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INTRODUCTION



This ancient town huddles under the folds of the Mendip River Sheppey, flowing from nearby St. Aldhelms Well. The stream once worked many mills in the era of prosperity from the wool trade. From Roman times

Shepton Mallet has been important for its position on the Fosse Way. The name Shepton reflects its centuries-old interests - 'Sepetone' or Sheeptown which is derived from Saxon words meaning a sheep enclosure. It has a Market Cross in the heart of town. The pinnacle of the cross was built in 1500, but re-modelled in 1841. Shepton was passed to a Norman knight at the time of the Conquest but remained under control of the Abbots. It then passed into the hands of the Malet family in 1100, who added their name to the town. Shepton remained in Malet hands until 1337, when it reverted to the State. After various other changes, it became part of the Duchy of Cornwall. In the mid 16th Century there was a boost to the West Country wool trade in which Shepton Mallet was a prominent player. Many factories were built to manufacture cloth, tools and other products. This led to lots of accommodation buildings. The Bath and West Show which was founded here in Somerset in 1777 continuing on a permanent site nearby Shepton Mallet in 1965.

In the 18th Century the population was said to be 11,000, then a slow decline happened when many woollen factories closed because of workers' opposition to change. Some relief came with the opening of local silk mills and brewing. In 1864



a brewery was built at the Anglo Bavarian building where drinks are still produced. In 1855 the first meeting was held to propose the building of the East Somerset Railway, of which Brunel was the company engineer. The station opened in 1862, the last train ran in 1963. St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church is one of the oldest and finest in Somerset and Shepton Mallet also boasts the oldest working prison in England.

A production of these walks stem from the Mendip Ramblers Festival of Walks and wanting to use walks in and around Shepton Mallet in 2006, the centenary year of our ownership of Collett Park, given to the town by John Kyte Collett. The Mendip Ramblers do a considerable amount of work clearing footpaths and stile repairs in and around Shepton Mallet so it was decided to ask a rambler, Bob Berry, to construct numerous walks of different lengths circling this area, which would encourage residents to make greater use of our footpaths as well as providing a resource for visitors. The result is 13 circular walks ranging from 3% to 11 miles. All the walks stray into the beautiful countryside surrounding Shepton Mallet. Footpaths have been used wherever possible but these can be very muddy and somewhat overgrown with vegetation in the summer so it is therefore advisable to wear appropriate footwear and clothing

to the expected conditions. Each walk is accompanied by an O.S. map as well as a description of the walk. There are some main roads to cross which is unavoidable so extreme caution here is necessary.

For convenience all the walks begin and end at the Mendip District Council car park but for refreshment a public house has been included in each walk. If you decide to make your walk shorter and begin at the public house (a good way to walk off a good meal) remember to ask permission to leave your car there until you return. These walks are an introduction to many areas in the Mendips. Some quite level but also ones with hills and dales with rewarding views across this breathtaking countryside; through peaceful woods, past ancient buildings and over rolling hills. Enjoy your walking and please remember your country code.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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(a member of the Mendip Ramblers)

Who compiled the walks, to make it all possible.

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(working party)

For providing the photographs whilst doing voluntary repairs to the footpaths.



Lyn Manvill
(Shepton Mallet Town Councillor)

Who researched the history and worked in conjunction with those involved to realise this project.

Graham Brown
(Town Clerk)

For his tireless help and support.

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Those Public Houses

Which kindly provided sponsorship and permission to use their car parks.

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(Lyn Manvill's husband)

For his patience and help throughout the enterprise.

Jeannette Marsh and Terry

For their contribution of some walks.

Shepton Mallet Town Council, Mendip Ramblers, nor anyone concerned with the publication of this book can be held responsible for any accidents or incidents that may occur whilst on these walks.

MENDIP RAMBLERS



Mendip Ramblers are one of the seven groups that make up the Somerset area of the Ramblers Association, which is the only organisation dedicated to promoting walking as a hobby. We have been established for 30 years and have over 300 members luckily we don't all walk at the same time.

A walks programme is published every four months, hopeful with walks to suit everyone, short walks of up to 6 miles and of a slower pace are held every Thursday,

longer walks from 8 miles to 20 miles are held on Sundays, with short pub walks held on those barmy summer evenings where we end ~ at a pub for a meal and a good laugh. We are always looking for new ideas, such as Sunday Lunch walks, where we start early ending at a pub for a Sunday Roast. There is also an active social side with Barn Dances, Quiz Nights, Skittles, and Ten Pin Bowling etc.

We also run a Footpath Maintenance Group, which works closely with the Rights of way Department at Mendip District Council, and have been involved in maintaining the footpaths used in this book. They meet every



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Tuesday installing stiles, fingerposts, bridges, and doing some clearance work. Also there is a small group of members who go out on a Wednesday checking out footpaths and future walks.

Every August Bank Holiday we hold a Walking Festival with three walks everyday, plus a short family walk on the Monday. Unlike most walking festival which charge for the walks this one is free. We walk the paths that the footpath maintenance group have worked on over the year, just to make sure they have done the job properly of course!!

Why not join us on some of our walks? The average pace is only 2 miles an hour, everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a member to try a walk. We are a very friendly group. If you are interested please telephone the Secretary on 01749 347124. or visit our website at www.mendipramblers.co.uk



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At Barren Down / Windsor Hill / Bowlsh Walk - 3.5mls



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AI - BARREN DOWN, WINDSOR HILL, BOWLISH. 3.5 Miles.

A short family walk through Shepton skirting the prison, following the old railway to reach Barren Down, crossing the road to Windsor Hill then dropping down to Bowlsh before walking round Collett Park back to our start point. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park, Cannards Grave Road.

1. Leave the car park via the footpath to the town centre to reach Park Road, turn left then right into Collett Park, after 100 metres turn left into the footpath taking you between the tennis court and the bowling green to reach the A361. Cross into Frithfield Lane, then take the first turning on your left in front of the prison (Goal Lane), follow this round to the right as it drops downhill. At the fork turn to the right and follow this path to a junction, turn left, then right at the next junction to reach the bottom of Leg Square. Cross the road passing the Kings Arms on your left, follow the road round to the left taking the lane signed

Quarry. Enter the field at the top of the lane, cross the field to the metal stile on the far side, once over this turn left up the lane. At the junction turn right, and in a few metres turn left up some steps into the woods, turn left and follow the path through the woods, then follow a wall on your right and the woods on your left to reach a kissing gate at the end. Pass through this and the next one in front of you, turn right across the old railway, up the bank and through the next kissing gate into a field, follow the field boundary on your left to go through the gateway at the top. Turn left and follow the field boundary on your left over



a stone stile, continue round this field to reach and cross a stone stile with a high wire fence above. Follow the path through the garden round to the right to reach a stile and gateway next to a house, then follow the path between the houses to reach the road via a gate.

2. With care cross the road to the lane opposite, follow this for approx. 1/3 mile to a footpath on the left. Turn left over the stone stile, aiming towards the old railway arch, in the bottom corner of this field you cross a stone stile with metal rails, now aim to pass through the old railway arch straight across the next field to the far corner to cross another stone stile with metal rails. Turn left through the kissing gate and follow the path down to the end of the hedge, continue round to the left to pass through another kissing gate. Once through this turn right and follow the fence on your right, where this ends ignore the path to the right, take the path going slightly right towards the large fir trees. Drop down the bank then round to the right to a metal kissing gate taking you behind the cemetery. Follow the path through a kissing gate at the end then turn left downhill to reach a tar mac path at the bottom.

Turn left and follow the path round through a kissing gate into a road, keep straight ahead and when you reach a junction on your right, turn right. Follow the road round to a T-junction, turn right then left into Tipcote Hill, just before you reach the steps turn left back down the slope to pass under the arch to reach Lower Lane. Keep straight ahead and just after the bridge turn left into a footpath signed Fosse Way. After a few metres turn left under a small archway and follow the path up the steps over the bridge to reach Peter Street. Cross the road into Church Lane following the flagstone path into the churchyard, follow the path round to the left. On leaving the churchyard keep straight on to reach the A361. With care cross the road, turn left and when you reach the footpath signed Cannards Grave via Collett Park, turn right passing the tennis courts and bowling green. On reaching the park turn left, and follow the path down to the lake, pass in front of this and at the far side turn right following the path up the slope to pass the aviaries and the play areas to exit the park into Park Road, turn left then right to return to our start point.

A2 - BOWLISH / SPRING WALK - 3.5 Miles

A walk leaving via Bowlish, through Ham Woods and the Windsor Hill Tunnels and then dropping down just outside Croscombe to return either via the main road or, for a more rural route, via Ham Lane East.

1. The walk starts at Bowlish. Walk up Forum Lane beside the Horse Shoe Inn. Follow up the lane for 1/3 mile till you reach a right hand corner. Now take the green lane on the left with the large stones across. Follow this track for approximately 10 minutes or so at a fairly gentle pace by which time you should have reached a tarmac road. Turn right and walk along the road for 200yds until you reach a stile by some barbed wire on the right. Go over the stile and follow down over the field.

2. You are now near to the Winsor Hill Tunnels of Somerset and Dorset Railway fame. On reaching the bottom climb over the stile in front of you and look for an entrance onto the old railway track bed on the right. Turn right and follow through the left-hand tunnel. Carrying on along the track bed for about five minutes you come to a path leading off to the left into Ham Woods. (If you have gone across

the bridge you have gone too far). You should have passed on your left hand side, the wall of the old stone crusher which was part of the workings of Ham Hill Quarry.

3. Now go down the path through the wood, if you look carefully to your right you will see the remains of the incline and winding gear used to haul the stone in small trucks from the quarry floor to the crusher. Follow on down to the bottom but beware it can be muddy here. Look to your right and you will see the towering Ham Wood Viaduct, the Somerset and Dorset Railway ran along here. Bear left and follow the path along a stream or stream bed for 250 yards. This brings you



5.



to a clearing. Here you should press on forwards, do not take the track to your left which would take you out of the wood. Keep straight on going gently down hill and you will eventually end up in a very steep gorge. Keep going till you reach a gate onto the Wells to Shepton Mallet road just outside Croscombe.

4. Here you have a choice for the return journey, walking back to Bowlish via the main road does mean no more hills but for a more rural and less traffic infested route, take the main road to your left for just 150 yards and turn to your left up into Bowlish Lane East. Walk up here for about half a mile until you come to a sharp left hand bend. Look here for a stone stile marked "Ham Lane East" on the right hand side. Go over this stile and follow the arrows across the

fields until you reach a road. Turn right and you will follow the road back to where you started.

