

Winscombe and the East Well (2½ miles: Fairly easy)

Allow 1–2 hours. Mostly level. Muddy after rain; Eastwell Lane floods in very wet weather.

Follow steps **1–5** of the **Crook Peak** walk (below and right).

6 A quarter-mile beyond the recreation ground, a track (Fullers Lane) crosses the Strawberry Line between two barriers; turn right off the trail here. **7** Turn immediately left along another hedged track, Yadley Lane. **8** After a short distance, turn right at a junction of paths, continuing along the main track (now Eastwell Lane). **9** After a little under half a mile, pass the vigorous East Well spring in a ferny dell on your right, bearing left and shortly afterwards passing the entrance of a house called Coombe Valley, to emerge among the buildings of the old part of Winscombe village. **10** Turn left along the road up the hill. **11** Turn right along Church Lane, signposted to the Parish Church of St James. **12** After visiting the church, follow Church Lane downhill to a road junction in the middle of the village. **13** Follow a concrete track through a farmyard opposite, passing between farm buildings and then following a line of poplar trees. **14** In the corner of the field cross a footbridge over a stream. **15** Cross the next field to a ford over a stream in the hedge on your left (bypassable via a footbridge at the far end). **16** Turn left (north) parallel to the left-hand edge of the field to a stile and kissing gate. **17** Cross the next field (ignoring a gate opposite) and follow the right-hand hedge to a slab stile in the corner, continuing in the same direction with young trees on your right. **18** After another slab stile a narrow path leads over a small stream and between gardens out to the road. **19** Turn right and walk along the road (The Lynch) for 300 yards, looking out for a footpath sign on a telegraph pole indicating a path on the left between two houses. **20** Beyond the houses, cross a field to a slab stile and kissing gate leading into an open space newly planted with trees. **21** At the end of this area, turn right up steps onto the Strawberry Line. **22** Turn left over the bridge, then turn right off the trail past the toilets. **23** Turn left back to the Woodborough Inn.

Crook Peak (7½ miles: Fairly strenuous)

Allow 4 hours. A long climb and steep descent; muddy after rain.

1 From the front door of the Woodborough Inn, cross the road and walk down Woodborough Road between the Co-op on the left and Farrons Estate Agents on the right. **2** Just before the bridge, turn right past the public toilets onto the Strawberry Trail; turn left.

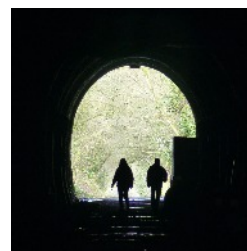
3 Cross the bridge and follow the trail for a quarter of a mile. **4** Pass under a road bridge (The Lynch). **5** Continue along the Trail, passing the Recreation Ground on your left. **6** Keep along the Strawberry Line as far as the Shute Shelve Tunnel. **7** Beyond the tunnel, continue through a cutting, then leave the trail along a signposted footpath on the right that doubles back to a track below the Kings Wood car park. **8** Turn left. **9** Follow an undulating bridleway that leads along the bottom of Kings Wood. **10** After climbing beside the mossy remains of a wall on the left, the path starts to descend through a scrubby area. **11** Ignore a path off to the right, but take the second right, where a path crosses from the left and divides either side of a bramble bush. **12** Follow this path as it climbs to the open hillside, with views to Glastonbury Tor and Brent Knoll, and then descends to a wall. **13** Follow the wall down a rocky section and bear right by a gate below a disused quarry. **14** Beyond the quarry, cross open fields; keep right at a junction of paths beyond a wooden kissing gate, aiming for the buildings of Bourton Farm. **15** Cross the lane below the farm and take the footpath opposite. **16** Bear right to a stile, then left along the bottom of the field to the second (a stile on the right gives access to Coral Cave, but the diversion is barely worth it). **17** Beyond a house, head half-left and continue along the bottom of a series of fields towards Compton Bishop (ignoring a footpath to the left over a stile in the hedge). **18** The last stile leads into a driveway, which you follow between houses before it bends left. **19** On meeting the road, walk up Church Lane, ignoring the turning to Coombe Lane. **20** Turn left at the church along Butts Batch and pass the Manor on your left. **21** Turn right into Vicarage Lane and when the road ends follow the track ahead as it curves left. **22** Keep left along the wall at a junction of paths, then turn right (uphill) at a fork. **23** At the top of the slope, turn sharp right through a gap in the fence with a National Trust waymark. **24** Climb the Razor ridge (which has a false summit) until you reach the rocky summit of Crook Peak. **25** Having admired the views, turn left along the lip of the rocks, then double back right to pass below the low cliff. **26** Head down the hill to a saddle with a crossing path, and continue along the broad ridge with a wall on your left. **27** Follow the wall as it bends right across a second saddle, also with a crossing path, then bear left uphill, still following the wall, climbing to the trig pillar on Wavering Down via a stone memorial bench (inscribed “Only a hill but all of life to me”). **28** Return to the wall and descend to Cross Plain. **29** Turn left through the farm and follow the entrance drive down to a crossing track (Barton Drove). **30** Take a few steps to the right and go through a kissing gate on the left. **31** Walk straight across the field, aiming just to the right of the scrubby area ahead. **32** Go through a gate and descend a steep, stepped path through the trees. **33** Exit the wood via a stile and walk down into the churchyard.

