

WALKING FESTIVAL

OAKHILL

2009



2008

www.mendipramblers.co.uk

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

CONTENTS:

The Countryside Code	2
General walking advice	3

THE WALKS

Short Walks: (less than 5 miles)

Harridge Wood, Neighbourne, Ashwick Church (3.3 miles)	4
Ashwick Grove, Withybrook, Three Ashes (4 miles)	7
Tape Hill, T'other Side of the Hill, Ashwick (4.5 miles)	10

Medium Walks: (between 5 and 10 miles)

Little London, Badgers Cross, Ashwick, (6 miles)	13
Fosse Way, Three Ashes Lane and Harridge Woods (6.7 miles)	17
Beacon Hill, Winsor Hill & Masbury Castle, (7.2 miles)	21
Fosseway, Chel Lynch & Three Ashes Lane. (7.7 miles)	25
Gurney Slade, Stratton on Fosse, Stoke Bottom (9 miles)	29
Gurney Slade, Chilcompton, Emborough & Binegar; (9 miles)	33

Longer Walks: (over 10 miles)

Withybrook, Cranmore Tower, Long Cross (10.6 miles)	37
Midway, Great Gains Wood & Harridge Wood. (12 miles)	43

Maesbury and Croscombe (12.1 miles)	48
THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE: (This is an abbreviated extract. See www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk for the detailed code).	

BE SAFE – PLAN AHEAD AND FOLLOW ANY SIGNS

LEAVE GATES AND PROPERTY AS YOU FIND THEM

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

PROTECT PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME

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

KEEP DOGS UNDER CLOSE CONTROL

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

CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE

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

PARKING: Oakhill Village Hall. Please park with consideration.

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the footpaths included in the walks have only been opened/made accessible during the previous year and need to be walked in order to keep them open. Please report any problems to customerservices@mendip.gov.uk – tel: 01749 648999.

GENERAL WALKING ADVICE:

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

THE WALKS: (Start - Oakhill Village Hall car park - map ref. ST 633475)

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

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

The 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 OS maps and a compass (OS Explorer Map 142 - Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East (plus Map 141 - Cheddar Gorge and Mendip Hills West for walk page 48 only).

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

Harridge Wood, Neighbourne, Ashwick Church 3.3 miles

1. Grid ref. 633475

Start at the entrance gate to the village hall car park with your back to the road. Follow the wall and hedgerow along the right hand side of the playing field and through the kissing gate in the corner. Walk down the field, keeping the fence on your right, to the Bath Road (A367). Cross over go through the metal gate and over the stile. Walk up the hill and then bear left keeping the large oak trees on your left. Find the stile in the far corner and follow the road (Fosse Road) to the left. Walk past a cottage and post box set in the wall to Fosse Farm.

2. Grid ref. 640471

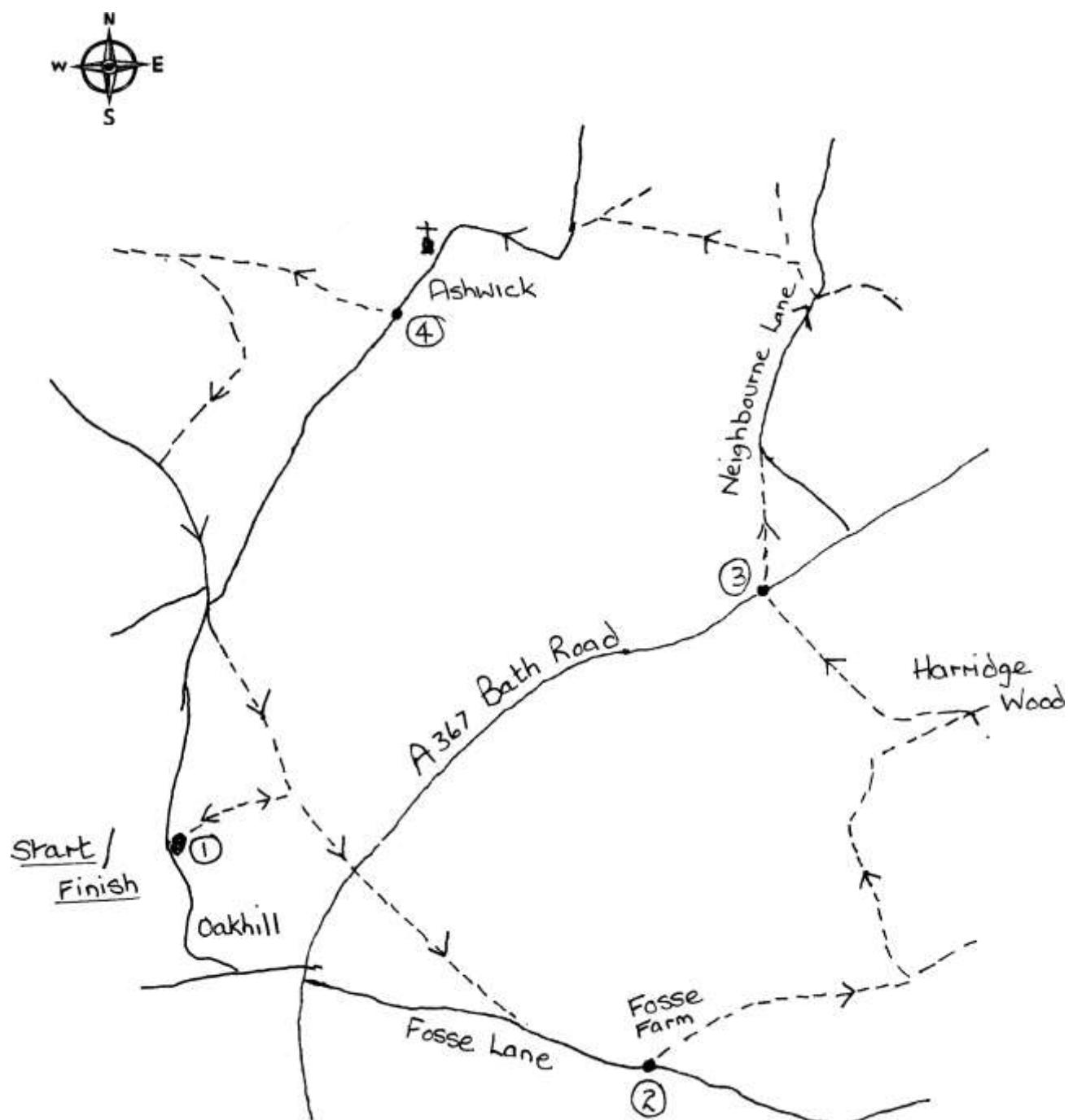
At Fosse Farm go through the gateway and immediately bear right following the path to a metal kissing gate. Cross the field, keeping the two large trees on your right, to the kissing gate in the wooden fence. Cross the field to a double stile next to a tree in the hedge. Walk down the field to a 'short' marker post on the left of a gap in the hedgerow. Turn left, keeping the trees/hedgerow to your left and continue to the stile and stay on the path in the same direction until you meet a path with a marker post. At this point follow the path to the right and continue until you meet a path joining from the right. At this 'junction' turn sharp left and follow the path up the hill to the stone stile near the nature reserve information board. Walk across the field to the stone stile on the far side which takes you onto Bath Road.

3. Grid ref. 642478

Turn right and walk a short distance to the finger post and stile on the other side of the road. Cross the stile into the field and walk diagonally right to the far corner and find the stone stile just beyond the gate that leads to a lane. Follow Neighbourne Lane, ignore the lane joining from the left, walk past a white house on your right until you find a stone stile on your left. Walk a short distance to the next stile which is next to a gate. Walk across the field to a stone stile and a wooden stile in the hedgerow. Follow the contour of the field round to a stile in the far left corner that leads out to a lane. Go up the lane, at the 'T' junction turn

right and continue up the lane to Ashwick Court. Follow the lane round to the church and continue until you find the metal gate on the right.

Harridge Wood, Neighbourne, Ashwick Church 3.3 miles



4. Grid ref. 636483

Walk across the field to the stile in the far right corner. Once you are over the stile keep the fence to your left and aim for the stile in the opposite fence and continue to the next stile. In the field aim for the gap in the opposite hedge, before you get there turn left and aim for the corner of the next field that 'juts' out into the field you are in. Continue towards the far hedge and walk through the gap into the next field. Follow the hedge on the left to the stone stile on the left. Over the stile follow the path to the lane. Turn left into the lane and continue to the junction. Cross the road and go through the kissing gate on the left just after the 'animal pound'. Follow the path to the far end of the playing field and follow the hedgerow back to the starting point.

Ashwick Grove, Withybrook, Three Ashes 4 miles

1 Grid ref. 633475

Leave Oakhill Village Hall car park and walk across playing field to double stiles in right hand corner. Take the left-hand stone stile and cross field to farm machinery to the right of bungalow, then cross stiles alongside garden. Go straight ahead to a gate by a pond, then follow hedge line to a stone stile. Continue, keeping hedge on your right, past a stone building towards gateway. Pass through gateway and turn sharp right across field to stone/metal stile onto A367 Bath Road.

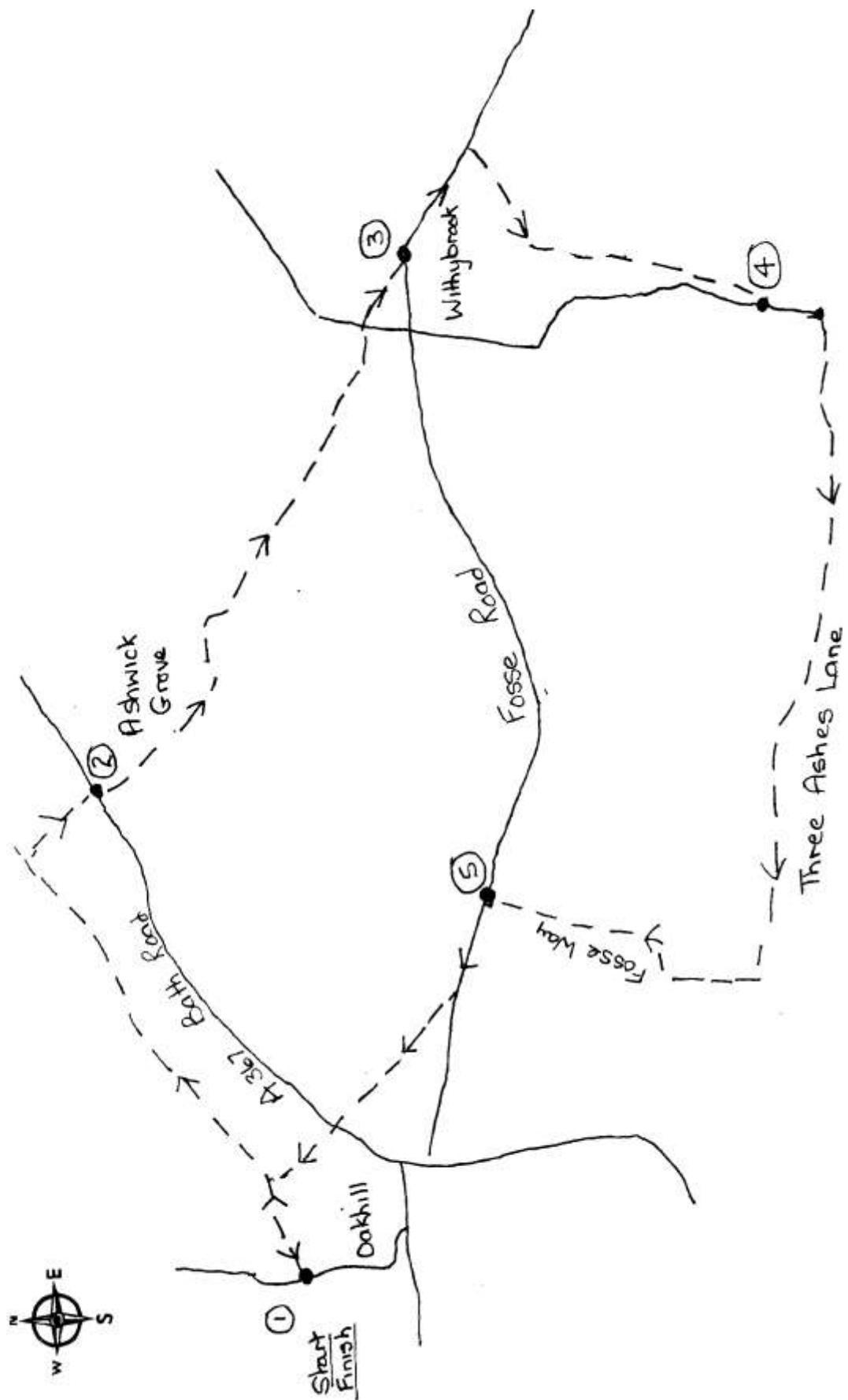
2 Grid ref. 642478

Cross road and go over stone stile into field. Aim slightly left to stone stile opposite. Cross stile and enter Ashwick Grove. Take second track on left and descend, keeping stone wall on your right, to a bridge over a stream. Cross stream and follow another wall uphill to boundary of Ashwick Grove. Veer left and continue uphill inside wood to a stone stile, then: follow the hedge line on your left to a stile, then on to a step set in a fence. Continue towards a stone stile and steps, leading down to a lane. Climb the opposite bank and cross stone stile at top. Aim towards the far right hand corner of the field to the stile giving access to the road at Midway. (Fosse Lane)

3. Grid ref. 653472

Turn left onto road and walk downhill to Midway Slocker. Note extensive recent remedial works. Turn right up track by stream. Pass over the stile by the house and veer right to the gateway in wall at the field corner. Aim to the left of farm buildings ahead and pass through the gate. After which, veer right to gate in field corner. Follow hedgerow down to a stile leading to a stile next to a road.