Please take care when walking over farmland and wear suitable footwear as this walk can be very muddy.



A3 - CROSCOMBE, RURAL WALK - 3 Miles

A pleasant walk through village, woods and fields starting at Croscombe church, through Ham Woods and returning steeply downhill to the starting point.

1. There is no better way of getting to know the local area than walking. The flora and fauna leap out at you, sometimes literally. Here we describe a pleasant walk through village, woods and field which we could recommend trying. It was that very rare commodity, a warm Sunday afternoon, when to my surprise my family agreed to accompany me exploring this walk. The prospect of a railway viaduct probably encouraged my younger son, the elder was given no choice.

2. The starting point is found easily enough, the west gate of Croscombe church, and there was room to park in the lane as long as I got close to the wall. Croscombe is a most attractive village with a very interesting history. Although only two miles apart, relationships between Croscombe and Shepton Mallet have not always been the most amicable. Two hundred years ago Shepton Mallet had a similar sized population to that it has today but crowded into the much smaller area of the valley of the 'River Sheppey'. The river provided a reasonably effective town drain washing all the sewage and effluent off . Two

miles downstream was often not a very pleasant place to be especially on a hot summer's afternoon. However there was no such problem on this particular afternoon so we started our walk.

3. The first instruction in the leaflet was clear: 'Up the hill, turn right into Pound Fold. Continue straight ahead, across Rock Street, along Boards Lane and over a stile into a field. Walk straight down into the valley bottom'. The key was keeping straight on until we climbed into the field. Here the path was decidedly overgrown. However a slight detour to the left took us into the clear and the way to the bottom of the valley was easy. On the way we had the first of our nature debates. Was the bird of prey soaring above us a light-coloured Buzzard or was it an Osprey? We tended towards the former but subsequent study of bird books has only served to confuse by suggesting Goshawks as a possible contender. Bird-spotting sons need to discover that parents are fallible when it comes to identification.

4. We turned left along the former quarry track through Ham Woods. Very soon the rocky sides of the valley close in and the

rich and varied vegetation takes you into a different world. The track gently rises for almost three quarters of a mile through wood which echoes to the sound of bird call. Although there are signs of recent forestry the variation of species of trees and the steep sides give it an appearance of natural neglect.

5. Stay on the track until it swings sharply to the right and there is then an obvious smaller path to allow you to go straight on. According to the leaflet 'You will reach a branching of trackways when you find a railway viaduct looming high above you'. We found the branching of the trackways all right. It was here that we were to turn sharply to the left and follow the path marked to Wells and take the leaflet's medium route back to Croscombe. However the viaduct was missing. The next half hour or so was spent exploring the paths to the right which the leaflet said led to the quarry and the longer route back. After one false start we found the huge quarry with wrecked cars and a general feel of desolation. We could still not find the viaduct which, as I have said, was our younger son's motivation for coming on this walk. Back eventually to the 'branching of trackways' where we spot one more path straight ahead up a very steep slope.

At last we spot a column of the viaduct and manage to climb right up to it. In the unlikely event of the Somerset and Dorset Line ever being restored a lot of work would need to be done.



track-ways where, now we know where to look, we can just catch a glimpse of the viaduct. Even in winter when the trees have lost their leaves 'looming high above you' must be treated as poetic licence. The path marked back to Wells soon takes us up and out of the Wood and into fields. The leaflet instructs 'In the field ahead at 10 o'clock, keeping the little quarry line kiln just on your right'. We correctly assume that they mean the little copse of trees and the small structure of the kiln looks very interesting. Reference to 'The Story of Croscombe'

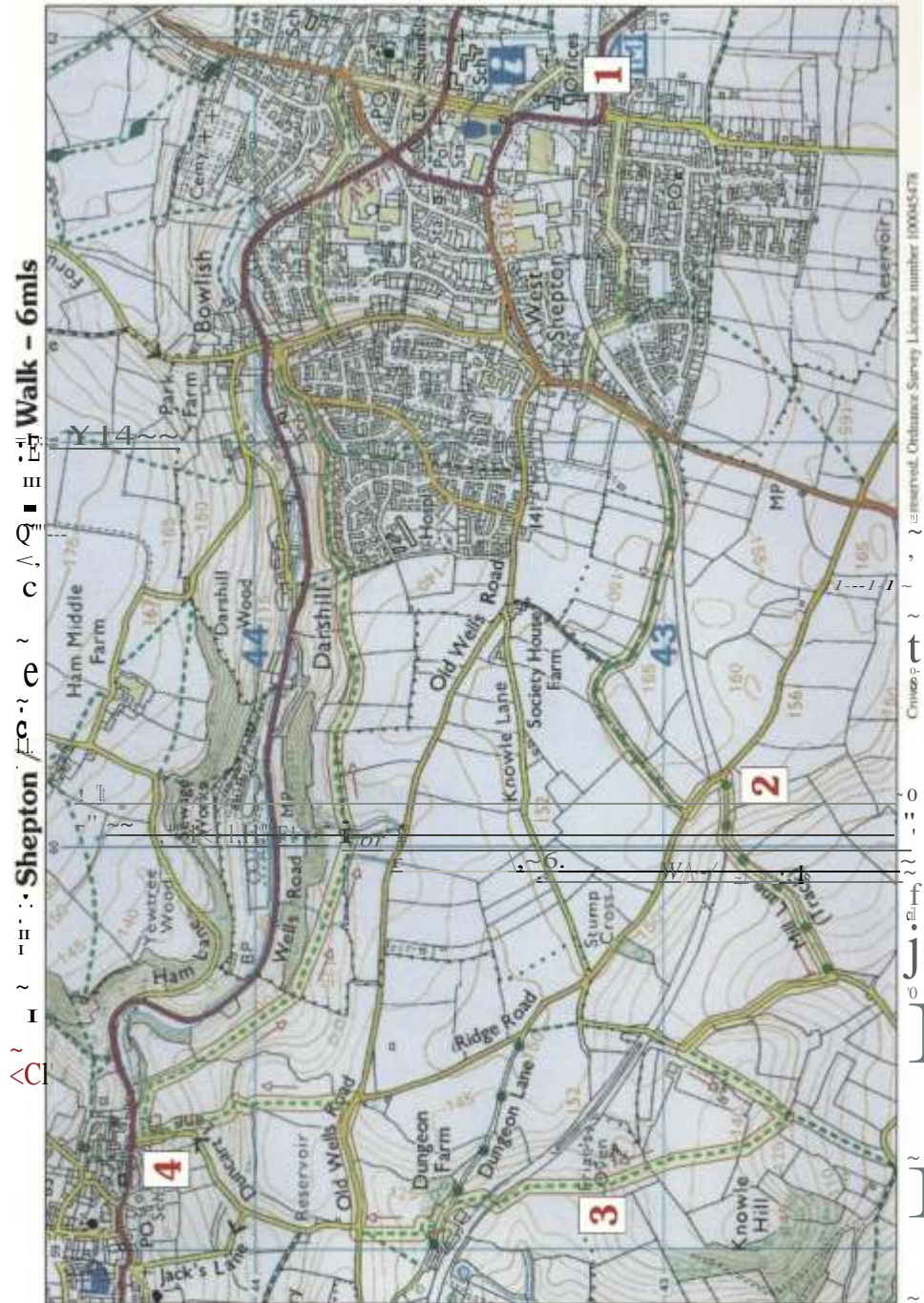
proves it to have been the scene of a horrific accident in the past. Limekilns look innocuous enough but they were extremely dangerous places to work. 'Go through the gap in the middle of the hedge and continue straight over two stiles. Then cross the field at 2 o'clock, cross the stone stile then head for the way-marking post at two o'clock and out onto Thrupe Lane.

Simple isn't it? Perhaps it was because it was after two o'clock, but we came out on Thrupe Lane by a barn, turned left and found that we had come out about two fields higher up than intended. We found the next stile in the hedge on the right hand side

just before another barn, and followed a footpath by a right hand hedge across a field and out into West Lane. Examination of the map confirmed that we were on the right route.

7. West Lane turned out to be a delightful overgrown track between two hedges. After about half a mile it started to go steeply downhill and as it became a road you realise that you are on the same level as the top of the spire of Croscombe Church which is only a few hundred yards in front of you. This downhill stretch tests the muscles in the back of your legs and you soon arrive back at your starting point.





A4 - West Shepton, Friars Oven, Darshill. 6 Miles.

An easy walk with superb views all the way round crossing Knowle Hill and Friars Oven to return along the ridge above Croscombe, with good views to the coast on a clear day. This walk starts from the Mendip District Council car park, Cannards Grave Road. Or if you prefer from The Bull Terrier, or The George, both in Croscombe. If you start from one of the pubs you will need to walk through Croscombe towards Shepton Mallet On the A371. passing the School to turn right into Duncart Lane, you then join the walk at No.4



1. Exit the car park to the Cannards Grave road, turn right then cross the pedestrian crossing, turn right again and follow the footpath round into Compton Road, cross the road and turn right into Kingsland Road follow this for approx 1/2 mile until you come to Strode Way. Turn right into Strode Way and follow it under the old railway bridge and out to the road B3136. Turn left, and with great care walk up the road to turn right into the R.U.P.P. just before the old railway arch. Follow this as it changes from track to path, at the junction turn left and continue on to meet the road at the top, turn left, cross the old

railway bridge then turn right between the large stones to walk down Mill Lane (not signed). This can get muddy in places.

2. On reaching the lane at the bottom turn right and walk uphill, where the road turns sharp right you take the stile on the left, cross the field to follow the hedge on your right downhill to a stile at the bottom. Ignore the stile but go through the small wooden gate on your right and head uphill to pass the water trough on your left to a small well-hidden gate at the top of the hill, head across this field slightly to the left to cross a stile next to a gate. The rocky outcrop on your right is the Friars Oven. It's worth a small detour to the top, as the views are well worth the climb.

3. Continue across this field to reach a gate with a steep drop the other side, from here head in the same direction to find a railway arch. Go under this, over the stile then half left to pass through two farm gates and into



Dungeon Farm. On reaching the end of the building on your right, turn right and look for a kissing gate hidden in the trees up the bank on your left. Once through this head uphill towards the fingerpost you can see at the top. Turn right and with great care walk along the grass verge until you reach a junction at the top of a small hill. Look for a signpost and some steps on the left going up the bank to a stile. Once over the stile go half left to the far corner of the field where you cross a stile next to an old gate, you now drop downhill to a stile on the left of the houses at the bottom of the hill and down the concrete track to reach Duncart Lane.

