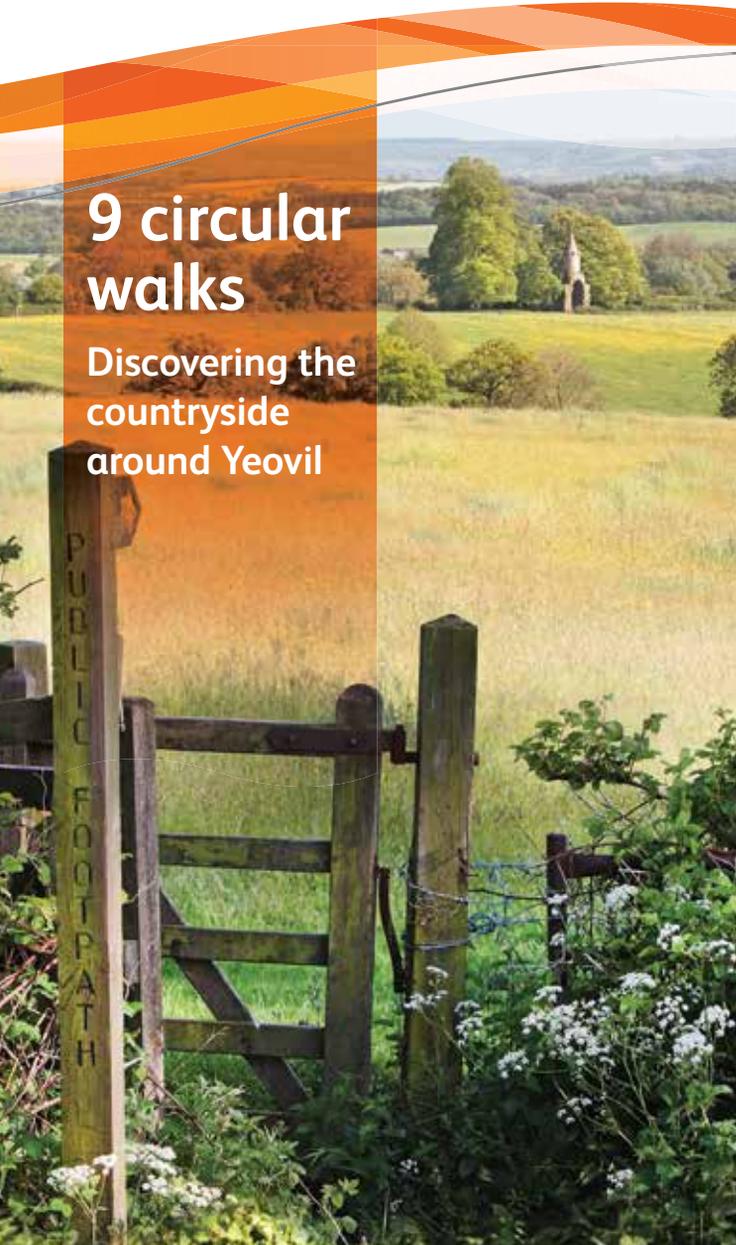


Walking

the hills & vales
around Yeovil

9 circular walks

Discovering the
countryside
around Yeovil



Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead, follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

These routes follow public rights of way if you encounter any problems please contact: www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway

For 24 hour information visit our website:

www.southsomersetcountryside.com

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Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset. Telephone: 01935 462781
Email: yeoviltic@southsomerset.gov.uk

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4
miles

7
km

West Coker Parish Walk

This walk visits the villages of West Coker and East Coker with spectacular views of the Hardington villages and valley. You will also pass West Coker Manor House, North Coker Mill and parkland and Hardington Moor Nature Reserve. The walk is on quiet country lanes and across fields with one steep ascent and descent for Coker Ridge. Start in the Square of West Coker. Buses stop here near the post office and there is car parking at the Church.

START From the Square walk along East Street. Pass Manor Street on the left. A 15th century Manor House can be found along here on the right. This is worth stopping to have a look at but it is not open to the public. Continue along East Street, past the Almshouses, Ryefields Close and West Coker House.

1 Where the road forks, keep left on Halves Lane. Past the recreation ground, turn left, through a metal gate and follow the signposted footpath across the field and over a footbridge in the far right hand corner of the field (not the concrete bridge in the centre of the hedge); this has the remains of a weir incorporated in to it. Bear left across an old stone bridge. Thomas Hardy mentions this small hamlet in one of his short stories.

2 Cross the road and follow the footpath signposted to Burton, to the left of the Forester's Arms to Skinners Hill Farm. Look for wildfowl in the large pond on the right before the farm. At the farm turn left along the road and follow this around to the right to East Coker.

3 Go past the recreation ground then follow the signposted footpath on the right to North Coker Mill. Cross the field following the left field boundary. Cross quite a tricky stile next to the mill on to a tarmac lane.

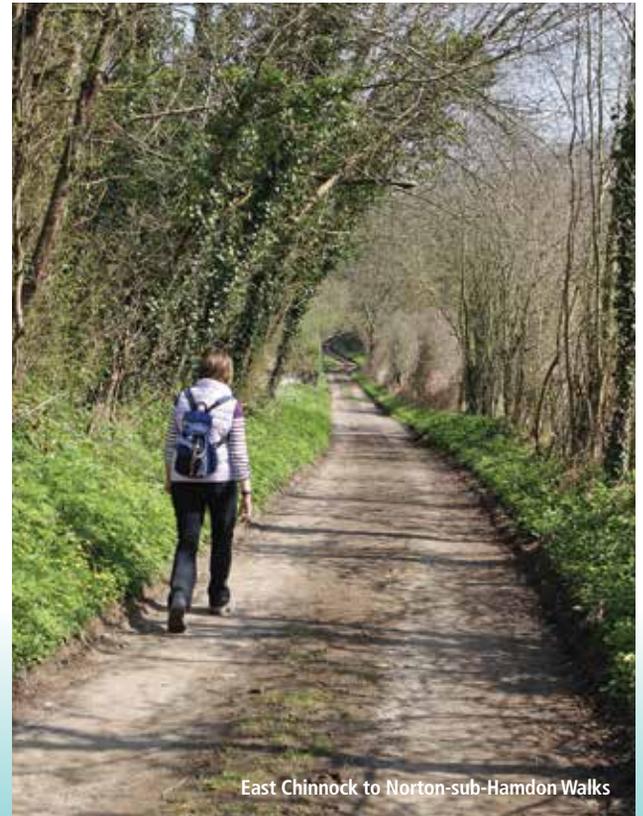


4 Turn right and follow the lane to a crossroads. Cross straight over and follow the lane for just under 0.6 mile (1 km). You will pass the lodge and the grounds of Coker Court on the left. Look at the Harts Tongue fern growing on the damp hedge bank on the right of the lane. To the left are views over Coker Court Park/North Coker Park with its majestic parkland trees.