Ashwick Grove, Withybrook, Three Ashes 4 miles



4. Grid ref. 651465

Turn left uphill and to bridleway sign at Three Ashes, then take the bridle path on your right. Walk the whole length of this bridleway (Three Ashes Lane), ignoring all stiles leading off to the right. Eventually you will come to a gate leading to open fields. Cross this gate and follow the hedge on your right to a gateway. Go through gate, then turn sharp left, keeping the hedge on your left. Follow the path through a second and third gate. At the third gate, turn right and follow the track (Fosse Way) down to the road.

5. Grid ref. 640471

Turn left onto road and continue until there are houses on the left hand side. Pass over the stile on the right hand side of the road and walk diagonally towards the playing field on your left. Pass over the stile into the playing field. Walk across playing field to the safety gate and stile leading onto A367 (Bath Road).

6. Grid ref. 636474

Cross over the road and go through 2 sets of kissing gates, then follow fence to the stile in the top left hand corner of the paddock.

Go over the stile into the field and you will see on your left, the trees bordering the start/finish point.

Tape Hill, T'other Side of the Hill, Ashwick 4.5 miles

1. Grid ref 633475

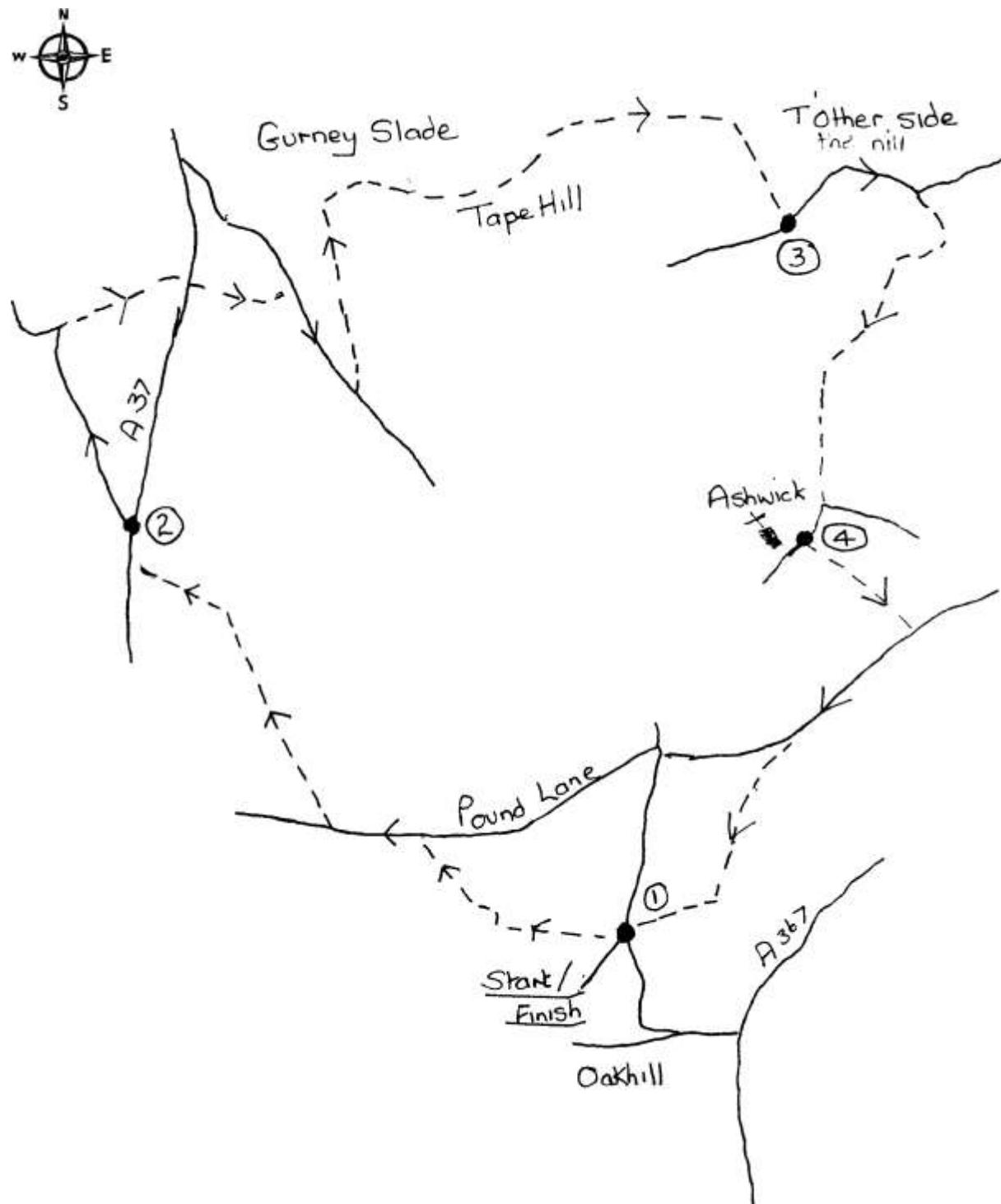
Leave the recreation field via the main gate and immediately cross the road into the track opposite which runs between St Francis Cottage and Grange House. Follow the track ignoring the concreted turn off to the right. The track becomes a footpath beyond the Coach House and is often muddy. On reaching the wooden gate turn right and continue to the stone stile. Once over the stile go diagonally across the field to another stone stile and fingerpost in the opposite hedge.

In the lane turn left and at the crossroads turn right and immediately go through the gate on your left. Follow the hedge on your right, go over the stone stile and continue to follow the hedge. Go over the next stone stile into Lime Kiln Lane and turn left. Immediately on your right is yet another stone stile. Go over this and follow the right-hand hedge on the field margin to a gap in the opposite hedge. The path then goes diagonally across the next field to a gate with a fingerpost which leads out on to the main A37. Cross with care. Walk about 100 yards along the roadside verge to a turning on the left which is Highcroft Lane.

2. Grid ref 621484

Follow the lane but where it turns sharply to the left and goes downhill, turn right onto the bridleway. Follow this back to the A37 and cross with care, by the speed camera, onto the footpath opposite. Follow through to the tarmac lane and then turn right. Take the next footpath on the left, Grunter's Lane, which is just before the electronic gates to Rookery Farm. Just before the houses at the end of the footpath go up the stone steps and over the stile on your right. Go up the slope bearing slightly left and over the wooden stile, then head up across the next field to the gate visible in the opposite hedge and on to the gate to the left of the ruined Tape Hill Farm. Turn left on to the track and begin to go downhill but take the first track on the right which goes across the top of the hillside. Where this track turns to the right, cross the stile in front of you and head diagonally across the field to the stile in the corner which leads into a small copse. Go over the stile to the right and take the footpath which follows the right-hand hedge out into Bay's Lane.

Tape Hill, T'other Side of the Hill, Ashwick 4.5 miles



3. Grid ref 636491

Turn left and go downhill, passing Wesley Cottage and following the lane as far as Hill View Cottage. Here the lane turns left and goes downhill again but the footpath carries straight on up the driveway to Frogpool Farm (marked as West Farm on the map). Continue almost to the house. Having gone through the final gate on the drive, turn right opposite the wood store and follow the path round the back of the house and out into the fields. Go along the edge of the wood to the stile and over into the wood.

Continue in the same direction following the path which still runs along the edge of the wood but now inside it. Exit the wood via the stone stile and make for the stone stile and fingerpost in the hedge alongside the lane below (Blackey Lane). Cross the lane, go over the wooden stile (it may be very wet underfoot here) and climb up the hillside to another wooden stile onto the back driveway to Ashwick Court. Go over the stone stile next to the cattle grid and follow the lane ahead up towards Ashwick Church.

4. Grid ref 637484

Climb the stone stile on your left opposite the church and go down the hill to a further stone stile in the bottom right-hand corner of the field. Once over the stile follow the hedge on your left, crossing 2 more stone stiles to come out into Laundry Lane and then turn right. Follow the lane to a stone stile opposite the second house on the right, a small white cottage a few hundred yards up the road. Go over the stile and through the gate on your right. Cross the next field, keeping to the right of the trees, onto a track. Cross the track, go through the gateway and across the next field diagonally to a stone stile in the far corner which will bring you back to the recreation field.

Little London, Badgers Cross, Ashwick, 6 miles

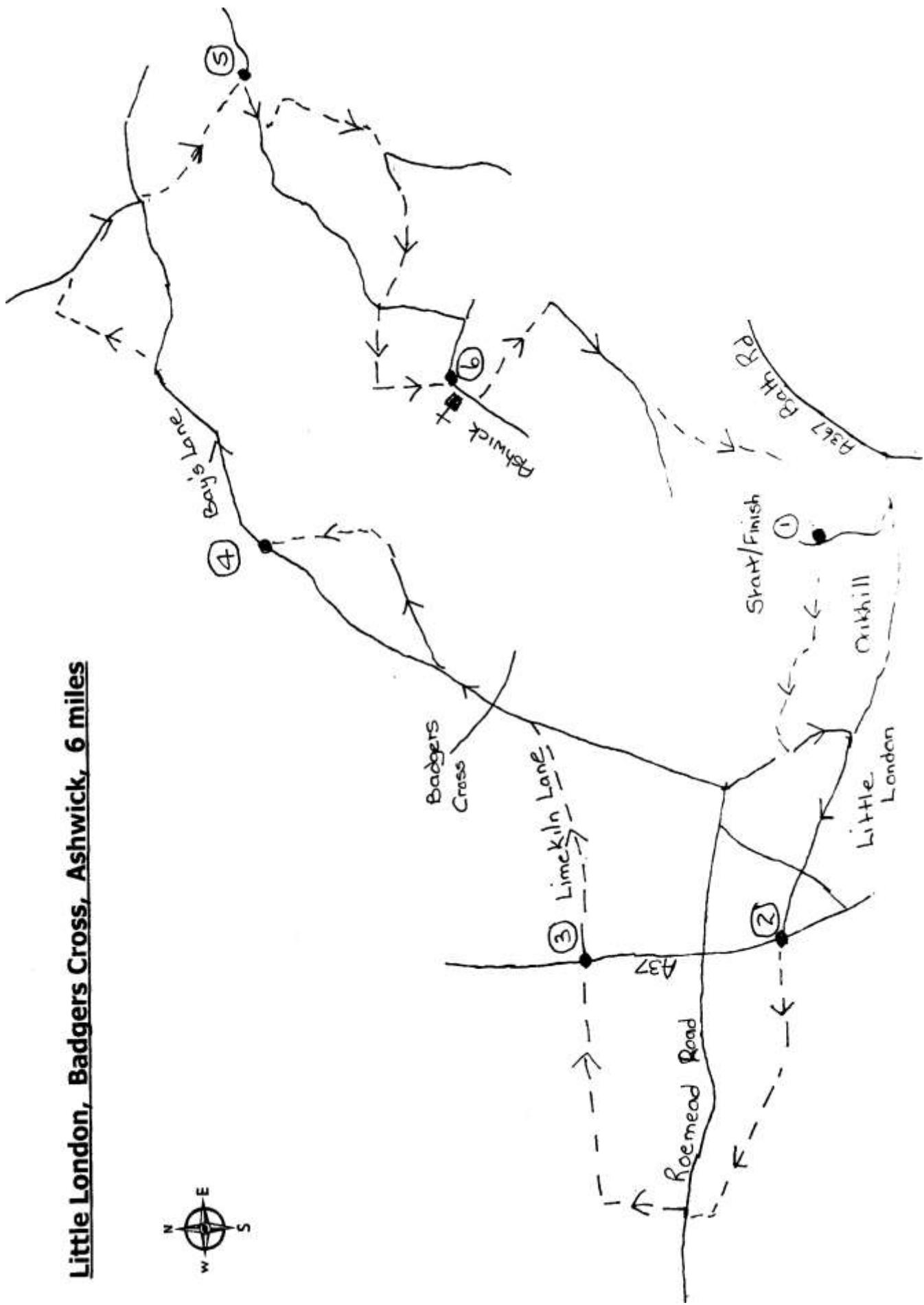
1. Grid ref. 633475

From the Village Hall car park entrance, cross the road straight into the footpath between Grange House and Oakhill Manor (signpost at car park entrance). Carry straight on along an unmade lane between houses. When the track turns to the right, carry on ahead through an open gate into a path between a fence and a conifer hedge. Through a little gate, turn to right (ignore appealing gap in the barbed wire straight ahead), continue to stone stile. Over the stile, bear left aiming to pass to the right of the mound. Past the mound bear left to reach a stone stile onto the road. In the grounds of the manor, you can see traces of the miniature railway system which ran there in the 1980s. Turn left down the road to a road junction (Galley Batch Lane) then you should turn right and continue (graveyard on left) for $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile through Little London and on to the main road (A37). Cross this with care and straight ahead into the lane signposted Mendip Golf Club.