The George Inn - Croscombe - An old Inn probably dating from late mediaeval prosperity for Croscombe. In 1666 when James George ran the Inn Currency shortage led to him getting tokens stamped for local use. The token had his name surrounding a St. George and the Dragon design. (more

about Croscombe can be read in The Story of Croscombe by Keith Armstrong). Croscombe Church - One of the best village churches in the area. It has a wealth of historic features and a beautiful restored interior. The West Tower and Spire date from the 14th Century, but the majority of the building was erected in the 15th Century. Outside display a number of carvings and inside the church is dominated by fittings installed by the Fortescue family, lords of the manor, in the early 17th Century. These include a very fine pulpit dated 1616, the wooden screen surmounted by the coat of arms of James 1st, the side screen, readers desk and some of the box pews.



4. Take the footpath that leads you in between the houses and the river {taking care not to fall in!!!} to reach a stile at the far side of the last house. From here aim uphill for the large tree next to which you cross a stile then follow the fence on your left to

cross another stile, be careful not to miss this one. Once over this go down the slope then traverse across this field following the cattle track to a stile you will see on the far side. Go over this keeping in the same direction uphill towards an old trailer. Cross the open space which is always muddy and follow the hedge on your right. Where the hedge ends, cross to the stone stile on the corner of the hedge ahead and follow the enclosed track over a broken stone stile across three more fields to reach and go through a kissing gate. Continue straight on behind the houses to eventually come out to St Peters Road, walk down

towards Bowlsh House then turn right up Coombe Lane with the high wall on your left, soon you will reach some steps on your left, go up these and follow the road {Shaftsgate Avenue} out to the A371. Cross this into Pike Lane, cross the road at the end into the footpath opposite, at the bottom turn right into Tipcote Hill and out to the main road, cross and turn right to walk up through the historic Town Street. Cross the road at the top and continue up the High Street to reach Park Road, cross and take the paved footpath leading you between the council offices and back to the car park.



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

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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.

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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

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 Col/ett 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.



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



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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,

9.

follow the hedge on your left to cross a double stile and bridge on your left. Turn right, over another double stile and bridge into an orchard. Keep straight on across the orchard to cross a stile on the far side a little to your left taking you into a small wood, go through the trees to reach the field. Once in the field go slightly left uphill to gain the highest point for the best views. Cross the top of the hill dropping down to find a stile taking you back onto Platterwell Lane. Cross the lane over the stile opposite into Platterwell Farm, follow the drive through the farm to reach the A37. Be very careful crossing this road. Cross to the path opposite and follow it round to cross the stile on your right, turn left and follow the fence until you come to a track, follow this track until you reach a stile on your left (approx 1/2 mile). Cross this stile heading half right to find another stile at the top taking you onto a track, turn right through the gate ahead and follow the hedge on your right until you reach a stile on your right which you



cross. On your left you will see an entrance to the Prestleigh Inn.

Slaters Directory inform that in 1852 Thomas Smith was the landlord. Many village pubs evolved rather than built so it is possible that this was once combined with a small farm.

3. With your back to the pub walk downhill to follow the track towards the exit of the Bath & West Showground, on your left you pass a small fenced paddock, at the end of this turn left into an enclosed path via a bridle gate, this takes you out to the A371. Cross the road with care to walk up Prestleigh Lane opposite and as you leave the houses behind look for a stile on your right at the top of a bank, cross this and head uphill towards the gate in the next hedge after which you head for the Farm, keep the buildings on your right to exit the field via a farm gate onto a concrete drive. Turn left, then at the next gate on your right go through the squeeze stile and head for the stile in the hedge to your right. Do not cross this but turn left to walk uphill through a gate until you come to a double stile on your right, do not cross this one either but go half left aiming for the stile you can see on the skyline. Once over this stile keep straight on to reach a track which you cross via the stiles on both sides into the field, from here head very slightly

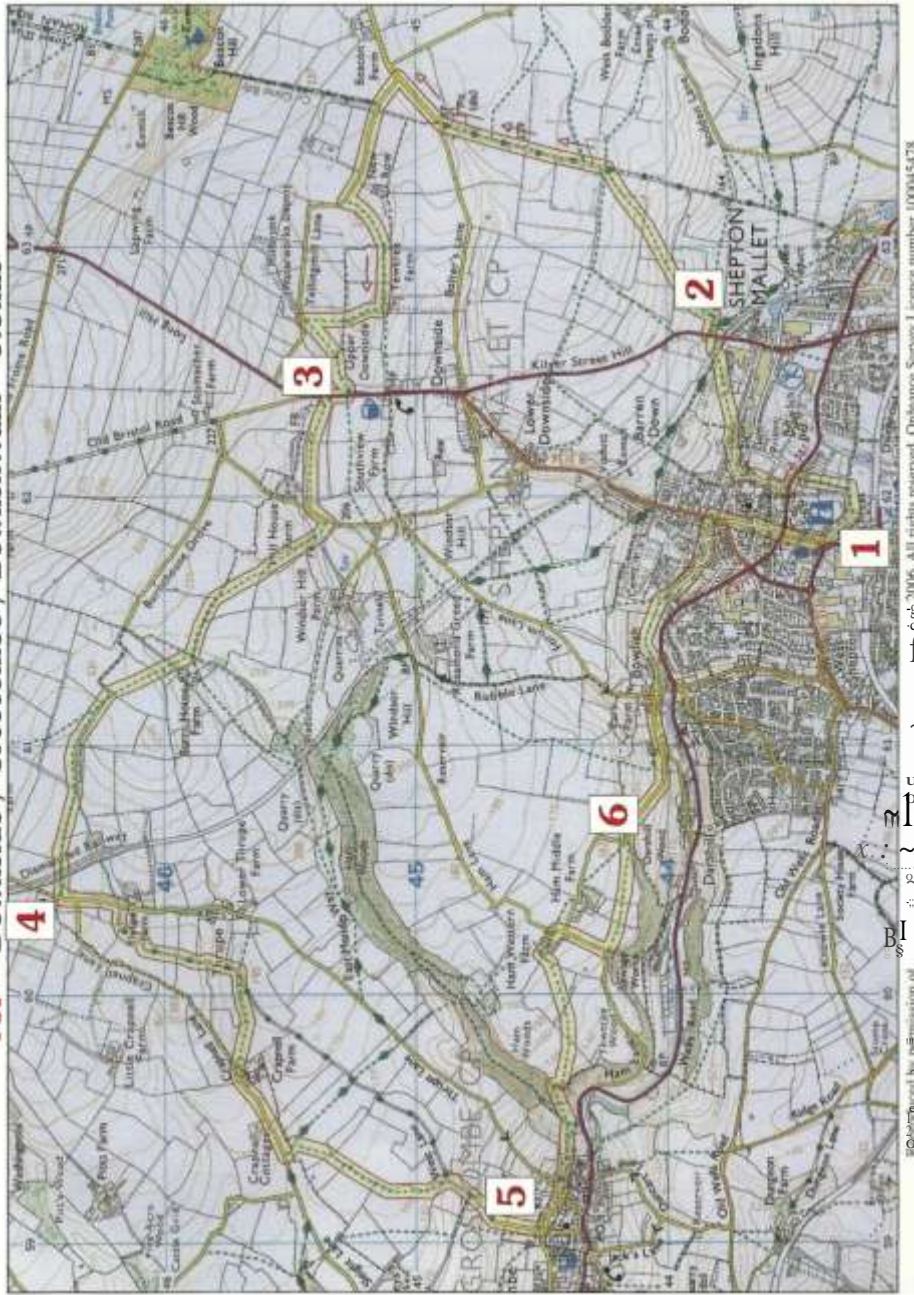
left aiming for the bottom left hand corner of the field. As you approach the double stiles in the corner looking to your right you can see Mendip Vale Station, end of the line for the East Somerset Railway. From the stiles head downhill to cross a stile next to a water trough then turn right to cross the old railway via a stile each side, from here you head for a double stile near to the large tree a little over halfway down the hedge on your left, then keeping in the same direction cross the next field to go over a stile to reach the A361.

4. Cross this busy road with care then turn left and walk along the road for approx 400 metres to reach the first turning on your right (Bodden Lane). Go up this for approx 400 metres to a footpath on your left, go over the stile aiming for the post and rail fence away to your left, keeping this on your left follow it to the end where you will find a path between the wall and a hedge, follow this out to the back of Charlton Industrial Estate, turn right up the Fosse Way for roughly 1/2 mile and on reaching the Gas Pumping Station on your left, turn left, following the footpath through the gate and on to a stone stile in the old wall in front of you, once over this keep straight on to reach Ivy House Farm. Go straight through the farmyard closing the gates behind



you to reach the A37. Cross the road with care to the footpath downhill a little to your left, go up the steps and follow the path under the old railway, ignore the path on your left and keep on uphill through the woods to follow a path with a wall on your right and the trees on your left to reach a field. Turn left to reach a metal stile at the bottom of the field leading you into a tar mac lane, follow this lane to the bottom of the hill to emerge into Lower Lane, turn left to reach Leg Square, cross the road to go up Gaol lane (signed Leg Square leading to Gaol Lane). Follow this round to the left and at the top of the hill you reach a T-junction, turn right up Frithfield Lane to reach the A361. Cross with care into the footpath opposite leading you pass the tennis courts and bowling green to reach Collett Park. On reaching the park turn right and follow the path to exit onto Park Road, turn left then right into a footpath taking you back to the car park.

A7 - Downside / Crocombe / BowlishWalk - 8.5 miles



A7 - Downside, Crocombe, Bowlish. 8.5 Miles.

A moderate walk with good all round views, leaving Shepton climbing up to Barren Down to reach the Fosse Way, crossing farm land to Downside and on to the hamlet of Thrupe, then dropping down to Crocombe back along the ridge to Bowlish through some of the older parts of Shepton to return to our start point. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park Cannards Grave Road, or from The Bull Terrier in Crocombe. If starting from the pub you will need to park in Fayreway at the top of Church Street joining the walk at No 5.