5 Pass Sleights Cottage on the left, and turn right, over a stile, cross the field along the signposted footpath. There are views of Pen Wood and Coker Wood in the distance and Moors Plantation on the far side of the valley. In the middle of the valley nestles the hamlet of Lyatts at the start of the Hardington Vale. Follow the ridge through a hunt gate, then over a stile to a track, which can get very muddy. Go straight on along the track to Primrose Hill.

6 At the Primrose Hill crossroads cross over into the lane opposite. Bear left at the first junction and follow the ridge lane for 0.6 mile (1 km). From this lane there are outstanding views to the left across the Hardington Valley. The hamstone cottages of Hardington Moor can be seen in the valley bottom and Hardington Mandeville can be seen on the ridge. On the left of this lane you will find the meadows which make up Hardington Moor National Nature Reserve. This nature reserve is managed for wildlife by Natural England using a local grazier and is characteristic of pre-war Somerset. Its rich hay meadows are abundant with wildflowers and butterflies; it is well worth a visit in the spring and summer.

7 Past the nature reserve, turn right into a lane and down a steep slope into West Coker. The lane is called Chur Lane after the song of the Nightjars that once inhabited the area. This sunken lane in a hollow is characteristic of this part of Somerset with its steep smooth hamstone banks. At the bottom of the lane turn right along the A30 and back to the Square in the village centre.



East Chincock to Norton-sub-Hamdon Walks

4
miles

7
km

Hardington Parish Walk

This walk has many spectacular views of South Somerset and Dorset. There are also two churches and a National Nature Reserve that can be visited en route. There is a steep ascent to Coker Ridge as well as gentle slopes. (This path can become very wet in places during winter and wellington boots are recommended).

- 1** Park next to St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville. Turn left towards Yeovil, continue on this road past a lane on the left and after approximately 250 metres turn left through the signposted second gateway. Make for the middle of the right hand hedge, and go over the stile, which is set back and somewhat hidden. Maintain same bearing to the next stile. Go down diagonally across the field to the stile to the right of a large bush. Follow path between the houses to bridge over Chinnock Brook. Cross the garden of Weavers Cottage; (yes, through the garden) the last weaver to live here was John Hallet, sailcloth weaver, who died in 1867 aged 87. His family had been tenants since at least 1720. The portman estate sold it in 1920 for £135! Go over the stone stile, to the left of the main gate, into Moor Lane and turn left. At the end of the surfaced road note the old stone toilet perches over the brook next to a large willow tree. Follow the brook through the gates. Pass gate to your right signposted Hardington Community field. At the junction look at the Hamstone sluice, once used as a "sheep dip", on the upstream side of the new bridge.
- 2** Turn right up the lane (Coker Hill Lane) until, after a bend, on your right you see the gateway into the National Nature Reserve (after a rest on the bench if needed!) This is Hardington Moor nature reserve and is managed for wildlife by Natural England using a local grazier. It is characteristic of pre-war Somerset. The rich hay meadows are abundant with wildflowers and butterflies in the spring and summer. The reserve consists of three fields; go through the kissing gate. Keep the hedge on your left all the way up the slope until you reach the lane at the top (Ridge Lane).
- 3** Turn left into Ridge Lane along to a T-junction with Coker Hill Lane. The views here on a good day are spectacular, from the transmitting station at Rampisham, through Beaminster Down & Winyards Gap to Crewkerne and Windwhistle.
- 4** Turn left down Coker Hill, past the pretty hamstone cottages to the signposted 2 in 1 metal gate on your right, just before the Hardington Mandeville village sign. Be careful of the low, electric fence and go through the gate and cross the field over the waymarked stile. Bear left and then cross a second field, under the telegraph wire to a gate in the middle of the hedge. Pass through the gate and keeping the hedge on your right proceed to the next gate. Follow the waymarked direction across the next field towards the church to find the bridge and stile into an enclosed track. Follow this track until it joins a more open lane and turn left. A diversion here to St. Mary's Church in East Chinnock is worthwhile to see the unique windows given by the late POW Gunther Anton as a token of the friendliness shown to him by the villagers during the war. There is a post office in East Chinnock where you can replenish snack and drink supplies.
- 5** Go through the metal gate ahead and cross the large field to a concrete bridge over the brook. Don't be tempted to cross the wooden stile. Keep the hedge to your right. For those with time a pause here for bird watching may be worth while, kingfishers and buzzards can often be seen. Keep heading south over two fields with the hedge on your right. Follow the hedge into the second field and head straight on through a gateway into an enclosed track (Holten's Lane). Climb the lane up to the road and turn left.

6 At the next crossroads turn right; after about 100m turn left onto a surfaced track past some houses. After the second (white) house bear left and follow a signposted footpath between a copse and a ditch. Go over the stile and walk along the top of the next field and through the gate at Townsend Farm onto Coldharbour Lane. Views to the south are superb, with Pen Wood opposite (restricted access now allowed).

7 Turn left up the farm drive to a road (Penn Lane) and follow the signposted path across the road to the right of the buildings. Pass next to the buildings and over the next two fields. If you use the pole in the second field as a bearing you will find the stile and steps down to a lane.

8 Turn right, then left after the stone cottages and walk along the enclosed path to the tarmac lane. Turn left here, at the bottom of the hill turn right up some steps to a gate onto a path that leads to a small field with a narrow pinch gate into the churchyard on the opposite side. Apart from the tower this church burnt down in the last century and was rebuilt. Have a rest on the bench by the tower and admire the view – a good portion of your walk can be seen.