2. Grid ref. 622475

The road bends to the left almost immediately, leave it by carrying straight on through 2 large stones into a green lane (Mud!). Continue straight on over a metal stile, keeping to the left of the hedge to a stone trough and another metal stile, past an impressive stone trough and edifice on the right and on to a wooden stile in front of another metal stile. The field you now reach is extremely "lumpy" possibly because of shake holes. 20/30 metres after yet another wooden stile, there is a stone stile on your right, with a yellow footpath marker, cross this and follow the stream to your right down to the lane. Exit to the lane over a stone stile partially hidden by the hedge on the right. Cross the lane to Roemead Lane slightly to your right and find the path on the right side of the lane (wooden post indicating bridle way). Go through gate onto a somewhat churned bridleway (good views of the wind turbine) with a good fence to left, and continue ahead to the end where you can exit through a gate on the right onto a wide green lane. Follow this straight until you reach the A37 again.

Little London, Badgers Cross, Ashwick, 6 miles



3. Grid ref. 621481

Cross the road and continue straight into Limekiln Lane, another green lane, which narrows as you go. At the junction of various paths bear left slightly between two small stones. You will eventually come out onto a lane (Simbriss Road); turn left and continue to the crossroads (Badger's Cross). Continue straight on (signposted Benter) and take the right fork in the road, just past a footpath sign. This road is marked Blackey Lane. Pass Stroude's farm on the left then immediately turn left onto a footpath where the sign is part hidden in the trees. Go over a wooden stile next to a decrepit gate and continue. As you come out of the trees into a field there is a gate on your left. Go through this and bear slightly right across the field to a new looking stile on the far corner (visible immediately to tall people, the rest of us have to wait until they are in the middle of the field to see it). Cross the stile and out onto Bay's Lane.

4. Grid ref. 633489

Turn right and head down the hill to "T'other side the hill" ignoring all tempting footpath signs to either side. Follow the lane as it turns sharply right, then turn left onto a footpath (wooden sign) just past the white cottage. Go straight down 2 fields aiming for the cottages below you at Moon's Bottom. Go through the gate in the hedge on the second field and turn right, continuing to a gate onto the road at the far end. Turn right onto the road. (Llamas in the field on your right) At the road junction, go straight across into the yard (wooden sign high up on the building shows the footpath), and out the other side over a wooden stile which may be hidden behind tractors. Follow the overhead power lines aiming to the left of the cottages far ahead, to find a gap in the left hand hedge about half way down with a stone stile (do not be tempted by the wooden stile a bit further back). Cross this and continue following the line of the power lines to find a wooden stile onto the road.

5. Grid ref. 645490

Turn right on the road and walk past the cottages; just past Engine Cottage find the footpath (signed) on the left over a 2 bar stile. Bear left

round the back fence of the cottage and down to the far corner of the field to find a footbridge over the stream partly hidden by trees. Cross the bridge, then a wooden stile and bear right up the field to a smart stile halfway up the right hand hedge with a dog gate and lots of mud. The next field may be partitioned with makeshift fences, cross these wherever you can aiming for a narrow wooden gate and stile up to the left at the edge of the trees. The final approach to this is steep and can be very muddy, and it continues the same after crossing the stile until you reach the top of the ridge. Bear right and walk along the ridge to the lane (Neighbourne). Turn right onto the road and down the hill to the first bend. Go through the gate ahead into the drive for Neighbourne farm (ignore wooden footpath signs tempting you to turn left) and straight on past the farmhouse on your right through two metal gates to a field. Bear right on the field and down through the slurry to a gate in the far corner out onto Blackey Lane. Turn left on the lane (ignore turning to sharp left) and follow it for about 100 metres to find a stone stile (mud) on the left (footpath sign). Keeping just to the right of the hedge go up the field to a stone stile in the far left corner, with views of Ashwick church above you as you go. Over another stone stile next to a cattle grid to get out onto the lane next to Ashwick Court.

6. Grid ref. 638485

Turn right and follow the lane past the church to your right (the church tower, grade 1 listed, dates back to 1463), then turn left over a stone stile into a field (footpath sign). Keep to the left of the hedge down the hill to find a stone stile at the bottom, then back up the other side of the valley with the hedge on your left. Cross a stone stile into a small field, then another out onto the lane. Turn right along the lane and walk until you come to a white house on your right; cross the stone stile on your left into a field, then immediately through the gate on the right and aim for the gap midway along the far side of the field, in line with the single trees in the middle. Continue on the same line to the corner of the next field, and cross the stone stile into Oakhill playing field. Walk straight across the field to the car park.

Fosse Way, Three Ashes Lane and Harridge Woods 6.7 miles

1 Grid ref. 633475

Walk across the playing fields towards the pair of stiles in the top right hand corner. Turn right and walk down towards the road. Cross the road and go through the large gate into the field. Go over the next stile into a large field and head towards the houses. The stile onto the road is in the top right hand corner. Turn left and walk down the road to a track on your right

2. Grid ref. 640471

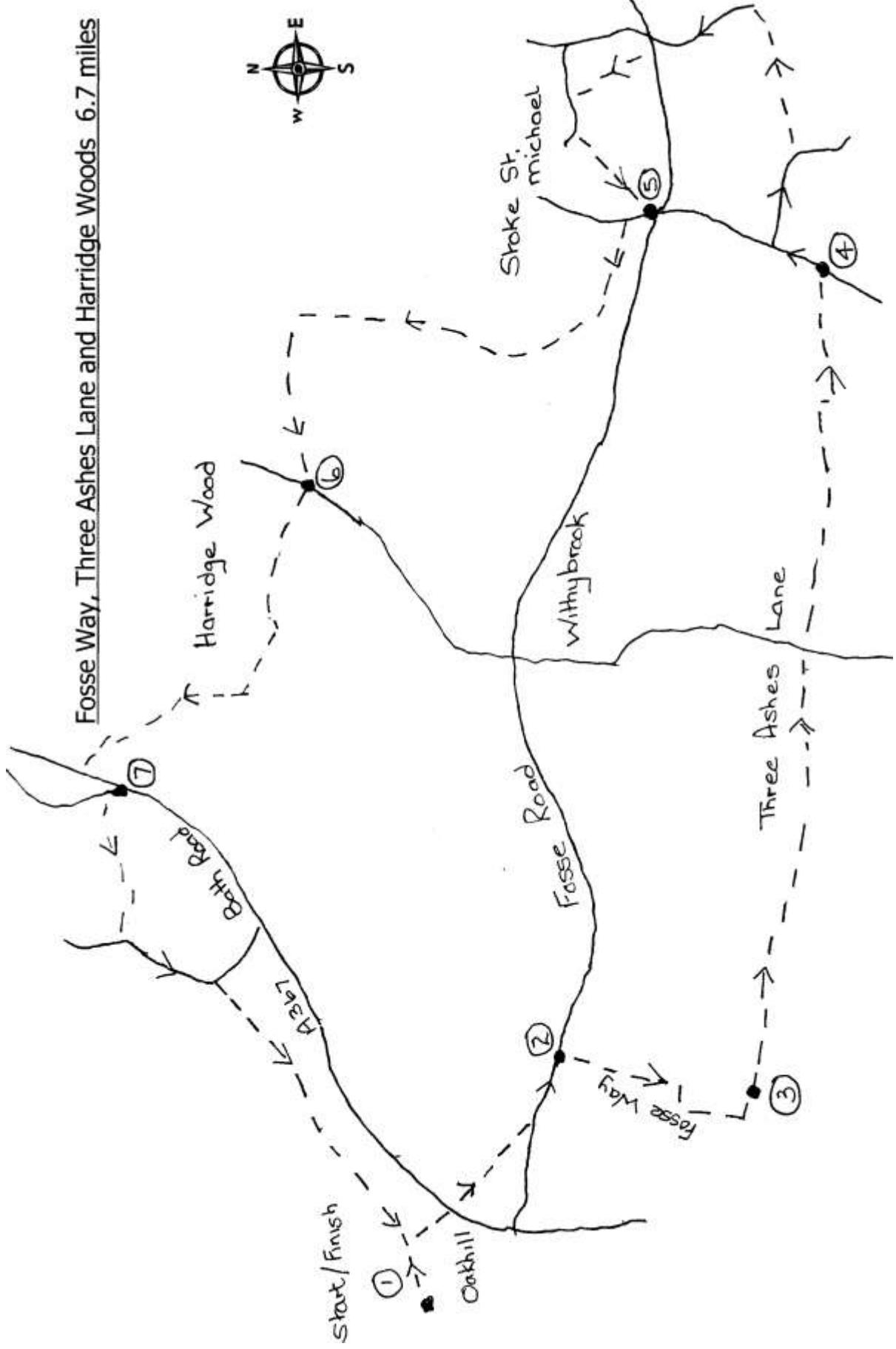
Walk up the Fosse Way Track to the public Bridleway sign.

3. Grid ref. 639465

Turn left and walk down Three Ashes Lane. Go through the bridleway gate ahead and at the bridleway signs turn right to go over the stile and turn left and walk down the side of the hedge. Cross the field to the gate by the stream and go down the rocky track ahead. Continue down the track ignoring all tracks to left and right. Eventually you will come to a road. Cross the road and go down the track opposite. You will eventually come to a gate on your left and a gate ahead with a footpath sign. Ignore this sign and just continue ahead with railings on your left. At the next wooden gate turn right and follow the track round keeping the wooden railings on your right. Continue down the track until you can see the road. Follow the path that comes out onto the road opposite the bungalow ahead

4. Grid ref. 662463

Turn left and take Burge's lane on the right. Climb the hill. Take the path on your left and keep to the side of the hedge. Cross over the two stiles and go through the gate ahead. Go over the stile into Sussana's Lane.



Turn left walk down the lane and at the junction turn left and immediately take the path on your right. Cross the field heading towards the white house ahead. Take the stile in the corner by the barn. Turn left down the road and take the footpath on the left. Go over the stile and across the little bridge over the stream. Turn left and walk down the path at the side of the stream to Stoke St Michael.

5. Grid ref. 664468

Turn left and take the path on your left by the side of Bentley's. Go straight ahead onto the dirt track. When you come to the field, head for the stile in the bottom right hand corner by the skateboard park. Cross the road and take the stile opposite into the field. At the bottom of the valley turn right and head for the track. Walk down the track and you can either take the stile into the woods or just keep to the track. Go over stile and head towards the telegraph pole to the left of the white farm. Walk towards the two poles ahead and go through the gateway.

6. Grid ref. 656478

Follow the track up into Limekiln Wood. Go through the gate and on to the next gate into Harridge Wood Nature Reserve. Go through a kissing gate and carry on into the woods. Go through the kissing gate to the derelict keeper's cottage. Take the track on the right to Nettlebridge. Cross the stream and climb the steps up the hill. Continue along the track through the woods all the way to the gate.

7. Grid ref. 648483

Turn left up the road to the main Bath road. Turn right, walk down the road a few yards, and cross over into Ash Lane. Go over stile ahead and turn left; head up to the top left hand corner by the greenhouse. Walk up the side of the field to the house ahead. Do not go through the gate but follow the arrow signs around the side of the house. Cross stile onto road. Turn left and walk down the lane and pass the turning on your right. As the road bends to the left, take the stone stile on the right. Take the right hand path towards the telegraph pole in the right hand corner. Go through the gate to the stile in the top left hand corner. Go

through the gate ahead to the stile by the bungalow. Cross stile into field and head for stile to the right of the telegraph pole. Cross over stile, sports field and back to the car park.

