



## **Butleigh and Compton Dundon**

**A moderate undulating walk through fields and woodland, with stunning views of the Somerset Levels**

### **Essential Facts**

- Route distance: 15.5 km (9.7 miles)
- Approximate time: 4 hours 15 mins
- Optional shorter route: 10.0 km (6.3 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 250 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: ST 520 337
- GPS Ref: ST 52099 33745
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer 141
- Toughness Rating: Somerset 2

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?**

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**Full Info from the Great Walks web site**

## THE ROUTE

From the post office, **S**, in Butleigh village, south-east of Glastonbury, turn left and pass a track leading to the church. At a T-junction turn right and just past a bungalow cross a stile on the left. Walk diagonally right to a footbridge. Turn left, go through a gate and turn right to follow a hedge on the right to an avenue of trees. Walk half left through the trees to a clearing, then bear right to the corner of a wood. Walk diagonally right through the trees to a footbridge. Turn left to keep a hedge on the left, walk around a field until you reach a stile, **A**.

Cross a road to a stile. Keep a hedge on the right through two fields, cross a stile and turn left to walk along the edge of a wood to a road. Cross to a track and walk to the Hood Monument. Past the monument follow a narrow path downhill through trees. At a lane turn right and shortly turn left through a gate. Follow a clear path along the ridge of Collard Hill and then descend to the B3151, **B**.

Cross with care and turn left along a minor lane which goes downhill and passes Ivythorn Manor. Cross a track to a stile and keep a hedge on the left. Cross a stile at the end of the field then keep a hedge on the right. In a third field follow the left-hand hedge to a stile. Follow the track beyond to a crossroads, continue ahead and in 400 metres turn right into the churchyard. Follow the path to the left and bear right past the ancient yew tree to the main entrance. Walk to a lane and immediately turn right, signed Lollover Hill. At a crossing track turn right and continue to a stile. Bear right to reach the triangulation pillar, **C**.

Continue in the same direction and drop down to a stile. Cross it and cross a stile ahead into a field. Keep the hedge on the right through two fields and round to the left. Go through a gate and follow a hedge on the left to the end of the field. Go through a gate on the left and walk straight across a field to a stile. Turn left and follow a track to the village street. Turn left and fork right into School Lane. Pass the school and go through a gate to walk past a track leading to Dundon Hill and keep ahead to reach the B3151 just to the right of the Castlebrook Inn, **D**.

Cross over and walk straight across a field to a track. Turn left and first right to climb to woods. Continue uphill, with a stream on the right, to reach a road, **E**.

Turn right and in 100 metres turn left, signed Bolsover Lane. Keep trees on the right and when they end continue in the same direction to a gate. Turn right along a lane, cross over a staggered crossroads and in 30 metres cross a stile on the right. Go slightly right across a large field to a stile and then keep the hedge on the right through three fields to reach a road. Cross into Water Lane and follow it back to the start, **S**.

For a shorter walk start at the Castlebrook Inn, **D**, and walk north to Compton Street. Turn right, then bear left. Turn right towards Butleigh and follow the road to the left. Climb a marked track that enters woodland and just before a road turn left onto a path to the Hood Monument.



The View From Collard Hill



Dundon Church

## Refreshment

Rose and Portcullis Public House Butleigh Tel: 01458 850287 Range of food	The Castlebrook Inn Public House Compton Dundon Tel: 01458 443632 Meals and bar snacks; real ales
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The Castlebrook Inn