1. Leave the car park via the footpath to the town centre into Park Road, turn left then right into Collett Park after 100 metres turn left into the path going between the tennis courts and the bowling green to reach the A361. Cross the road with care into Frithfield Lane then turn left in front of the prison (Gaol Lane), follow this as it bends downhill to the right to reach Leg Square. Cross towards the Kings Arms keeping it on your left to walk up the lane signed Quarr, cross the stile at the top and then cross the field to go over a metal stile on to a drive, turn left and on

reaching the junction at the top turn right after a few metres you turn left up some steps follow the path round to the right under the old railway bridge and out to the A37.

2 . Turn left and on reaching the entrance to Ivy House Farm on the opposite side of the road, cross and walk through the farmyard closing the gates behind you. On reaching the gates at the end go through the one on your left then aim for a gateway in the field boundary ahead and on to cross a wooden stile then a stone stile. Still in the same direction head uphill, cross the next stone

stile then, keeping the wall on your right, aim for the top corner of this field to cross a stone stile with metal rails onto the Fosse Way, turn left and continue along the Fosse Way to reach Bolter's Lane. Turn right along the lane then take the first left Yellingmill Lane (not signed) pass a farm on your left and, where the road bends to the right, cross the stile on your left, aim slightly right towards the second telegraph pole and on to the bottom corner of the field to find and cross a stone stile. Cross two more fields to reach a wooden stile with Yew Tree Farm on your left. DO NOT cross the stile but turn right and follow the hedge on your left to reach and cross a stile at the top of the field, the path then drops down to the gate at the bottom of the hill. DO NOT EXIT THE GATE but turn round and with your back to the gate aim for the top right hand corner to go through a farm gate, follow the hedge on your left round to cross another stile which takes you out to the A37.

3. Cross the road with care. DO NOT cross the stone stile opposite but turn right, after approx 50 metres bear left into a drive and cross the stile on your left into the field, traverse this field slightly downhill passing through the large gap near the



bottom, now follow the tree line on your right crossing a stone stile to pass through a narrow field *over* the next stone stile to reach the road. Turn left uphill and after 20 metres where the road starts to bend to the left look for a small gate/stile on your right (the choice is yours). From the gate take the path to the right across the marshy area, *over* the small stone bridge and on to cross a stile into a field, go up the bank keeping the hedge on your right to pass a defunct stile then on towards a gateway you can see across the field ahead. Go *over* the stile next to the gate then bear left to pass to the left of the two large trees in the middle of the field, then *over* the stile you can see ahead to follow the hedge on your left dropping down to a small gate at the bottom of the field. Go through the gate and follow the fenced path to your right to emerge onto a track, cross this and aim for the small gate on the far side of the field, from here aim a little to your right, cross the next field

towards the far end of a line of trees, where you will find a small stone stile next to a gate leading you onto a bridleway. Turn left and follow the bridleway into a field, you then follow the hedge on your left through two large fields to pass through a bridle gate into a track and out to reach Thrupe Lane.

4. Turn left, ignore the turning on your right to Dinder and just before you reach the first farm on your left turn right into a hedged track (West Lane, not signed). Follow the track as it twists and turns for approx 1/2 mile and as the track turns left and then right slightly downhill look for a stile on your left, ignore this, and just round the corner on the right you will find a well-hidden stile, cross this and follow the hedge on your right. At the end of the hedge next to a large tree turn right and aim to cross the stile next to the barn at the top of the hill, follow the path behind the barn and out to the road. Turn left along the road for roughly 1/4 mile to the first footpath on the left, cross the stone stile then the narrow field and stiles, after which you take the path to the right aiming for the double stile in the top corner of the field. Once *over* this follow the hedge on your left (ignoring the gateways) through three fields. The hedge then drops downhill to the left, halfway down you will come to a

stile, cross this which takes you back onto West Lane. Turn right downhill to reach Croscombe emerging into Fayreway.



The Bull Terrier - Croscombe - Formerly called The Rose and Crown. This pub is amongst the oldest pubs in the area, dating from the time of the prosperity for Croscombe in the woollen industry. This would probably be 15th century and maybe older. The pub may have developed from the hostelry of a former Priory which this site was part of. In the early 19th century Rose Hodges was the landlady and in Pigots directory of 1830 Elizabeth Hodges was given as the landlady.

5. Turn left towards Church Street then turn left again into Pound Fold, at the junction with Rock Street turn left uphill, on reaching Thrupe Lane go straight ahead into Boards Lane, where this drops downhill to the right go straight ahead *over* the stone stile and follow the path downhill into the *valley*. Go through the metal gate ahead and, following the marked path, climb back up

the other side to cross a stile at the top of the hill emerging into a field, aiming slightly left cross this field, go over a stile then keeping in the same direction cross two more fields to cross a stile behind the farm. Turn right following the fence round to cross a stile next to a gate going into the farmyard, where you turn left down the drive to reach the road. Turn right, ignore the lane on your left and where the road bends to the right cross the stile on your left, take the path straight ahead and cross the field to go over a wooden and stone stile, keeping on the same heading cross this field to a stone stile next to a gate taking you onto Ham Lane.

6. Turn right and follow the lane down to the T-junction at the bottom, turn right, then left at the stop sign, at the end of the cottages follow the track round to the left through a kissing gate. After two more kissing gates you emerge into a road, follow the road straight ahead, then take the first turning on your right. Follow this to a T-junction, turn right up Tipcote Hill to reach the main road, cross the road turn right to walk up Town Street and on reaching the Market Place turn left to reach the Church then turn right and follow Regal Road to emerge onto the A361.

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church - This church contains remnants of the Saxon origins whilst

the Norman tower dates from around 1381. The interior has several fine features including walls of the original Saxon Nave, a Saxon Font, double Piscina and an effigy of one of the Mallet family who gave Shepton the second part of its name. Probably the most famous is the roof of the clerestory. It has 350 panels carved with tracery designs, no two are the same and it has a stone pulpit dated late 15th Century. It is reputed to be one of the finest church towers in Somerset.

Cross the road with care. Turn right, then left at the cross roads, walk up the High Street and at the top cross Park Road to follow the paved path through the Council Offices and back to the car park.



AS - Fosse Way, Ham Woods, Windsor Hill. 7 Miles.

A moderate walk following in the footsteps of the Romans on the Fosse Way with fine views over Shepton Mallet from Downside, then onto Ham Woods with the old viaduct and tunnels, up the side of the quarry to come back over Windsor Hill to Bowlsh then back via the older parts of Shepton Mallet. This walk starts from the Mendip District Council car park, or from The Downside Inn on the A37. If starting from the Pub, start at No. 3. Always ask permission to park.

1. Leave the car park via the footpath to the Town Centre, turn left then right into Collett Park keep straight ahead, after approx 100 metres turn left into a footpath taking you between the tennis courts and the bowling green to reach the A361. Cross the road into Frithfield Lane and walk downhill passing the Prison on your left, on reaching the road at the bottom cross to the footpath opposite down the paved path to a road. Turn right and follow the road to the junction with the A37. Cross with care, turn right then turn left into the lane to the right of the car park, at the end of the tar mac lane go straight ahead onto the gravel track under Charlton Viaduct, after which you turn left

at a short marker post to reach a stile with metal rails, cross this and follow the wall round ignoring the stile on your left, keep straight onto pass an old stile through a gate, then follow the fence on your right to cross a double stile you will see in the top corner of field, cross this and turn right, walk down the middle of this field to a stone stile next to a stumpy tree, once over this head for the gas pumping station ahead to reach the Fosse Way.

Also called Martins Lane as it rises to the north out of Shepton. Like many Roman Roads its course has shifted slightly over the centuries and here and there you can see the raised hump of the earlier road

in fields to the west of the present lane. The Roman invasion of AD43 began in South East England but its effects were swiftly felt in the Mendip area. By AD49 the Romans were mining lead in





the Mendips and the Fosseway had been built. The Fosseway served as a major strategic communications line. The Romans had been getting lead from the Mendips from before the invasion and one of the first roads they built ran from Charterhouse towards Southampton. The strategically important Fosseway was built soon afterwards, possibly as a frontier.

2. Turn left and follow the Fosse Way uphill to eventually reach Bolters Lane. Turn right, then first left into Yellingmill Lane. Follow the lane for roughly 1½ mile, then as the lane bends to the right go over the stile on your left aiming slightly to your right to reach a stone stile in the bottom corner of the hedge on your right. Cross two fields to reach a wooden stile with Yew Tree Farm on your left, cross the stile turn left through the gate then turn right following the hedge on your right, over the ladder stile and out to the A37 via a stile. Cross the road to reach the Downside Inn .



The Downside Inn from its structure would appear to originate from the late 18th or early 19th century. It would have been likely to act as a pub and small farm. In 1839 John Crew is listed as the landlord and in Kelly's of 1861 it is listed as 'Henry Hutton, Downside Inn and Cattle Dealer'. Dual occupations were very common for publicans in those days.

3. Take the footpath between the barn and the Pub, go over the stone stile heading straight towards the derelict farmhouse, go straight through the farmyard keeping in the same direction to cross a stile, then straight onto a stone stile onto a lane. Ignore the lane ahead but turn right up the hill to take the next turning on your left, on reaching a fork in this lane go right down towards Windsor Hill Farm, pass through the farmyard and at the derelict building turn right over a stile next to a gate then follow the track to your left through another gate, walk down the middle of this field and, where this opens out to a large field, head towards the communication mast on Pen Hill. As you drop down the hill you will see a bridge to cross at the bottom, once over this turn left up the hill, ignore the old stile on your left but cross the one at the top onto the old railway track. The path to your left crosses the old viaduct, but we cross the track

going over the stile opposite, keep straight ahead across the field with the wood on your left and after a few metres you will see a kissing gate on your left, pass through this down hill to a stream at the bottom, you are now in Ham Woods. Cross the stream following the path up the bank on the other side, continue along the well trodden path into the old Quarry. As you reach the far side the path starts to bend to the left, take the path straight ahead through the trees then round to the right to some steps up the side of the quarry. At the top follow the fence on your left round two sides of this large field to a kissing gate onto a lane.

