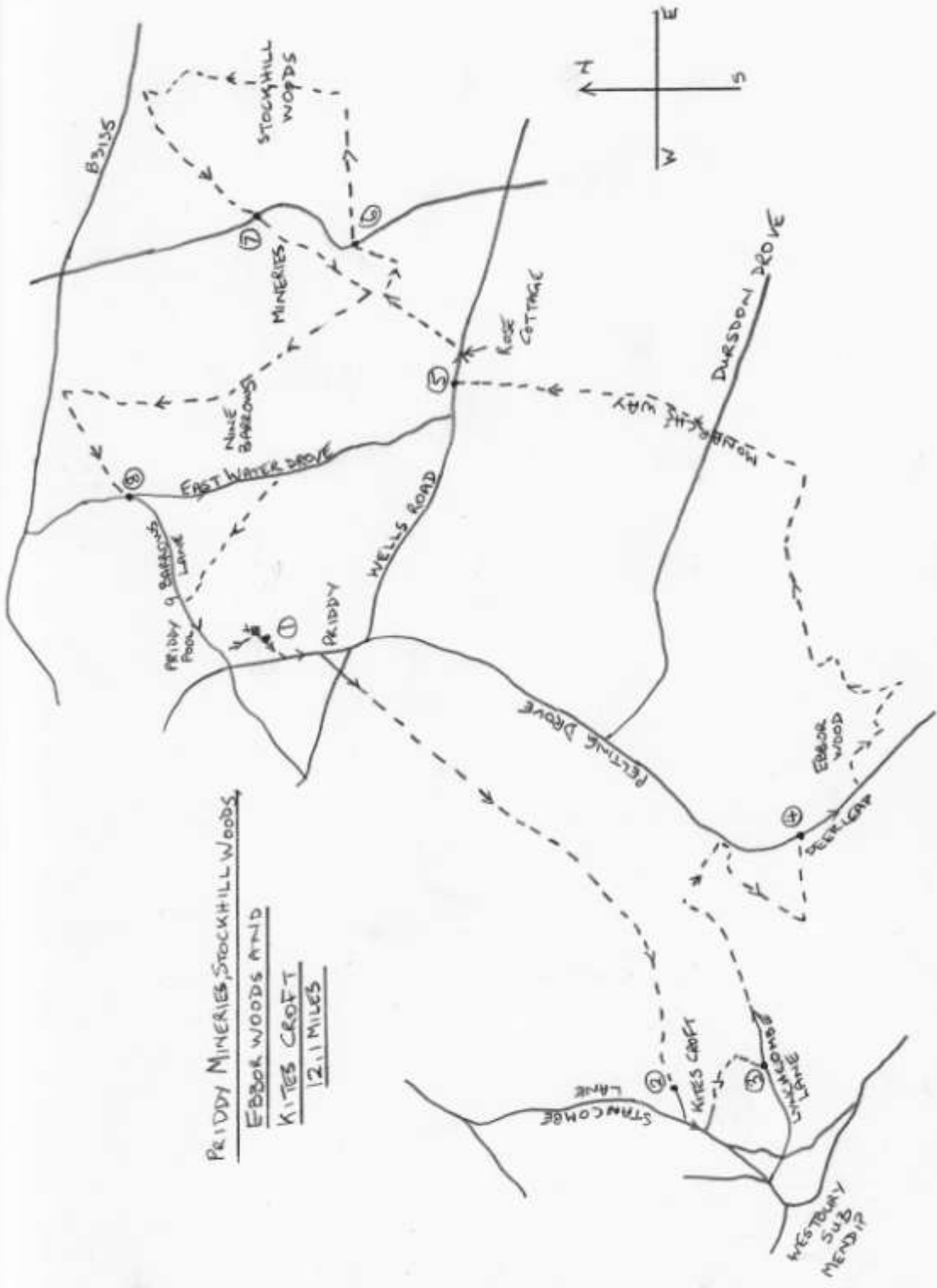
Abbreviations are H = half, R = right, L = left, FP= footpath

1. Grid Reference (GR). ST527513 Priddy Village Hall car park

Out of the car park turn left and follow the road to Priddy Green. Take the road to the R. of the green and go straight on past the 'No Through' road sign. Cross the stile onto the FP and continue straight ahead. Cross another 6 stiles (3 wooden & 3 stone) to the final wooden stile into Cook's Field Nature Reserve. Continue ahead and downhill to another wooden stile. Go over this and follow the FP direction sign, going down hill as you curve across the slope. Over yet another stile and once again go down hill and across the slope to meet the corner of a field. Here turn L and go directly downhill, round the barn and through the gate onto a track. Follow the track through another gate and straight ahead on the metalled lane (Little Field Lane).