5
miles8
km

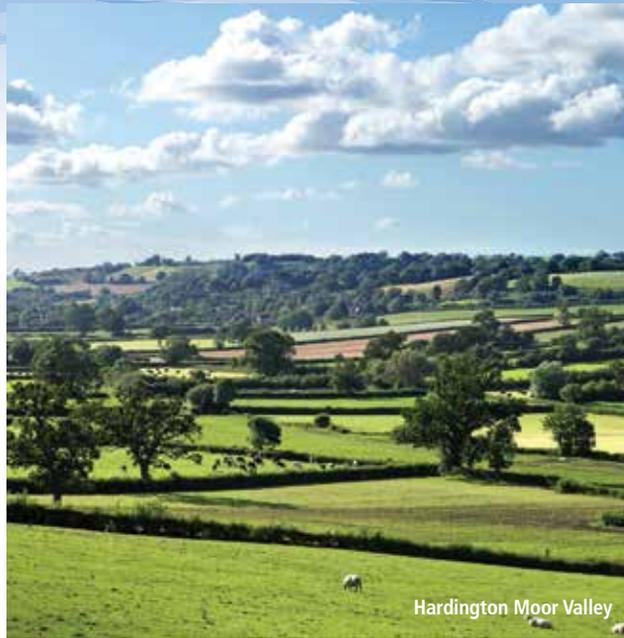
Odcombe Parish Walk

This walk has some good views of the surrounding countryside. It also has historical and archaeological points of interest such as a mediaeval village, ramparts, a tower and a stately home. The walk has several ascents and descents as it explores the local valleys.

START From the village hall walk clockwise around the football pitch until reaching some steps on the left. Go down these steps into Chapel Hill and turn left. You will pass two former Methodist Chapels and a war memorial (1914-1919).

1 At the top go past the Old Church School (now a private House) to the main road and cross this into Street Lane. Follow this narrow lane for ½ mile (0.75 km) and turn right into Pit Lane, a wide entrance leads into this track.

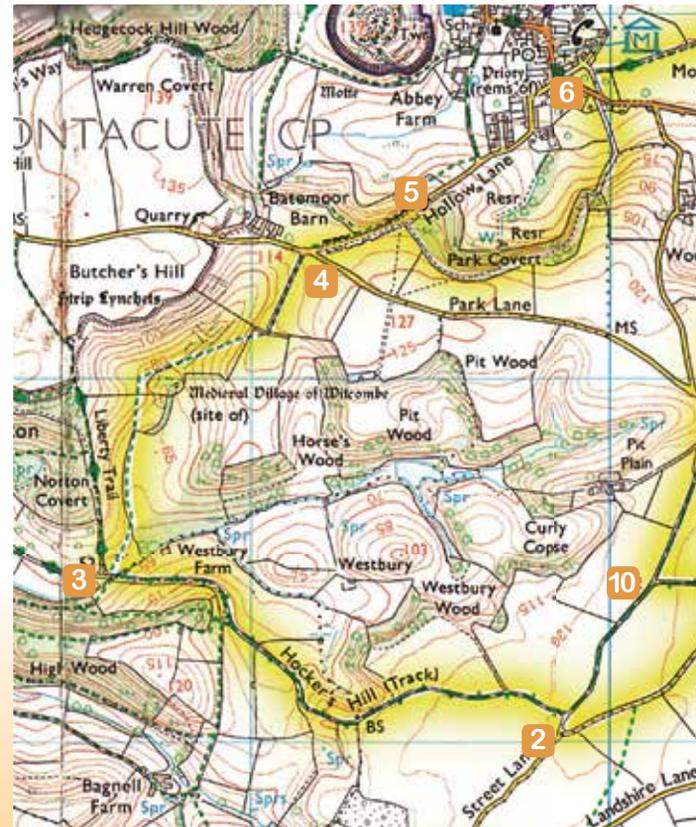
2 Where the track forks follow the left track, this is Hockers Hill. Go down Hockers Hill, towards Little Norton, for about 0.6 miles (1 km) passing Westbury Farm on the right. As you walk down the hill there are good views across the valley to the right toward Ham Hill. Keep a look out for two carved stones; one of



Hardington Moor Valley



Hardington Moor



these is the parish boundary marker between Odcombe and Norton-sub-Hamdon. Near the bottom of the hill the lane becomes enclosed by steep hamstone banks, these are characteristic of the area, look at the many ferns growing on these damp banks.

3 Turn right through the second field gate into Ham Hill Country Park. This is Witcombe Valley and is owned by South Somerset District Council; it is managed for conservation and recreation whilst preserving the archaeological remnants in the area. Follow the path along the bottom of the valley keeping left of a small group of trees in the base of the valley until reaching a path which bears right up the side of the valley. The hill on the left is the edge of the Iron Age hill fort Ham Hill; the ramparts were constructed to keep out attackers. The depressions in the hillside to the right are the remains of the mediaeval village of Witcombe; the pond was the water supply for the village and the gorse growing on the hillside was used to fire their kilns. A rare plant, Green Hellibore, grows near the pond. The villagers grew this for medicinal purposes. Follow this path and at the top bear left along a track to leave the valley.

4 At the main road turn right and walk past Hollow Lane, then turn left and go through a signposted gap. Follow the path keeping the hedge on the left. There are views of Hedgecock Hill Woods to the left.

5 Turn left through a gap into woods at the corner of the field then immediately right up steps over into a path known as Ladies Walk owned by The National Trust. Part of this path follows an old boundary, and there are many mature trees along this stretch. Follow this path around the edge of the copse to the bottom, by All Saints Primary School, to the main road. This is New Road and by turning left Montacute and refreshments can be reached.

6 Take care and cross the road to Back Lane, follow this for 200 yards until reaching a signposted footpath to the right. Follow this path into Montacute Park, also owned by the National Trust. Keep the fence on the right until the corner of the paddock then bear left under an oak tree straight across the park. On reaching an avenue of trees turn right along a track to the Lodge gates. At this avenue look behind you. There is a good view of St. Michael's Hill with a tower on top. The tower and hill are owned by the National Trust and are open to the public. There are far reaching views to four counties from the top on a clear day. The hill used to be a Norman Motte & Bailey Castle, and it is thought that the laird of the castle owned Witcombe and that the villagers farmed the land for him. The tower was built in the 19th century as an observation tower. The village of Montacute is named after St. Michael's Hill as Montacute means steep hill. There is a good view of Montacute House, built by the Phelps family in 1601. The park itself is a county wildlife site due to the abundance of mature trees; most of these are about 200 years old. Pass through these gates and back to the Yeovil road.

7 Bear left and follow the road for about 200 yards to the turning on the right to Odcombe. Take care crossing the road and follow the lane to Odcombe for about 50 yards before bearing right, up a steep bank and through signposted gate.

8 Follow the path to the right keeping the hedge on the right and follow the yellow arrows. Cross the stile into Woodhouse Covert. The woodland path is about ¼ mile long and ends with a steep ascent up a series of steps. At the top cross a stile into a field and keep to the left of this field. You will pass a long wall; this is for the Old Burial Ground said to date from time of the Civil War. At the walls end cross a stile to a track and turn right to Ham Hill Road.

9 On reaching Ham Hill Road, take care and cross over into signposted bridleway known as Pit Lane. There are views to the right of Pit Wood and ponds.