4. Turn right past Rubble Lane on your left, then go over the first stile on your left, aim a little to your right to a stile halfway along the hedge at the bottom, cross the next field to the stile ahead of you over this then follow the hedge on the left, over another stile, then half right to cross a stile into a large field. Head downhill to a marker post near a large tree then another post in the middle of the field, turn left here dropping down the bank to go through a gate at the bottom. Turn right to reach Ham Lane, then turn left to a T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn right then just before reaching the A371 take the turning on your left to pass some cottages. At

the end of these bear to your left through a kissing gate and follow the track along the river through two more gates after which you turn right up some steps between some cottages to reach the A371. Turn left, then after 100 metres left again into Pike Lane. At the end of the lane turn right up Zion Hill to reach the 83136. Cross the road, enter the Great Ostry car park via a gap in the wall to your right follow the road round to the right to bring you into Town Street. Cross the Market Square, pass the Shambles.

The name shambles came from the Anglo Saxon word 'scamel' or 'little bench', and they were originally on the North and South side of the Market Place. The Shambles left on the North side were actually taken down in 1912. There still remains a small section of the Shambles in the market place today.

On through to St Peter's & St. Paul's Church, walk through the churchyard following the path round the back of the church, continue straight ahead to reach the A361. Cross with care, turn left and then right at the footpath signed to Cannards Grave via Collett Park. Once in the Park turn right and follow the path back to Park Road, cross to the footpath opposite and back to the car park.

A9 - Whitstone Hill, Doultling, Bodden. 7 Miles.

A moderate walk with only one steep hill up and one down, the views being worth the climb. We go under Charlton Viaduct, pass The Hundred Stone, & St. Aldhelm's Well, before coming back across Ingsdons Hill. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park, Cannards Grave Road, or from The Thatched Cottage Inn on the A361 at Charlton on the outskirts of Shepton Mallet. If you start from the pub please ask permission to park and start from No.2.

1. From the car park take the footpath to the Town centre into Park Road, turn left then right into Collett Park, keep straight ahead passing the lake on your right and the football pitches, now start to look for the exit into Collett Avenue on your left. At the bottom of the avenue you reach the A361, cross and turn right take the footpath on your left that crosses the playing field and aim for the bottom right hand corner to exit onto the

road, cross with care and take the first turning on your right between a car park on your left and a wall on your right. Look through the gate halfway along on your left at Mulberry Gardens. Continue to the end of the tar mac track keeping straight ahead onto a gravel path, take the path to your right and follow it passing under Charlton Viaduct.

This part of the second railway line that served Shepton Mallet the Somerset and Dorset. The viaduct was opened in 1874 as part of the Somerset and Dorset's extension from Evercreech to Bath. Railways first came to Mendip in 1858, when the Bristol and Exeter railway opened in Shepton Mallet, eventually running from Wells, Shepton Mallet, Doultling siding and Cranmore to Whitham. A second railway later ran through the town. The Somerset and Dorset Railway (named the Slow and Dirty) ran from Highbridge across the levels to Evercreech and on to



A9 – Whitstone Hill / Douiting / Bodden Walk – 7mils



the south coast. The railway didn't pay so an extension was built through Shepton, Maesbury, Binegar and on to Bath.

Keep going until you come to a junction of paths, turn right here passing between a high wall on one side and a low one on the other to emerge into Brewery Lane. Turn left then left again to pass behind the art galley on your right which brings you out onto the Fosse Way. Turn right and walk through Charlton Trading estate to reach the traffic lights at the top, The Thatched Cottage Pub is on your right.



The Thatched Cottage - It is not sure how long this has been a public house. It is not listed as such at all during the 19th century and it is not shown as a pub on the 1902 map. It is thought that it was originally three separate cottages and the conversion to pub is relatively recent. One of the very few remaining thatched buildings in Shepton Mallet though the roof evidence for many buildings shows that Thatch was once widely used in the town.

2. From the traffic lights follow the A361 towards Frome for a few metres cross the road into the No Through Road (Frog Lane), follow this over the cattle grid into Bullimore Farm following the track straight through the farm, after passing through the gate at the end follow the track as it bends slightly to the right, ignore the first gate on your left and head for the next one, once in the field follow the hedge on your left to cross the stile at the top of the field down some steps and through a very boggy field still with the hedge on your left to reach a track via a stile, cross this and the stile opposite, then aim for the stile at the top of the hill, keep on up the hill to reach the summit. Have a rest and admire the view, the climbing is over you have reached the top of Whitstone Hill. Continue across the top of the hill to go over a modified gate onto a track, turn left and continue up hill to go over another modified gate passing the Hundred Stone on the way. Keep in the same direction over the next three stiles, ignoring the ones on your right, after the third stile turn half left and aim to the left of the farm house you can see ahead. Once across the field you will see a gate leading you onto a concrete track, turn right and follow this track through Peacehaven Farm and out to the road.



15.

3. Turn left and follow the road crossing the East Somerset Railway at Bramble Ditch.

The railway starts at Cranmore Station which was originally opened in 1858 on the inauguration of the line between Witham and Shepton Mallet. It was one of the first branch lines on the Great Western Railway. The great Mr. Brunei visited the line when it was being built. The goods siding and engine shed were built in 1862/3. It is once again open to the public, re-opened by David Sheppard. The official opening was by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Keep straight ahead and where the grass verge widens look for a stile on your left, cross this and aim for the wall on the far side of the field. Go over the stone stile, follow the wall on your right to a stile and the A361. Cross with care, as this is a very busy road. Once across turn left until you reach the speed limit signs, turn right over the stile and walk down hill pass the old Lockup on

your right to cross a stile at the bottom of the hill. Turn right, in front of you is St. Aldhelms Well. Continue up hill and as you come towards the top you will see a small gateway on your right. If you wish to visit Doulling Church go through the gate and follow the path to the Church.

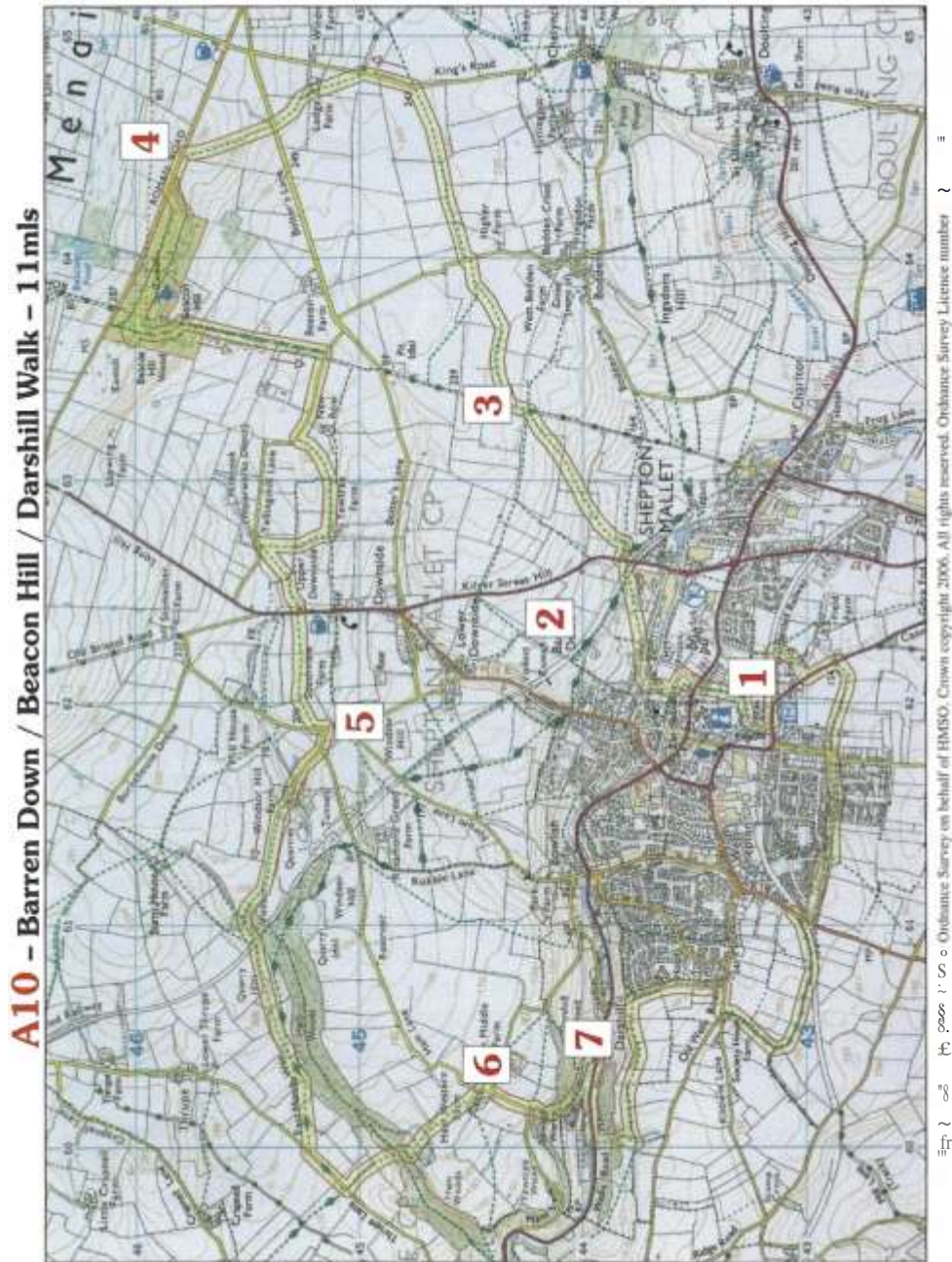
A minister church was founded at Doulling by St. Aldhelm in the 7th Century. This foundation may have represented the bringing of an ancient Celtic substructure. Ministers were religious houses with a mission to spread Christianity to the people living in the territory.

To continue the walk keep going uphill until you reach Rowan Cottage on your left, here turn left into Beech Close then left again to go up the left hand side of White Clover Cottage. Follow the footpath behind the school to reach a field, continue straight across this with the hedge on your left to cross a stone stile on your left, follow the path along the ridge to cross the next stile

and with the wood now on your left again, follow the path over another stile down some steps and out to the road. Go up the steps opposite and follow the path across the field to go over a stile either side of the driveway, now aim for the cottage off to your right, halfway across the field turn left and aim for a stile behind the large fir trees, follow these to the next stile and then onto a double stile a little to your left, cross the next field aim slightly to your right where you will find a stile in the corner of a fence, cross this and aim for the gap in the fence ahead after which you turn right to reach the fence at the bottom, turn left and follow the fence to go over a stone stile out to the road at Bodden.

