

MENDIP RAMBLERS

WALKING FESTIVAL

Coleford and Holcombe

2007



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About this booklet

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

The Group holds a walking festival each year centred on one or two parishes within the Mendip District Council area. The festival is a culmination of the work done by Mendip Ramblers' Working Party. It publicises the work that has been done and encourages walkers to use reopened and restored pathways.

The Working Party works closely with Mendip District Council (MDC) Rights of Way Department to maintain footpaths throughout the MDC area. The work consists of path clearance, stile erection and repairs, bridge building, erection of kissing gates, erection of marker posts and ensuring that footpaths are adequately way-marked. The group also carries out footpath surveys to determine the 'ease of use' of footpaths and identifies what work needs to be done to bring the footpath up to that standard.

The Working Party goes out every Tuesday, come rain or shine, working on average from 0930 to 1600.

The total work done this year is:

56 Finger Posts

81 Stiles

19 Stiles repaired

15 Bridges and Board Walks

12 Kissing Gates

12 Marker Posts

Plus, lots of way marking and clearance.

We would also like to thank all the farmers, landowners, villagers and Parish Councils for their help and co-operation throughout the past year. Not forgetting the Rights of Way team at Mendip District Council for their help and continuing support.

The Countryside Code ((This is an abbreviated extract. See www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk for the detailed code).

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave gates and property as you find them

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

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

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

Keep dogs under close control

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

Consider other people

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

General walking advice

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

The walks

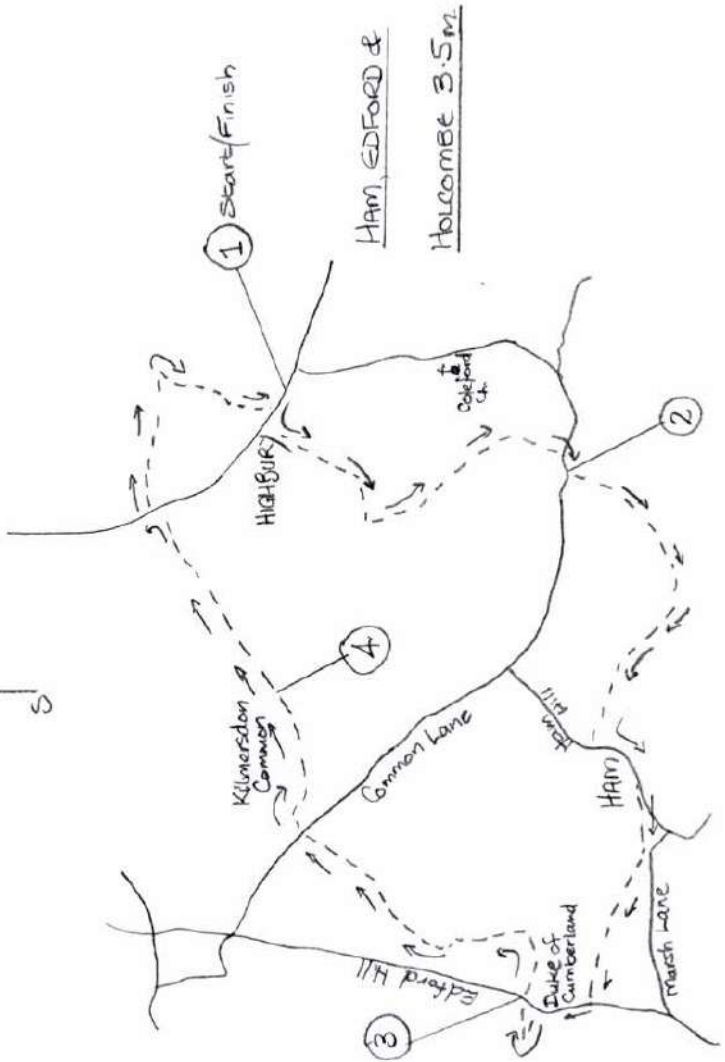
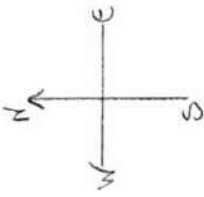
The maps in this booklet are sketches. Each map is to scale but the scales vary and no scale is indicated.

The walk descriptions are written by many different people and vary in style and detail.

The walk lengths are accurate to within ½ mile. The walks can be very muddy in places.

It is recommended that you use the map sketches and descriptions in conjunction with the relevant O.S. maps and a compass (Explorer 142 or Landranger 183).

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



Ham, Edford and Holcombe - 3.5 miles

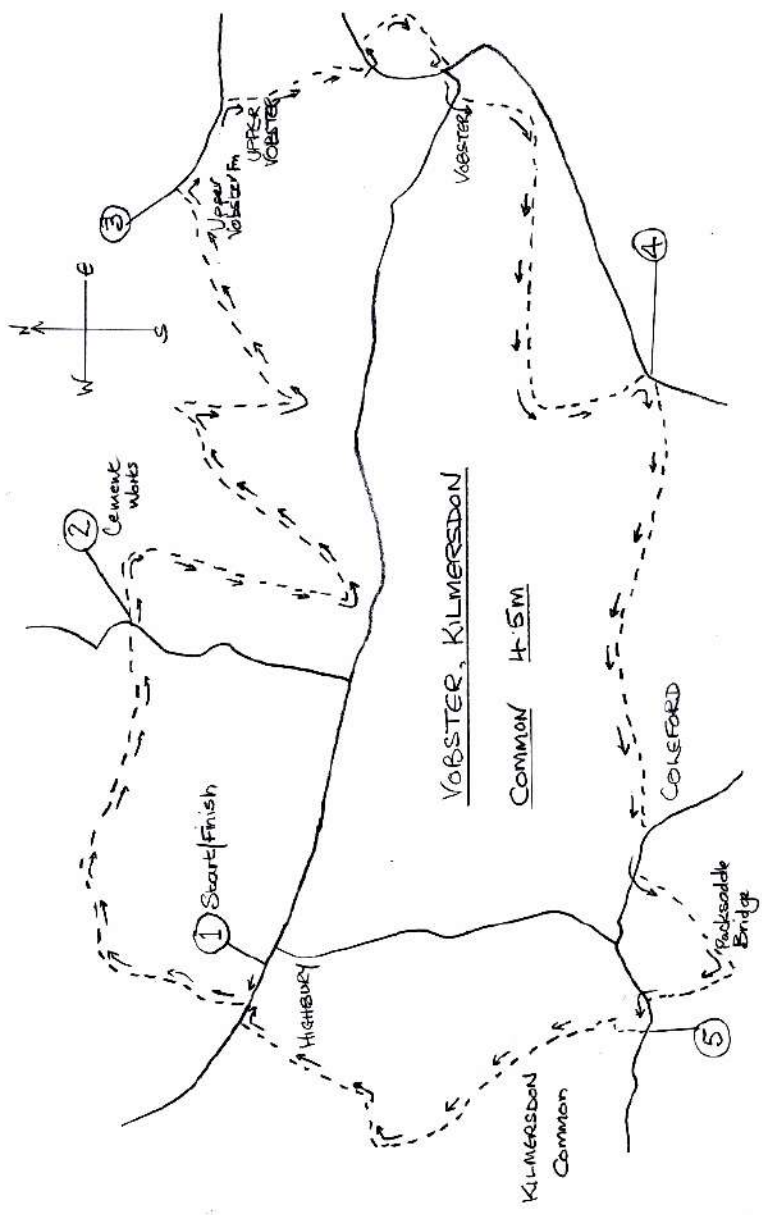
1. Leave British Legion car park, turn right on main road, walk about 50 metres, cross Zebra crossing and turn left into Beacon View Road. Continue along road, go around a left hand bend and turn right immediately. Continue past a row of garages and at the house (no.68) in front of you turn sharp right along footpath. Follow path into woods keeping to the left until you reach a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate into the field and go straight down the slope to a stile. (Ignore a stile in the hedge to the left) Cross stile and bridge into another field and bear left, crossing the field diagonally, with fine views of Coleford church on the left, until you get to a well defined footpath. Turn left along the footpath. Go through a gateway with a marker post and later a kissing gate. Just when another kissing gate and the old viaduct come into view turn sharp right over a bridge. Cross a small boggy area and then veer left climbing diagonally and following a hedge. Path becomes level and then gets steep again when it passes between hedge and a clump of trees. Cross a stile with a very high step and turn left through a gate onto a road and turn right.

2. Walk 20 metres up the hill and turn left at footpath sign, pass through a gate, a metal stile and then a kissing gate. Follow the path with the hedge on right and continue to the kissing gate at the beginning of a wood. Walk through the wood, with a disused canal on the right until you exit into a field via a kissing gate. Keep to the right following a path along a hedge (ignore the more prominent path which crosses the field) Climb steadily to a kissing gate which takes you back into the woods which contain many holly trees. Continue to a kissing gate, walk another 50 metres with disused canal on right and then turn left at the cross path junction. Continue until you exit into a field by a gate/stile, turn left and follow the hedge to the road, where you turn left passing the entrance to Ham Mill on the right. Cross over the bridge, pass a white house on the left and turn right into a field. Make for the stile at the far end of the field, cross the stile into the next field and continue straight on heading for a gap in the far hedge. Keep to the left hand hedge in the next field and the stile exit to the road will be about 20 metres from the field corner. Turn right into road and continue to the Duke of Cumberland pub. (Good crusty filled rolls but only Nescafe instant coffee!) Follow footpath sign on the opposite side of the road to the pub as far as the first stile on the right which you cross, turn sharp right and follow obvious path back to the road.

3. Cross the road and take the footpath through the garden of the white house (use of the trampoline prohibited). Continue to follow the footpath sign, pass through a kissing gate and then turn left at a sign follow a hedge up to the gate at the top of the field. Cross a stile and walk up the track between the two houses. Turn left at the T Junction go through the kissing gate on the right continue to the next kissing gate and follow obvious path

across the field to the next kissing gate/stile. Take the obvious path to the buildings ahead, cross the yard and follow the way-mark on the left most of the collection of gates, which is adjacent to the building. Go straight across the road, continue for about 30 metres and turn first right. When the road reaches the last house take the narrow path to the right of the immaculate lawn of Wellbrook House. Cross a bridge, continue straight ahead over Kilmersdon Common and descend into the woods bearing slightly left, following an obvious path until you reach a bridge.

4. Cross the bridge and go straight ahead. When you reach open ground aim for the far left hand corner of the field where you cross a stile into the next field. Continue straight on and cross a stile to enter the housing estate. Turn left at the first road and at the next bend go left onto a footpath by a hedge (unsigned) between a house and a bungalow. Go right at the next path junction and continue to the main road and turn left. Turn right after a few metres, up Rush Ash Lane. Enter field over a stile and go over the stile in the far right hand corner of the field. Turn sharp right, follow hedge on right cross next stile and take left footpath diagonally across the field. Then down a short steep hill to a kissing gate and bridge which leads to the road. Turn left along road, back to the car park.