## LOCAL INFO

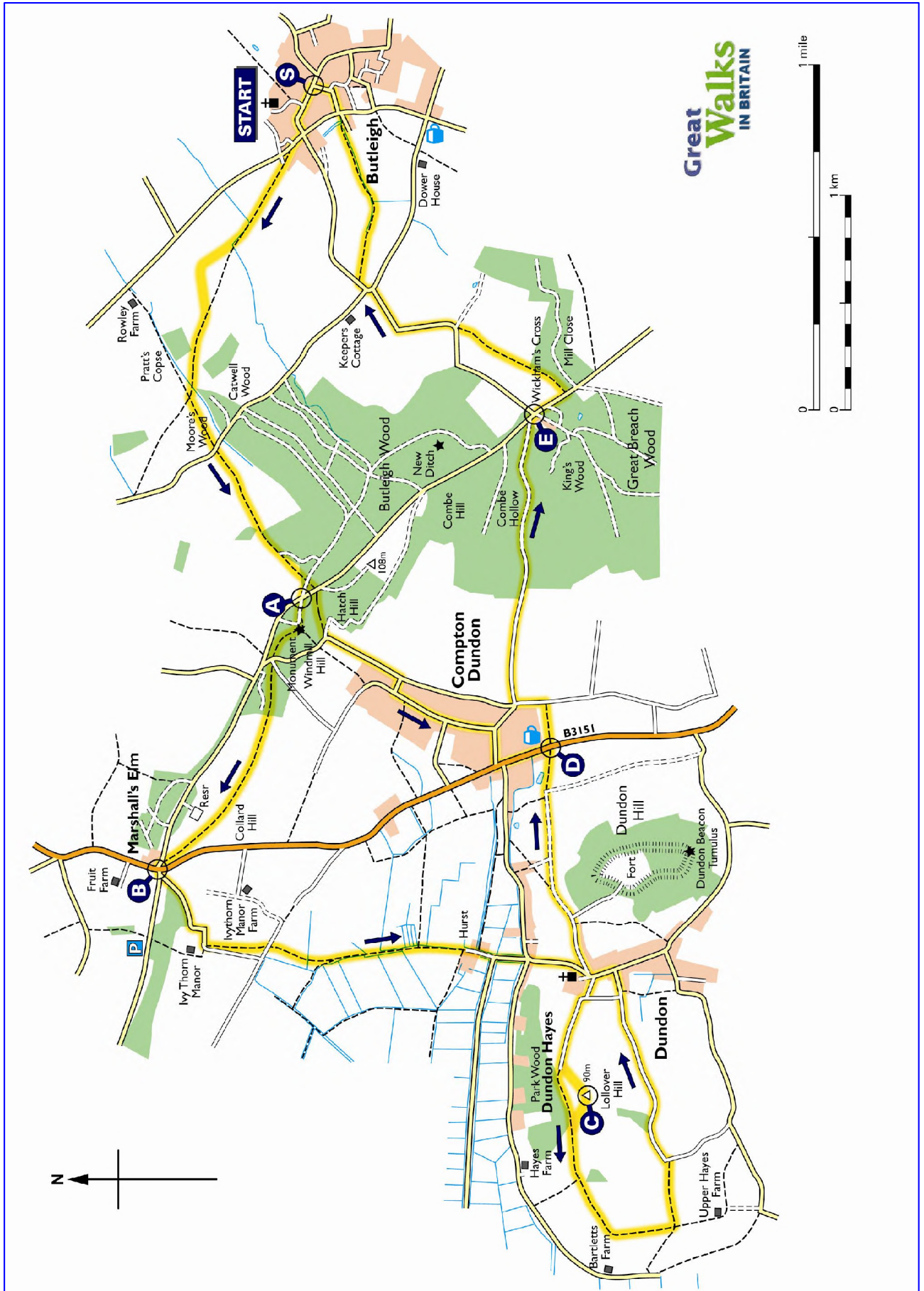
**Butleigh** is a small village lying just six kilometres from Glastonbury. **Butleigh Court** was built in 1845 on the site of a former building. It is notable for its tall carved chimney stacks, each of which is different. Just over a kilometre away, on Windmill Hill stands a monument to Admiral Hood. This tall Roman Doric column surmounted by ships' sterns was erected in 1831. Originally it was linked to the family home in Butleigh by a kilometre-long avenue of cedar trees. The rare large blue butterfly can be seen on Collard Hill







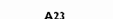





















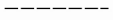
**Compton Dundon** is really two villages. Compton stands on the main road and Dundon is a short distance away in the saddle between Lollover Hill and Dundon Beacon. It is claimed that Lollover is a derivation of Look Over and refers to the occasion in 1685 when locals gathered there to watch the Battle of Sedgmoor, the last battle fought on English soil when King James II defeated the Duke of Monmouth. There are 360° views over the Somerset Levels and on to the Bristol Channel.

**Dundon Beacon** is the site of an Iron Age hill fort. Some of the ramparts have been destroyed by limestone quarrying. It is managed by the Somerset Wildlife Trust and is being restored to ancient oak woodland with managed coppices and restored grass downlands. The area is a haven for wild flowers, especially wild orchids and bluebells, and supports a variety of wildlife including 27 species of butterflies. In Dundon churchyard there is a yew tree dating back at least 1700 years. The series of flagstones that cross the fields between Compton and Dundon church are the remains of a path built to save parishioners from wet feet.

### BUTLEIGH & COMPTON DUNDON G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
BTL S	S	ST 52099 33745	17
BTL A	A	ST 50402 34196	39
BTL B	B	ST 48441 34453	84
BTL C	C	ST 47451 32463	90
BTL D	D	ST 49008 32705	8
BTL E	E	ST 50541 32733	95



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower	 248m	Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

## Safety First

**Safety should always** be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

**Lead a group** of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

**Weigh up the capabilities** of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

**Ensure** all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

**Emergencies** are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

**Refreshment**, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

**On tougher walks** it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

**All our walks use legitimate routes:** Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

**Road** walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

**Occasionally** you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

**It is courteous** to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

**Mutual respect** for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

**Dogs** should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

## Walking Our Routes

**Our walks** are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

**On mountain, moorland and open heathland** walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

**Take care** to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

**Consider conditions before setting off.** Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

**When navigating the route** look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

**All our routes are carefully checked** before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

**The approximate time** given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

**Total ascent** is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

**GPS users** can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

**Remember that GPS** is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

### TOUGHNESS RATINGS

Most of our **Somerset & North Devon** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in Somerset & North Devon.