4. Turn left and follow the footpath through the farm gate, at the top of the track turn right ignoring the kissing gate and stile on your left to follow the track through three kissing gates to reach the top of Ingsdons Hill with its' fine view to the coast. Follow the path across the top of the hill to a kissing gate just over the brow, then follow the hedge on your left down the field to Bodden Lane, cross this via the kissing gates and go half left through the orchard to a stone stile, cross this onto the Fosse Way then the stile opposite, go straight across the field to a stile

with metal rails, once over this keep straight ahead to a short marker post, turn right here to another stile with metal rails then follow the wall on your left up to a stile taking you under the viaduct into an enclosed path and out to the A37. Cross the road taking great care, turn right then left at the footpath sign up the steps under the old railway. When you reach a stile on your left cross this onto a drive, turn right then left behind the Brewery to cross the metal stile next to the gate on your right. Cross the field to another stile and down the lane to reach Leg Square. Keep to the right and go down Lower Lane, at the end of the wall turn right into the footpath (Signed Fosse Way) then turn left under a small arch to follow the path up some steps and over a bridge to reach Peter Street. Cross this into Church Lane and follow the flag stone path to the Church. Turn left through the Churchyard, ignore the path on your left and keep straight ahead to reach the A361. Cross with care and turn left, follow the road until you come to a footpath on your right signed to Cannards Grave via Collett Park. Take this path back into Collett Park then turn right and follow the path back to reach Park Road, cross the road to the footpath opposite which brings you back to the car park.



AI0 - Barren Down, Beacon Hill, Darshill. 11 Miles.

A hilly walk with superb all round views. This walk leaves Shepton passing the prison to climb Barren Down crossing the Fosse Way to reach the ancient Beacon Hill Wood, and then crossing the A37 to reach the hamlet of Thrupe, passing Nancy Camel's Hole and the waterfall at Darshill to return via West Shepton. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park, or from the Kings Arms in Leg Square. If starting from the Pub begin at No. 2.

1. Leave the car park via the footpath to the Town Centre, turn left then right into Collett Park, after 100 metres turn left into a footpath between the tennis courts and the bowling green to reach the A371. Cross into Frithfield Lane and on reaching the prison turn left into Gaol Lane following this as it bends right downhill into Leg Square, cross the square towards the Kings Arms.



This is one of the oldest Public Houses in Shepton Mallet and would seem to date back at least to the early 17th century and possibly earlier being in the old heart of the Shepton Mallet woollen industry area. Its nick name 'Dust Hole' is reputed to come from the dust on the

clothes of the workers from the nearby quarry in Quarr. In 1794 J. Brown is listed the 'Victualler'. Looking at the pub today it can be seen that it has incorporated a number of small workers cottages into its 'wings'.

2. Passing the pub on your left go up the lane signed Quarry over the stile at the top crossing the field to a metal stile behind the Brewery. Once over the stile turn left, on reaching the junction at the top turn right, then turn left up some steps into the wood where you follow the path round to the right under the old railway arch and out to the A37. Turn left, when you reach the entrance to Ivy House Farm on the opposite side of the road, cross and walk through the farmyard closing the gates behind you, on reaching the gates at the end, go through the one on your left and aim to pass through the gateway in the hedge ahead, keep in the same direction over a wooden stile then a stone stile still aiming in the same direction to cross a

stone stile at the top of this field, now keep the wall on your right to reach a stile taking you onto the Fosse Way in the top corner of this field.



3 . Turn left along the Fosse Way, after 100 metres turn right over a stile next to a gate, head across the field keeping the large trees and water trough on your left to reach and cross a wooden stile, then a stone stile on the corner into the next field, follow the wall on your left until you come to a stile at the end cross this then head half right across this field to cross another stile then onto a stone stile to reach a lane (Bodden Lane). Turn left along the road until you come to a gate on your right, go through this keeping the hedge on your right until you enter the fifth field, go straight across this bearing to your left to a stile next to the gate. Once on Kings Road turn left, follow the road until you come to a junction on your right, here you turn left over the stile next to a gate and aim towards

the farm buildings on your right to cross a stile each side of a farm track, follow the fence on your right to cross the next stile then uphill to a stone stile onto Bolter's Lane. Cross the lane to a stile opposite, then straight up this field to the top left hand corner to reach the old Frome Road.

4 . With great care turn left and follow the edge until you reach the entrance to Beacon Hill Woods, roughly 100 metres. Keeping to the top path (do not drop down the hill) follow it through the woods until you reach a wide track on the far side, cross this path to reach a viewpoint. To continue the walk retrace your steps back to the wide track turn right and follow it as it winds downhill, on reaching the bottom turn right and follow a track out to reach Yellingmill Lane. Turn right and where the lane bends sharply to the right cross the stile on the left, aiming slightly right towards the second telegraph pole and onto the bottom corner of the field to find and cross a stone stile, cross the next two fields to reach a wooden stile with Yew Tree Farm on your left. Do not cross the stile but turn right up the field to cross the stile at the top. The path goes down to the gate at the bottom of the hill. Do not exit the field but with your back to the gate you go half right back up the hill to go through a gate in the top right hand corner, then follow the

hedge on your left round to cross another stile and out to the A37. With care cross the road and the stone stile opposite, head straight across this field to a stone stile, then across the next field to go over a stile onto a lane.

5 . Once in the lane turn left, then right at the first junction, when you reach a fork take the one to the right and follow it through Windsor Hill Farm. At the derelict building turn right over a stile next to a gate, follow the track round to the left through another gate and down the middle of this field. Where this opens out into a large field head towards the communication mast on Pen Hill and as you drop down the hill you will see a bridge at the bottom. Once over this turn left heading uphill to cross the old railway via two stiles, cross this long field to pass through a double kissing gate, across the next field to pass through another kissing gate, then after the next field and kissing gate turn half right through a farm gate and onto a stone stile, after which you cross the next field heading towards the lone ash tree to cross the stone stile close by onto Thrupe Lane. Turn left and on reaching a barn on your right look for an oak signpost on your left next to a gate taking you down an enclosed track to cross a stone stile next to a gate, from here you drop down towards

Ham Woods to cross a stone stile into the wood, follow this steep path down to the bottom only to climb up the path on the opposite side to reach and cross a stone stile at the top. Keeping the field edge on your right go uphill to pass through a farm gate after which you head across the field keeping Ham Western Farm on your right, entering the farmyard via a small stile next to a gate, follow the track round to the left and out to the lane.

6 . Turn right down the lane ignore the turning on the left, where the lane bends sharply to the right take the stone stile on your left, then turn right to cross the stile in the corner of the field make your way carefully down the steps to the track halfway down.

(The path off to the left takes us to the site of Nancy Camel's Hole).

Once there lived a small woman with the name of Nancy Camel and she was reputed to be a witch or wise woman. Not being very popular with the locals she sought refuge in a cave in the woods known as Ham. On a very tempestuous night during the thunder storm it is said loud and terrible piercing shrieks were heard from this area also the cracking of a whip and creaking of wheels accompanied by devilish laughter. Nancy Camel had disappeared and the

remains of 'The Nancy Camel's Hole' with mysterious marks upon the rock in front of the cave are still to be seen today.

We continue down the slope to reach a path at the bottom of the hill, cross this path and onto find a bridge over a large pipe, now follow the path between the pipe and a wire fence and at the end of the fence keep straight on following the path out to reach the A371. Turn right down the road after approx 400 metres at the entrance to the sewage treatment plant look for a signpost and stile on the other side of the road. Cross the road with care then the stile and head straight up the field to find a marker post leading you up some steps by the side of the waterfall, cross the stile at the top of the hill and keep straight on across this field until you reach a track in the middle, turn left and follow the hedge on your right, where this ends at a gateway next to a metal stile, keep in the same direction to cross a stone stile in the corner of the hedge ahead of you and follow the enclosed path over the old stone stile at the end, cross two more fields to a kissing gate behind the houses.

7. Once through the gate turn right signed Old Wells Road and on reaching the road turn right, walk along the road with care, just before the farmhouse on the left turn left into the R.U.P.P. When

you reach a fork turn left and follow this path until you reach the B3136. Turn right along the road through the old railway arch, approx 10 metres past the arch go up a short track on your left going behind the houses, then turn left to enter the housing estate, follow the pavement on your right until you come to a tarmac path between house numbers 75 & 77 turn right up this path signed Pilton 2 miles, then left at the top to walk along a tarmac path behind the houses. Where this path turns sharp left, turn left then immediately right into Westway Lane, follow this to the T-junction at the top. Cross Compton Road to enter the footpath opposite follow this into the field keeping to the edge with the hedge on your left, follow this round to exit via a gate onto the A371. Turn left for 200 metres, look for the post box in the wall on the other side of the road, cross the road and enter the path to the left of the said post box. Follow this round to a gate onto a gravel path, cross the bridge ahead following the path behind some new houses, When you reach a gap in the wall on your left go through this onto the old railway, cross this to enter Collett Park following the path on the left round the park pass the children's play areas and out to Park Road, cross to the footpath opposite and back to the car park.

All - BODDEN, CRANMORE, DOULTING. 10.5 Miles.

A hilly walk for the railway enthusiast. you climb to Barren Down crossing farmland to Bodden following the East Mendip Way for a few miles to reach Cranmore Tower before dropping down to Cranmore and the East Somerset Railway. On the way back you cross Ingsdon Hill with its fine views. then pass through Doultling Quarry and back to the start point via Collett Park. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park Cannards Grave Road. or from the Strode Arms. Cranmore. If starting from the pub please ask for permission to park then start from No 4.

1. Leave the car park via the path to the town centre into Park Road, turn left then right into Collett Park. After 100 metres turn left into the footpath taking you between the tennis courts and the bowling green to reach the A361. Cross the road and turn left, continue until you come to a path signed to the Parish Church, turn right and follow the path into the churchyard, pass behind the church to reach a gate on your right, go through this following the path out to Peter Street. Turn right down the hill, at the bottom turn left into Lower Lane and at the end of the wall on your right, turn right over the River Sheppey and up the tarmac direction cross this field to go footpath signed Fosse Way. On reaching the top, cross the metal stile continuing straight ahead to pass through the kissing gate on your left at the top of the hill. Cross the old railway through the kissing gate opposite and head up the field to pass through the gateway at the top. Ignore

the path off to the left but keep straight ahead up the field to pass through the second gate on your right to reach the A37.

2. Be very careful crossing this very busy road. Pass through the kissing gate opposite keeping the wall on your left, head for the gateway in the next hedge line then cross the next field to a stone stile, once over this keep in the same direction across this field to reach a stone stile with metal rails cross this onto the Fosse Way. Cross the stone stile opposite and head a little to your right towards the large trees where you will find and cross a small stone stile still in the same



21.