10 After ¼ mile turn left along another less well-defined lane. There are active badger setts here as the Yeovil sands soil is easy for them to dig. Follow this path past the Manor Farm buildings to the Ham Hill Road and turn right. Turn left next to the Old School House and retrace your steps to the village hall and the car park.



Ladies Walk, Montacute

4
miles

7
km

East Coker Parish Walk

Hymerford House is reported to be the home of William Dampier a pirate and Naval captain. He was born in East Coker in 1652 and circumnavigated the world three times, the first person to do so. Depending on the time of year The Rose Tower in Barwick Park can be seen on the horizon as you cross the stile at the 5 way signpost. This round, tapering tower is also known as Messiter's Cone. You can also see St. Michael's Church the memorial to TS Eliot. Part of this walk crosses a marshy field so good footwear is recommended. This walk is on country lanes, across fields taking in several stiles (and one stone slab) and near the end of this walk there is one ascent. East Coker has a café, pub and a farm shop near by. Please park considerately and start your walk at the village hall.

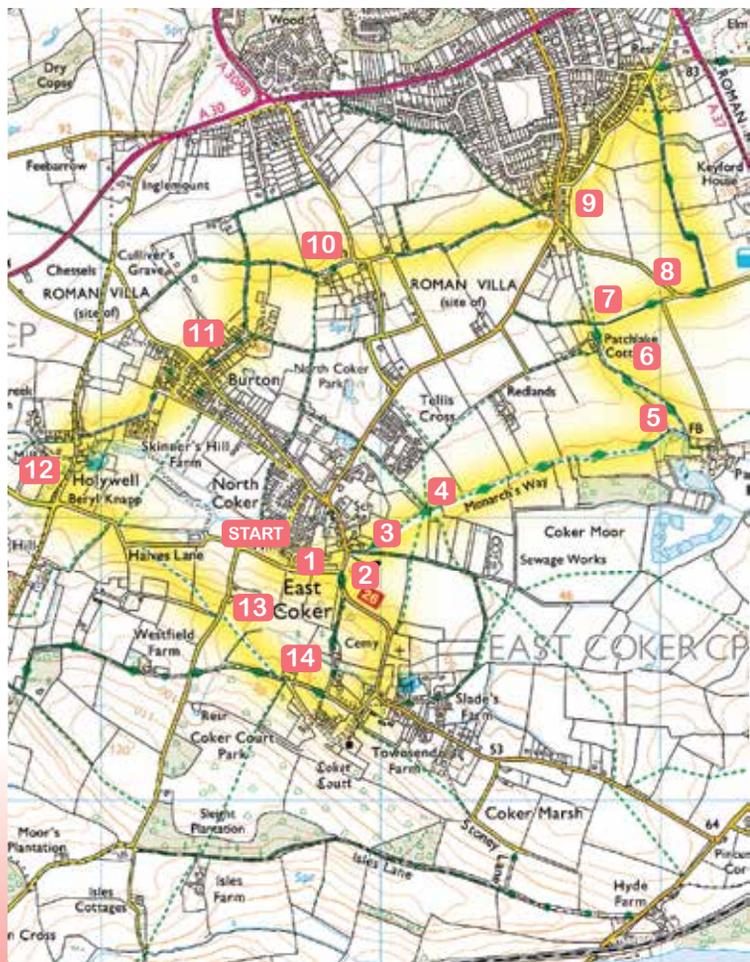
- 1 Start at the village hall. Turn left into Halves Lane. At the T junction turn left signposted North Coker ¼ mile/yeovil.
- 2 Turn right onto a public bridleway signposted East Coker ½ mile and way marked the Monarch's Way.
- 3 Turn left at the first stile signposted Pavoyotts Mill ¾ miles. Follow the footpath behind the back of Hymerford House Gardens reported to be the home of pirate and naval captain William Dampier. At the end of the field, cross the stile by the 5 way signpost.
- 4 Continue straight ahead, following the stream which is on your left and cross a number of stiles. You will come to a bridge with two metal gates. Cross the bridge and turn right. The stream is now on your right. Follow the hedgerow and then through a gate with fencing on either side. Take the gate to your left.
- 5 You are now in a marshy field. Keep the hedge on your right and continue to the corner of the field up a slight slope and cross the stile.
- 6 Follow the hedgerow on your left until you see a gate and Patchlake Cottage in front of you. Go through the gate signposted Monarch's Way and follow the path around the Cottage's garden and then over a stile and through the gate to your right.
- 7 Follow the path along the edge of the field signposted Monarch's Way and Barwick ½ mile.
- 8 At the end of the field, walk up to the road junction and take the road to your right. After 100 meters on your left there will be a bridleway signposted Monarch's Way, follow this. At the end of the bridleway you will see Tarrants House on your left. Take the road to your left, you are now in Lower East Coker Gate and continue until you come to the T junction.
- 9 At the T-junction turn left and continue on the Yeovil road, after 50 metres on your right, follow the sign-post for Placket Lane ¼ mile. You will see 2 houses on the right. Continue on the path to your left. At the end of the footpath, take the road to your left signposted Nash Lane. At the T-junction, bear right. You will pass some cottages and a post-box on your left. Pass Nash Priory and bear left.
- 10 The track becomes a wooded hollow. Where the footpaths meet, take the path to the left signposted Burton Lane. You will reach the Christian Fellowship Chapel as the footpath opens up on to Burton Lane. Turn right and proceed to the T-junction.

11 Turn right and immediate left into Broad Acres, bearing left at the fork. This is a residential road. Turn right into Long Furlong Lane and follow the road round to the left. Turn right signposted Hollywell ¼ mile, passing cottages on your left. Leave this track to the right and follow the footpath straight ahead. You will reach the Forester's Arms Pub where the footpath finishes. Turn left past the pub and follow the road taking care until you see the signpost for East Coker.

12 Take the road to your left up a slight slope. Continue along this road for a ¼ mile taking care. Look for a gap in the hedge on the right and a signpost saying St. Michael's Church ¾ mile. Go over a stone slab and stile. Walk diagonally across the field, keeping to the left of the telegraph pole. Cross the stile and head to the top of the field where there are lovely views. Cross the stile and at the end of the track, take care while walking diagonally across the road and go through the kissing gate. You are now entering Coker Court Park.

13 To your right, you will see two houses in the distance. Walk towards the rear of the cottages via the footbridge over the stream.

14 Go through the gate and keep straight on the road as far as the Almshouses. At this point to your right you will see St. Michael's Church, where there is the resting place and memorial of TS Eliot. Continue down the hill to the T-junction turning left and continue to walk along the road to the village hall.