Beacon Hill, Winsor Hill & Masbury Castle, 7.2 miles

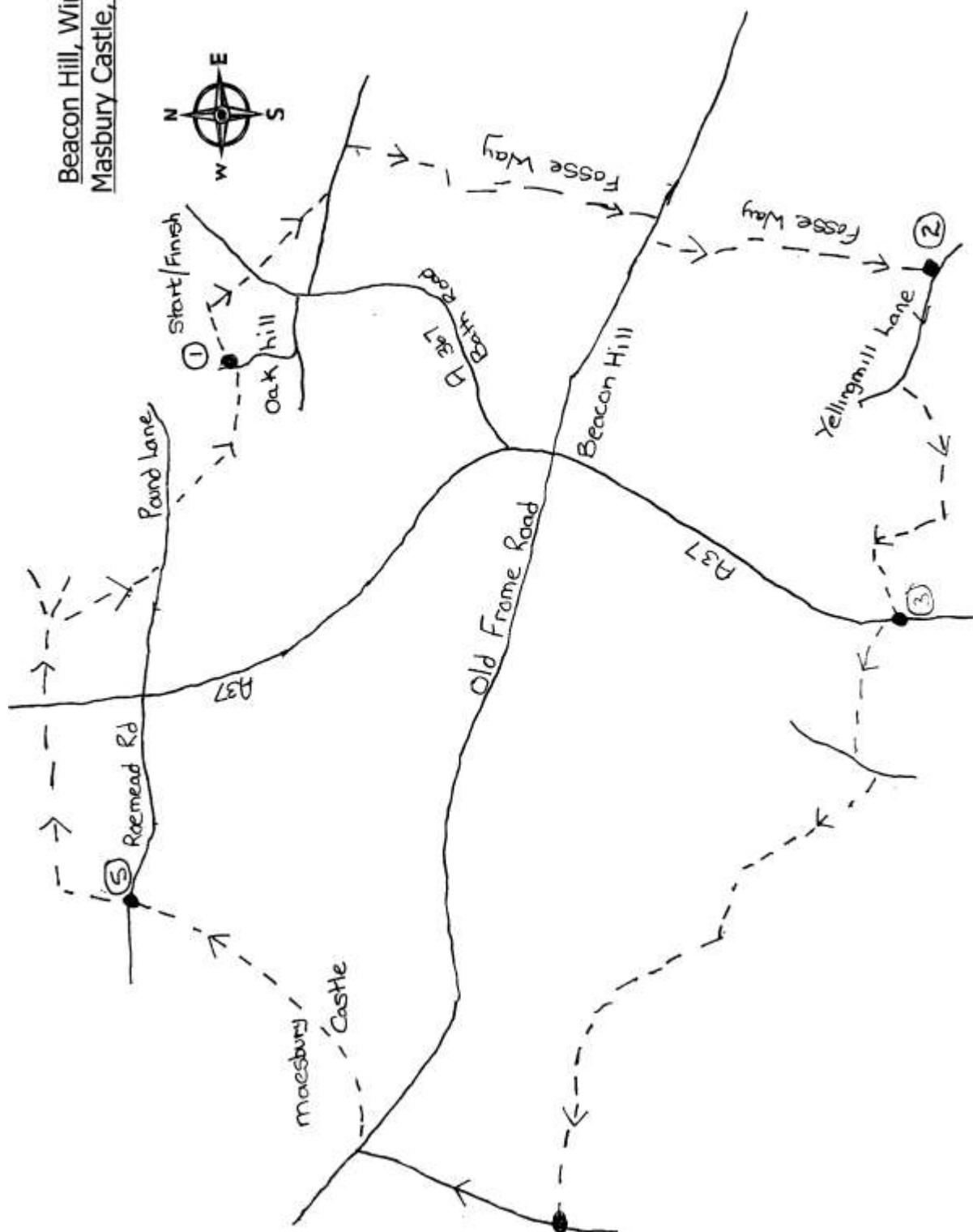
1. Grid ref. 633475

Leave Oakhill Village Hall car park and walk across playing field to a stile and a kissing gate in right hand corner. Go through the kissing gate on your right into a small lane and down the hill take the next kissing gate on the left and then towards the main road until you reach the kissing gate in the wall. Through the gate and very carefully cross the busy A367 to the gate in the security fence immediately opposite. Go through the gate and turn right across the enclosed playing area to a small gate in the corner. Through the gate and go up the brow of the hill and continue towards the long hedge ahead making for the left hand corner of this very large field where you will find a stile onto Fosse Road. Over the stile and turn left along the road passing Park farm on your left, continue for about another 200yds. to The Fosse Toll House on your left and a track opposite on your right. Cross the road and take this track which is part of the original 'Roman Way'. Continue straight up the hill for 3/4 of a mile (there is slight kink to the right halfway up) until the track ends at the Old Frome road. Turn right along the verge of this very busy road for about 100 yards and cross over the road when you reach the entrance to Beacon woods. Go through the gate and the track ahead is the continuation of the old Fosse Way. Follow the main track straight ahead through the woods for a short distance when it swings left downhill and then gently right until it straightens up again at the bottom of the hill. Continue straight ahead on the track for about half a mile where it ends at the intersection of a lane.

2. Grid ref. 635451

Turn right onto the lane and continue for about 300 yds. passing a large farm on your left then a further 100yds and look for a waymarked stile on your left. Cross the stile and head half right up the slope, at the top you should aim towards the bottom right hand corner of this large field. A few yards before the corner you will find a stone stile in the right hand hedge. Cross the stile and with the hedge on your left go straight ahead to the stile in front of you. Cross the stile and straight ahead again past a low barn on your left but this time do not go over the stile in front but when you get to it turn right and with the hedge on your left go up to the top of the field. Go through the gap in the hedge at the top and turn

Beacon Hill, Winsor Hill &
Masbury Castle, 7.2 miles



half left and walk until you can see a stile in the far left corner of the field. Cross the stile and follow the hedge line on your left. At the end of the hedge line turn half left and aim towards the right of buildings ahead to a wooden stile. Cross the stile and the downward steps beyond to the very busy A37.

3. Grid ref. 624452

Take great care crossing this busy main road to the pavement opposite. Do not take the stone stile directly ahead but turn right down the hill and take the next stile on the left just in front of a cottage and barn. Walk straight ahead about half way across the field then head half right down the slope to the right hand corner and through the large gap in the hedge. Straight ahead with a hedge on your right until you reach and cross a stone stile. Cross the small field to the stile opposite which leads onto a lane and turn left and up the hill for about 150yds. to a stile on the right. Go over the stile and down the slope ahead and when the footpath forks, bear right across the stream to a stile deep in the hedge. Cross the stile and out a few yards into the field before turning right up the hill. Pass a lonely abandoned stile and straight on until you reach a fence ahead with a stile and gate (which is usually open) and into the large field beyond. Turn half left and head for the two large trees in the distance, on reaching the trees you will see a stile directly ahead. Cross the stile and with a hedge on your left go down the slope to a stile over a stream and turn right into an enclosed pathway (usually alpacas in the fields either side). At the top of the path cross the farm drive and straight ahead to a stile in the hedge. Go over the stile and slightly right towards a gate in front of a line of trees and over the low stile next to it. Turn left along a track through the trees until you reach a gate at the end and go through to the field beyond. Keep to the left alongside the hedge and stream until you get to the next gate and stile. Go over the stile, now no longer follow the hedge and stream on your left but go straight ahead towards the corner of the next field. When you reach the corner continue straight on with the hedge on your left and continue on to the next stile. Go over the stile and onto a short track until you get to the road at the end.

4. Grid ref 603464

Turn right onto the road half a mile up to the T junction and turn right along the verge for a few yards until you are opposite a stile. Cross this fairly busy road onto the opposite verge and over the stile. Turn half right heading up this very steep hill towards the stile in the top right hand corner of the field. Cross over the stile and climb up the steep slope in front of you - You are now standing on the earth works of Maesbury Castle, an ancient Iron Age settlement. Head slightly right across the settlement towards the opposite embankment and mount the slope at the lowest point which leads to a defined path down to a stile in front of an avenue of trees. Cross the stile and along a short track between the trees then over another stile into a field and walk straight ahead with the hedge line on your left and continue on through the next field. Continue into the next field again where the hedge and a stream are on your right and on nearly to the bottom, where you turn right across the stream. In a few yards look to your left to find a partly hidden stile, cross over to a narrow field beyond, and cross this to a stile which leads onto Roemead Lane.

5. Grid ref. 615478

Turn right and a few yards to the junction where beyond a small triangle of rough ground you will see a stile leading to an enclosed path. At the end of this short path turn right into a green lane, follow this until you reach A37 and cross over this busy road into Limekiln Lane. Follow the lane for about 300 yards and when it bends to the left look for a stile on right (there are two stiles here, make sure you take the right hand one with an iron rail on top). Follow the well marked path across two fields and out onto a lane. Walk a few paces to the junction ahead and turn left into Pound Lane. About 200 yards take a footpath on the right and cross the field towards the left hand edge of the line of conifers then turn left towards the stone stile ahead. Over the stile and turn immediately right for a short distance and then follow the path left through a gate. Continue straight on with a very large hedge on your left and then between houses until you reach the road and the car park.

Fosseway, Chel Lynch & Three Ashes Lane. 7.7 miles

1. Grid ref. 633475

Exit the car park and turn left. After about 500 yards turn left down Dean Lane. Turn right and take the path by the side of the cottage ahead. Take the left hand side of the Maltings marked Private Road. Take path into field on the left, do not take the path marked to the surgery, walk up the field past the houses keeping to the right of an iron fence and cross the stile. Walk across the fields up hill to the main road.

2. Grid ref. 632466

Turn left and walk down the road to the left hand bend. Take the path signposted on the other side of the road and walk up the lane for about 50 yards. Take the path into the field on the left and walk up the field towards the top left hand corner cross double stile and walk 45 degrees left. Go through the gap between the tree and the holly bush and continue to walk across the field to the stile onto the Fosse Way and turn right

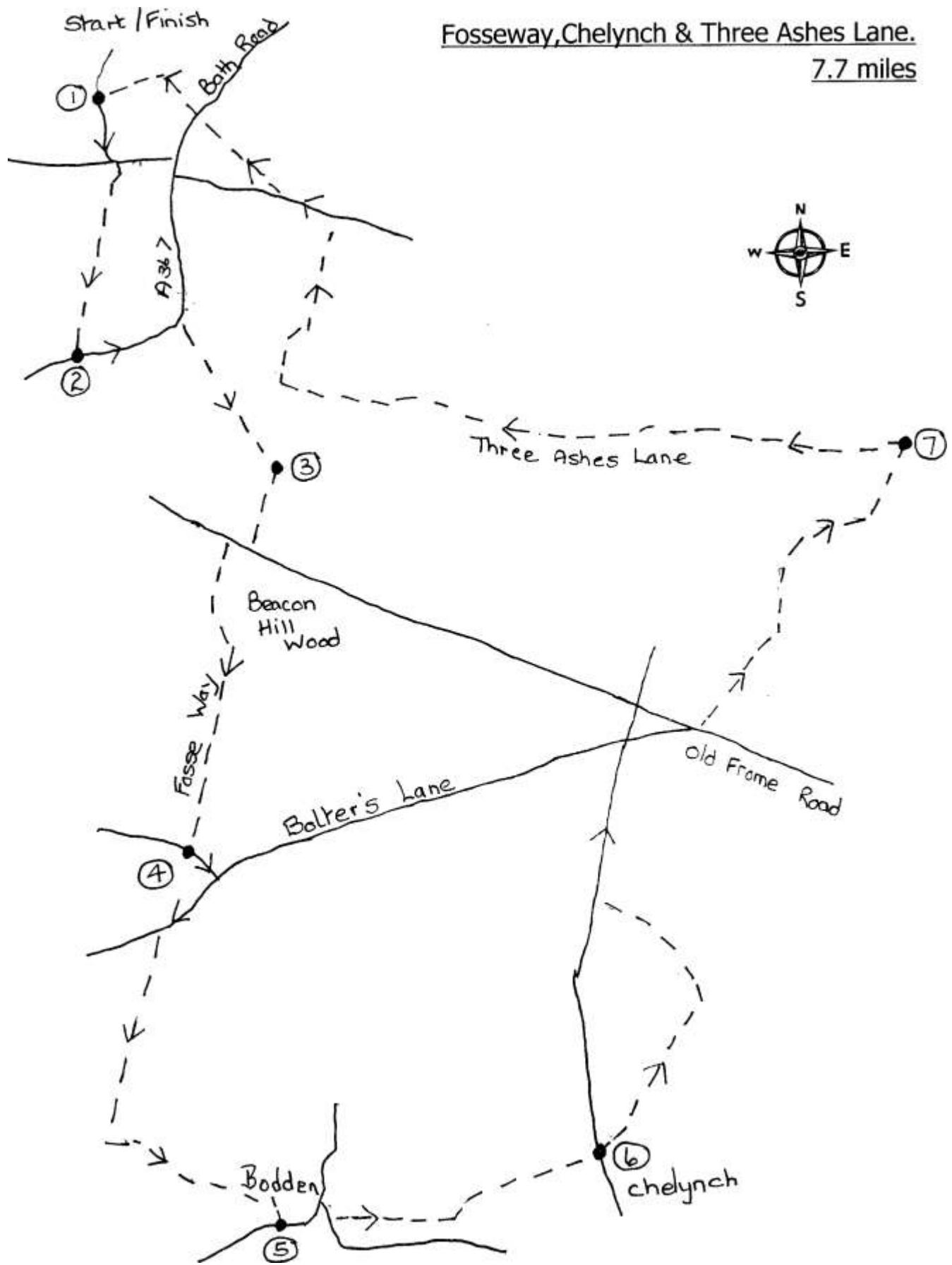
3. Grid ref. 638463

Walk up the Fosse Way to the Old Frome Road. Turn right and cross the road to enter Beacon Hill Wood. Take the well defined path on the right to the viewpoint where there are a couple of seats. After having admired the view follow the path round and back to the main path through the woods. Follow the path to Yellingmill Lane

4. Grid ref. 635451

Turn left and then right at Bolters Lane. Walk down the lane to the bend and take the track ahead onto the Fosse Way. After 0.4miles you will start to see Shepton Mallet on your right and come to a crossroads of paths. Take the path on your left towards Bodden. Head across the field to the stone stile and cross over into the next field. Cross the field to a pair of wooden stiles. Cross these into field and walk towards the gate ahead on your right. Go into lane and turn left down hill (before passing in front of house).