Follow steps **12** to **23** of the **Winscombe and the East Well** walk (left) to return to the Woodborough Inn.

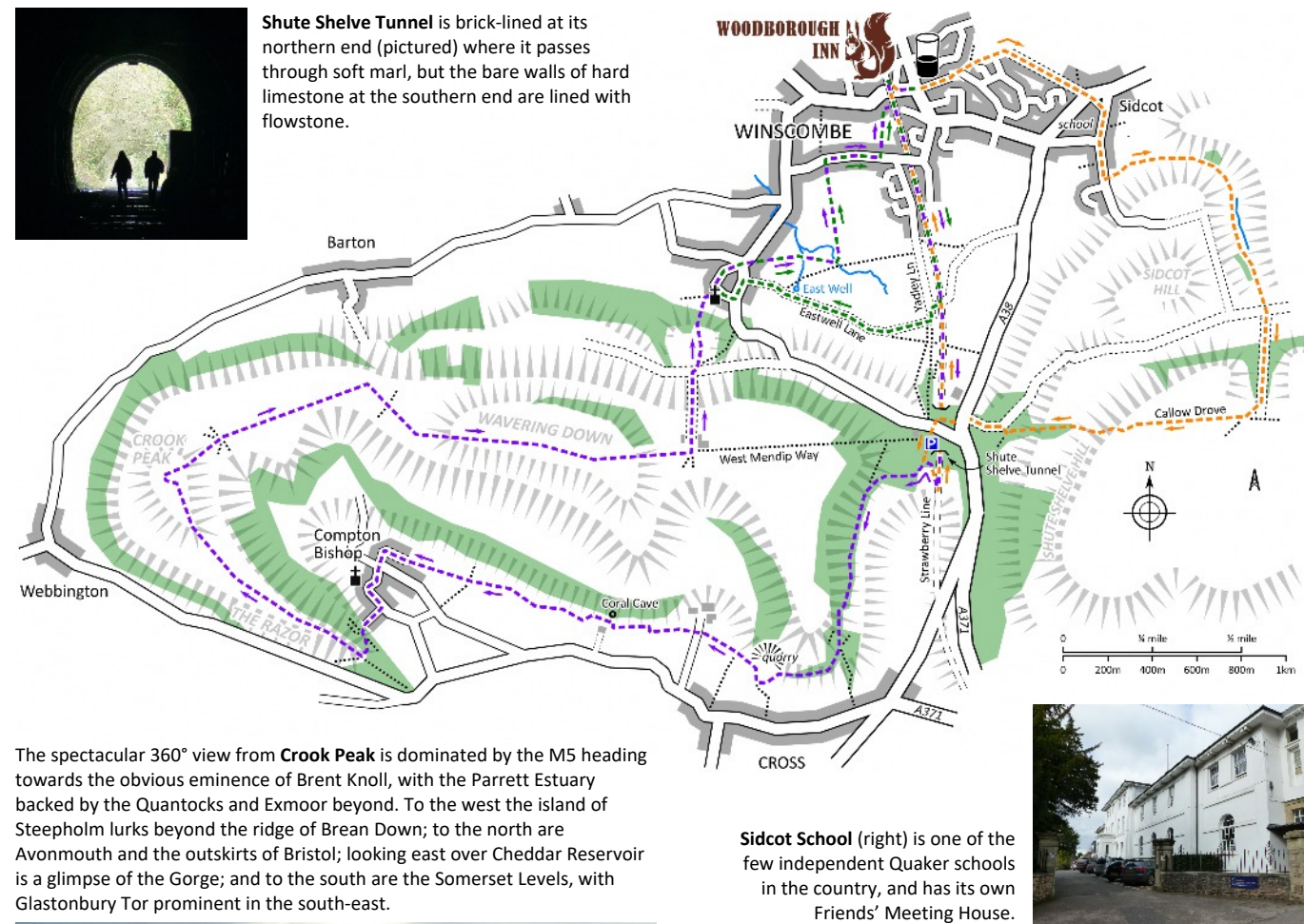
Callow Drove & Shute Shelve Tunnel (4¼ miles: Moderate)

Allow 2–3 hours. One long climb and steep descent.

