



02 SOMERSET WHEDDON CROSS

▶ Distance: 13.5km/8½ miles ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



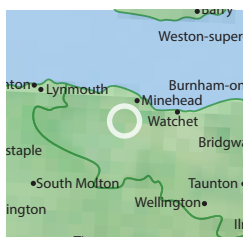
SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 66

Looking back over
the Avill Valley.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free car park by pub in Wheddon Cross, grid ref SS923387.

Alternative parking at cattle market on B3224 (not market days)

Is it for me? A couple of climbs; some permitted paths (not on OS map) and river fords (no bridges). Can be muddy
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Minehead

Refreshments Rest and Be Thankful Inn at start

Public toilets At start

Public transport Bus 198 from Minehead or Dulverton, Mon-Sat

Maps OS Explorer OL9; Landranger 181



CHOSEN BY...

JENNY WALTERS

Each February, drifts of pale flowers fill

Somerset's Snowdrop Valley, their bobbing blooms a sign of spring to come. This vale of snow-bells is just one of this walk's highlights: you'll also climb to the loftiest point on Exmoor at Dunkery Beacon for far-reaching panoramas and explore some of the national park's most picturesque woodlands, combs and riverbanks.

and turn L opposite gate to Watercombe House, then L again on driveway towards Raleigh Manor. Shortly before house, fork R signed 'Bridleway Dunkery' and walk down through gate. Continue downhill, past turn to Dunkery on L, and take next path to R. Follow down to meet another path and turn L to contour along hillside. Just before reaching lane, turn R on (permitted) path beside it to reach track at bottom. Turn L and cross road to entrance of Snowdrop Valley.

1 Start

Leave car park and turn L on B3224 away from village. After 400m, turn R by Steadway Farm sign and follow track past house on L. Continue downhill

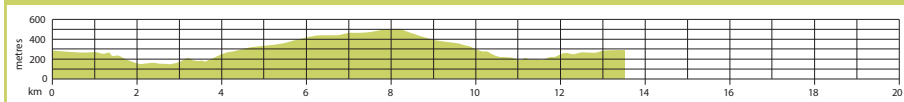
2 2km/1¼ miles

Go through gate into valley and walk along (permitted) path with river to R to reach footbridge. Cross over and

follow path on other riverbank to gate and back to lane. Turn R to return to entrance to Snowdrop Valley, then take path back up beside road to



GRADIENT PROFILE



02 SOMERSET WHEDDON CROSS

► OS Explorer map OL9 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop

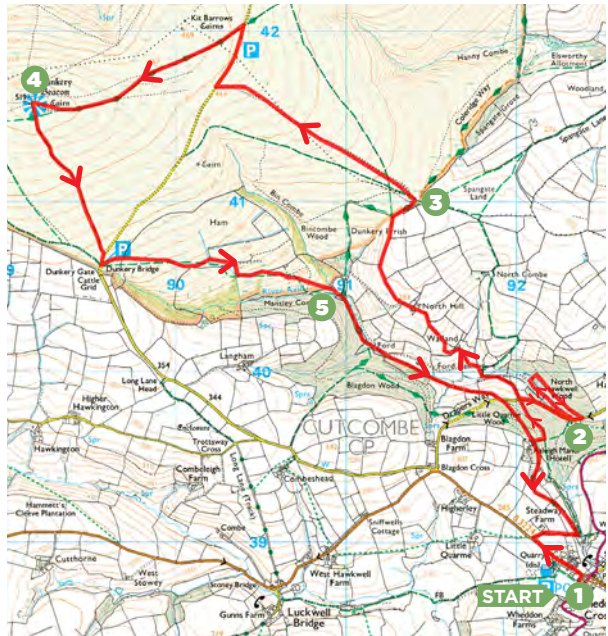
where your path from Wheddon Cross came in. Turn R here to cross lane and take bridleway opposite signed 'Span Gate'. Walk down track and across ford signed 'Permitted bridleway Dunkery via Spangate avoiding farm' and continue up to junction. Go L, signed 'Dunkery' and keep uphill on driveway, bearing L just before Walland Farm. Walk up track, cross field in a hairpin, and follow track uphill, past barn on L to reach two gates. Go through L one and along top edge of field, through a gate, and on along edge of next field and through another gate. Keep uphill by fence on R to reach track on L with marker.

3 4.9km/3 miles

Turn L signed 'Dunkery 2½' and follow track uphill up to lane. Turn R and walk past parking areas, then turn L on wide track and follow it to top of Dunkery Beacon, forking R near top to reach cairn.

4 8km/5 miles

Turn L to pass viewfinder on L, and follow track downhill in a southerly direction to reach lane near Dunkery Bridge. Turn R, then soon L signed Wheddon X, to curve L through car park and walk along track, through gate, and on to cross stream in a belt of trees. Trend R, then bear more sharply R in front of marker post to go down through gate. Turn L on path along top of field (hedge



ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2015 IN ASSOCIATION WITH MEMORY-MAP/BAUER MEDIALICENCE NUMBER 05715

to L), cross top of gully, and soon angle down to R past tree marked with a blue blob. Continue down to signed junction by stream.

5 10.5km/6½ miles

Go ahead signed to Drapers Way (ignore L turn to Spangate) and cross stream. Pass bridleway to L and continue through gate. At fork before ford, go R and walk with stream to L. Cross another small stream and keep ahead past turn to R, following sign for Cutcombe. Keeping river to L, continue through gate and across a small stone bridge. Fork R just after and climb

uphill on bridleway to cross lane and take bridleway opposite signed 'Wheddon Cross'. Walk uphill, ignoring all turns, to rejoin outward path from earlier and retrace your steps back past Raleigh Manor to Wheddon Cross. **CW**

TRAILZILLA ID:
TZID28781

Use the TZID to download the walk from www.lfto.com/routes or search for it in the **Country Walking Best Walks in Britain App**

► Download OS maps for PC, iPhone, iPad and Android from £12.50

memory-map



© Country Walking February 2016