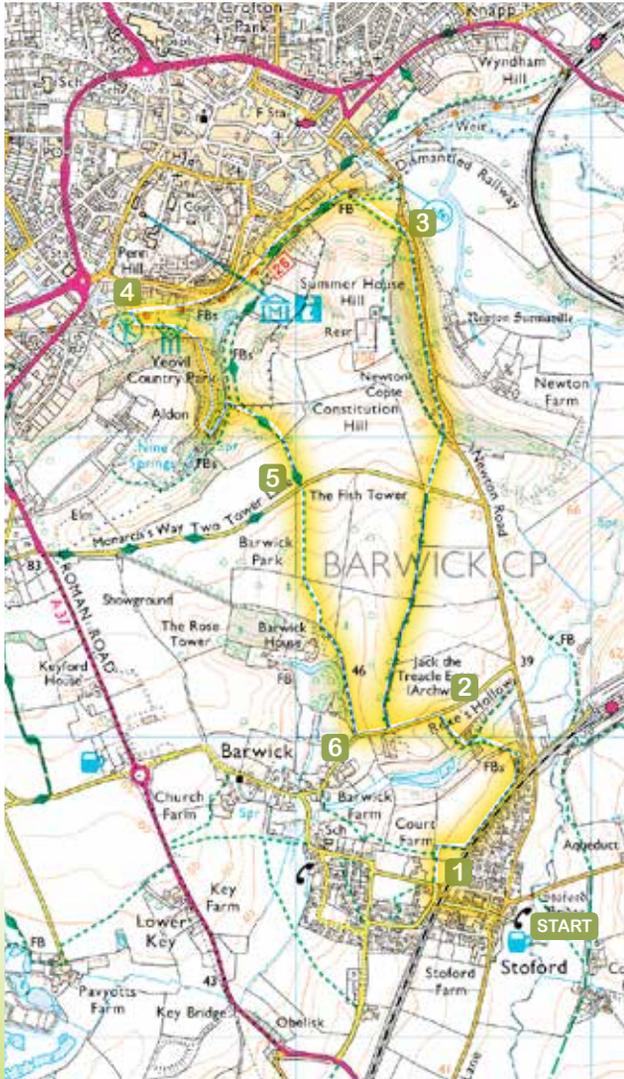
5
miles

8
km

Barwick & Stoford

This walk is 5 miles long and is on a fairly level ground apart from the descent at Summer House Hill and the ascent at Constitution Hill.

START Parking in Stoford at the Green and start by following New Road east towards Yeovil, pass under the railway bridge and follow the road around to the right. Bear sharp left uphill, and after about 50 yards turn right and follow the footpath up the steps and through kissing gate.



1 Go straight across the field, keeping to the left hand hedge, through the gate and turn right. Keep the hedge and railway fence on your immediate right and follow this all the way to the sunken lane which leaves the field. Follow this lane and go through the gate, walk down a slope to Quarry Cottages and turn left right in front of them. Follow the path up the slope and then continue through the allotments, down steps and through a gate. Follow the left hedge along the edge of field, down the steps and over bridge, then turn left and follow the arrows through the gate on your right. Keep on this footpath and go through another gate and follow the tarmac path to the end of the drive.

2 At the end of the drive turn left and after 50 yards turn right signposted Two Towers Lane. You will pass the Jack the Treacle Eater, which is one of the four follies. Walk to the end of the lane. At the end of Rex's Hollow take care in crossing Two Tower Lane and climb up the steps in the bank opposite. Walk diagonally across and down steps. Turn left and bear immediately right and follow path through woods.

3 At end of woods, pass through gate into Yeovil Country Park and bear right across the lower slopes of Summer House Hill, through gates and over the bridge. Turn left to follow the cycleway, keeping to the right through Ninesprings. You will pass the Yeovil Country Park Visitor Centre on your right, where you are welcome to stop for refreshments or to use the public conveniences.

4 After passing the Visitor Centre and Goldenstones Leisure Centre, turn left and leave the cycleway to follow the wide tarmac path up the slope into the woods. Follow the main track to the left as it winds through the woods to the ponds. You will reach the Victorian Valley Gardens. Walk through the ford next to the pond. Turn left along a path then through a kissing gate (you are now leaving Yeovil Country Park). Turn right then bear left up the hollow. Keep heading to the very top of the slope and across the open field keeping to the right of the hedge to a gate.

5 At Two Tower Lane, cross straight over via the kissing gate and in the field bear right to stile, cross and bear left to Barwick House and pass through kissing gate into drive. Turn left and follow drive to the end. In the distance you can see the Jack the Treacle Eater.

6 At the end of the drive turn left onto Rex's lane for 100 yards before taking the footpath on the right and retracing your walk to the Green in Stoford.

'Jack The Treacle Eater' Folly in Barwick Park



3
miles

5
km

Yeovil Country Park Walk

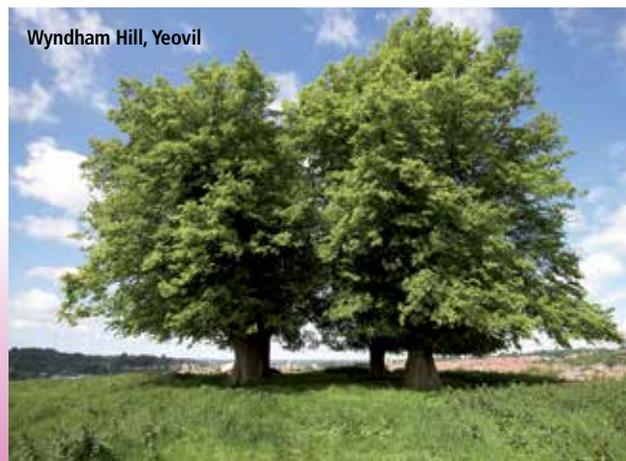
This walk explores Yeovil Country Park, including the wooded Southwoods in Ninesprings and the Valley Gardens with springs, waterfalls and a lake. The path follows the old railway line to Wyndham Hill, where there are stunning views across Yeovil and the surrounding countryside. There are some steep climbs on this route but no stiles and plenty of benches for taking a rest.

START Park next to Goldenstones Leisure Centre; this is a pay and display car park. Turn right and follow the main cycleway to a path junction with a tarmac path, turn left here and walk up the hill into the woods.