Start / Finish



5 Grid ref. 638439

Turn right at the first junction towards Chel Lynch. Pass Ingsdon Farm and take the footpath over the stone stile on your left by The Hayloft. Follow the footpath sign around the side of the fence. Go over the stile and walk across the field keeping the telegraph poles well to your left and head towards the green barns you can see ahead. Cross over the double stile in field boundary. Go around the back of the buildings keeping them on your right. Go over next stile and continue down the farm track keeping the buildings on your right. Walk towards telegraph poles and continue to a stone stile onto road

6. Grid ref. 648442

Cross the road and over the stone stile onto the East Mendip Way. Walk towards the corner of the part of the field jutting out. Do not cross the stile in front but turn left along the edge of the field. Cross over the stone stile and head for house ahead past two trees on your left. Pass through the kissing gate, across a short field and through another set of kissing gates. Turn left down the track (Newman Street) to Wagon and Horses Hill. Past Windmill Farm, turn right onto Bolters Lane. Cross over the Old Frome Road through gate into field and past barn. Continue down the field ahead and through a gap about 60 yards from the end of the field on your left. Continue walking through this field and cross the stone stile onto a lane. Cross over next stile through a small field, over another stile into large field and walk right 45 degrees. Cross over stile and straight ahead to next stile. Cross two more stiles and across field to a gate and turn left onto Three Ashes Lane

7. Grid ref. 657464

Walk the whole length of this bridleway, crossing Limekiln Lane and ignoring all stiles leading off to the right. Eventually you will come to a gate leading to open fields. Cross this gate and follow the hedge on your right to a gateway. Go through gate, then turn sharp left, keeping the hedge on your left. Follow the path through a second and third gate. At the third gate, turn right and follow the track (Fosse Way) down to the road. Turn left onto road and continue until there are houses on the left

hand side. Pass over the stile on the right hand side of the road and walk diagonally towards the playing field on your left. Pass over the stile into the playing field. Walk across playing field to safety gate and stile leading onto A367 (Bath Road). Cross over the road and go through 2 sets of kissing gates, then follow fence to the stile in the top left hand corner of the paddock. Go over the stile into the field and you will see on your left, the trees bordering the start/finish point.

Gurney Slade, Stratton on Fosse, Stoke Bottom 9 miles

1. Grid ref. 633475

Leave car park and follow playing field boundary hedge to southeast corner. Exit by stone stile and turn slightly left heading towards new bungalow. Cross stiles to right of bungalow and carry straight on across field, through gate and follow right hand hedge to far corner of field, through gate and turn immediately left over stile adjacent to gate. Follow left hedge to gate, through and continue to follow left hedge to stile in corner of field by bungalow and out onto road. Turn right on road and after 20yds take stone stile on left, through small field, in next field follow right hedge to stile in corner at bottom of slope. Cross stile and head straight up field to stile to right of gateway out onto road.

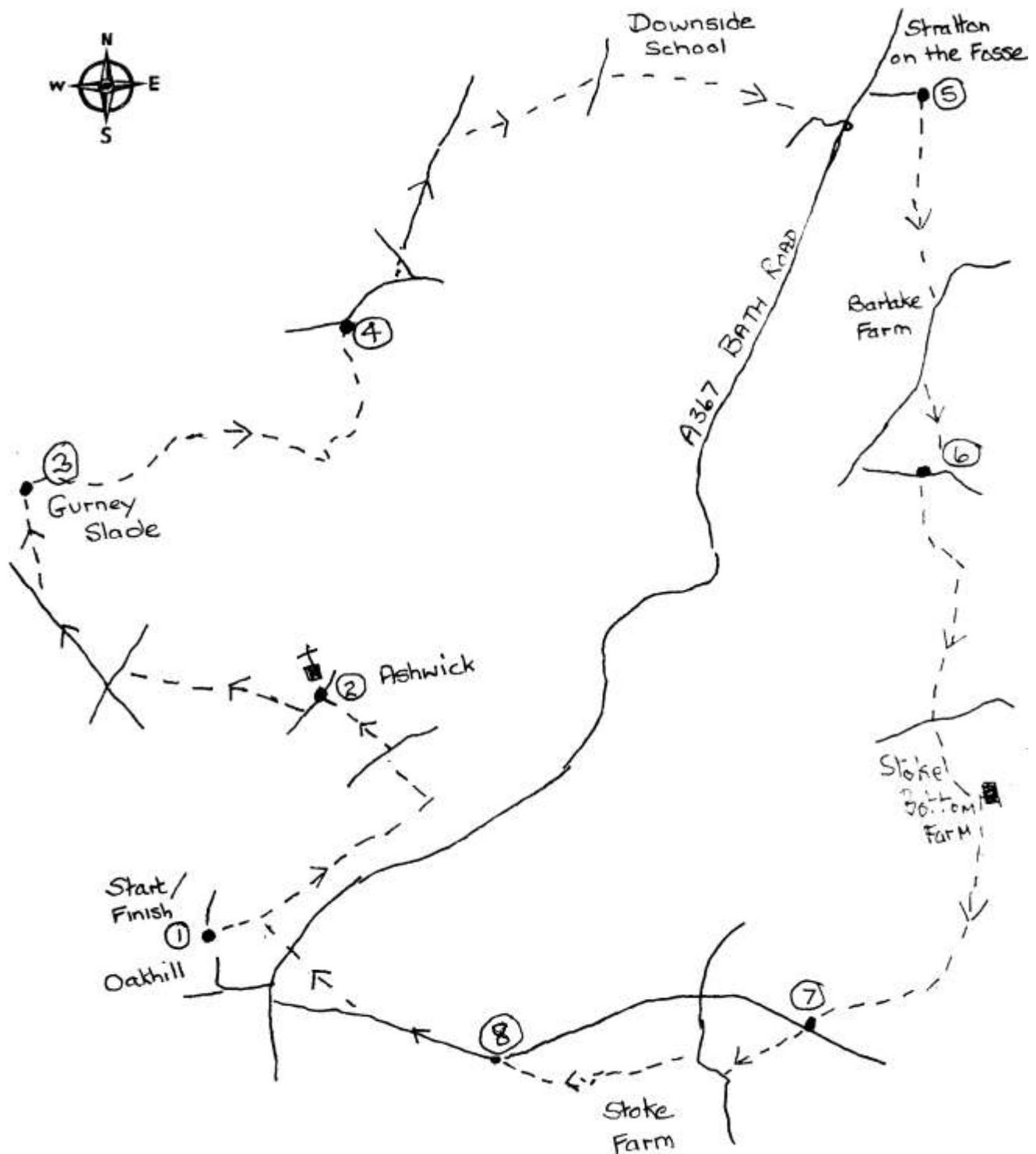
2. Grid ref. 637483

On road turn left away from Ashwick Church, after approx 50yds take path on right in gateway opposite old school house. Follow field wall on right to stile in corner, cross it and keep to left hedge to stile in far corner by the farm. Through the small copse and out over stile bearing slightly left to directly cross three fields using prominent gaps in hedges. In far left corner of third field is well-used gateway with stile to its right. Exit into Bay's Lane. Turn left and follow road approx 40yds to cross roads, turn right on road sign posted Gurney Slade. After approx 300yds take track on right beside Rookery Farm main gates. Follow track down the hill and take stile on right just before track joins road.

3. Grid ref. 626491

Walk straight up field and at top bear slightly left to stile in corner of hedge. Cross stile and walk diagonally to right to gateway, straight across next field towards farm and exit through gate to left of farm. Turn left down track for approx 40yds and turn right through stile and along tree-lined track. Exit through stile on left when track turns sharp right. Then take stile to left at edge of wood, to left of cottage. Walk diagonally right to stile tucked in right corner of field, cross corner of wood and follow left hedge to far left corner stile. Cross it and adjacent stile before turning left down hill (before passing in front of house).

Gurney Slade. Stratton on Fosse. Stoke Bottom 9 miles



Carry straight on down hill, through gateway and straight across to stile in hedge beside trough. Cross stile and bear left diagonally across field, through gate into narrow wood across two stiles. On exiting wood turn diagonally right to stile and onto road.

4. Grid ref. 638498

Turn left on road and immediately right towards Stratton on the Fosse. Stay on road and at top of hill turning left towards Chilcompton. Straight on down Stockhill Road for approx ½ mile then take stile on right adjacent to the last house. Straight across first field to stile and then follow left hedge towards disused coal tip. Exit in far left corner by house and straight across road. Straight ahead through 4 paddocks until exit by stile into path through Downside School grounds. Follow path with school on your left until you reach road. Turn left to main road, cross it and take first turning on right into South Street. Follow road around to next junction, turn right and take stile approx 30yds on right.

5. Grid ref. 659509

Walk directly down and up the slope of field and take kissing gate or stile in far right corner adjacent to corner of farm. Once through you need to carry on through hedge and turn left with farm behind you and hedge on your left. When you lose hedge on left you carry straight on for approx ½ mile across five fields (the path follows to the right of the telegraph pole for 3 fields and then bears to their left as you enter 4th). You exit through a gateway onto Pitcot Lane. Turn right along the road, approx 100yds past Barlake farm, take the stile in wall on left. Turn right and follow boundary to two stiles which you cross and then head diagonally down to gate by gable end of house. Exit on to road, turn right for approx 50yds and take stile on left.

6. Grid ref. 658493

Follow right hand boundary across two fields. After entering third field, take stile approx 40yds in right hand hedge. Cross it and bear left down towards Flowers Cottage. Take stile to left of cottage and then follow path straight ahead through Harridge Wood, until it joins track in front of house where you turn left and follow it out onto road. Cross road to road that leads to Stoke Bottom Farm. Follow road down around to farm and take path through gate to left of house garage.

Walk straight up field and over stile into Folly Wood. Continue straight up path and then track. At 3-way stile continue straight ahead passing behind Hyatts Hill, taking gate and track to farm. On reaching Lovells Farm take gate to right, over stile, turning left to pass behind the farm buildings. Cross to stile in far left corner of field and continue to come out on road by new bridge at Withybrook.

7. Grid ref. 654475

On road turn left and immediately right up drive and over stile in front of cottage. Follow right hedge across field to road, exiting beside lower farm buildings. Turn right down road and then take stile on left just past entrance to Stoke Farm. Cross field bearing slightly left (to left of copse), cross stile and diagonally left to stile adjacent to wall. Cross it and carry straight on until stile onto track. Turn right down track for approx 30yds and take first entranceway on left. Follow along into farmyard and then turn right out of yard onto drive where there is stile on left in front of farmhouse. Cross field in front of house to two stiles opposite. After the second stile turn diagonally right down to gateway and out onto Fosse Road.

8. Grid ref. 643470

Turn left and follow road approx 1/2 mile to stile on right (just before 30mph signs). Cross stile and bear diagonally right across field to stile in far left corner. Cross school field, onto and straight across main road. Take kissing gate and follow post and rail fence up slope to kissing gate. Pass through and turn left back to car park start point.