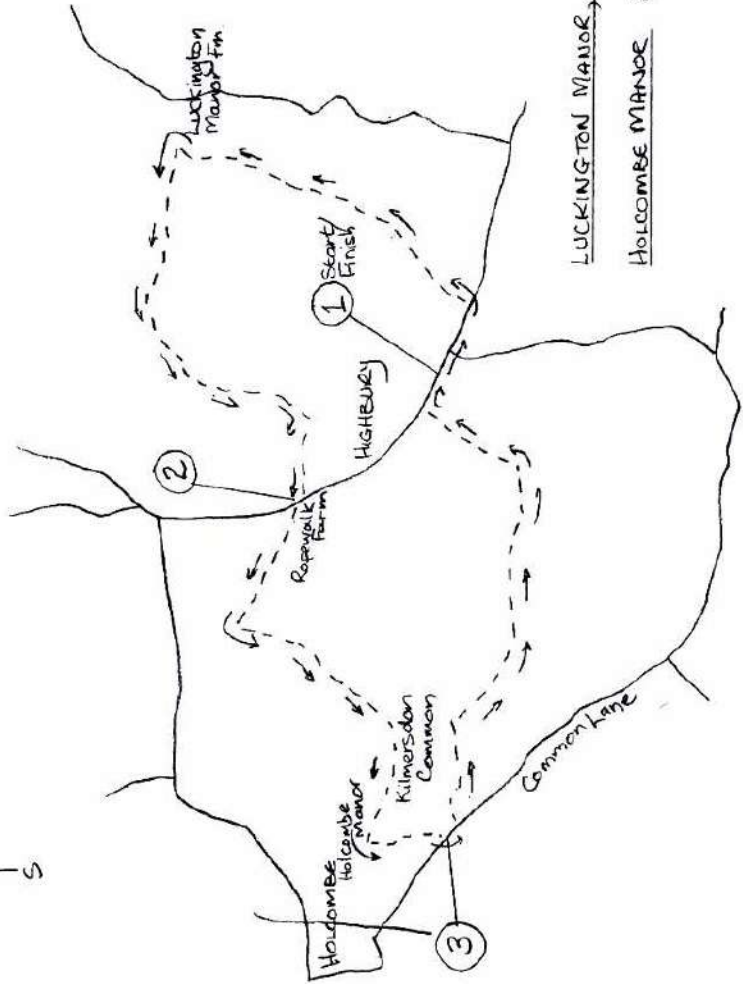
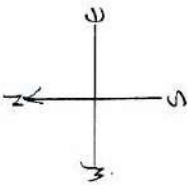
Vobster, Kilmersdon Common 4.5 miles

1. Leave Royal British Legion car park and turn right along the main road. Just past the Post Office turn right down footpath as marked by a Finger Post and then through a kissing gate. On crossing the field turn right over the stile (do not turn left once over stile). Crossing the middle of the field, go through gate and turn right, through another gate, follow the track downhill till you reach a tarmac road.
2. Cross over the road into the concrete works. At the yellow gate turn right down a path for 30 yards then turn right going steeply downhill, cross over a stile, 2 footbridges, another stile and board walks to reach field. Follow the overhead power lines uphill past a pond to reach a stile in the middle of the field. Don't go over the stile, bear left to another stile on edge of field, follow hedgerow downhill to stile in bottom corner. Over stile and take the path leading downhill through the wood till you reach another stile at a field boundary. Over this, right along the edge for 20 metres then cross over another stile back into the woods. Follow this path uphill in woods to path junction in the middle of the woods where you take the left hand path. Continue past silver birch trees till the edge of the woods, over stile into field then turn half right through a gate up steep path to join road.
3. Right along road and just path Upper Vobster Farm turn right down tarmac path by houses. The path crosses a field path to church gate and down to the main road. Turn right down road and continue round the bend turning left onto path opposite St Edmonds Ct. Bear left over stream bridge, once into second field bear to right before ruin. Cross second field, turn left, over stile into woods. Bear left onto track to tarmac road that leads to a main road.

- On reaching main road turn right and then over stile to the right after 20 metres.
4. Half left across field to reach stiles and bridge at field boundary. Cross these into another field and then continue across this and 3 further fields keeping the hedgerow to your left, using stiles or gateways as necessary. In the 4th field go straight across heading for the house, reach a main road. Turn right downhill for 100 metres, take footpath to your left before the bridge. Turn left over stiles and then follow path to the right through the woods. On entering fields, cross one and on entering the second turn right where you see a kissing gate uphill from you. Continue downhill and over Packsaddle Bridge (Mells Stream) and then on to reach Mill Lane. On reaching high street turn left for 50 metres to reach finger post.

- By finger post turn right under arches (old aqueduct for canal that was never used, local name the Huckyduck) and follow path to the right side of
5. property boundary to reach a field. The path continues straight ahead

(ignore path on right hand side and gate and bridge to the left) along the valley with hedgerow to your left. Go through gap, reaching Kilmersdon Common and continue uphill turning part right, cross a ramshackle stile and bridge, eventually reaching a kissing gate in the top left corner of the field. Go over this and follow the path to the right that comes out by a block of garages. Once past the garages, turn left and follow this road till you reach the main road through Highbury. Turn right and return to the British Legion car park.

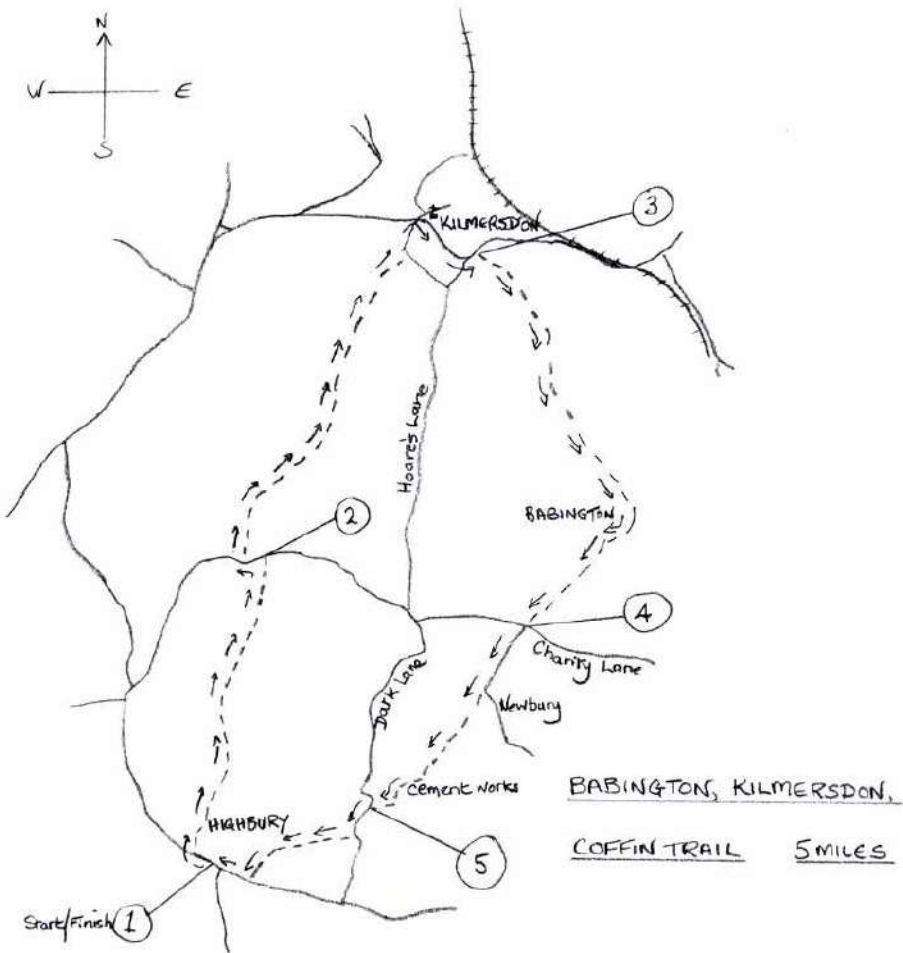


Luckington Manor, Holcombe Manor - 3.5 miles

1. Leave British Legion car park and turn left down the road. Just after a bus stop on the right turn left down Harris's Vale Road. (Note the red mail box in the wall of Brook Cottage) Continue down hill and go through V shape stone stile to the right of a drive into a house, cross a stile (could be muddy here) and a brook and veer left diagonally uphill just to the left of three trees which are very close together (2 Oaks and an Ash). Continue on and cross a stile onto the dirt road and walk to the top of the hill. Looking straight ahead you will see Luckington Manor; veer slightly left to this line of sight and look for a bridge in the valley. Cross the bridge, continue up the slope and eventually you will see a stile slightly to the left of the buildings ahead. Go over the stile and keep to the hedge on the right. Exit this field (where there could be horses) after about 30 metres by unhooking a farmer's electric wire, cross a yard and turn left on a dirt track to a way marked stile/gate. Follow the hedge on the right, walking past a pond on the left, enter the next field by a rusty gate/stile and continue straight ahead until you take a stile into the next field. Walk diagonally across this field to the far left hand corner (ignore the bridge on the left which is about 30 metres before the corner). Go through the gate in the corner, follow the left hand hedge for a few metres then continue diagonally across the field to the far right hand corner where you cross a stile into the next field. At this point you could emulate the villagers and follow the path along the right hand hedge to a stile which leads to the road. Alternatively, stick to the official footpath and veer right into the field and then turn right again when you meet the path which goes diagonally across the field, hence reaching the aforementioned stile. Continue to the road.

Turn right along the road and take an immediate left (the footpath sign is on the telegraph pole). Go through two metal gates, over a concrete yard and follow the hedge on the right. After about 50 metres continue straight on into next field (ignore the access path into a field on the right). Carry straight on until you see a stile next to a house on the right. At this point you should turn left and head across a large field. In front of you the trees form a rough horseshoe shape, aim for the left hand corner of this horseshoe. When you reach the trees you should see a path which will lead down to the right, into the wood, to a stile and then a bridge. After crossing the bridge veer to the right up a steep slope and you should see a stile almost immediately. (Do not follow the well defined path along the bank of the stream on the left). Take left path (as way marked) contour across the meadow and cross the stream by a footbridge. Continue straight on until you meet a fence, turn right and follow the path along the fence which leads to a gap in a hedge and further on to a kissing gate. After approximately 20 metres past the kissing gate turn left around the sheep enclosure and go along a manicured path, step through a V stile, cross a field and access the road via a metal V stile.

3. Turn left on road and take first left by Apple Tree House, then first right. When the road reaches the last house, take the narrow path to the right of the immaculate lawn (of Wellbrook House). Cross a bridge and continue straight ahead onto Kilmersdon Common. When you reach the top of the hill turn sharp right and follow the crest of the common until an obvious path appears leading down to a footbridge in the woods. Cross the bridge and go straight ahead up the hill towards the far right hand corner of the field where there is a stile. Cross the stile, turn sharp right and head for a gap in the trees about 40 metres away, where you bear left and see kissing gate where you enter the wood. Walk through the wood keeping to the right to reach a housing estate. Go past garage complex, turn left and continue to the main road, turn right to car park.



Babington, Kilmersdon, Coffin Trail - 5 miles

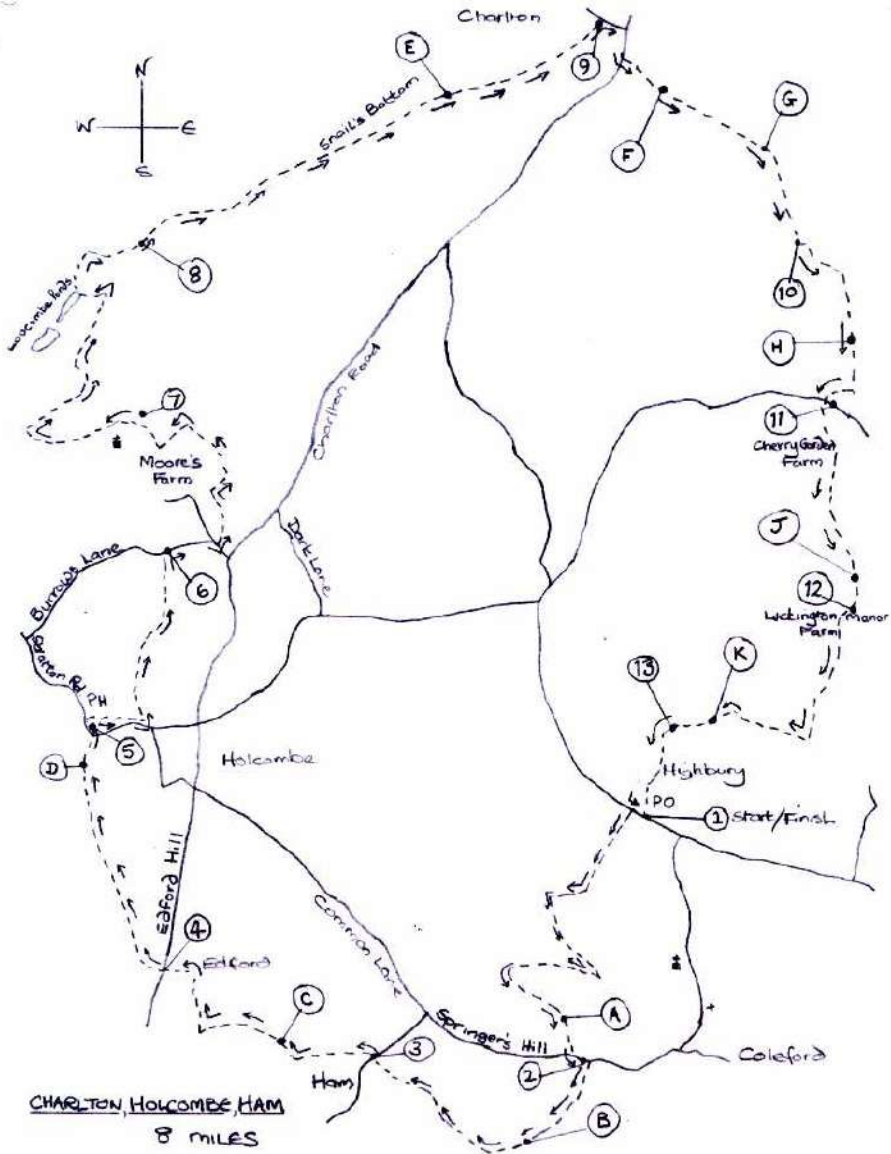
1. Turn right out of the British legion car park, pass the post office and take the sign-posted path. Ensure you walk to the signpost, as it is tempting to go down the side of the funeral directors. Pass through the kissing gate at the end of the path and up a short hill into the field. Walk straight ahead across the field and climb over the style by a gate. Turn left at the next gate and walk diagonally across the field to climb a style by the gate. Go straight across the field and climb down to find a bridge across a stream. Go over the style and proceed keeping the hedge on the left. The view straight ahead is Kilmersdon and you should see Ammerdown tower to the right. Where the hedge turns left, proceed straight ahead and make for the right hand corner of the field where you will find a gate. Pass through the gate and keep straight ahead to the style by a road.
2. Go through the gate and follow the hedge on the left to a style on the left. Do not take this style but turn right and walk downhill keeping the stream on your right. Cross the stream on your right and walk through the fields, following the bridleway to a gate, just over the stream, by the side of a field gate. Bear right across the field following the marker posts. Ignore the style on your left, cross the stream and immediately turn left to pass through the gate. Continue to follow the bridle path, with the hedge on your right. Walk towards the buildings in front of you and take the style just by the side of the building. Ignore the gates on your right. Follow the track ahead, past the house and continue to a road. Do not turn left or right but cross over the road to take the road straight ahead which leads to the main road into Kilmersdon. Turn right and pass the pub on your left and village hall on your right.