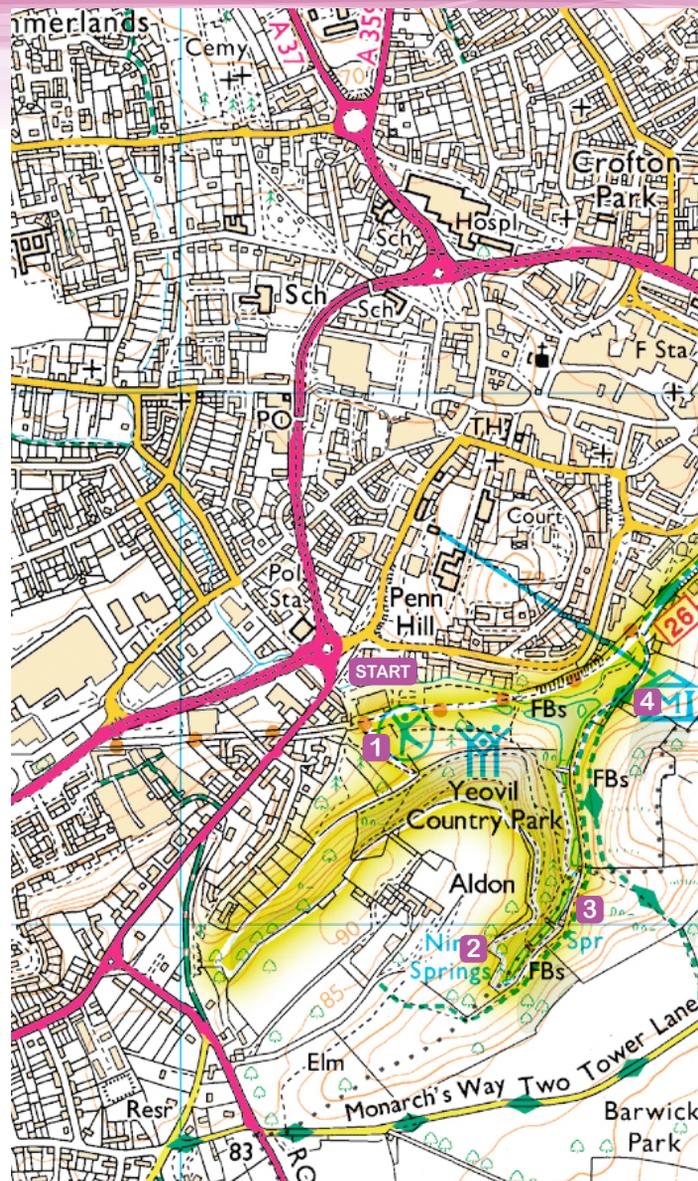
1 At the woodland edge turn right and follow the edge of the wood. There are many ancient trees; English Oaks, Beech and Sweet Chestnut. Some of these house bird and bat boxes to attract wildlife. Follow this path to the top of the wood and then bear left to follow a row of old oaks and beech trees. This area is called Beech Walk. Follow this path all the way around the top of the woodland. You will pass the woodland play zone with carved benches and seats and a stunning view across to Wyndham Hill, which you will ascend later in your walk. You may see evidence of the rangers hard at work removing invasive laurel in the woodland. The laurel is non-native and reduces biodiversity in the woods. The areas where it has been removed are replanted with native trees.

2 Here you will descend a flight of wooden steps which lead down to the source spring. Keep the springs, waterfalls and ponds to your left as you descend through the gardens.

3 You will pass through an archway. Turn left here and cross a small ford between a pond and waterfall, then turn right and go down some steps next to the waterfall. Follow this path as it winds alongside the stream. You will cross a small arched bridge, then you will come to another wooden bridge on your right. Go over this and follow the path. You will pass through a gate, turn left here and follow the path down to the lake. Many bird waterfowl species use this lake as their home. You might see Herons, Kingfishers or Mandarin ducks.