Gurney Slade, Chilcompton, Emborough and Binegar; 9 miles

1. Grid ref. 633475

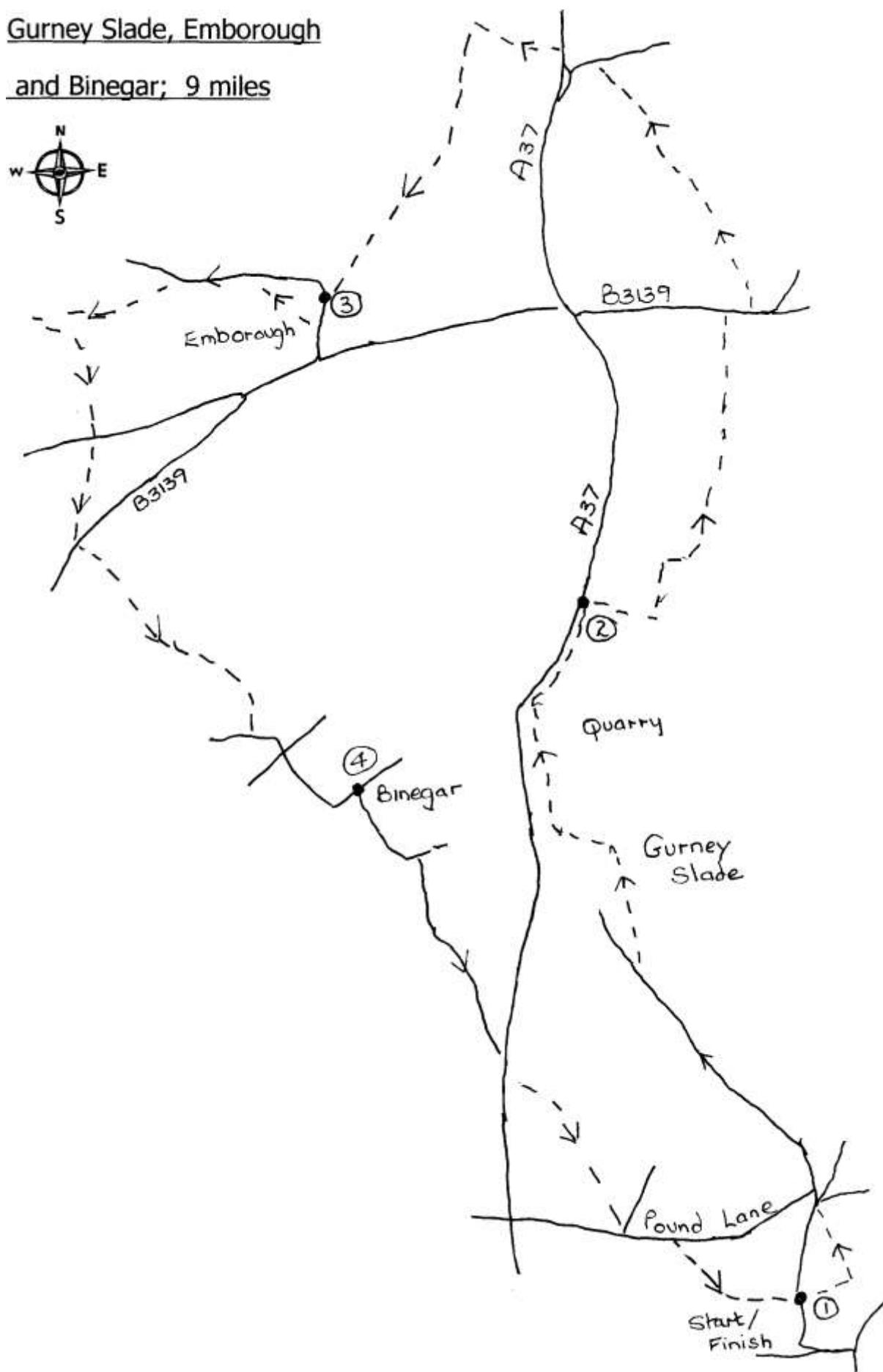
From the car park entrance, following the public footpaths round the sports field to exit from the far left hand corner onto the road, carry straight ahead towards Badgers Cross and Gurney Slade. After Badgers Cross, crossroads, you reach a house on the right with large gates, take the well defined footpath just past this house to the right. Continue down this footpath until it becomes a road and meets Gurney Slade quarry. Turn left along the road, just before the houses on the right, turn right and immediately right up a footpath into a wooded area. After approx. 50 metres take a footpath to the left, following around the edge of the quarry, keeping the quarry on your right. When you reach a stone stile cross this and continue bearing right. You will come to the A37 road.

2. Grid ref. 624502

Turn right along a wide verge past some large stones, cross over a stile on your right into a field. Cross the field keeping the hedge on your right, when you reach a stile in the hedge, cross this and turn left. Continue to the next stile, cross this and then another immediately on your left. Go straight ahead keeping the hedge on your left. Cross a stile at the end of this field onto a farm track, turn right and go past the farmhouse, continue straight ahead, when the track turns right go through the gate straight ahead into a field. Keep the hedge on your right and pass through three fields. At the bottom of the last field there is a square area with a stone stile in the left hand corner, cross this and then a wooden stile straight in front of you. Carry on across this field keeping the hedge on your left to cross a stile and pass under an old railway bridge, this takes you onto a farm track. Turn right and then left at the minor road, this takes you out to the B3139 road, turn right. After approx. 100 metres turn left, just before the sign for Clapton. The footpath takes you beside Whitchurch bungalow, cross the stile and through the gates into the stable yard. Continue straight ahead into the field, to cross a stone stile, keeping the hedge on your right next cross a wooden stile.

Gurney Slade, Emborough

and Binegar; 9 miles



Cross this field diagonally left, Pass through the gate continue ahead keeping the hedge on your left to cross a stile next to a gate into a lane. Continue ahead and turn left when the lane joins a minor road to reach the A37 road, turn right and cross the road to take a footpath at the side of the house. Carry on ahead keeping the hedge on your left to reach a gap. After a gap keep the hedge on your right. When you reach a metal gate and stile, do not cross but turn left across the field to a stile in the far hedge, cross this and continue to cross a stile on your right, go diagonally left across the field towards the church on the horizon. Pass through a gate and continue to the top right hand corner of this field. Cross the stile onto the lane by the church, turn left and walk up the road for a few metres.

3. Grid ref. 614513

Take the stone stile on the right, cross diagonally to the far right hand corner, cross another stone stile and a wooden one to enter a minor road. Turn left and follow this for approx. two hundred metres, until you reach a footpath sign between two houses on your left. Cross the stile to turn right and then right again between two garden sheds. Cross a stile, turn left through a garden to cross a stile into a field. Cross diagonally right to the top corner, cross a stile, bear slightly left to a gateway in the far hedge. Do not pass through the gateway but turn left uphill towards the double electric poles. When you reach the poles, head across the field to a house with a tennis court, keeping the house and tennis court on your left pass through a gate and continue ahead. Cross a stile taking you onto a minor road, turn left and after ten metres turn right through a farm gate with two footpath signs. Head down across the field towards some fir trees, cross a stile and pass between the fir trees and proceed towards the road to cross a plank bridge and stile taking you onto the B3139. Cross this road to enter a track through a farm gate, follow the track into a field, three quarters of the way down the field there is a stile on the right. Cross this and head to a gate in a stone- wall, pass through the gate and over the stone stile to the right. Go ahead to pass by the duck pond on your right, next cross a wooden stile and a stone stile onto the road. Turn left along the road, continue past the cross roads to cross a stone stile on the left, to go behind the church. You will join the roads. Proceed straight ahead down station road.

4. Grid ref. 616494

Continue past the Horse and Jockey public house, turn right into Nevilles Batch. Carry on past Binegar Bottom to find a stile on the right, just after a sharp bend. Cross this stile to go up through a wooded area, in a short distance you will come to another stile, cross this and turn right along a minor road. Upon reaching the A37 road turn right for a few metres then cross the road to pass through a field gate. Cross the field diagonally right, pass through the gap at the far end of the right hand hedge and continue ahead to cross the stone stile into a green lane, turn left and immediately right. Pass over a stone stile, keep the hedge on your left and continue ahead, until you reach a metal gate onto a road. At the sign post on the cross - roads take the road to Neighbourne along Pound Lane. In approximately two hundred metres, cross a stile on your right. Cross a field diagonally left to reach a stone stile into a group of trees. Follow the path through the woods, pass through the gate between two fences to a track leading onto the road. Cross the road to the Car Park.

Withybrook, Cranmore Tower, Long Cross 10.6 miles

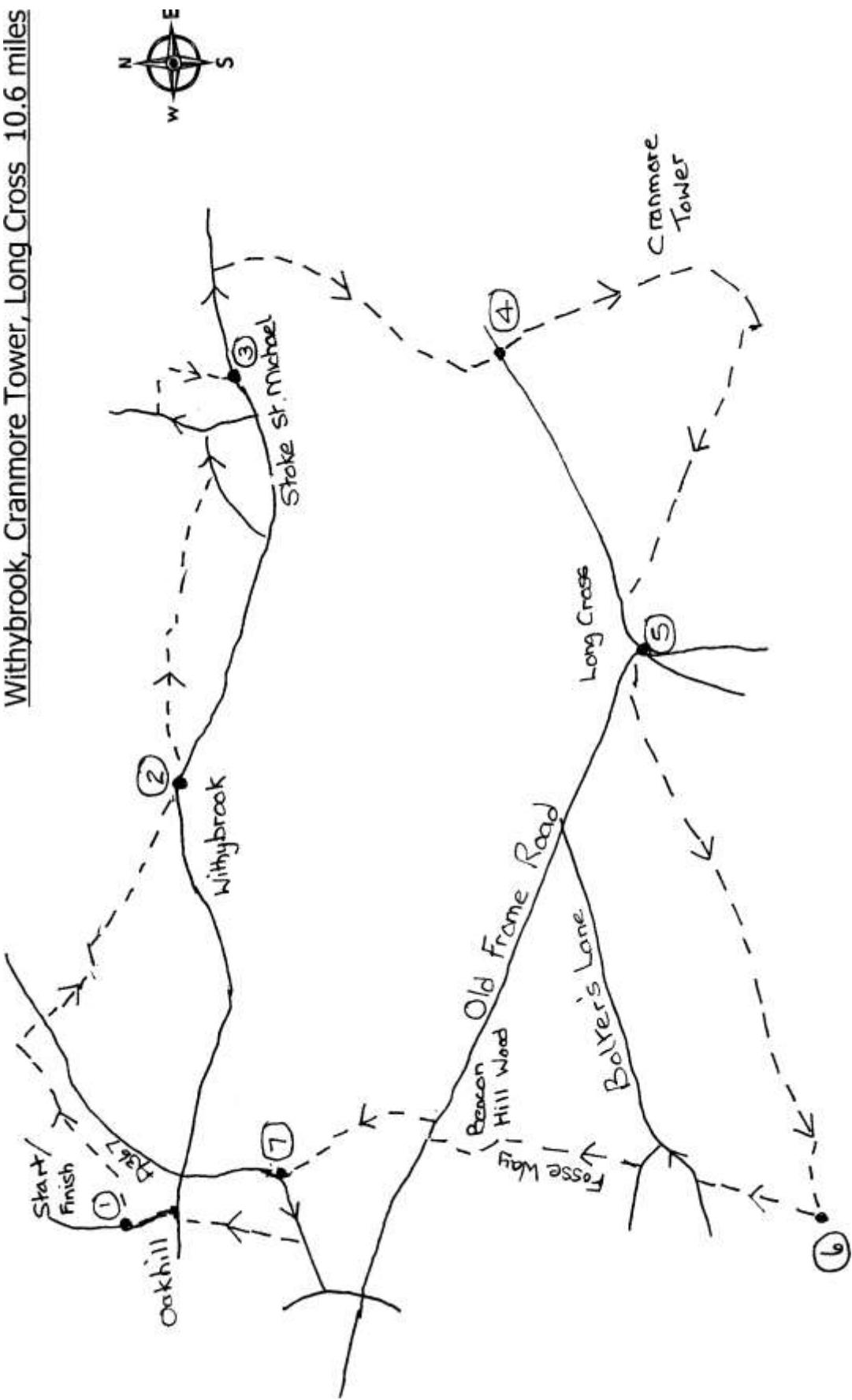
1. Grid ref. 633475

Start with your back to the village hall and cross the playing field alongside the hedge on your right to reach a stone stile. Once over the stile head for the bungalow across the field. Cross a farm track and the two stiles alongside the right of the bungalow. Continue ahead to a metal gate and then follow the right-hand side hedge in the next field to reach a stone stile leading into another field. Remain following the hedge on the right to the end of the field where you turn right immediately after leaving it through a metal gate. Follow the hedge on the right to a stone stile out onto a road. Turn right along the road and very shortly turn left off it over a stone stile. Follow the obvious path across the field to the woods ahead. Having entered the woods via a stone stile, go right then immediately left so that you are descending on a path bounding on your right by a stone wall. Continue down into the valley bottom and cross another path shortly before reaching an old stone bridge with metal hand rails. Beyond this bridge ascend up out of the valley eventually leaving the woods via a very high old stone stile. In the fields ahead stay alongside the left hand hedge and pass over a wooden stile and a step over a wooden fence before crossing a tarmaced lane via two stone stiles. Now turn about a quarter right and aim across the field towards houses where a wooden stile leads out onto a road.

2. Grid ref. 652472

Turn left along this road and very soon, just before Withybrook Cottage, take the footpath on the left over a stone stile. Start beside a wall on your right but then where it turns go straight across the field to find a wooden stile into the next field. With the hedge on your right continue to where a line of overhead wires split near the end of the field. IGNORE the stile to the right beside a metal gate and look left across to a hedge where there's a wooden stile partially obscured by holly.