22.

A11 - Bodden / Cranmore / Douling Walk - 10.5mils



over two stiles one each side of a track. From here head slightly right downhill towards the large trees (keeping the bungalow on your right) where you will find a gate leading you onto Bodden Lane. Turn left up the hill to Bodden and on reaching the junction turn right. When you reach a house called The Hayloft turn left over the stone stile and follow the way marked "path" through the garden to exit into a field via a stile in the top right hand corner. Turn left down the middle of the field towards the barns to cross a double stile, then keeping the buildings on your right pass behind the farm over



two more stiles to emerge into a field. Follow the line of telegraph poles on your right towards a gateway, to the left of which you will find a stone stile. Cross this, the road and the stone stile opposite, then cross the field towards a stone stile in the next boundary. Do not cross this but turn left following the boundary on your right to the top of the field to cross another stone stile.

Ignore the stile on your right but cross the field keeping the large trees on your left to find and pass through two kissing gates to reach the lane at Newman Street.



3. Turn right and after a few metres turn left through a metal kissing gate, go straight up the slope passing the ring of fir trees on your left to go through two kissing gates, continue straight across the next field to go through a lift barrier and over a stone stile and then a kissing gate. Cross the next field in the same direction to go over a large stone stile onto a lane. Turn left, and then right at the lane opposite Temple House Farm, follow this until you reach the main road. Cross over the road and stile opposite then follow the track as it bears to the right then the left to reach a kissing gate at the top taking you into a field. Keep straight on to pass through the gate on the far side of the field ignore the path off to the left but keep straight ahead, and where the field narrows at the far end go through the kissing

23. gate in the corner next to a farm gate. Now aim for the bottom corner of the woods in the dip, after which you climb up to the kissing gate on the far side of the field. Go through this, turn left through the next kissing gate then up a short track to reach a bridleway where you turn right.



Go through the gate passing the house on your right to reach a field, continue across three more fields via bridle gates to reach Dallimore Lane. Turn left uphill follow the bridleway through a small gate at the top, keep straight ahead and on reaching a junction in the track next to a gate signed West Cranmore Estates. Private Woodlands, turn right. When you reach the gate at the end go through this and turn right again, following the boundary on your right uphill. Cross the track at the top passing Cranmore Tower on your left (do not go to the Tower as this is a private residence). Still keeping the boundary on your right go straight ahead through the woods to pass through a metal squeeze stile into a field, head straight on downhill. After a few metres go through the kissing gate on your

right and follow the well trodden path across this field to the far bottom corner to reach Dallimore Lane via a kissing gate. Turn left downhill and on reaching the lane at the bottom, take the footpath opposite, which bears to the left behind the houses to emerge into Pawelski Close and the A361. Turn right along the main road and just after the small church on your right cross the road to enter the footpath opposite. Go half right across this field to pass through a kissing gate and still in the same direction cross the next field towards the houses passing through a kissing gate on to the road. Follow the road to a T-junction, turn left and on reaching the bottom of the hill turn right. On your left is Cranmore village pond with its wicker fishermen and on your right is The Strode Arms.



On the outside of Shepton Mallet church you can find a plaque bearing the Strode Arms. It records the building and dedication of Edward Strode in 1699. The Strode family had many estates in

the West Country, locally at Cranmore, where this pub is named after them.

4. From the pub walk to the T-junction, and if you wish to visit the East Somerset Railway cross the road and enter via the car park. To continue the walk take the No Through Road between the car park on your left and the sidings on your right, follow this pass the station, cross the railway lines going into the sidings, keeping on towards the cottage ahead. Just before you reach this look for a signpost on your right, taking you up the side of the wood over a stile into a field. Follow the wood on your left and where this ends keep straight ahead aiming for a stile in the top right-hand corner of the field then on to reach the A361. With care cross this into the road opposite (Tansey) then turn left into the playing field either via the gate or stile, pass the tennis court on your left aiming to cross a stile in the hedge beyond, once over this head in the same direction towards a gate, over the stile, and then on to cross a stile in the top corner of the next field. Once over this follow the hedge / wall on your right through a stone squeeze, cross the next three small fields and on reaching the fourth field turn slightly right aiming for the building in the top corner, go over the stile, turn left and out to the road. Turn

right up the road and in a few metres take the footpath on your left passing the new workings at Doultling Quarry. Soon you reach a path off to your left taking you through the quarry workings to a stile, cross this, turn right, and follow the path to a T-junction. Turn left through the woods to reach a marker post next to a large tree, turn right to reach a track where you turn right again then in a few metres take the path off to the left. Follow this to pass through a squeeze stile at the end, turn left taking the path through the large bank ahead of you and on reaching the other side, turn right and follow the bank round to a marker post level with the last house away to your left, turn left across the field to cross a stone stile onto the road at Doultling.



5. Turn right, then take the second turning left (Carey Close) through the kissing gate at the end, keep straight ahead through another kissing gate to reach a junction of paths, turn left passing behind the skateboard

park through a kissing gate into an enclosed path which takes you behind the school to reach Beech Close, at the junction turn right following the lane downhill. (If you wish to visit Doultling Church, when you reach The Old Bell House, turn left through the gateway in the wall opposite).

To continue the walk keep on down the lane to reach the bottom, on your left you will find St Aldhelms Well.

This gushes clear spring water to start the River Sheppey which flows under Shepton Mallet. This stream once worked many mills in the era of prosperity from the wool trade. This reputed to be one of Somerset's holy wells and the water is said to hold healing powers.

Keep straight on then just before the gate ahead turn right, following the path round the ponds to reach a stile at the end, go over this ignoring the path off to the left, go straight up the hill, On reaching the top keep straight on towards the large tree in the boundary straight ahead, next to which you will find a well hidden stile in the hedge. Once over this follow the hedge on your left uphill until it becomes a wire fence where you will find and cross a stile, now aim for the gate a little to your left at the top of this field which takes you

onto a track. Turn left and follow the track through a kissing gate then a stone squeeze and another kissing gate to reach the top of Ingsdon Hill.

6. Keep straight across the top of the hill to follow the path as it drops down to pass through another kissing gate, then follow the hedge on your left downhill to reach the lane via a kissing gate. Cross the lane through the kissing gate opposite then slightly left through the orchard to a stone stile taking you onto the Fosse Way. Cross this via the stile opposite following the path across the field to go over a stone stile with metal rails now keep straight on to pass under Char/ton Viaduct and onto reach the tarmac lane (Kidds Lane). Keep straight on along the lane to reach the A37. With care cross the road, turn left uphill to reach a stone stile leading into the school playing field cross this to the stile at the top and on to the A361. Turn right, with care cross the road and on reaching Collett Avenue turn left to enter Collett Park at the top, turn right and follow the path pass the lake and the play areas to exit onto Park Road, turn left then right back to the car park.

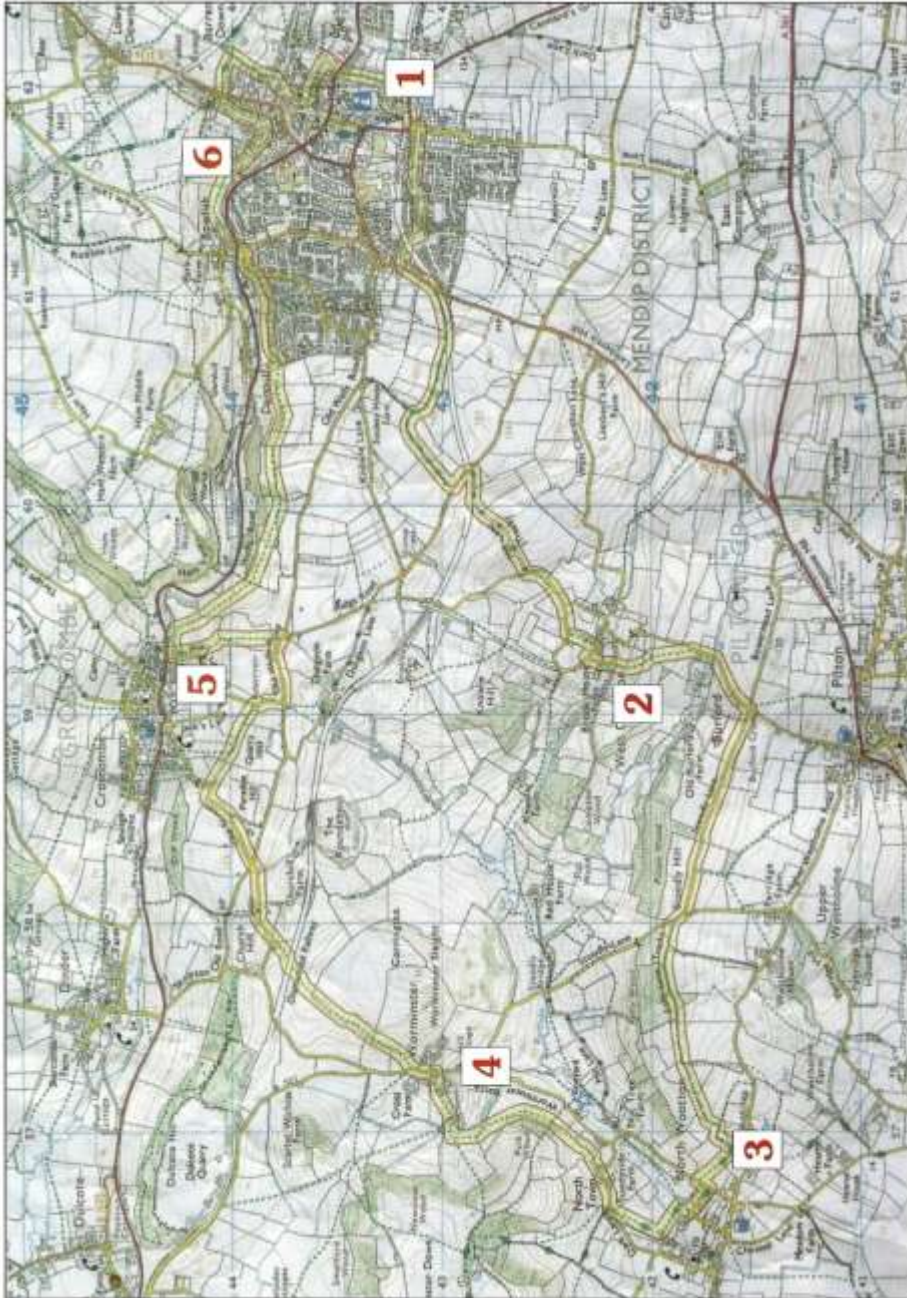
A12 - Burford, North Wootton, Croscombe. 11 Miles

A hilly walk leaving via West Shepton crossing Knowle Hill to reach Burford, then following Folly Lane down to North Wootton and onto climb Worminster Sleight before crossing the old railway to then drop down to Croscombe and back along the ridge to reach Shepton via Darshill. This walk starts from Mendip District Council car park Cannards Grave Road, or from The Crossways Inn at North Wootton. If starting from the pub please ask permission to park, then from the crossroads with your back to the pub take the road signed Worminster, Dulcote, follow this for 1.1 mile to reach Sidelands Barn where you join the route at No. 3.