- As you exit Kilmersdon, passing the derestricted signs take the kissing
3. gate on your right into the field. Keep to the field boundary on your left, pass through a kissing gate and over a style. Follow the hedge on your left to the bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the paths through the woods. Exit the woods and pass through the stone pillars that mark the entrance to Babington House Estate. You should get an excellent view of Ammerdown tower to your left. Cross the field and pass through the kissing gate. Keep to the left of the fence. You should be walking in the field not the track. You will see Babington house on your right. Pass through the gate on to the track and walk past the cemetery and church to the main drive. Do not take the style ahead but turn right and walk down through the car park using the gravel paths. Go through the kissing gate ahead to a bridge diagonally to your right. Cross the bridge, and turn left. Walk towards the farm buildings and cross the style on to the road.

- Walk down the road opposite, past farm buildings, and farm house. Do not take the style on your right but keep straight on down the lane. As the lane
4. bends left, take the style on your right and take the left of the two marked paths. Head for the large tree in front of you, to find a style by the

side of a gate. Cross over the style and keep the hedge to the left. Do not take the first path, in the hedge, on your left into the cement works but continue down hill to find a path, on your left, behind the cement hoppers. Follow the path round the cement works, which comes out onto a road, which is the entrance to the works.

5. Exit the works and turn left when you reach the road. Take the next path on your right and cross the field to a style. Cross the track into the next field and keep straight to the right hand corner of the field. Exit the field through the stone style on your left and take the track, past the houses, and up the hill to the main Coleford road. Turn right and walk back to the start at the British Legion.



Charlton, Holcombe, Ham - 8 miles

Terrain: Undulating, no severe ascents/descents

Ground: Muddy, poached in places, hard when dry

1. From Royal British Legion car park, turn right into main road (Crossways). After 150 yards, turn left into side road (Beacon View). Keep going south past blocks of garages & through alley on right into woods. At kissing gate, ignore way mark and turn half left. Cross field & bypass decrepit stile. Cross footbridge & continue southeast until you meet track running east-west. Turn right to go west towards kissing gates over stream. Immediately after first kissing gate, go over small stile on left, (ignore second kissing gate) & go southeast uphill. **A** - Note Coleford Church prominent on left. After rustic stile, continue southeast to road (Springer's Hill). Stile to road is not visible until last minute & is way down in corner of field.

- Turn left down Springer's Hill for 70 yards and then right through gate
2. by fingerpost. Keep left parallel to wall & through kissing gate & continue southwest along obvious path to another kissing gate. **B** - This is the Somerset Coal Canal, Southern Branch which was never completed. Continue westwards, keeping the canal on your right.

- Cross road (Ham Hill) and keep continuing westwards through woods
3. and fields towards the village of Edford. **C** - Some of the fields are nature reserves managed by Somerset Wildlife Trust. After an undulating part incorporating a rubbish tip, emerge from woods into a field & turn right up field to the north, as shown by way-mark. Cross stile and up grassy lane to factory track. Turn left & cross road. (Edford Hill).

- After Edford Hill, the path curves to the northwest through wood & scrubland. At a field, the way-marked stile indicates right. Ignore this and proceed straight uphill to a gate/stile. Cross stile and continue north across fields to a road. (Stratton Road). **D** - Note view across to Downside Abbey on the left.
- 4.

- At Stratton Road, continue north for 60 yards. (Busy road, care
5. needed). Then turn right through car park of "Ring of Bells" pub/restaurant. Over stile & east across field to track. Turn north and proceed along track. Before the track enters a narrow wood, there's a new stile on the right. Go over and after 20 yards, go over stile in hedge on left. Go round field, keeping large white house on right and look out for a stile leading onto a road. (Burrows Lane).

- Turn right into Burrows Lane & proceed east to a T-junction. At the T-junction, turn right for 20 yards, left over a finger-posted stile & north towards
6. Moore's Farm. Nearing Moore's Farm, there's a very poached field. Continue north through field towards a summer house with small dovecote attached. Cross stile & continue north while negotiating flower pots and

other detritus, then go right behind a small row of dwellings. After passing a couple of houses, walk across field in a north-westerly direction, aiming for the right hand side of a small valley with woods on the left hand side.

7. Eventually, you will see a decrepit stile leading to rough ground with a small stream. Cross the stile and rough ground and follow a narrow but well defined path running west past Holcombe Old Church. Continue over main stream and uphill to emerge into field. Follow way mark to the right, keeping a wood close to your left. Keep following wood round to the left and note a way mark pointing north on an Ivy covered Hawthorn tree. Go north and downhill to path through woods by Loocombe ponds. Follow way marks steeply downhill and over footbridge & up steepish hill to a recently renovated stile. Turn right downhill to stile and boardwalk over stream. Cross stream and immediately turn right on path through laurel and vegetation. This is "Snail's Bottom". Continue walking downstream, keeping stream on your right. Ignore stepping stones, but cross stream using footbridge 50 yards further on.

Go half left & slightly uphill, then east, keeping the stream on your left.

8. Path is not well defined. Continue downstream past broken old stile towards a small knoll on your right. Look out for stile, cross it and enter large field. Keep walking parallel to stream in a north-easterly direction. When crossing track and field boundary by Pheasant rearing pen, look out for stile by isolated tree in hedge ahead and uphill of you. Ascend to and cross this double stile. **E** - Look behind for final view of Downside Abbey. Continue across several fields, still going northeast to road (B3139, Wells Road). Care needed, this is a busy corner and junction.

Turn right and walk along B3139 for a few yards to junction with minor

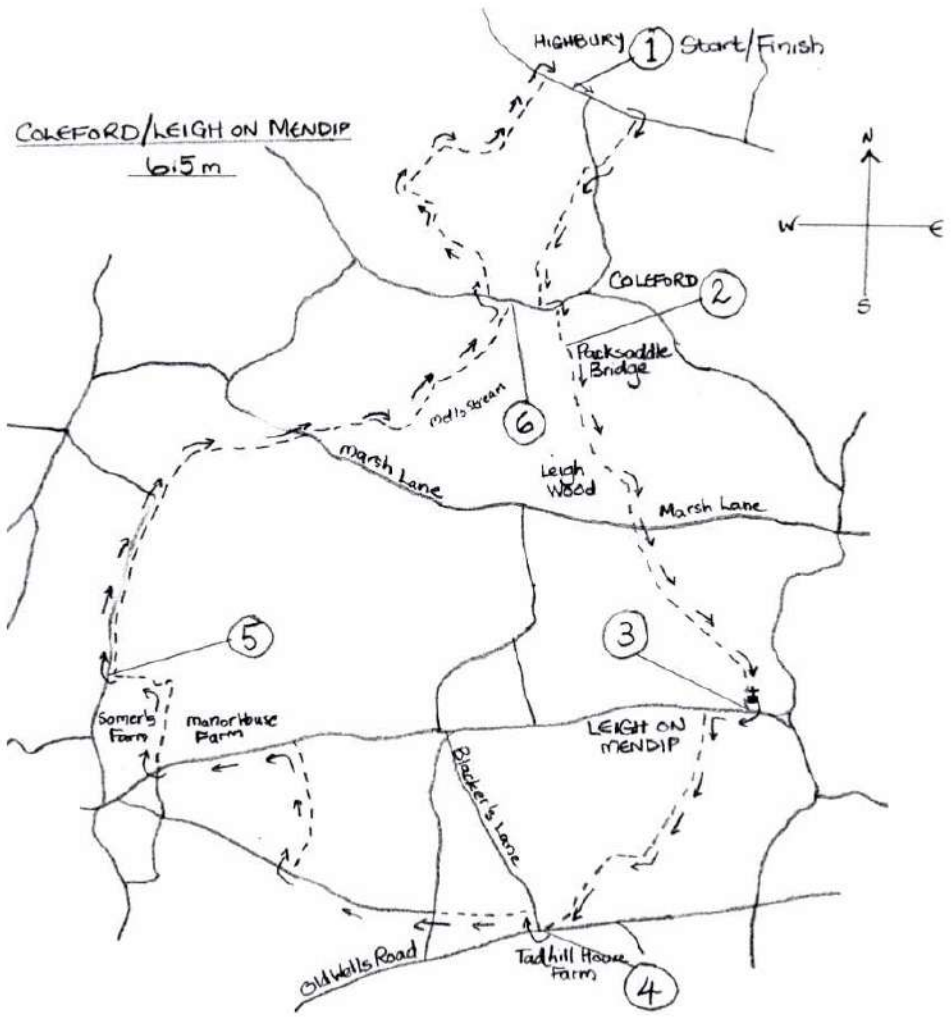
9. but busy road (Charlton road). Turn south down Charlton Road for a few yards. Just after "Give Way" sign, spot finger post and gate on left by fly tipping area. Go southeast across field. When over brow of hill, look for stile in hedge. **F** - Look for Cranmore Tower and Ammerdown Column. Cross this stile and continue in same direction to another stile in far corner of field. Over this stile and look for footbridge 30 yards on right; cross this (**G** - Look for the tower of Kilmersdon Church down valley to the left) stile and continue south to stile in hedge on left (not far).

10. Cross this stile and the stream and go uphill in a south-easterly direction to the left of a solitary Ash tree. Look out for stile on the right. Go over this stile and continue south, keeping hedge and then old hedge line on your right. Ignore stile on the left near electricity pole. **H** - Note lumps and bumps in field. Could be the remains of an old manor house abandoned during early mediaeval times. Head south for Cherry Garden Farm. The stile into the farm is clearly way marked and the path is diverted to the right immediately after.

11. Follow diversion and cross road (Brewery Lane?/ Charity Lane?). Cross lane and go up driveway 2 yards. Diverted stile is on right. Cross and continue south parallel to drive through gate and gap in fence. Continue south, keeping Cherry Garden farm on the left and horse fencing on the right. Keep going south through a series of fields and stiles to Luckington Manor Farm. **J** - Look out for views of Salisbury Plain to the east.
12. At Luckington Manor Farm, note quaint gate catch & turn right towards abandoned carnival float. Immediately after the carnival float, turn left, following the way marks & continue south, keeping hedge on left & over another stile. Aim for Cranmore Tower on the southern skyline & downhill to footbridge with recently erected twin stiles. Cross & continue uphill in same direction to top of hill by gate. Turn right/west along track. At first gate, do not go straight on, but turn right, then immediately left, keeping hedge on left. At end of second field, follow way marks half left through next gap in hedge and the southwest to far corner of field. **K** - Pause here to look behind you to view Westbury White Horse through a gap in the trees and further to the south, Cley Hill.
13. Five paths meet at these gates and stiles. Ignore way mark on gate to muddy field entrance. Also ignore first stile, but go over second stile taking the left-hand one of the two paths way marked here towards Cranmore Tower again. Over brow of hill, follow well used path downhill to kissing gate, up path to road. Turn left past Post Office & back to Royal British Legion car park.