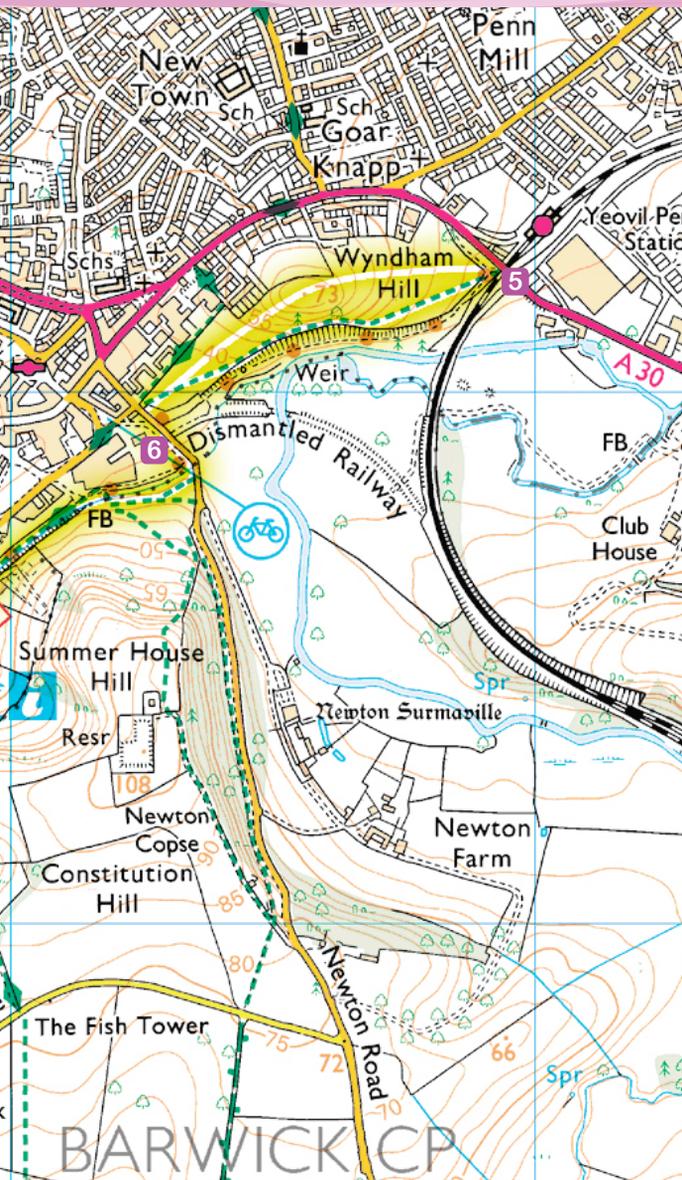


Wyndham Hill, Yeovil



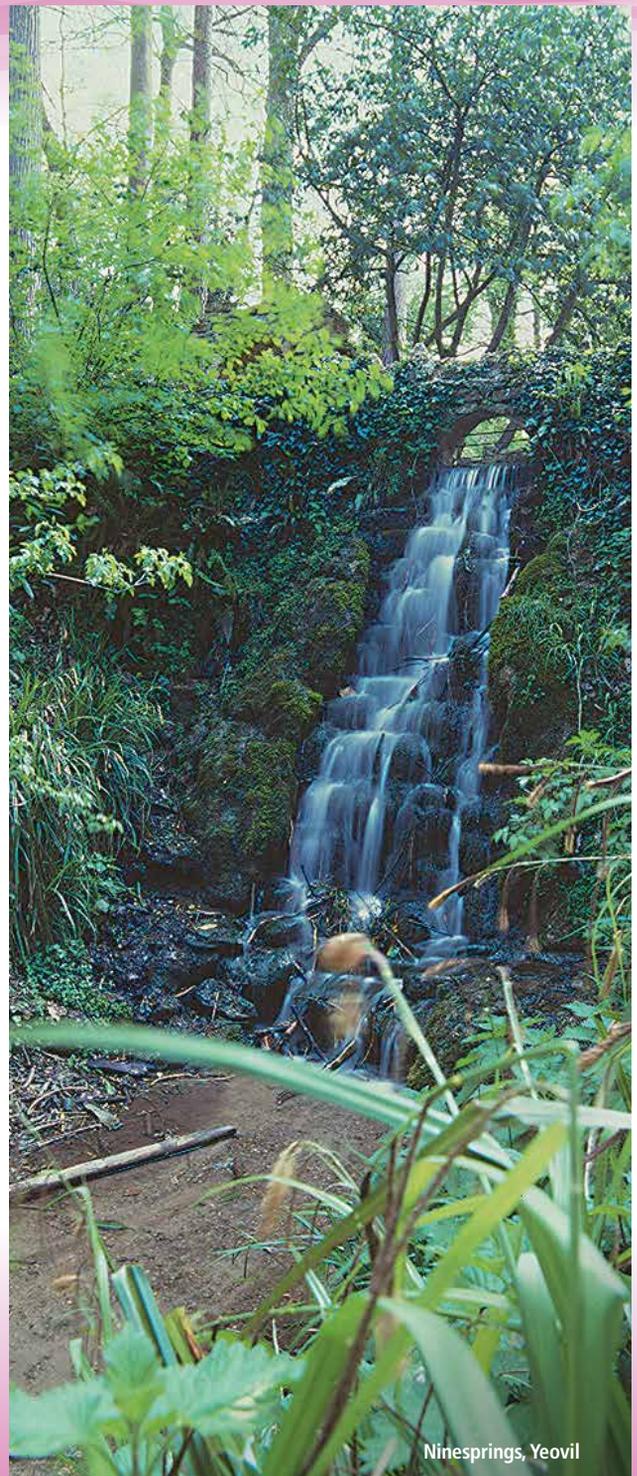
4 Follow the main track around to a small parking area next to a children's play area. Follow the path around the edge of the play area, keeping the play area on your left, then turn right at the corner of the play area and follow the cycleway, straight across the access track along the enclosed cycleway. This is the old railway line. Follow this along and over the brook. You will walk along the bottom of Summerhouse Hill to your right, with the Yeo Vale Leisure park to your left. Continue to follow the path around the edge of the car park. You will then enter a wooded section of path; this is part of Wyndham Hill. The river Yeo is on your right.

5 You will reach a sharp left hand bend, where the path can cross a toucan crossing to Pen Mill station. Don't cross the road, but instead turn to look up at Wyndham Hill behind you. Go through the wooden gate and follow the path to



the top of the hill where there are four mature lime trees. These are nearing the end of their life. You can see right through a couple of them, so young lime trees have been planted nearby. There are far reaching views from here across Yeovil and the surrounding countryside.

6 Descend the hill and bear left to a wooden gate, which leads to a flight of steps down to the cycleway. Here retrace your route around the edge of the car park and through the enclosed cycleway, until you reach the play area access track, go straight across here and follow the cycleway through Ninesprings to your start point at Goldenstones.



Ninesprings, Yeovil

Ninesprings

Yeovil Country Park is a short walk from Yeovil town centre. A cycleway and footpath connect the park with Sherborne Road (A30) and Pen Mill train station. Parking is available at Goldenstones Leisure Centre BA20 1QZ and Yeo Leisure Park BA20 1NP. Refreshments and toilets are available close to the route.

There are two easy access trails through the park - either taking in waterside views from level tarmac, or through woodland on a more challenging mixed terrain path in the Ninesprings Victorian Valley Gardens.

FACILITIES

- Parking charges may apply
- Visitor Centre with café and fully accessible public toilets

DIRECTIONS

- Accessible from town centre
- Visitor Centre - 01935 462462
- Postcode - BA20 1QZ

FEATURES

Yeovil Country Park consists of five green spaces at Ninesprings, Penn Hill, Wyndham Hill, Summerhouse Hill and Riverside Walk, linked by a level cycleway and footpath. It offers great recreational space and superb wildlife watching opportunities.

SITE INFORMATION

A wheelchair-accessible picnic and BBQ area is available near Goldenstones Leisure Centre with stone plinths to hold disposable BBQ's.

Dogs must be kept under control at all times, especially on the main cycle path. There is a no-dogs zone around the lake for the protection of wildlife. Please clean up after your dog and take litter home.

THE COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS

- The rangers organise events and activities to help people discover more about the country park's wildlife and heritage.
- A team of volunteers help the rangers manage the country park on a weekly basis by carrying out practical conservation tasks, litter-picking and wildlife surveys. New volunteers are always welcome.