1 From the front door of the Woodborough Inn, turn left and left again into Hillyfields Way. **2** At the end of the road, follow the footpath ahead, to a kissing gate. **3** Follow the edge of the field ahead in the same direction, with gardens on your right. **4** In the corner, go through a gate and follow the track ahead to the road opposite Sidcot Arts Centre. **5** Turn left for a short distance then cross into Oakridge Lane. **6** Follow the lane through and past the buildings of Sidcot School. **7** Keep straight on at the junction with Fountain Lane, and pass Sidcot Farm on your right-hand side and Bird Rock Cottage on your left. **8** Just before the entrance to Oakridge Close on your right, go through a gateway on your left, indicated by a footpath sign on a telegraph post opposite. **9** Pass through a field gate and hand gate, then dogleg left and right to follow a hedge up the valley ahead of you. **10** Go through a metal gate and continue with the hedge on your right. **11** Beyond a similar gate, pass a small wood on your left, still following the bottom of the valley. **12** After a wooden gate, keep on with the stream on your left, passing below a hanging wood on the right. **13** On reaching an open field, cross straight across to a gate into a track (Winscombe Drove, followed by the West Mendip Way). **14** Cross the track and go over a stile opposite, next to a field gate. **15** Walk up the track along the side of the field to a gate into woodland. **16** Follow the track up the wooded combe. **17** On emerging into a field, bear half-right to a slab stile into the walled track of Callow Drove. **18** Turn right and follow the Drove, with views opening up to your right. **19** After a stile and gate by a National Trust sign for Shute Shelve, the track enters Access Land and starts to descend. **20** Ignore any tracks on your left to reach a gate and stile into a track, hedged on both sides, which continues to descend. **21** Beyond a cottage on the right, join the drive and follow it out to the main road, opposite a petrol station. **22** Cross and turn left for a short distance. **23** At a bus stop by a road junction, turn right along a National Trust path through trees, which emerges opposite Kings Wood car park. **24** Walk through the car park and turn left by the cottage, along the wall. **25** A short distance beyond the end of the wall, take a path on the left which descends to meet the Strawberry Line. **26** Double back left through a deepening cutting which leads to the mouth of Shute Shelve Tunnel. **27** Beyond the tunnel, follow the trail for ¾ mile, en route passing Slader’s Leigh Local Nature Reserve on your left and crossing a track, Fullers Lane, between barriers. **28** As you approach Winscombe, pass under a railway bridge and continue past the Recreation Ground on your right. **29** Cross the bridge over Woodborough Road, then turn right off the trail, by the public toilets. **30** Turn left up Woodborough Road back to the Woodborough Inn.



Shute Shelve Tunnel is brick-lined at its northern end (pictured) where it passes through soft marl, but the bare walls of hard limestone at the southern end are lined with flowstone.



The spectacular 360° view from **Crook Peak** is dominated by the M5 heading towards the obvious eminence of Brent Knoll, with the Parrett Estuary backed by the Quantocks and Exmoor beyond. To the west the island of Steephelm lurks beyond the ridge of Brean Down; to the north are Avonmouth and the outskirts of Bristol; looking east over Cheddar Reservoir is a glimpse of the Gorge; and to the south are the Somerset Levels, with Glastonbury Tor prominent in the south-east.



Sidcot School (right) is one of the few independent Quaker schools in the country, and has its own Friends’ Meeting House.



The village of Compton Bishop is dominated by the tower of **St Andrew’s Church**, a Grade I listed building. The churchyards contains a medieval cross and inside the building is a finely carved stone pulpit described by one antiquarian as “one of the best in Somerset”.



five circular walks from the



WOODBOROUGH INN

Winscombe
Somerset



Winscombe & the East Well 2½ miles

A short, level walk along a former railway line and green lanes to a historic spring and village church.

Callow Drove & Shute Shelve 4¼ miles

Fine views from the Mendip ridge, with an easy return through a disused railway tunnel.

Crook Peak 7½ miles

An energetic climb from a pretty village is rewarded by superb views over the Somerset Levels.

Dolebury Warren 7½ miles

A fine hillfort then a pretty streamside walk along a wooded valley, with attractive villages along the way.


Cheddar Gorge 12¾ miles

A superb expedition through historic Axbridge to one of England’s most spectacular landforms.



A wide-angle photograph of a deep limestone quarry or cliff face. The rock is light-colored with distinct horizontal layering. Sparse vegetation, including small trees and shrubs, grows on the slopes and along the top edge of the cliff. The sky is clear and blue.

Now follow steps **39–44** of the **Dolebury Warren** walk (*left*) to guide you back to the Woodborough Inn.

 Text, design, mapping and photography
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3rd edition.
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