COLEFORD/LEIGH ON MENDIP

6.5 m



Coleford, Leigh-on-Mendip - 6.5 miles

1. Leave British Legion car park and turn left down main road for approx 150yds before turning right into Carey's Mead. Pick up footpath on left and follow down behind houses until joins road. Cross to unmarked path directly opposite beside house and follow through (past stable) to kissing gate. Through and turn left towards church, across field and through gap in hedge, follow left hedge staying at top of slope until reach kissing gate. Through gate and follow path down over steep gorse covered slope to bottom where turn left through kissing gate and follow path under bridge until reach High Street where turn left and then right into Mill Lane. Straight down between houses and across Pack Saddle Bridge and through key hole stile.

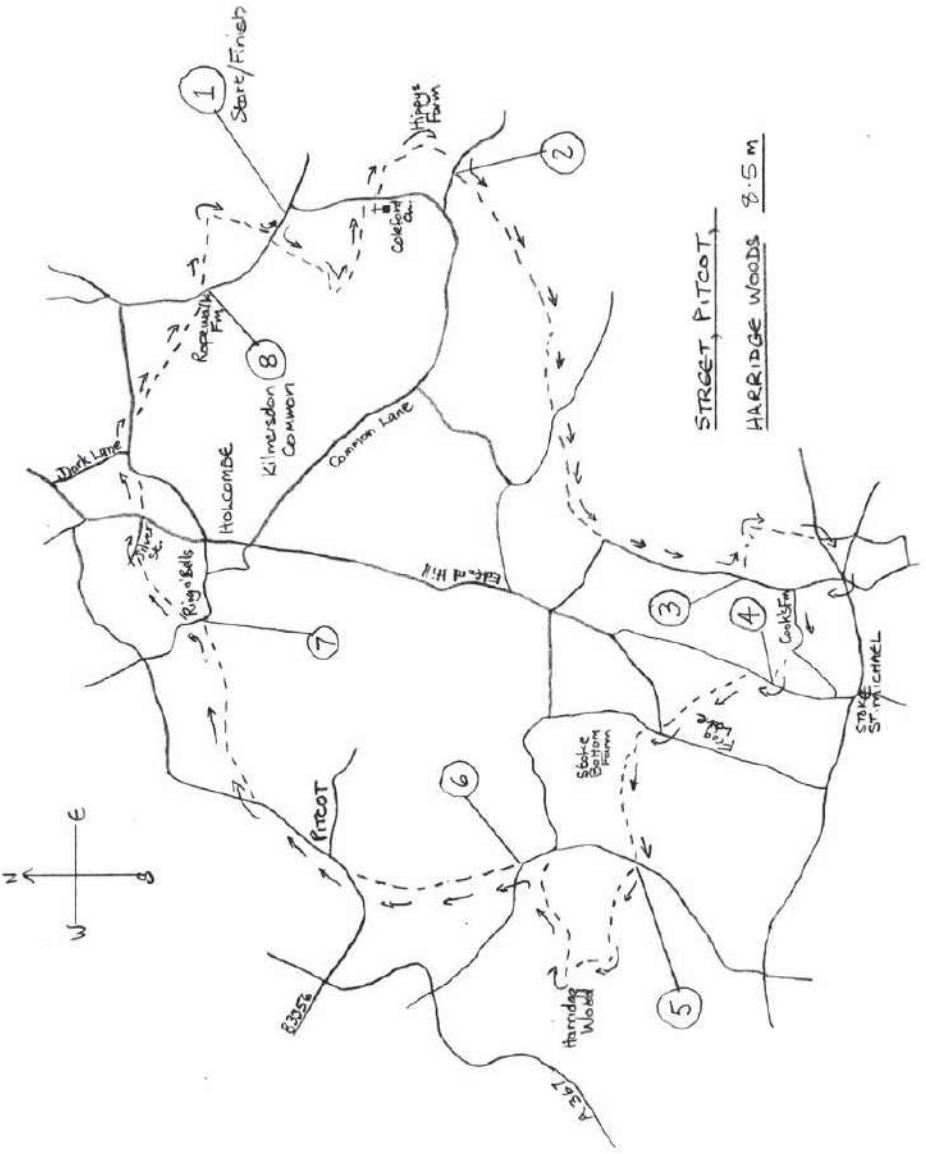
2. Carry straight on up hill through kissing gate and follow left hedge until stile, cross it and continue directly up hill to Stile at edge of Leigh Wood. Enter woods and bear left up through wood until exit at stile at top. Carry straight on keeping to right hand hedge until you reach Marsh Lane. Cross lane into field and bear slightly left to stile approx 30 yards from corner. Cross stile and bear left across two fields towards Leigh church. At edge of village cross stile to path between garages, into road, and directly across to gravel path beside churchyard wall. Follow it through to front of church and High Street.

3. Turn right and follow road for approx 200yds before turning left through wrought iron gates by Ellery Cottage (finger post in right hand hedge on main road). Walk down between house to 5 bar iron gate, open and cross field to bridge over stream and up to stile on corner. Go diagonally across field to stile by holly tree at end of wire fence. Cross stile and turn immediately right to stile in corner of field. Cross and keep to right hand hedge to stile. Cross field on slight left diagonal to stile beside gate. Cross stile and turn left to stile in corner of field at end of wall. Cross next field diagonally to gate in hedge and again diagonally across next field to kissing gate in corner and junction with Old Wells Road (Tadhill House Farm).

4. Turn back immediately right down Blacker's Lane to footpath approx 50yds on left. Enter and straight across field to kissing gate and through to follow left hand hedge and kissing gate out onto road. Go straight across T-junction into minor road Tadhill Lane. Follow lane for approx 400yds past smallholding on right to stile in right hand hedge. Enter and cross two wire fence stiles to double stiles through hedge and turn immediately left to fence stile and diagonally down across field to lane. Turn left and follow lane past Manor House farm on the right to Somer's farm. Turn right down track beside farm and keep right through gate/stile in wall. Follow track with stream on left until farmyard where you cross stile next to gate on the right. Carry straight on across small field and through gate where you turn

immediately left and up slope through iron stile, straight across the next field to another iron stile onto the road.

5. Follow lane between quarries for approx 0.5 miles until lane turns down sharp left with stile on right. Cross field to stile and old canal bed. At exit stile bear right across brow of hill and down over to stile between the two bungalows and out onto Marsh Lane. Turn right on lane and immediately left through kissing gate. Head diagonally down across field to far right hand corner where stile in right hand hedge. Cross stile and then left across stream to bridge beside waterfall. Cross bridge and follow stream left to Mells Stream. Cross river by bridge and straight up through trees to stile. Exit trees and continue diagonally to kissing gate on old canal bed. Through gate and follow canal bed and path straight through gates for approx 0.75miles until you reach road.
6. Turn left up hill away from Coleford old village for approx 50yrs to climb up to stile in right hand hedge. Follow hedge on immediate right before bearing off left to stile. Cross and bear left diagonally down to stile in far right hand corner of field. Cross stile/kissing gate and go straight up hill for approx 50yrs to corner of wood. Turn left and follow outside bottom edge of wood and then stream on left to stile. Cross and turn immediately right following right hand hedge to stile in corner of field. Cross stile and bear right to bottom of wood and follow edge of wood along to kissing gate. Enter wood and bear right up to road at Beacon View. Follow right out to main road, turn right and cross pedestrian crossing and continue down to British Legion car park.



Street, Pitcot, Harridge Woods - 8.5 miles

1. From the British Legion CP turn right and just past the post office use the pedestrian crossing to turn left into Beacon View. Continue straight ahead, pass a side branch to nos. 30-52, and 20m beyond bear right towards nos. 65-68 (ignore left branch to nos. 53-64). The route continues through metal barriers to the right of no.68 and descends through woods. Having emerged through a kissing gate into fields, turn left immediately and follow the hedge-line, very soon passing through a gap in a hedge ahead. Cross the next field continuing in the same easterly direction (noticing the church on the right on a rise ahead) and descend to an obvious stony track across a stream. Now bear half left and ascend through the next field so that the church ahead remains on your right hand side. Continue up to the top of the hill and go through the kissing gate. Beyond soon reach a minor road. Here turn right and then almost immediately left (to take a path across the minor road just to the right of a small sign "Church lane"). Go through a kissing gate and follow the hedge on the left. Soon cross another path (which follows the line of the old canal) and beyond turn half left, away from the hedge, and descend across the field to houses where a stile leads onto a lane. Go down the lane ahead and soon pass Hippy's Farm on the left. After a while reach a road at a T-junction. Turn right and at the "Coleford" sign, before reaching the pub or crossing the road bridge, turn left over an old stile then take the path ahead beside the stream.

- Continue with the stream on the right. Go over a wooden bridge, then
2. through a kissing gate. Next pass a kissing gate on the left as you cross a path coming up from the packsaddle bridge and continue along the hedge to meet a farm track coming in from the right. Continue west along the farm track for 50m, and then veer slightly right off it at a metal gate well before reaching the farm buildings. For a short while the path has a fence on the left before it drops back down towards the stream. Go through a kissing gate and follow the stream, next passing through a normal kissing gate and then a double kissing gate with a plank bridge. Still following the stream, pass a metal bridge over it on your right, and then reach a long wooden bridge below a small waterfall. Next cross a marshy area ahead and reach a stile. Once over this stile, turn left and walk uphill towards houses, where a kissing gate leads out onto a road. Turning right then immediately left, cross this road and go through another kissing gate to ascend gently up a path alongside a chicken an alpaca enclosure. Pass over another stile, and then turn half right to ascend to the next stile. Beyond continue with the fence line on your right until you reach a line of telephone wires. Now turn left and follow the wires to a small copse. The official path, with stiles either side of this copse, goes straight through an area that is usually submerged or very muddy; many walkers use the obvious alternative route through the farm gate. Beyond the copse continue across the field ahead to meet a lane at a stile beside a rusty gate. Turn left up the road and continue along it for 600m (about half a mile).

3. Turn left over a "metal-bar" stile (just past a footpath sign and stile on the right) and follow the fence east to meet a hedge. Turn right and soon reach a metal bar stile just before the old gate. Once over this stile head across to the hedge line on your right. Follow this hedge to just beyond the nearby overgrown walled enclosure and then turn right over a reconstructed stone stile before reaching the metal field gate. Continue straight on across the field to a stile beside a farm gate and beyond it turn left to join a farm track. Follow this farm track, passing various buildings and a bungalow, out onto a road. Turn right along the road and walk uphill to a complicated 5- way crossroads. Here turn right on a lane towards Edford. After 200m turn left down another lane. Descend past Cooks Farm, beyond which the road soon turns 90 degrees left at a pumping station. Go straight ahead here, entering a field by a squeeze to the left of a gate and demolished small building. Head straight ahead north-west uphill across the field to find a stile out onto a road.

4. Turn right along the road. After 200m turn left over a stile (opposite "Eastleigh") into a field. Aim half right to cut off the corner of the field and reach a stile roughly in line with a far distant church. The correct route now continues in the same direction (north-west) diagonally across the next field (but it may be easier to follow the field boundary left then right) to meet the far hedge line where it turns half left. From here follow this left turning hedge and continue to meet a tractor track. At this point go through an ungated gap in the left hand side hedge and aim diagonally across a field to prominent houses. A stile leads onto a road on a dangerous bend opposite Combe House. Cross this road and go down the small lane opposite. Very shortly take a path on the left which goes through a metal squeeze and over a stile. Immediately notice a small depressed area amongst scattered trees. Turn left and walk through it to reach a stile in a fence. Once over this stile descend steeply to a stile in an ancient hedge. The route crosses a path up from Stoke Bottom Farm here. Continue straight ahead to meet a hedge and turn along it so that you are now heading west away from the farm. After only a short distance turn slightly away from the hedge on your right to pass through an old stone gateway beside a water source. Continue west and go through a small metal kissing gate onto a road.