2. GR ST506493

At T junction with Stancombe Lane turn L and then very shortly turn L again into Mare's Lane. At the end of the lane go through the gate and continue on the FP with the hedge on your R, over the wooden stile and straight on but once over the next stile turn R and go through the gate ahead into Lynchcombe Lane.



3. GR ST507489

Turn L and follow the track uphill into Lynchcombe Nature Reserve. Go straight ahead up the wide green slope, through the gate at the top onto a FP which continues on up the hill. At the meeting of several footpaths go R towards the road and through the gate ahead. Immediately turn R and go through the woodland on the FP which runs parallel to the road (which is now on your L hand side). Go over the wooden stile and across the field to, and then through, a patch of scrub and then with the wall on your R go to and cross another wooden stile. Continue on to reach yet another wooden stile BUT DO NOT CROSS. Instead turn to your L and go back up hill to a stile visible in the hedge on the brow of the hill. Go over the stile and on uphill to a stile by a concrete water trough, then straight ahead to the stile at the end of the wall and out onto the road.

4. GR ST518487

Turn R and proceed with care along the road to the car park with a height barrier on your L. Go across the car park to the information board and over the stone stile sign posted for the main gorge route. Once down the steps follow the FP then turn onto the 1st. FP on L, again sign posted for the main gorge route. Cross the foot bridge and continue with the stream on your R. Take the 2nd.FP L signed for Priddy & W Mendip Way. Climb 2 sets of steps leading up out of the gorge and at "Cliff Ahead" sign turn L for view point (dead end!) or R to continue walk. At next junction of paths follow sign for W Mendip Way going straight ahead to gate and stile out of woodland. Follow the FP across the heath land to a stile out of Ebbor Gorge Nature Reserve. Follow fence on L. Where the W Mendip Way turns L we continue straight on over the wooden stile ahead and on again with fence on your L. Just through the gap in the stone wall there is a metal stile on the L (not sign posted). Go over this and follow LH hedge through the next gate and over another metal stile into Dursdon Drove. Cross the drove and follow the Monarch's Way over another 3 stiles. Go alongside the wood, over the stile and out into the road. Cross with care.

5. GR ST540504

Turn L at Rose Cottage (sign posted Underbarrow Farm). This is still the Monarch's Way. Go through the garden of the cavers' building ahead following the public footpath sign for Priddy Pool - DO NOT continue on the farm track. Pass the picnic tables and go over the metal stile. Cross the track and follow the FP sign. The path now runs close to the edge of the Mineries Nature Reserve. Ignore the turning to L sign posted Mendip Pub Trail. On side of pool turn R, go past the pool and just before the main track forks take the small unobtrusive FP on L. This runs along a ridge of higher ground heading towards the road and the forest.

6. GR ST546509

Cross the road with care, turn L and take 1st. FP on R into woods. Follow this to its junction with a stoned roadway. Turn L. Leave the roadway when it curves to the L and continue straight ahead, going downhill and keeping to this main track ignoring all the many turnings off until you reach a T-junction. Turn L here. You are now near the edge of the wood. Pass a field on your R as the track bends to the L. Take the next turning L onto a FP merely signed as a Public FP but which is in fact the Monarch's Way again. Follow this path to a T-junction with a sign post for the Monarch's Way and the Mendip Pub Trail. Turn L and follow the Monarch's Way back to the road.

7. GR ST548513

Cross the road with care and take the FP opposite back into Priddy Mineries Nature Reserve. Follow the obvious FP to the pool, take the R fork then the FP on R sign posted Mendip Pub Trail (which you passed earlier). Go uphill with the wall on your L, through a clump of gorse and straight on to reach the stile out of the reserve. Once over the stile continue to follow the wall uphill. When you reach the barrows beyond the wall on L (Priddy Nine Barrows) bear R and head for the line of barrows ahead and obvious stile in the fence. Over the stile pass the barrows on your LH side and go through a further line of barrows ahead and straight on towards the road. On reaching the stile beside the road DO NOT cross it but turn L and cross this very large field diagonally to reach Eastwater Drove.

8. GR ST534520

Here go out into the road and turn L and follow the track, not the metalled road. Take the 1st. stile on R, go downhill and through the gate in the wall on your R. Bear L across the field to wooden stile on R of gateway and tree. Cross next field to stone stile ahead on L of tree and then follow track (with pumping station on your L) to gate ahead. Continue on track to road (9 Barrows Lane) and turn L. Pass Priddy Pool on your R and then take a short track between houses on L to a metal gate. Go straight across the field to a gate in the corner of the church yard. Cross the church yard diagonally to the FP on R of school which leads back into the car park.