TO FIND OUT MORE

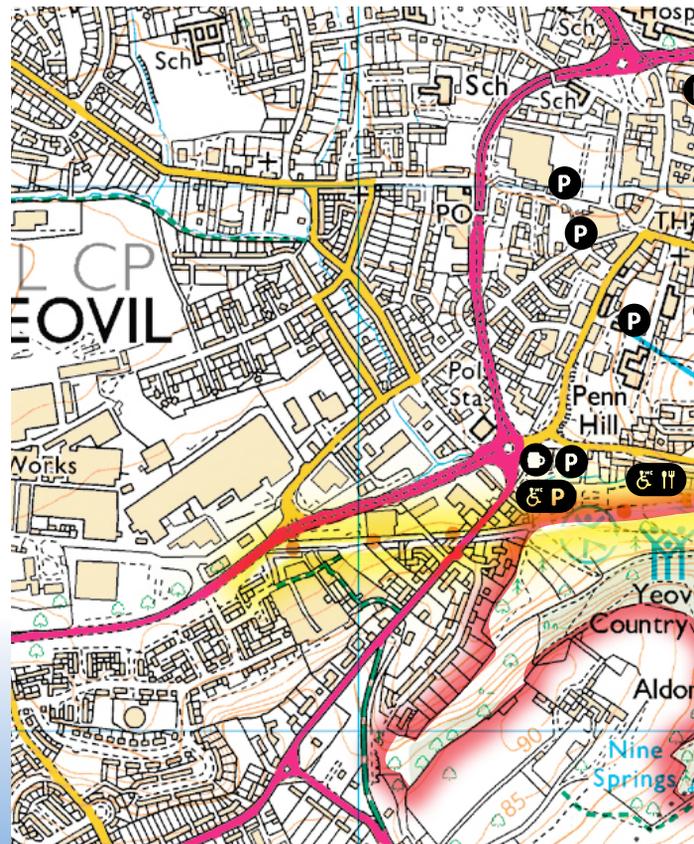
- Go to www.southsomersetcountryside.com, call 01935 462462 or email countryside@southsomerset.gov.uk
- Find us on Facebook 'Yeovil Country Park'
- Follow us on Twitter @SSDCountryside

Yeovil Shopmobility hires out manual and powered equipment for people who need assistance with their mobility. Visit www.yeovilshopmobility.co.uk or 01935 420889.

River Walk Ninesprings

Make use of the level tarmac path (marked in yellow) to explore Ninesprings and the waterways of Yeovil. This path takes you past woodlands and meadows along the old railway line.

Look out for water voles along Dodham Brook and enjoy the views along the River Yeo. Spot the birds and butterflies flitting amongst the trees and if you are lucky you may spot an otter. Go to the Ninesprings Cafe for a coffee and to find out more about the wildlife and heritage of the park. There are other refreshment points along the way.



0.4
miles

0.7
km

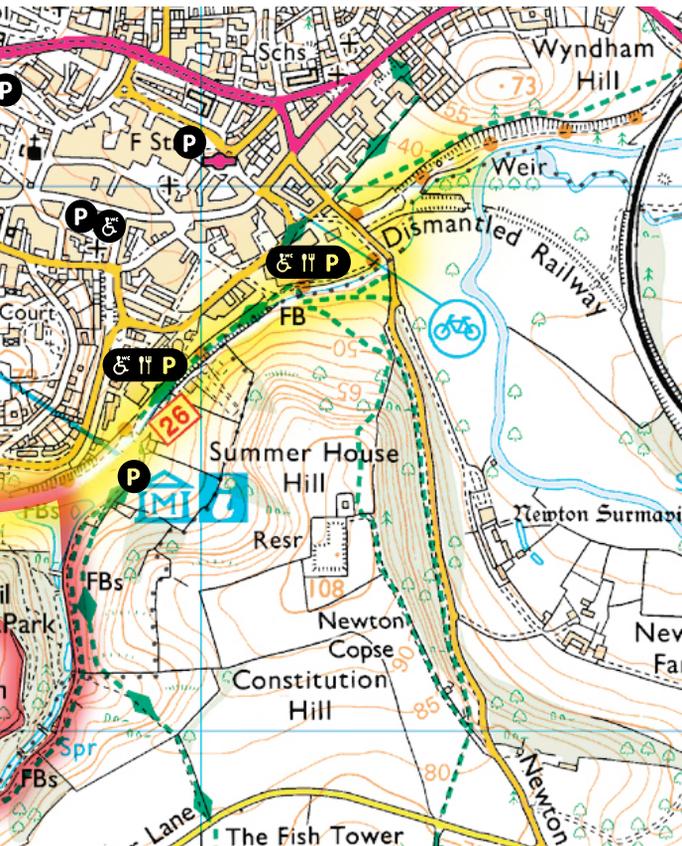
Victorian Valley Gardens Ninesprings

Follow a network of paths to explore the mystical valley gardens of Ninesprings (in the area marked in red on the map). Discover woodlands and waterfalls and enjoy a wealth of wildlife so close to town. The undulating paths take you around the woodlands finishing at the lake or in the meadows opposite Ninesprings Cafe.

Enjoy the woodlands throughout the year - in autumn rich with colour and an array of fungi and, in spring, full of bluebells and wood anemones.

KEY

-  Parking
-  Accessible toilet
-  River Walk Route
-  Food
-  Pub
-  Victorian Valley Gardens



3.5
miles

5.5
km

Iron Age Amble Ham Hill Country Park

This walk follows the inner ramparts of Hamdon hillfort and includes panoramic views of Somerset.

- 1 Start at the Rangers Office and follow main road to the left, with the expansive views across Somerset to your right. With road behind, leave Norton Car Park along path on left by stone bin. Follow path to 'crossroads' by fence



corner. Continue straight ahead keeping fence on left hand side. At end of fence continue straight ahead along well defined path, ignoring any paths leading downhill on right until reaching T-junction overlooking the open grassland of Witcombe Valley.

2 Turn left slightly uphill alongside stone wall to enter field. Continue ahead around edge of field (hedge on right) to exit through gap beside metal gate (near road). Immediately turn right into field through small wooden gate next to large field gate. Turn right back along the edge of field with hedge on right. At corner of field near stone wall, bear left along fence line (Witcombe on right). Follow fence to eventually meet wooden gate onto road. Turn right across road & shortly turn left into layby and through small gate (by large gate) into field.

3 Follow fence line on right around boundary of field, keep following fence line ignoring small wooden gate on right. Fence line bends left with dry stone wall/fence now on right. Straight ahead into next field, fence still on right. Continue straight ahead into next field with fence on right. Exit field by small wooden gate, near information panel.

4 Walk straight ahead to stone sculptures. Bear right at sculptures along path gently down hill signposted as 'Bridleway Montacute' to meet metal gate & stile at path junction. Turn left along path, through small gate & turn left up stone steps. Through gate and bear right up slope to tarmac loop road.

5 Turn right and follow the tarmac loop road to small wooden gate ahead by bin. Through gate and bear right away from gravel path, to pass behind metal bench near stone plinth. Follow well defined path around top of ramparts (keeping steep slope on right), to eventually meet war memorial.

6 With views behind, walk down stone steps. Bear right at bottom of steps along gravelled path and follow to small wooden gate & tarmac road. Bear right and then immediately left towards Ranger's office (do not go onto main road). Shortly bear right on to wide grassy path through picnic area. At path junction, bear right gently uphill to meet road. With care, cross road, and turn left to walk along verge to return to Norton Car Park.



Ramparts overlooking Witcombe Valley