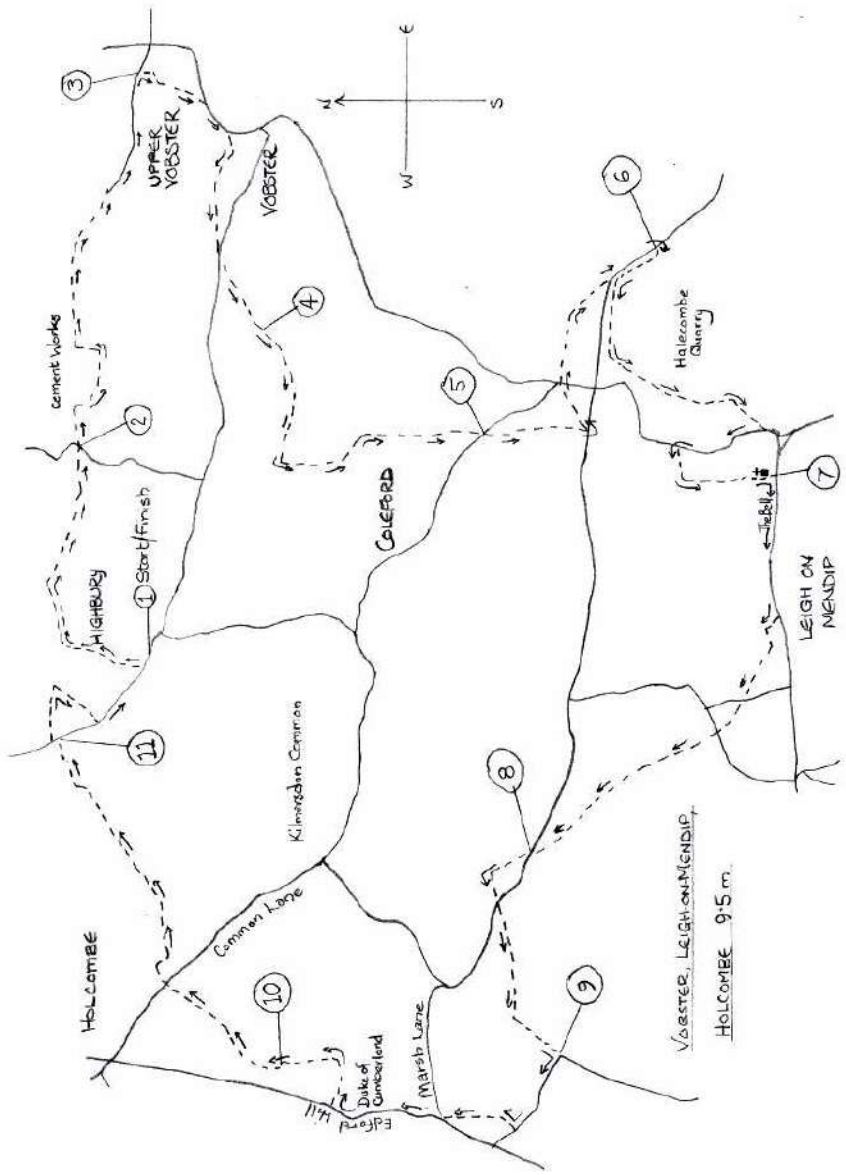
5. Cross the road and enter Harridge Wood Nature Reserve through a kissing gate. Still going roughly west, follow the obvious path through new saplings and a kissing gate before entering the established wood through yet another kissing gate. Immediately to your right is the partially restored Harridge Cottage where you fork right to cross a leat before descending to a wooden bridge over a large stream. Ignore the steps on the other side of the bridge and turn right to follow the tricky tree root strewn path alongside the stream. This path soon moves away from the stream and ascends gently. Follow the most prominent track for some distance and finally emerge onto a broad green track. Immediately after reaching the green track turn right downhill back towards the main stream on a prominent track.

Cross an ancient stone bridge and follow the main path east out of the woods. Cross a stile to leave the reserve and follow the stream on your right out to a stile and a road. Turn left and continue along the road until it turns 90 degrees left at "Woodside".

6. Here go north up the stony track straight ahead. When you meet the second stony track joining from the right, turn half right and having used the insulated sleeve to get over the electric fence, head across the field to a stile adjacent to the remains of an old metal gate in the far hedge. Then continue in the same direction over more sleeved electric fences and ascend gently towards the road ahead. There is a stile at the field edge and another beyond leading onto the road. Turn right along the road, passing a house on your right within 50m, and continue along it until a bend is reached at Upper Barlake Cottage. Shortly afterwards turn half right over a metal bar stile and walk towards a gate with a stile beyond it. Once over the stile follow the hedge on the left and when it turns continue across the centre of the field ahead. Next go over two stiles either side of a farm track and continue east along the left hedge-line to another stile. Here turn slightly left, cross the field to a stile and beyond continue in the same direction towards the Ring 'O Bells pub, where a stile leads onto the road.

7. Turn left along the road and take the SECOND footpath on the right just past the pub. From the stile there aim north-east uphill heading for a stile in the opposite corner of the field, which you will see (with a bungalow beyond it and a track in front of it) only when you have reached the top of the rise. Cross the track and stile and follow the hedge on your left over two stiles and out onto the tarmac of Silver Street. Turn right and when this lane meets a road go straight across and through a metal bar stile into horse paddocks. Go over three more stiles in quick succession and emerge on another road. Turn left and follow this road to Brick House farm, where there is a path through a kissing gate on the right. Follow the path across a field to another kissing gate beside a house and beyond keep to the hedge line for 200m heading for the new housing at Ropewalk Farm. Just before reaching the new houses there is a large scruffy patch of rough tarmac. Turn right here (ignoring the footpath ahead through a series of metal gates) and immediately pass a railway enthusiasts "shed" on the left. Beyond a two step stile leads into a narrow concrete path. At the T-junction 30m on turn left and come out onto the main road.

8. Turn left, cross the road, then immediately turn right down Rush Ash Lane. Go over a metal stile and then a normal stile into a field. Turn half right and go east to the opposite corner of the field. Find a stile and turn right after it, almost immediately reaching another stile and gate. Once through, turn away from the right hand side hedge and walk diagonally across the field ahead towards a row of houses. Descend to a kissing gate and beyond follow the path up the main road. You emerge at the post office and the British Legion CP is only a few metres away left along the road.



Vobster, Leigh-on-Mendip, Holcombe - 9.5 miles

1. From British Legion car park in Highbury turn right on the main road through Highbury, walk past post office, turn right down the footpath. Follow the course of the footpath to the kissing gate and continue along a well worn path that climbs upwards into a field. Bear slightly to the right across this field, heading for the stile by the gate at the corner. Once over the stile, follow the hedge boundary to your left, ignore the next two footpaths (marked by a stile and a gate), continue straight ahead. After passing the first tree to your left, cut diagonally across the field until you reach a gateway in the right hand corner, go through the gate and turn immediately to your right. Cross the stile at the gate and follow footpath straight ahead with hedge boundary to your right. Pass through 2nd gateway and follow footpath across field in same direction until you reach the gate/stile at the right hand corner of the field and turn immediately to your left with fence boundary to your left, follow the track to the stile/gate, keep to the track with the farm on your right. Follow track until you reach a road junction.
2. Cross road and continue straight ahead. Pass through entrance to the concrete works, when you reach 2nd gateway to the works, take footpath immediately on your right. Footpath forks left and right as you enter woodland, take left fork, following the course of the footpath as it skirts the concrete works. Continue along track way (once the canal/railway that led to a mine) continue straight ahead; ignoring the footpaths to the left and the right. Pass through the bridle gate and continue along the track, ignore the footpath to the left and continue straight ahead. Cross over the stile on your left and follow the lane directly ahead, ignoring footpaths to the left and right. Continue along the lane, ignoring a further footpath to your right, pass the terraced cottages and chapel to your right. Immediately after passing a further block of terraced houses to your right, take the footpath to your right.
3. At kissing gate take footpath on left and cross a small stile into a field. Bear slightly right across the field until you reach another stile at the far end, cross the stile and continue bearing to your right and cross the next stile onto the road, (with cottage on your right). Turn right and continue down the road for 75 yards, through the kissing gate on your right and bear left down to the footbridge. Continue directly ahead with the fence boundary to your left until you reach next stile, continue directly ahead after crossing the stile with fence boundary still to your left. Pass the house on your left, continue directly ahead, passing gateways on the left until you reach another stile on the left. Cross the stile onto the road, cross the road (bearing slightly to the right) where you reach a further stile. Walk diagonally to the right down a grassy bank until you reach a further stile at the edge of woodland, cross the stile and follow the course of the footpath through woodland.
4. Cross next stile and walk into an open field where you leave the woodland, continue directly ahead, keeping the wood and hedge boundary to your right. Cross stile at far right hand corner of field and walk into next

field, still keeping hedge boundary and woodland immediately to your right, cross the field until you reach a footpath. Turn left and walk down this footpath to a footbridge, cross the footbridge into a field. Bear left across the field, climbing steadily upwards until you reach a stile in the corner. Cross the stile and walk ahead, looking for a stile in the hedge boundary to your right. Cross the stile into the next field, continue directly ahead with the hedge boundary on your right, when you reach the gate and stile at the far end, cross into the next field and continue straight ahead and cross the stile at the far end. Climb up the path with the hedge boundary to your right until you reach another stile which opens out onto a road.

5. Cross stile and turn left onto the road, continue for 30 yards and take the footpath on the right. Cross over the stile and follow fence boundary on your right as you cross the field, cross stile at the far end and continue into the next field with the hedge boundary on your right. Do not cross the stile at the far end, turn around and walk diagonally across field at a 45 degree angle with electric pylon to your front. Cross road, bearing slightly to the right, cross stile on the far side of the road. Walk towards a gateway at the further end of the field, bearing slightly to your right. Once through gateway bear diagonally to your right across the field, reaching the stile approx 15 yards to the left of the opening before the road. Cross the stile and turn left down the road, continue for 200 yards and take the footpath on your right.
6. Go through the kissing gate and continue up the wooden steps to the edge of Halecombe Quarry. Here you will be afforded a panoramic view of the quarry which is one of the highlights of the walk. Follow the footpath as it skirts around the edge of the quarry, bear right down the cutting on your right that leads you onto a path. Go through the kissing gate, continue straight across the field and cross the pinched stile at the far end. Cross the road and turn right, following the road along the pavement. Turn left onto footpath 40 yards after the pavement ends. Follow the footpath with the fence on your right, go through the kissing gate and take the footpath on your left with the hedge boundary to your left, crossing the next stile. Follow the path across the road as you enter the charming village of Leigh-on- Mendip. As you walk down this path you will see the church of St Giles to your left, a fine example of Somerset Perpendicular architecture with a 100 ft tower.

- At the end of the path turn right onto the main road of the village,
7. continue to the Bell inn where a fine range of ales are on offer and refreshments can be taken. Leaving the Bell, continue along the road for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile until you reach a footpath on your right immediately past the sports field. Cross the gate and continue diagonally across the field to the kissing gate at the far left corner. Once through the kissing gate, cross the lane and the stile on the far side, bear right across this field until you reach an isolated house. Go through the gate, cross the lane and the kissing gate on the far side. Bear left up the next field to a stile at far end, cross the stile and continue directly ahead with the hedge boundary on your left. Cross the

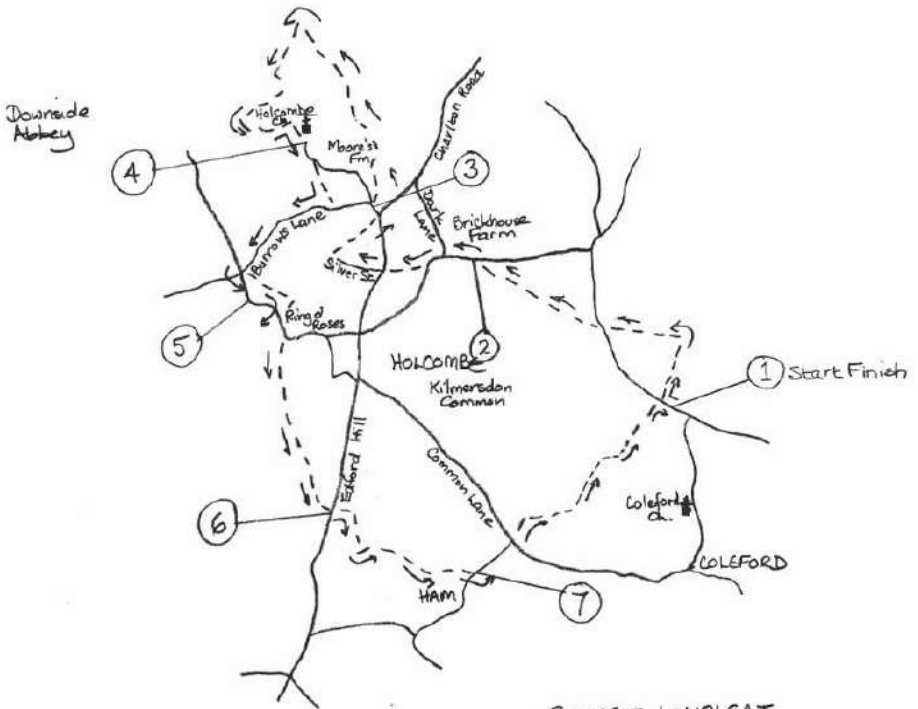
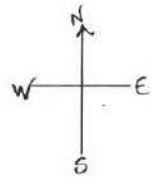
next stile and continue directly ahead with the hedge on your left, cross the stile at far end into woodland.