1. Leave the car park via the entrance onto Cannards Grave Road, turn right then left over the pedestrian crossing, turn right and follow the pavement round to the left into Compton Road, cross this into Kingsland Road and follow it for approx 1/2 mile, on reaching Strode Way turn right and follow it under the old railway arch along Kent Lane to reach the B3136. Turn left and carefully follow the road for 200 metres to turn right into the R.U.P.P. just before the remains of the old railway arch, follow this as it changes from track to path. At the junction follow the track to

the left and continue on to reach the road at the top, turn left over the old railway bridge then turn right next to the large stones into Mill Lane (not signed). This can get very muddy in places. On reaching the lane at the bottom turn left and follow the road round to a junction, keep straight ahead towards Knowle Farm. On reaching the end of the trees on your left look for and cross the stile on your left aiming for the house at the bottom of the field, cross the stile onto the lane and turn right. On reaching Manor Cottage on your right, turn left into the lane then once over the stream where the lane turns left, go straight ahead up the steps and over the stile into the field where due to a spring rising here it is always wet. From the stile aim straight up the hill to reach a double stile at the top, this is a good place to stop for some refreshment both liquid and visual.



(the house to your right is Burford House). Keep in the same direction down the field to pass through the gate at the bottom and onto the road. Turn right and follow the road uphill until you come to the crossroads at the top. Turn right and still following the road (with good views both North and South) for approx 1/2 mile. Just after the junction on your left and where the road bends to the right continue straight ahead into the bridleway (Folly Lane). Keep on along the track to pass through a bridle gate at the end into a field, follow the hedge on your left cross this field pass through the gate at the end and keep straight on, the hedge is now on your right, follow this through the next gate and round two sides of the next field to pass through the gate into a track. Continue along the track until you reach Folly Lodge on your left, opposite which you cross a stile, now head for the telegraph pole in the middle of the field then onto cross the stile in the hedge at the bottom onto a lane, turn left towards North Wootton. If you started from the pub keep straight on to return to the Crossways Inn.

3. On reaching Sidelands Barn take the lane on your right and follow this until it bends sharply



to the left, here turn right into the driveway of Bark Mill, on reaching the bridge turn left across this and then the orchard to cross a stile into the field, follow the hedge on your left round two sides of this large field to cross a smaller field over a stile onto a lane. Turn right and where the road bends to the right go straight ahead pass the workshop on your right and up some steps to go through the garden, then follow the fence on your right to a stile leading you into a field. Head straight across the field to a stile next to the gate, once over this keep straight on towards the wood ignoring the small gate on your right as this is private. Enter the wood via a drunken stile and exit via a sober one into a field, follow the wood on your left until you come to a small marker post pointing you down to the end of the wood at the bottom of the hill, follow the wood on your right round to pass through a gate onto a concrete track, turn right and just after the stream cross the stile on your left aiming for the barns at the top of the hill. Go through two farm gates to follow

a fence on your left through a metal gate and down to reach the road at Worminster via a smaller gate. Note the ancient cross on your right.

4. Turn left up the road, where it bends to the left go up the steps in the bank on your right to cross the stile at the top, cross the field to go over the stile in the top left hand corner onto a track, turn left and follow this track until it turns right, keep straight ahead through a gate (ignore the next gate on your left) cross the field keeping the hedge on your left (with good views across Wells) to pass through a gate into another field. Follow the path through the middle of this field to drop down to cross the old railway via the kissing gates into a field. Pass the small copse on your left to cross a stile behind it taking you into an enclosed path to emerge into Churchill Lane. At the top of the hill keep straight ahead following the road to a crossroads, cross over into the lane signed Croscombe. Follow this downhill and on reaching a cottage on a sharp bend to the left, go straight ahead into the track passing the cottage on your left, follow this sometimes muddy track until you reach a lane, turn right uphill to a T-junction, Turn left and with care follow the road until you come to a junction, look for a signpost on your left, next to which you will find some steps,

climb up these to cross the stile at the top, then head for the far left hand corner of the field to cross another stile, our path now drops downhill to the houses below, keeping these on your right go over the stile and down the concrete track to reach the road, continue down the road to reach the River Sheppey

5. Do not cross the bridge but turn right in front of the houses following the path round with the river on your left to cross a stile at the end of the last house, aim for the large tree next to which you cross a stile, continue up the hill to a stile in the fence on your left cross this, down the bank, then follow the path across this field to the stile you can see in the distant field boundary. Once over this pass the large tree on your left then follow the hedge on your right, where this ends cross the gap to pick up the hedge again (often muddy here). At the end of this hedge next to a metal gate and stile cross the field to go over a stone stile on the corner into an enclosed path. Go over the old stone stile at the end, then cross two more fields to pass through a kissing gate. Ignore the path on your right but go straight ahead behind the houses to eventually reach St. Peter's Road, follow this down to the A371. Cross with care into Forum Lane then turn first right following the cottages on your

through a kissing gate, in the tar mac track go through two more kissing gates to reach a road, go straight on following this road until you reach the T-Junction with Cowl Street.

6. Turn left uphill over the small roundabout, under the old arch and on reaching No 56 turn right into a footpath to reach and cross Waterloo Road. Turn right then left up the steps to enter the field at the top, now turn right and follow the wall across the field to reach a metal stile, cross this and follow the tar mac path downhill, Just before you reach the bottom look for a small archway on your right, go through this and follow the path up some steps over the bridge to reach Peter Street, cross into Church Lane, follow the path up to the church, do not enter the church-yard but turn right following the path round to pass in front of the of the church, then turn left into a path passing the church on your left follow the path round to the right then turn left to emerge into Goal Lane, keep straight ahead to reach Frithfield Lane, turn right uphill to reach the A361.

H.M.Prison - This is the oldest working prison in the country and was erected in 1627 at a cost of just £230. The stately looking entrance is in Town Street. Many people were hung in this prison for petty stealing. In 1930 it was closed and it

was thought to be at the end of its use, but during the war the Doomsday Book was kept there. The British Army used another part of it as a Military Detention barracks, followed later by the Americans. The British Army returned at the end of the last war where it continued being used until early 1966 when again its usefulness came in to doubt. Then in June of that year the gates shut on 25 civilian prisoners and so it once again came into its own and it is still used today for nearly 200 'lifers'.

Cross into the footpath opposite pass the bowling green and tennis courts to enter Collett Park, turn right and follow the path out to Park Road, turn left then right to reach the car park.



A13 - CHELYNCH / DOULTING / SHEPTON . 5 miles.

A pleasant walk that takes in the Pochers Pocket at Chelynch where refreshments are available. The walk leaves Shepton via the Frome road, along the old Fosse Way and through fields to Chelynch, returning through Doultinq along the top of a wooded quarry.

1. Commencing in the centre of Shepton Mallet, walk along the Frome road to the traffic lights just past the Thatched Cottage Inn. Turn left by the Turn Pike House down the original Fosse Way (now called Martins Lane). Proceed down the road through the two halves of the Charlton Estate (right of the Charlton Brewery). On the right, just before reaching the gate, are some stone steps set into the bank. Go up the steps, follow the path and climb the stone stile into the fields. Cross the field to the stile by the footpath sign, climb over this and turn left.

2. Up the lane for 70 yards (60 meters) on the right you will come to a track. Walk along the track and follow the country code by climbing any gates the hinge

end, closing behind you any you open. After the last gate walk diagonally up across the field to another gate. Go over or through the gate, walk along the top of this field to the end. Carefully get under the temporary barbed wire fence. You are now on another farm track, follow this to the end. Take note of the beautiful views on the way. At the end of the track you will come to Bodden Lane. Turn right and follow the road to Chelynch. Turn left at the end of the road and the Poachers Pocket is just a few yards away.

3. After any refreshment, retrace your steps back down Bodden Lane. Approximately 80 yards down the lane on the left is a footpath sign and some steps in the bank. Climb these and follow the path along the top of one of
 O-----, Doultinq's old quarries, now wooded. Keep on the path past the paddock on through the next field and into Doultinq School. Keep to the footpath behind the school, through a lovely kissing gate made of wrought iron and a curved wall of Doultinq stone. At the end of this you will come to a lane in



Doultinq. Keep going to the end between the cottages, then turn right to make your way back to Shepton Mallet.

4. Go down the hill to the bottom, you are now at the source of the River Sheppy or Doultinq water as it should be known. Take the footpath on the right, you will come to two ponds, these were built by one of the Fussels (a relation to the Mell's Fussels) who had an iron works and edge tool business here in Doultinq. Keep on the path up the steps and over the stile into the field. Turn left and follow the hedge of the fields, along the river, over the stiles. Keep going until you come to the farm gate.

5. You will now retrace your steps down the farm track to the lane. Turn left and walk 70 yards to the footpath sign and stile up

the bank on your right. Walk across the field, keep to the wall at the end where you will find ll stone stile to go down the short path to the Old Fosse Way. Turn left, go up the road to the tram lights, turn right and follow the road back to the town centre



FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- Leave all gates as found.
- Keep to the public footpaths.
- Use gates and stiles to cross boundaries.
- Leave livestock, crops & machinery alone.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Enjoy the countryside & respect its life & work.
- Leave only your footprints.
- Always make sure you have enough food and drink and the proper clothing & footwear when you go out walking.

The maps in this book are copies of the O.S. maps for the area, but it is advisable to take the appropriate map with you when out walking. An O.S. Explorer 141 & 142 "Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East" or O.S. Landranger 183 will cover all the paths used in this booklet