Withybrook, Cranmore Tower, Long Cross 10.6 miles



In the next field keep to the hedge on your right and go through a metal gate beside a cottage into the next field. The hedge ends as you descend into a dip. Here you need to go slightly right so that as you ascend out of the dip you are following the next hedge line and small wood on your left. Cross the road ahead via two wooden stiles and then go across a field to a double wooden stile. Beyond notice housing on your right before you come out onto another lane through a small wooden gate. Cross the lane and the stile directly opposite. Go downhill to a "squeeze" on the right of a wooden gate and small derelict building. Turn right to get out onto a lane and here turn left uphill, immediately passing a small pumping station on the left. Continue up the lane to a T-junction, turn left and after a short while take the footpath on your right over a metal bar stile. Follow the fence on the left to another metal bar stile and once over it turn half right and walk across the field to a metal gate within a boundary wall, just beyond a small overgrown fenced off area. Go through the metal gate and cross a small field to a wooden stile on the left of an old rusty gate. Beyond turn left onto the farm track and left again where it joins a tarmac track. Immediately pass Somerfield bungalow on the right and reach a road. Turn left and ascend gently along the road.

3. Grid ref. 671470

Take the second footpath on the right before reaching houses. Negotiate the wooden stile and take the left forking path towards a stile in the wooden fence at the top left hand corner of the field. Immediately beyond it go over a pair of wooden stiles, one above the other, in the hedge to your right. Continue straight ahead through the middle of the next field and over a wooden stile in a fence line. Pass buildings on the left and reach another stile which leads out onto a lane. Cross this lane and the stile on the other side. Now keep along the hedge on the right to another wooden stile, and then go straight across the middle of the next field to the next wooden stile. At this point start heading half right and walk towards a wooden stile beside a metal gate in the corner of the field ahead. On the other side of this stile bear slightly left so as to head towards another wooden stile beside trees which hide a large pond. In the next field keep the hedge (and the obscured pond) on your

right, and then go through a gap in the hedge and straight across the next field. A metal gate leads out onto a lane where you turn left and shortly cross the main Old Wells road to enter Cranmore Wood on a stony track beside Mendip Lodge.

4. Grid ref. 672459

Walk straight on where another track joins from the left and keep to the main track as it descends into a dip. At the bottom go straight ahead uphill on a smaller track as the main track veers left. With the edge of the wood always alongside on the right continue on a gentle ascent all the way to Cranmore Tower, crossing a prominent bridleway a little before reaching it. At the tower continue straight ahead along a small track with the line of beech trees on your right, ignoring the broad grassy track between a high fence and the beech trees, and soon leave the woods through a "squeeze". Descend, with the hedge on your right, to a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and aim half left downhill on a well worn path which passes through a patch of gorse and leads out onto an ancient track (Dalimore Lane) via another kissing gate. Turn right and follow this track uphill for a short while until you reach a footpath on the left where a small bridleway gate takes the route into a field. Keeping the hedge on your left go through two fields and over two wooden stiles. Next continue alongside a wood through a third field to a small wooden bridleway gate. On the other side the track becomes more pronounced and soon passes a house on the left. Follow what is now a broad motorable track out onto the main road. Here turn left and continue to another road where you turn right.

5. Grid ref. 659452

Very shortly you will see a road turning left, beside which a footpath begins at a stone stile. Go over the stile and looking across the field you should see two metal farm gates in the far hedge. Head for the one on the right and negotiate the stone stile you will find beside it. Now follow the hedge on your left to a short concrete bridge between two stiles.

Beyond keep along the hedge through a narrow field to reach metal gates either side of a farm track and footpath. The route continues

through the gates and then follows the hedge on your left to a wooden stile. Ahead there is another wooden stile which leads out onto a tarmaced track. Across this track, slightly to your left, take the footpath over a wooden stile into a huge field. Go straight ahead, ascending gently, until you get to a farm gate. At this point you cross a road and continue over a wooden stile on the other side. You will now need to bear very slightly left across the field to find a stone stile leading into the next field. Beyond here follow the low crumbling stone wall on your left to a wooden stile and another field. Still following the low wall soon reach a metal gate, then follow the hedge out onto the road through a further two fields and their associated metal gates. Turn left and immediately right so as to continue your route across the road over a stone stile. Across the field negotiate a wooden stile in a fence line before coming to another wooden stile at the right hand end of another fence line. Here turn right and follow the hedge on the right to a stone stile with an associated wooden stile. On the other side turn half-left aiming for the corner of the field where you will find a wooden stile beside a gate leading out onto the Fosse way.

6. Grid ref 633443

Turn right on this broad stony track and follow it out to a road. Turn right along the road and take the first road on the left. Turn right off this road where a gate and boulders prevent vehicular access to the continuation of the Fosse Way. Head toward Beacon Hill on this initially straight broad track. At the second of two short boundary stones the track takes a long left loop and you start the climb up to a road. Red daubed marker posts appear to confirm your route. On reaching the road turn right so that you keep just inside the wood for the short distance to a gap in the fence opposite a broad stony track on the other side of the road. Go down this track (it's the Fosse way again) and just after the second field, a narrow one, on your left take the footpath on your left. From the wooden stile take a half left direction so that you go through a gap in the hedge ahead. Maintaining this same direction descend towards the bottom corner of the next field, just before which another gap leads you through into another field. Ahead there is an obvious double stile through a hedge. Beyond here, still maintaining the

same general direction, descend further to a wooden stile just up from the corner of the field which goes into a track. Here turn right and very soon emerge onto a main road.

7. Grid ref. 635468

Cross the road and turn left up its footpath. Continue uphill to a stone stile on your right. Go over this stile and descend towards Oakhill, guided to the next wooden stile by the fence on your right. Next pass housing on the left and soon join their access road which leads out onto a road through Oakhill. Turn right along this road, opposite Westbourne House, and then take the first road left up Zion Hill. Immediately fork right up Dean Lane. At the top turn right and continue uphill to the starting point at Oakhill Village Hall

Midway, Great Gains Wood, Edford Wood, & Harridge Wood.

12 miles

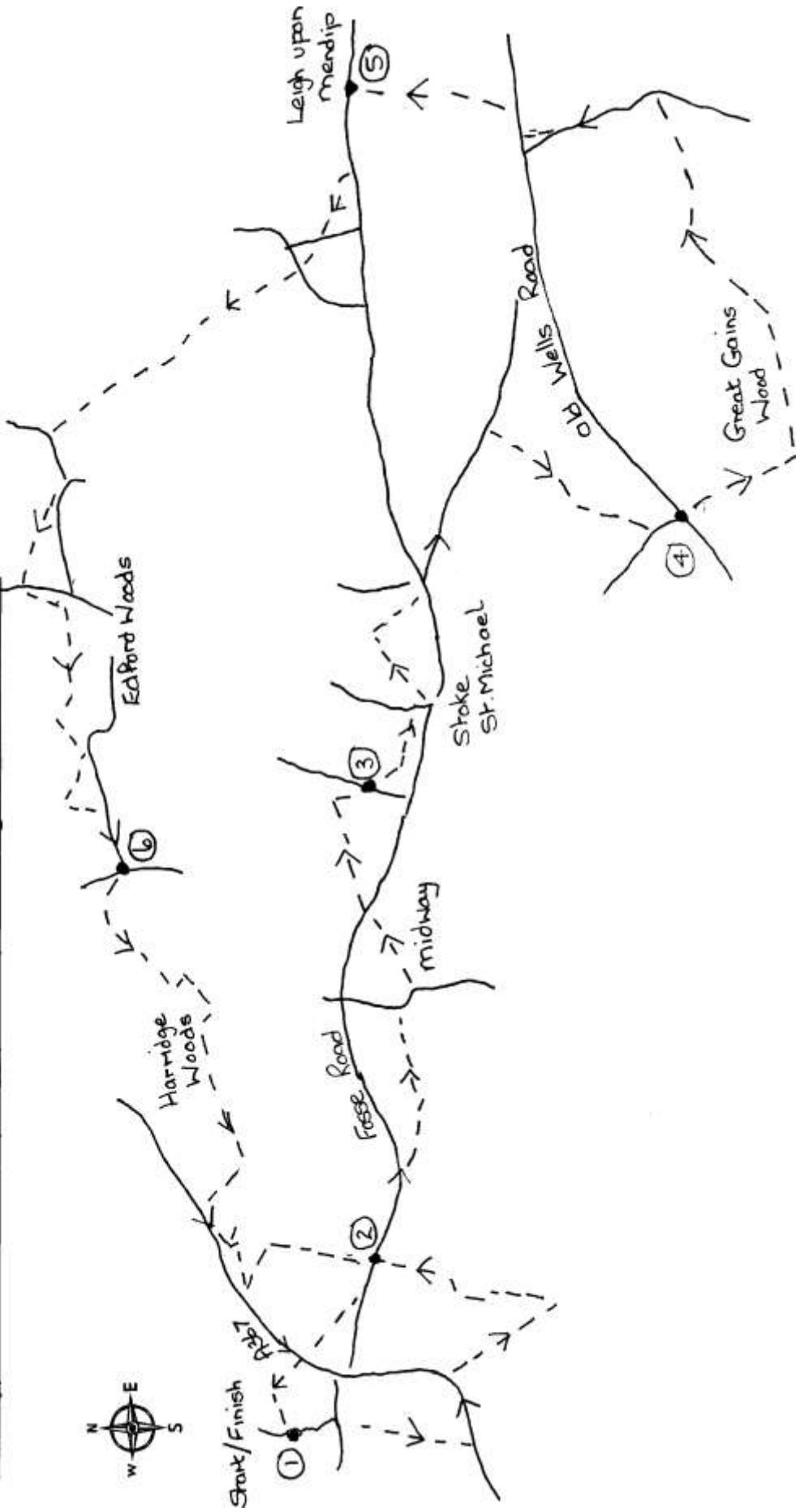
1. Grid ref. 633475

Go to the road from the village Hall car park turn left down hill and into Dean lane continue down the hill to reach the T junction at the bottom, turn right and then left up the lane opposite passing Courage Cottage, at the top bear left towards a small gate then turn right, follow the grassy path through the trees to enter a field via a stile continue straight up the hill to reach the A367. Turn left, when the road bends to the left cross and walk up the track opposite to reach a stile on your left, once over this go slightly left uphill to cross a double stile, keeping in the same direction go through the gap in the hedge on your left across two more fields to cross a stile in the far corner of the second field onto the Fosse Way. Turn left down the track following this as it winds down hill to reach the road at the bottom.

2. Grid ref. 640471

Turn right walk along the road which is narrow in places, just after Lower Fosse cottage on your right, Take the gate on your right then the left hand of the two paths heading towards the farm follow the path across four stiles to reach the drive, turn right walk up to the farmyard then turn left between the buildings to reach a track with a barrier across, go round this, turn right then take the stile on your left and follow this path round the paddocks to emerge into a field go slightly left to cross a stile then straight ahead to cross a stile onto a lane. Turn right follow the lane, where it bends right go straight ahead following the hedge on your left through a gateway and on to cross a stone stile and out to the road. Cross the road and the new stone stile opposite follow the path to cross the stile ahead into a paddock cross the stile in front of you. (*The path here has been diverted and now passes behind the farm not through it*) As you reach the end of the buildings cross a stile next to a gate on your right through a gate at the bottom onto a farm track turn left and follow this to a farm gate once through this turn right going up hill to cross a stile onto a lane cross this into the parking area.

Midway, Great Gains Wood, Edford Woods, & Harridge Wood. 12 miles



3. Grid ref. 660471

Cross the playing field going slightly right to pass through a kissing gate near to the large tree(*not the one in the corner*) follow this path between the houses to reach a road, turn right then take the first footpath on the left which follows a stream, at the junction turn right over a bridge and stile then follow the path left to reach a lane, Turn right up hill then right again at the first path, over the stile then aim uphill for the gate at the top of this field to emerge onto a road, turn left ignore turnings both ways keep straight ahead, just past Sommers Farm on your left take the first path on your right aim to the left of the cottage at the top of the hill cross a stile turn left onto a lane follow this until you come to a path both ways, turn right over the stile heading a little to the right cross the stile then onto cross a double stile, a track and a stile then go slightly left to cross a double stile in the hedge now go slightly right to cross a bridge at the bottom of the hill go up the other side to cross a stile onto a road. Turn left to a T junction, turn left and follow this up to the Old Wells Road.

4. Grid Ref. 672458

Cross the road follow the path pass the cottage to reach a track follow this until it bears to the left by a pond, bear right soon to reach a gate on your right here turn left taking the centre path and follow the East Mendip Way through Great Gains Wood to emerge into a field via a kissing gate, still follow the East Mendip Way downhill, at the bottom go along a track then left through a kissing gate to cross fields to reach Downhead. Turn left up the road as you near the top look for a stile on your right, cross this (*this path around the farm has been diverted. os map is now wrong*) aim for the gate at the bottom corner of the field cross the stile, the road and the stile opposite and go straight up the hill to the stile at the top then you aim for the bottom right hand corner of this field, go over the stile and aim for the houses to the left cross a bridge through a gate at the top of the field. Walk between the houses through some large wrought iron gates to the road at Leigh on Mendip.