8. When you reach a lane go straight across and cross the next stile. Follow the well defined footpath. As you descend with the stile in view at the far end of the meadow, a natural rock formation can be viewed from a footbridge slightly to the right of our course. Returning to the footpath, go over the stile, turn left, and head towards the kissing gate in the corner which will bring you out onto a lane. Turn right and take the footpath on the left, following its course with the fence on your right. Cross the next stile and bear right across the field, crossing the stile at the far end by the tree. Continue climbing across the next field in the same direction, crossing the next stile just to the left of the electric pylon in the hedgerow. Continue along the path to the next stile, bearing right across the field and cross the next stile which opens out onto a lane.

- Turn right down the lane as it gently descends then evens out, you will
9. observe the entrance to an old quarry on your left, marked by a line of boulders. Take the footpath on your right, crossing the stile and bearing left across the field to a stile in the left corner. Carry straight across the T junction and follow the road for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, past the Duke of Cumberland inn and take the next footpath on the right. Follow this path over two stiles and continue as you are with the fence boundary on your right. Cross the kissing gate and bear to your left in the next field and cross the stile at the far end. Follow the track to the gate and turn left onto the lane.

- Take next footpath on the right. Follow the course of the footpath and cross the next kissing gate, go straight across the field following the central path
10. and go through the kissing gate at the far end. Continue straight across next field to the gates on the right of farm buildings. Continue straight across the lane, following the path onto a track and take the right hand fork. Follow path as it descends to a footbridge, cross the footbridge and continue straight ahead across Kilmersdon Common. Cross next stile which is hidden in a wooded valley, cross another footbridge then a stile as you climb out of the valley. Continue straight ahead across next field and cross the stile at the far end. Walk along the path with the hedge boundary on your left, and cross the next stile that stands between a group of houses.

- Turn left onto the road, follow the pavement for 40 yards and take the footpath on your left which opens out onto another road. Turn left, cross the road
11. and turn right, following the footpath over a further stile, continue straight ahead and cross the next stile. Once in this field, look for a stile to your right in a gap in the hedgerow. Cross this stile and walk straight across the field, crossing the stile at the far end. You are now on the main road of Highbury, turn left and follow the pavement past the garage to the British Legion car park where you arrive at the original starting point.



STREET, LONGLEAT,

HAM 5.5 miles

Street, Longleat, Ham - 5.5 miles

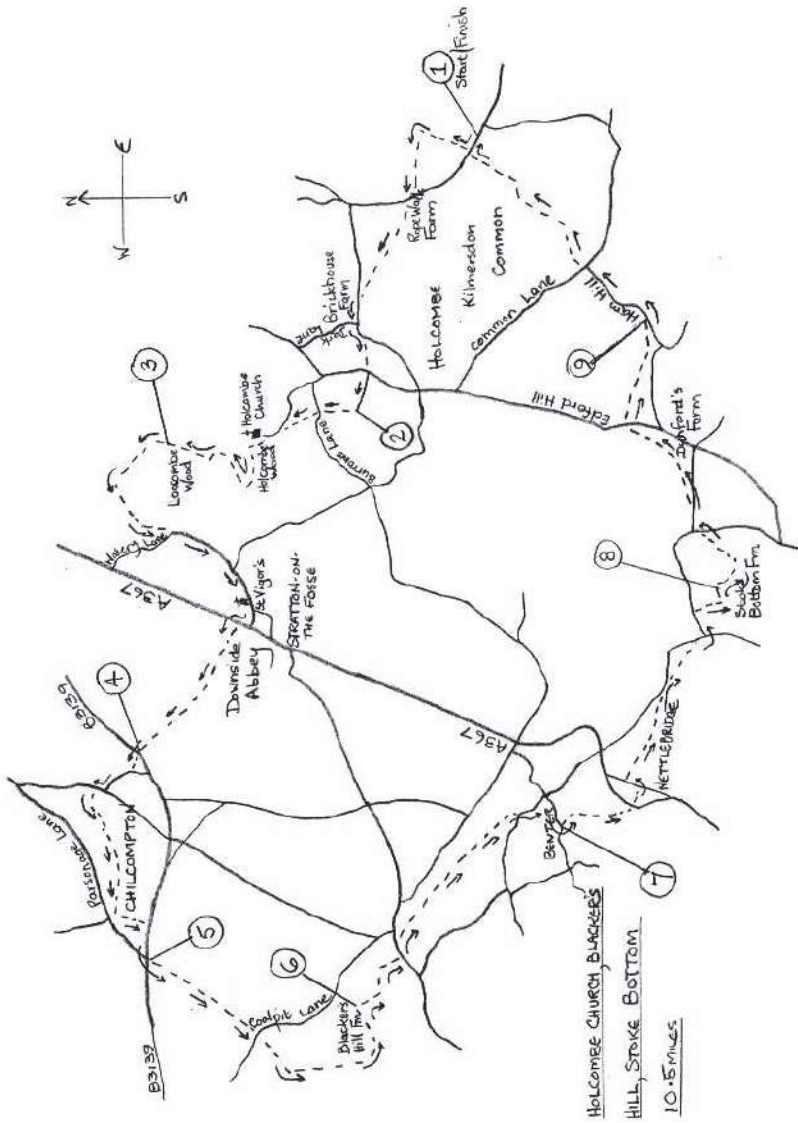
1. Start from the British Legion car park in Coleford. Turn right out of the car park, and walk along to the Post office. Turn right onto the footpath by the Funeral Directors, go through the kissing gate at the bottom, climb the slope towards a gateway and cross the stile just beyond it. Head back towards the right hand corner of the field behind the houses, go over the stile beside the gate and walk down the track to meet the main road through Coleford. Turn right at the road and cross to take the next track on the left. Go through the gate, walk down the right hand hedge to another gateway. Go through the gateway, follow the hedge on the right to come to a stile and kissing gate and cross into the next field. Cross diagonally to the kissing gate by the cottage opposite.

- Turn left onto the road and watching out for the traffic, walk along past
2. Brickhouse Farm Nursery, to turn right over a stile just before the second 40 sign. Cross the field diagonally left, to cross two stiles to a gate and stile in the far corner. Go down the lane opposite, called Silver Street, ignore two footpaths on the left, cross the stile and turn sharp right, following round the backs of the cottages and heading diagonally for the stile in the fence ahead. Cross this stile and head for another in the fence ahead. Follow the fence on the right to the gate in the corner of the field. Cross the stile onto the road, turn left turn take the next footpath on the right.

- Go diagonally left to cross one stile and head for the stable with a
3. dovecote, cross over into Moore's Farm follow marker posts and turn right onto a well defined track. Follow the track through a gap in the hedge, noting the view of Downside Abbey to the left, cross the stream by the footbridge and turn half right across the field. Head to the left of the large tree, cross the stile into the next field, turn right along the hedge towards a gate in the corner of the field. Ignore the gate and stile and turn sharp left in front of them to head diagonally up the hill, passing a platform against a tree, turn left and follow a track keeping the wood on your right, staying close to the wood on right passing a lake to the left, at the end of the wood go to the wood to the left keeping the wood on your left go forward 50yards to find a path on your left with broken stile. Go along this path, down the hill, crossing a stream by a bridge and follow the well defined path opposite. Turn right up some steps, cross a stile and walk across the field to Holcombe Church.

- Leave the church on the track, at the second left-hand bend continue straight on up the field to a stile by a tree, cross this stile and head for another
4. in the corner of the field. Turn right onto the road, walk along to a crossroads, and take the footpath in the left hand corner. Cross the field to a stile, and head right across the next field to a stile, in the right hand hedge, by the "Ring o Roses." pub follow the road past the pub, to come to a footpath straight ahead where the road turns sharp left.

5. Follow this footpath across five stiles, with outskirts of Holcombe on left. Bear left at the bottom of the hill to follow round the edge of a garden, over a stile into a field and cross two more stiles to come to the road.
6. Cross the road and go down the lane opposite passing the auto repairer and taking the footpath on the right by Edford Cottage. Cross the stile ahead and go straight down across the field. Head for the stile in the bottom left corner and cross into the woods. Follow the clear path through the woods, ignoring a right turn towards water, cross two wooden bridges, to cross a stile to come to the remains of the Nettlebridge branch of the Dorset and Somerset Canal. Cross two more stiles to come to an open field with a cottage ahead. Follow the hedge on your left to come to another stile, crossing into another wood where you can again see the remains of the canal on your left. Come out of the woods over a stile, follow the right hand hedge to cross another stile and turn left on the road.
7. Walk up the road to a T junction and cross onto a gravel track opposite. Go through two kissing gates and onto Kilmersdon Common. Continue straight ahead towards Coleford on the hill in front of you.. At the bottom of the hill cross a bridge between two kissing gates, ignore the stile to the right and go straight up the field to the kissing gate at the top. As you climb the hill you will see the tower of Coleford Church to your right. Through the kissing gate take the right hand path up into the village. Follow the path between the houses, follow the footpath keeping the garages on your left, walk up to the main road where a right turn will bring you back to the Legion Car Park.



Holcombe Church, Blacker's Hill, Stoke Bottom - 10.5 miles

1. With your back to the British Legion turn right along the road. After about 100 yds, shortly after the Post Office turn right and follow a footpath going down between hedges. Through the kissing gate, path opens into a rough field, go up and slightly to your left. At the top of the short rise continue straight on to a metal gate and stile near the corner of the field. Gate is usually open but if not cross the stile keeping to your left where after 15 yds you come to another stile. Cross this stile and head diagonally across to the far corner of field. You are now walking back to the road you started from. In the corner is another metal gate with stile to the left. Cross the stile and another metal stile back to the road.
2. Turn right and after 10 yds turn left and cross to take the footpath through Ropewalk Farm. Follow a concrete drive through a couple of metal gates onto a hard standing area at the edge of a field. Right and follow the farm track keeping the field boundary to your right. Straight ahead where track forks through the gap in the hedge keeping the hedge boundary to your right. Past a couple of gardens to arrive at a stile and kissing gate in the corner of the field. Through these and uphill to join the lane through a kissing gate opposite Brickhouse Farm. Left and follow the road past Dark Lane on your right, shortly after a left bend go over a stile on your right. Make half left to reach the next stile about 100 yds away where you enter a pony paddock. Cross the corner of the paddock to leave it at the next stile and then over the metal stile into a lane. Straight across into Silver Street (cul-de-sac) and follow this as it narrows right to the end.
3. At the end, cross a stile into a field where footpaths appear to go in all directions. With the stile behind you should see Downside Abbey straight ahead; turn right and go slightly downhill to reach Burrows Lane. Straight across the lane and the next field to reach another stile, through the gap you can see Holcombe Church straight ahead. Go diagonally right down to the lane and follow it to the church. There is a plaque outside the boundary wall showing some Conservation Walks in the immediate area. *The Holcombe area was devastated by the bubonic plague and the old village, except the church, was completely buried. It is said (probably incorrectly) that the 'Ring a Ring O' Roses' rhyme originated here and the local 'Ring O Roses' pub, on the Stratton to Holcombe road, takes its name from the rhyme.*
4. Follow the church boundary wall round to the left past a seemingly unnecessary stile into Holcombe Wood. Continue ahead ignoring a path to the right and down a flight of steps towards the stream. Left at the bottom then follow the path to cross a bridge. After the bridge the path rises to the left away from the stream until you cross a stile to leave the woods. Turn right then through a wide gap in the field separating Holcombe Wood from another stand of trees on your left. Keep to the edge of the field with the stand of trees to your left. Follow the edge of the trees and turn left as they

end to pass through a gap in the field boundary. With your back to the gap there is an oak tree, a few yards away, with an observation platform built under it and another Conservation Walks plaque. Ignore the direction arrows underneath the plaque; these are for the conservation walks, not the public footpath you need to take. From the gap turn half right and continue 400 yds to the corner of the field. There is a track leading into the woods with an old metal gate (usually left open) and a wooden stile to its left.

5. Enter the woods and after about 30 yds turn left at a marker post. Follow the direction arrows to reach a wooden bridge over a stream. Cross the bridge and follow the path steeply uphill then over a stile into a field. Turn right dropping downhill to another stile, then boardwalks over another stream. As you cross, immediately ahead and slightly left is a stile with a double step. Over this and almost immediately left along a path clearly marked on the ground. Follow this upwards, it curves to the right to end at a gate with a stile to the left. Left onto lane; above the hedges you can see Downside Abbey ahead of you. Turn left on reaching Watery Lane, ignore all side roads, go past St Vigor's church and reach the A367 by the Stratton on the Fosse war memorial. *Downside Abbey (or St Gregory's Abbey) was originally built in 19th century. It is both a Benedictine monastery and a catholic school.*

Turn right on the A367 and after about 200 yds turn left into Abbey

6. Road. Take the right fork and join the footpath by the side of the horse paddock. Continue straight ahead on this path through a number of kissing gates until you reach the B3139 that passes through Chilcompton.

Straight across, over a low stone stile onto a tarmac path running

7. downhill between houses to join Fry's Well road. *On the opposite side of the road as you join it is Fry's Well from which the road gets its name. The Redan Inn is just up the road if you fancy some refreshment.* Right downhill under the old railway bridge to the junction with Bakers Lane. Left up Bakers Lane; just on the right is Chilcompton war memorial. Past this then turn right apparently onto a driveway on the opposite side of the road to Threshers Cottage. Path can be espied running downhill, wedged in a gap between the properties, under a willow tree. Downhill over a stile into a sloping field where you go left. After 100 yds or so the path turns right over a wooden footbridge across a stream to join another path (this is an official diversion and may not be shown on your OS map); turn left where the paths join. Continue with the stream to your left, ignoring other footpath signs until you pass a garden on your right that has a high kiddies slide. Just after this on your left is a short wooden bridge with a stile on the far side. Cross this, follow the path uphill over another stile, then between houses to bring you back onto the B3139. Right along the B3139 Parsonage Lane after 200 yds. If you miss the footbridge and reach the road (Parsonage Lane) simply turn left onto Parsonage Lane and follow it uphill till it reaches the B3139.

8. Through the field gate on the opposite side of the B3139 from Parsonage Lane. Looking ahead half right you will see a power line crossing the field about 400 yds from you. Make for the point where it crosses the right side of field, a few yards further on cross the double stile (stone/wood) and turn more than half left making for a metal gate. Cross the double stile to the left of the gate, turn left keeping the hedge immediately to your left. Through gate on left after 200yds, turn right to reach another gate onto Coalpit Lane.

Straight across and follow a stony uneven lane downhill (*in the past*

9. *known as Church Lane*). Near the bottom go past a lane to your right and just after, before you start going up, there is metal gate to your left. Normally chained but go through the narrow gap to the right into the field. Straight ahead along the bottom of the small valley to reach a stream and ponds continuing with them on your right. Pay close attention here; the path shortly crosses a broken down fence and then forks. Take the left fork that angles uphill through the woods. Follow this going steadily uphill until you see a metal gate where the path levels off and forks again. Take the left fork uphill through the gate, continue straight ahead up the grassy track with Blacker's Hill Farm on your left, then along the concrete farm drive.

You are on Blacker's Hill which is an Iron Age hill fort. Turn right about

10. 10 yds before the small staddle stones flanking the farm drive. The vegetation is often quite thick here but it's only a few yards to the stile that takes you into a field. Straight across and over the stile by the gate, turn left and follow the line of the hedge to two gateways in the corner of the field. Through the gateway straight ahead, then turn right and follow what looks like an old lane, to the end, turn left and follow the fence line; after about 20 yds you will come to a stile. Cross this and go half left downhill, through the thin line of trees to reach a farm track. Turn right onto the track and then left after about 30 yds to take you to a gateway onto a lane. Turn left and go uphill on the lane for about 200 yds then take the stile to the right. If you look down to the right of the stile you will see the line of an old coal railway line and a tunnel entrance leading under the lane you just walked up.

Go downhill until the path begins to level off with the field opening up

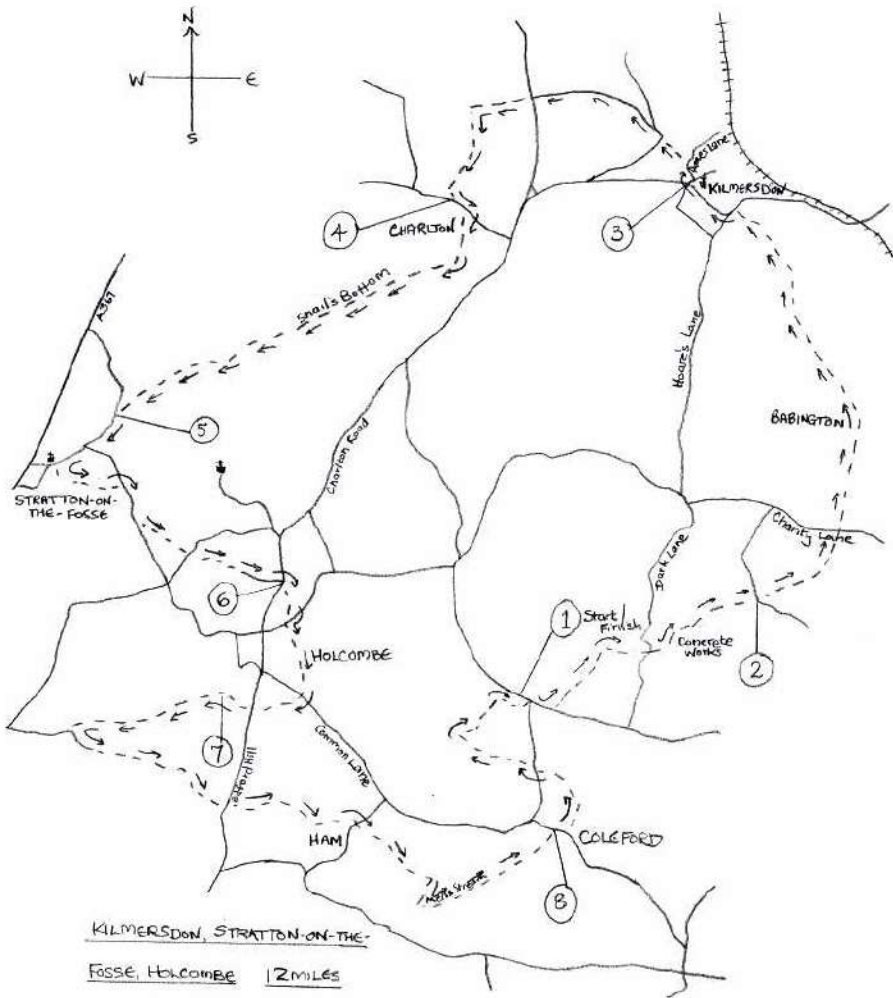
11. ahead of you. Turn left and follow the track, at first slightly downhill then levelling off. Keep straight ahead for about half a mile crossing 4 fence lines from field to field. Aim to pass to the left of the house you see ahead of you as you cross the 4th fence line; path rises a little at this point and you come to a gateway with the house just behind you to the right. Over the stile or through the gateway and keep to your right going downhill, following the house's boundary fence until you reach a lane. Left along the lane for about 250 yds to reach crossroads. Turn right, initially steeply downhill. Shortly after crossing a bridge go over the stile on the left.

With the stile behind the path leads slightly to the left to a double stile

12. on the other side of the boggy field to reach another boggy field. Slightly to

the right this time, contour round the hillside to reach a metal gate and stile then onto a grassy lane leading to the A367; this is Nettlebridge. Taking care cross the A367, over the stile to the right of the gate, continue downhill, slightly left, to the stile in the wall at the bottom of the field. Left on the lane and a few yards further on right over the stile just before the post office box.

13. Straight on for just under $\frac{1}{2}$ mile crossing several field boundaries and electric fences till you reach a lane. Right on the lane and after just a few yards take the footpath on the right opposite the farm entrance. Half left and downhill to the bottom far corner of the field (this just cuts the corner off the road; if you prefer continue on the road). On the road continue straight ahead uphill in the Holcombe direction. After about 200 yds, at the top of the rise, turn right through the gateway and continue straight ahead up the slope. At the top of the slope turn left at the field boundary and follow it as it turns right to find the stile in the corner a few yards further on. Cross the stile and go straight ahead into the woods, after about 5 yards turn left onto a track that soon widens out onto a grassy track downhill along the side of a house. Continue straight ahead as the track joins the drive and follow it to the gateway where it joins the drive for Stoke Bottom Farm.
14. Right and follow the drive to the farm house. With it in front of you turn left up the farm track/bridle path. Almost immediately go through the gateway on your left and up a flight of steps to reach a small wooden-railed enclosure. Round to the right of this and with the field opening up ahead go half left across the field to reach a stile. Left down the lane to reach a road junction, turn right to Holcombe and after about 200 yards over the stile on your left. Half right across the field to reach gate and stile in corner, turn half left with Dunford's Farm to your right, make for the stile that you see in the hedge to the left of a gateway. Over this and half right to reach Edford Hill after 200 yds. *The Duke of Cumberland pub is just up the hill if you want refreshments* otherwise straight across into the field on the opposite side. Continue ahead and slightly right for the gap, once through you see the sewage works to your left. Straight on, crossing the track leading to the works arriving at a double stile and planks across a stream. Cross these and across a field towards the house to reach a small camp/caravan site and gateway onto Ham Hill.
15. Left up Ham Hill to the junction with Common Lane. Straight across onto the drive way and through the kissing gate. Half right downhill to the bottom corner of the field. Through the kissing gates across a stream to bring you onto Kilmersdon Common. Straight ahead uphill keeping the field boundary just to your left and reaching another kissing gate to a small clump of trees. Through the kissing gate and take the path going uphill to your right. You enter a housing estate near a block of garages. Keep the garages to your left and turn left when you reach Beacon View which you then follow to bring you back opposite the Post Office and British Legion where you started.



Kilmersdon, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Holcombe - 12 miles

1. With your back to the British Legion car park turn left and walk down the road until you reach the bus shelter, turn left down the lane opposite (Harris Vale) follow this until you reach a stone squeeze stile, pass through this and over the stile straight ahead. Traverse the side of the hill to reach a stile taking you onto a track, keep straight on up the track, at the top turn right passing the farm on your right soon to reach the road. Go straight across towards the concrete works, just before the entrance turn left and follow the footpath around the edge of the works to reach a field, turn right following the field edge round until you come to a stile on your right, cross this and the next one after which you head for a stile next to a gate slightly to your left, now follow the field edge on your left until you reach the gate on the far side of the field near the house, follow the fence round to cross a stile which leads to the road.

Cross the road to the stile opposite, once in the field head diagonally

2. across to the gate in the far corner, pass through this turn slightly left and aim for the ornamental gate posts on the far side, cross Charity Lane and follow the grassy path between the gate posts and on towards Babington House. On reaching the drive head straight across passing the church on your left, now look for and go through a small gate on your right into the field, follow the fence on your left down to the bottom of the hill to pass through a kissing gate. Continue straight across the field to pass between the next set of gate posts at the top of the field and on into the wood, keep straight on over a cross track and soon you will reach a fork off to your left leading you over a large wooden bridge into a field, follow the path round to the right through this field to go over a stile then straight across the next one to a kissing gate, once through this turn right and follow the field edge round to reach the road via another kissing gate, cross the road, turn left and follow the pavement to reach Kilmersdon Church.

Turn right pass the church then left into Ames Lane which leads you to Jack & Jill Hill (notice the stones on your way up the hill depicting the nursery rhyme).

- 3.

On reaching the top of the hill turn right then left at the fork in front of

4. you. Follow this lane until you reach a T-junction, head straight across the road over the stile and keep straight on to the end of the field. Go over the stile onto the bridleway dropping down the hill towards the bridle gates at the bottom, go through the right of the two gates over a small stone bridge and onto the narrow bridleway. Cross the first stile on your left then the field to follow the path through a newly planted wood. Follow the river until you come to a bridge on your left, turn left over this then turn right towards the gate, go over a stile to reach the road at Charlton.