5. Grid Ref. 690472

Turn left and follow the road until you reach the playing field on your right (*opposite Park Hayes*) go through the small white gate aiming for the pavilion. Follow the path round to reach the car park, go through the kissing gate, follow the path across the field, exit via a gate. Go over the road cross the stile and follow the path to the cottage, cross the hidden stile to the left of the gate and out to the road, cross this go through the gate and follow this well trodden path across four fields to enter Hurdlestone Woods follow the path to the road at the bottom go through the kissing gate opposite, bear left heading towards the signpost halfway across the field then on down hill to pass through the gate at the bottom, keep on in the same direction to reach and cross a stile follow the path into Ham Farm and on to reach the road, go through the gate opposite then walk the length of the field to cross a bridge and stile into the next field cross two more fields in the same direction to reach a road. Cross the stile opposite turn left and aim for a stile at the top of the field cross this and the next stile then turn right and enter Edford Woods via a stile, follow the path through the woods to emerge on to a road, turn right then right again through a kissing gate then left at the next gate walk through the woods to reach a stile (*again this path has been diverted. os map is now wrong*) cross the stile turn left and follow the path until you come to a track turn left to reach the road, turn right along the road to reach the junction at Stoke Bottom.

6. Grid ref. 657482

Cross the stile in front of you, ignore the path to the right, keeping straight ahead to pass through a kissing gate follow the wide path up hill to a junction turn right then first left, follow this path until you come to a turning on your left. Turn here go down the steps to cross a bridge and on up to the path at the top next to an old building. Turn right follow the path through the woods until you come to a 3 way junction take the path on the right which takes you uphill along side an old wall, cross the stone stile to your right at the top, head across the field to cross a stone stile onto the A367. Turn left along the road to reach the

wide area on the bend ahead where you should see a way mark on the gate post follow the driveway to the bottom then turn right through a gate then at the next gate turn left up the track to cross a stile at the top then cross another stile and follow the fence on your right across the fields through a small paddock and on to the road. Turn right following the road until you reach a stile on the right cross this and aim slightly left towards the A367 ahead of you cross a stile into the school field and out to the road cross and go through two gates follow the path up hill to go through another gate turn left back to the village hall.

Maesbury and Croscombe – 12.1 miles

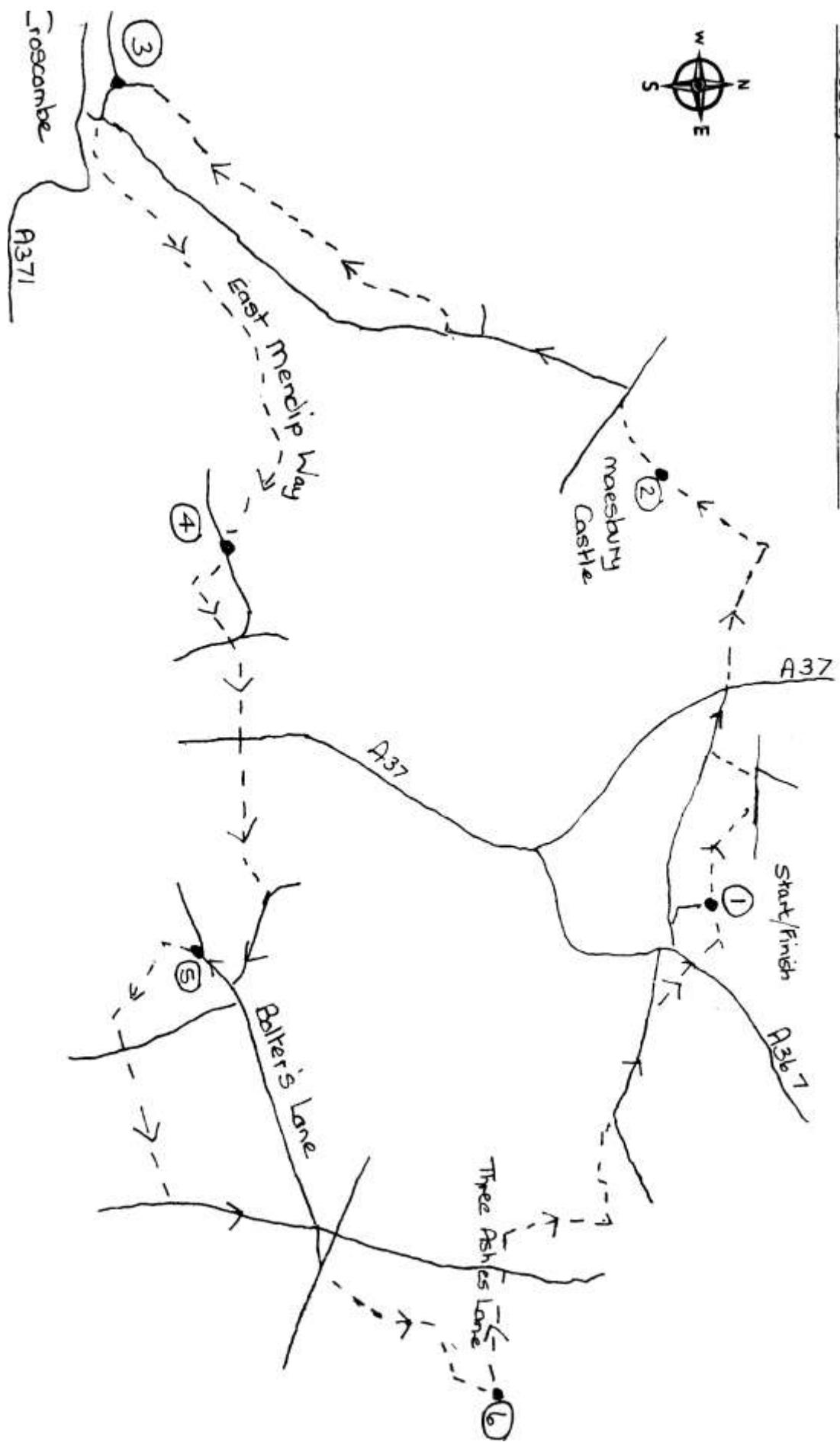
1. Grid ref. 633475

Leave the VH car park by the road entrance. Cross the road and go along the drive just to the left. Continue along this drive and onto a footpath between a high hedge to the right and a wooden fence. Right at the pedestrian gate to reach a stone stile into a field then half left across the field and over another stone stile onto a lane. Left on the lane and along to crossroads, turn left along Galley Batch Lane and almost immediately on your right go over a stile with a metal bar top rail into a field, half left across and over another stone stile into a paddock. Follow the fence line on your right through a field gate and across this paddock to cross another stone stile onto a road. Turn right and continue along the road, crossing the A37 to reach Golf Links Lane. Where the lane turns left continue straight ahead on the footpath. Follow this path through a narrow wooded area and then straight ahead across 4 field boundaries, keeping the hedge just to your right. You then pass a stone stile on your right (footpath that way leads to B3135) and cross a small stream. Immediately after the stream a marker post shows the path turns left to ascend to Maesbury Castle. Continue with the stream on your left through a field gate (where you leave the stream) and then straight up through a series of kissing gates and past a line of old beech trees. To the left of the final two kissing gates is the 14th tee on the course at the Mendip Golf Club.

2. Grid ref. 611472

Climb a short steep slope to reach the inner section of Maesbury Castle. The line of the path goes slightly right here, but suggest you go straight ahead. Turn right when you reach the circular path on the other side of Maesbury Castle and look ahead and to your left to find a field gate with a stile to its right. Take care whilst descending by the short steep path, over the stile turn half left and descend, over the stile by the field gate and turn right onto the Old Frome Road. After a few yards turn left down the road signposted to Croscombe and Dinder.

Maesbury and Croscombe - 12.1 miles



Continue straight on past Crapnell Lane, signposted Dinder 2 1/4 miles, until you see farm buildings to your left. Just before you are level with the buildings turn right along the lane that looks like a farm track. The lane shortly turns sharp left by a dilapidated corrugated metal hay barn. Continue along this lane with its humps, bumps, twists and turns as it descends to Croscombe.

3. Grid ref. 590444

On reaching Croscombe turn left before reaching the church along Pound Fold then turn left on reaching Rock Street. Do not go up Thrupe lane but continue straight ahead on Boards Lane. Where Boards Lane turns sharp right keep straight on through a kissing gate on a footpath. Continue straight on and then descend to join another footpath leading up from the A371 Wells Road. Turn left then over a stile by a field gate into Ham Woods. Keep straight on the stony path rising up through Ham Woods. After about 1 mile the East Mendip Way joins your path from the left and you can see the old railway viaduct ahead through the trees; behind you is a marker post saying Wells 3 3/4 miles. The path turns right here; keep to it over a short steep hump and past an old brick building, then two further humps to reach an old quarry to your left. Turn left off the main path so that the quarry face is now to your right, keep on past the quarry face to reach and go up a short flight of stone steps. At the top of the stone steps a marker post directs you to the right and a series of steps up the steep slope. Through a kissing gate at the top, follow the path to the left around the edge of the field through a kissing gate and left on a lane.

4. Grid ref. 615450

Along the lane for about 150 yds turn right over a metal stile and follow the path as marked with a paddock to the left. After the first paddock descend to reach another and when the main path turns right go over the steps on your left into the paddock. Continue straight ahead past an old stone building to the far side of the paddock. Over a step then a stile, follow the path by the side and at a higher level than the lane till you join it at the T junction. Continue straight across the road and over

a stone stile then keeping the hedge to your right reach another stile then through a gateway to reach the unoccupied Southview Farm. Straight ahead through the farm to reach a stone stile to left of an old farm building with the A37 directly ahead and the Downside Inn to the left. Cross the A37 and over a stile opposite the Inn, keep going straight ahead with the hedge to your left over a ladder stile. With the field gate to Yewtree Farm in front, go left through another field gate then immediately right over a stile. Continue straight ahead with the farm to your right, over two stone stiles. After crossing the second that has a tree growing out of it turn left uphill towards a couple of power line posts. On cresting the hill you see to your left a gateway with a stile and marker post. Over this, right on the road and right when you get to the T junction. After about 250 yds turn left onto the Fosse Way.

5. Grid ref. 634449

After about 200 yds go left over the stile and half right across the field to reach a double stile in the far corner by a dog-leg in the field boundary. Continue half right then straight on over a wooden stile to reach a stone stile by Bodden Lane. Turn left on Bodden Lane then right through a kissing gate after about 50 yds. Continue straight ahead with the field boundary to your left. Through a gateway after the first field then cross into the field on your left so that the field boundary is now on your right. Straight ahead through another gateway, over a stile and eventually over stone stile into an open field. Continue straight ahead and over a wooden stile onto Kings Road. Turn left and go uphill to the crossroads, turn right and then reach the T junction with the Old Frome Road. Take care cars often turn sharply with speed from the Old Frome Road. Go through the field gate just to the right of the junction on the opposite side of the Old Frome Road, with barn on your left go straight on heading to pass between the two large trees ahead. On passing through the trees turn half right to a stone stile in the field boundary. Left over the stile and cross two further wooden stiles to reach an open field where you turn half right. Over a stile and sleeper bridge, another stile slightly to the left then half left over another stile (easier to use the gap in the hedge line a bit to the right of the stile). Just after passing through the gap, go over the stile in the wire fence to your left.

Continue straight ahead to the bottom of the field and turn left through the gate onto Three Ashes Lane.

6. Grid ref. 658464

Continue along Three Ashes Lane across a road. About 200 yds after crossing the road where the lane turns sharp left go over the stile on your right. Half left over the stile and down across the field to reach a kissing gate. Through this, straight on to go through another, then right and through another kissing gate 100yds further on. Left through this keeping the wall to your left, over a stile continue straight on with a paddock to your right. Turn right over a stile onto a farm track and then after about 50 yds left along another track with a single metal rail gate. Turn right onto the main tarmac drive then shortly left over a stile into a field fronting the farm buildings (Blakes Farm). Straight across the field (has a large depression in it) to reach a stile, over that then half left over another stile. Cross a track and continue through an immature hedge. Continue straight ahead with the road to your right to reach a gate. Left on the road for about 600 yds, passing the Fosse Way on your left, then over a stile on your right. Half left then parallel with a hedge to your right. Continue onwards and a quarter left when the hedge turns right to reach a stile with Oakhill Primary school to the left. Across the play area and through a tall metal mesh gate to reach the A367. Straight across and through two kissing gates follow the fenced path uphill between two fields. Turn left through the kissing gate at the top then along by the side of the playing field back to Oakhill Village Hall car park.