Turn left up the road and as you pass Waterlea on your left you cross the road to enter the track signed to Melon Cottage, where this ends turn left up a

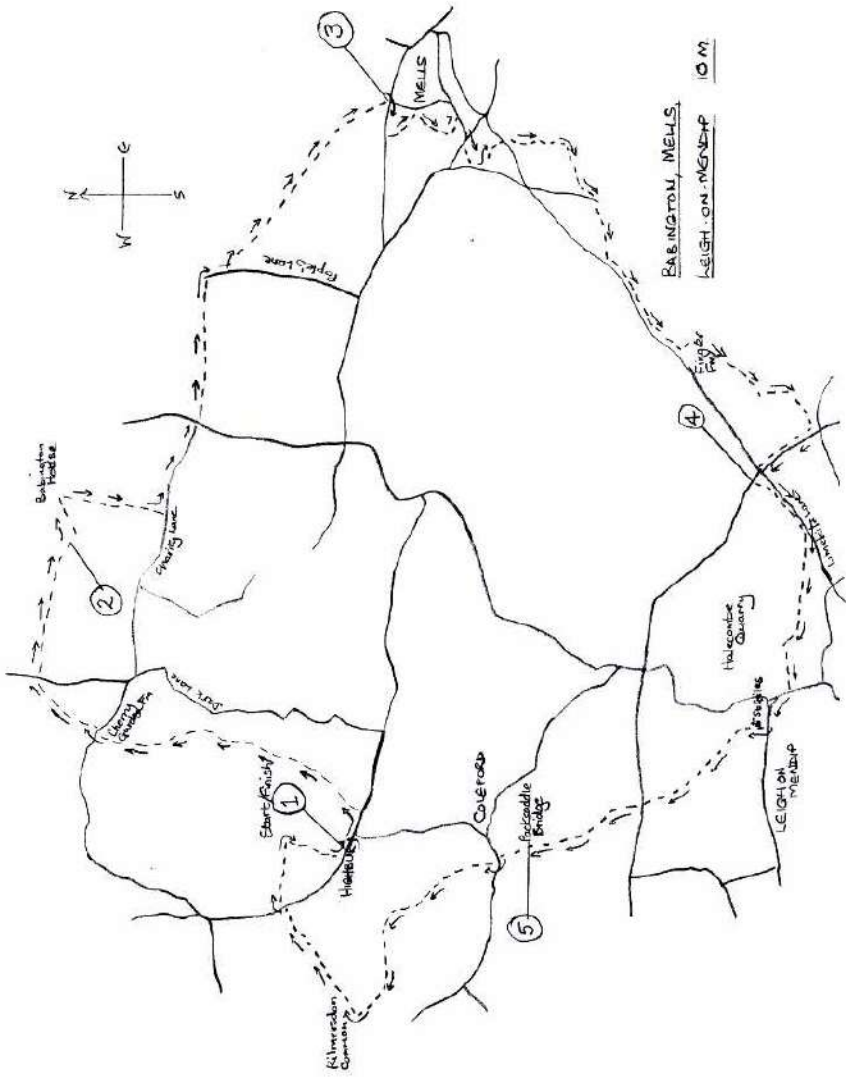
5. track into the field go half right aiming for a stile in the hedge at the top of

the field, when you reach this do not cross but turn right and follow the hedge through into the next field then where the hedge ends keep straight on towards the large tree to cross a double stile in this hedge after which you head towards the left of the gap you can see at the bottom of the hill. Follow the hedge and stream on your right towards the wood at the far end of this field stay close to the stream to go behind some bracken to cross a stile in the wire fence, keeping the stream on your right follow the path through the woods until you reach a small bridge, cross this, turn left and follow the path to a T-junction, turn right following the path through the laurel bushes to emerge next to a boardwalk, cross this and the stile on the far side. Walk up the field until you reach a stile on your left, do not cross but turn right going through the gap in the hedge ahead of you into the next field, go slightly left, cross the stile then follow the field boundary on your right to reach a track which takes you out to the road.

6. Turn left and follow the road towards Stratton-on-the-Fosse (ignore the road junction on your left), then just before St. Vigor's Church turn left onto the diverted path and head for the kissing gate on the rise ahead, do not go through it but turn left, follow the path through the next kissing gate cross the next field to go over a stile in the corner on to the road. With care follow the road for approx 400m to cross a stile on your left go half right across this field heading towards the trees, cross a stile on your right, follow the path round to cross another stile taking you onto a track, turn left and head for a stile taking you into a paddock. Cross this then over the next stile onto a lane, cross this and the stile opposite then go half left to cross a stile in the top left hand corner of the field now head to the right of the house in front of you where you will find a three way signpost. Go over the stile onto the lane and follow this until you reach the road at Holcombe.
7. Cross the road and the stile opposite and take the right hand path across the paddocks to reach an enclosed path next to a farm gate which leads you to the road, turn right and on reaching the recreation ground on your right, turn left into the driveway of Hill House continue down the hill to the right. On reaching the turning area at the bottom take the path off to the right following it through a squeeze stile and round to reach the road which you cross to go over the stile opposite, follow this path as it bends slightly to the right leading you through some kissing gates out to a tarmac driveway and on to the main road. Cross with care to the driveway opposite signed the Hawthorns and at the end of the tarmac take the path on the right going uphill between the houses to reach another road. Turn left to a T-junction, turn right and as you reach No.7 take the narrow fenced path between the houses and on reaching the top turn left and follow this out into a field.
8. Turn right and follow the path across the top of three fields before you enter a wood soon to emerge on a grassy ridge track, follow this until you come to a stile on your left cross this turn right and go through the gap ahead then dropping very slightly downhill to your left you will see a gate next to which you cross a double stile and bridge then head slightly to your

left to exit the field via the gate. Once on the lane turn left this soon becomes a track which you follow for approx ½ mile. As you approach the end of the track look for and cross a stile on your left, go across the field, over the next stile then cross the road and through the gap in the wall opposite, down the side of the house, over two stiles and into the field. Follow the hedge on your right across two fields to enter the wood via a stile, follow this path through the wood until you reach a road, cross this and the stile opposite, now follow the path along the side of the old canal. Go across the cross track and keep going until you emerge into a field via a kissing gate, here turn right to cross a stile in the hedge line ahead follow the track downhill cross the bridge and turn left to follow Mells stream, soon you reach a track follow this to a fork in a gateway, go to the right up a small incline pass a kissing gate on your right and follow the path through the gap into the next field and on through a kissing gate over a bridge to eventually reach a road.

9. Turn right uphill then take the first turning on the left follow the road round to the junction going over the stile next to the gate in front of you, go straight up the hill to a path in the top left hand corner of the field, ignore the stile on your right but follow through a kissing gate and out to the road. Cross the road turn right then just before the slow sign painted on the road take the track on your left. Go through the kissing gate at the top and head straight across the field dropping slightly to your left to cross the bridge over the stream. Continue up the other side through the gateway in the hedge ahead and keeping the top field boundary on your right you come to a kissing gate, go through this, take the right hand path up through the woods which leads you up to a housing estate, follow the path through the iron rails pass the garages on your left then bear left to follow the road back to the main road opposite the Post Office. Turn right, cross the road to return to the car park.



Babington, Mells, Leigh-on-Mendip - 10 miles

1. Go left out of car park, walk along road until post box in a wall. Turn left and follow tarmac track down hill, through stone squeeze stile, straight over next stile and through gateway. Cross field ahead, over brow of hill and slightly left to stile onto rough lane. Follow lane uphill to collection of gates. Straight ahead to cross middle of field, down hill to bridge across stream. Straight on across next field, up hill and slightly left of double power line pole to stile on other side. Keep to right hand boundary of field and turn right into farmyard. Cross yard towards road but immediately after gateway in stone wall turn left through metal gate (before reaching road.) Path follows left hand hedge, over stile and straight ahead to stile in hedge. Bear slightly right, crossing field to stile in fence. Follow right hand fence to stile. Continue straight on with farm buildings on right, through gate ahead. Keeping driveway on right, follow fence boundary down to stile in bottom right hand corner of field, cross road and go over stile. Going uphill, pass a duck pond on your left. Left over stile and bear right across field to finger post in opposite corner. Now heading towards a column at Ammerdown Park straight ahead of you. Turn right and immediately left to cross road onto next path. Keep alongside left hand hedge and into next field. From the corner of the hedge follow the route of power line poles to stile opposite.

- Cross field to gate by corner of stone wall. Now entering grounds of
2. Babington House Hotel with walled garden by the gate. Follow drive, past car park on right and hotel on left. On reaching church turn right over stile and take path between avenue of beech trees, left onto road. At crossroads go straight over into private road. After about 200 yards leave road and take grassy lane on left over stile by metal gate. At end of lane is a metal gate into field. Follow left hand hedge and poles. Turn right onto road and after about 100 yards turn left onto footpath and go diagonally across two fields towards church tower at Mells, crossing farm drive by stone gateway in the middle. Cross stream and bear right across field, half way between church and stream, to stile in fence. Continue in same direction across field to gate in corner of wall and out onto road. (*Mells is reputed to be the home of the nursery rhyme character Little Jack Horner, who, as the story is told, acquired Mells Manor when he put his thumb in the pie where the Abbot of Glastonbury had hidden the deeds for security*) (*The Talbot Inn is about 50 yards to your left and is a pleasant spot to enjoy a refreshing beer.*)

3. Right at road, left into Longfield Road, left again onto playing field. Bear right to opposite corner and stone stile next to thatched cottage. Take narrow path down past cottage, at bottom turn left onto stony track. Follow stream on right to road, right and cross stone bridge. At T junction bear right and immediately cross road onto track opposite, uphill to join tarmac lane. Just after 20 mile mph sign, left across green and left over stile in trees. (If you reach school you've gone too far.) Bear right when crossing field to stile leading onto road. Cross road and stile opposite. Bear right and climb uphill through field and between two houses, bearing left to continue uphill. Right

and over stile into old orchard. Bear left across corner and look for high stone stile in wall. Straight across field, right at bottom of ridge ahead. Follow line of stiles, keeping to left through farmyard until double stile through thick hedge out onto road. Left and immediately right through gate onto bridleway in woods. Follow series of gates, left and then right around Finger Farm and on till you reach T junction with a stony track, turn right. When you reach (road) crossroads do not go through gate onto road but turn right and follow bridleway until you reach second (road) crossroads. Go through gate onto road, turn left and then right, signposted Coleford. After a few yards cross road to gate leading onto footpath on left hand side.

4. Keep to right hand edge of small yard to gate onto grassy path. Left to follow path uphill with Halecombe Quarry on right. Keep hedge on left until you reach stile. Over it and another stile immediately on your left. Now keep fence on your right to stile. Cross this and go downhill to stile. Over and keep fence on right while looking for stile in trees on left. Cross this, follow hedge on right around field to next stile and again follow hedge on right around field to stile leading out onto road. Right on road into Leigh on Mendip. Look for footpath on right just past St Giles' church with its faceless clock. (*In 1857 parson was shot in the pulpit by one of the villagers upset by the vicar's criticism of drunkenness. Hopefully attitudes have changed these days and you may wish to visit the The Bell Inn further along the road. Local legend says that weary pilgrims stayed here on their way to Glastonbury.*). Follow footpath across Cul de sac into field. Cross next three fields diagonally. Cross road and take path straight ahead of you keeping to right hand side of hedge, into wood. Follow winding path downhill through wood and cross stream by footbridge. (*Lots of wild flowers here in the Spring.*).

Straight across next two fields towards Coleford.

5. After reaching kissing gate, cross Packsaddle Bridge and up Mill Lane, left at main road. After about 50 yards, right up drive to "The Arches." Right onto narrow path under bridge. Follow grassy track through two kissing gates. Turn at metal field gate, to cross field diagonally uphill and over footbridge, in hedge on right. Go uphill to gateway bearing slightly left, then straight on across next field to stile in middle of hedge. Go downhill, crossing field to tree line at bottom. Cross substantial footbridge, go to brow of hill in next field and turn right. Walk up towards top end of field, keeping parallel to hedges. Once over brow of hill turn right down into woods and footbridge over stream. Follow path uphill through woods and two fields to houses. Path will lead you out between bungalows numbered 40 and 42 onto road. Follow road round to left until number 22 which has a narrow path by the side leading out to road. Cross road and go left, turning almost immediately right onto Rush Ash Lane. Cross metal stile, along lane, over next stile and to diagonal opposite corner of field. Over stile and turn immediately right and over stile. Cross field diagonally passing electricity pole and downhill between two hedges to kissing gate. Over bridge and up narrow lane to road. Left Back to the car park.