



**The Somerset Levels From Kingsbury Episcopi**

**An easier and almost flat walk on the Somerset Levels, visiting two charming villages and with 360° views from Burrow Hill**

<b>Essential Facts</b>	
▪ Route distance:	15.3 km (9.6 miles)
▪ Approximate time:	4 hours 30 mins
▪ Optional shorter route:	12.1 km (7.6 miles)
▪ Approx. total ascent:	100 metres
▪ Start point Grid Ref:	ST 433 210
▪ GPS Ref:	ST 43391 21016
▪ Recommended O.S. Map:	Explorer 129
▪ Toughness Rating	Somerset 1

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

**Up For A  
CHALLENGE ?**

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**A Donation  
An Individual Walk  
A Team Effort**

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

## THE ROUTE

This route starts at Kingsbury Episcopi, a charming village north-west of Yeovil.

From the Wyndham Arms in Kingsbury Episcopi, **S**, turn left into the village. Turn left along Silver Street and bear left to West End. Turn left just before a thatched cottage to follow a narrow, enclosed path between a farm yard and another thatched house. Cross a stile and walk ahead to reach a stile in the hedge opposite. Turn right along Hutchins Drove and follow the track as it turns right and then left. At a crossing track turn right to cross a bridge and continue to a crossing path. Turn left and walk through two fields. Turn right to reach a road and left towards Thorney Bridge, **A**.

Just before the bridge turn left and follow the raised bank of the River Parrett for over a kilometre to the pumping station. Turn left, walk past the buildings and cross a bridge. Turn left along Southmoor Main Drain for almost a kilometre to Midelney Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right to follow firstly the River Isle and then the Westport Canal to Westmoor Bridge at **B**.

Turn left along the road to reach Burrow Hill Farm. Go through the double gates just past the farm entrance and cross a field to a gate opposite. Go through a gate on the left and keep the hedge on your left to cross a bridge. Turn right and follow the hedge uphill. At the top go through a gate on the right and bear left to cross a double stile. Turn right along a path that skirts around Burrow Hill. Climb to the top of the hill to admire the view at **C**.

Now descend to the road and turn left. Pass Burrow Hill Cider and continue to pass a cottage on the right, **D**.

For the short walk cross a stile on the left and cross a field to a track beside a bungalow leading to a road. Turn left, then right beside Rose Villa signed Church Path. Walk across two fields and cross a double stile on the left. Follow the field edge to a track and continue ahead. Cross a road and walk across five fields and along a track to return to the Wyndham Arms.

For the full walk go right through a gate and walk through two fields. Cross a stile and follow the hedge on the right for 30 metres, cross a stile and walk to the road. Turn left and after 50 metres turn right through double gates and walk through three fields. Cross a stile and walk half left to a gate at the top left hand corner of a large field. Turn right along a track and at a crossing track turn left. Cross a road and continue into East Lambrook, pass the pub and Manor Gardens. At the end of the village turn left through a kissing gate at **E**.

Walk with the River Parrett on your left through two fields. Cross the second bridge and keep the river on the right through two fields to reach a road at Gawbridge Mill. Turn right and at a junction turn left. In 30 metres turn right over a stile. Turn left and walk along the field edge. At the end of the field turn right and soon cross a stile on the left. Cross to a stile straight ahead and keep the river on the right to reach a footbridge. Keep to the right hand side of a field to reach a kissing gate, then follow an enclosed path to the village street. Turn left to return to the Wyndham Arms, **S**.



Along Hutchins Drove



View From Burrow Hill



Looking Towards Burrow Hill

## Refreshment

The Wyndham Arms  
Public House  
Kingsbury Episcopi  
Tel: 01935 823239  
Meals and Bar Snacks  
Real Ales

East Lambrook Manor  
Gardens  
Tea Shop  
East Lambrook  
Tel: 01460 240328  
Lunches and teas

The Rose and Crown  
Public House  
Silver Street, East  
Lambrook  
Tel: 01460 240433  
Lunches and evening  
meals



The Wyndham Arms

## LOCAL INFO

**The Somerset Levels** lie in the heart of Somerset, only a few metres above sea level and regularly flood in winter. This unique landscape of rivers, canals and drainage rhynes is one of the lowest and flattest in the country and is one of the most important wetland area in the world. The levels are home to a diverse range of wildlife such as wading birds, curlews, otters and dragonflies. Water voles have been introduced. The warmth and moisture mean that vegetation grows quickly and the meadows are rich in wild flowers such as celandine, meadow sweet, orchids and purple bugle. In winter thousands of wading birds gather across the area.

**Kingsbury Episcopi** is an attractive village. There is an ancient hamstone lock up on the village green. The 99 ft tall church tower built of local ham stone dominates the local landscape.

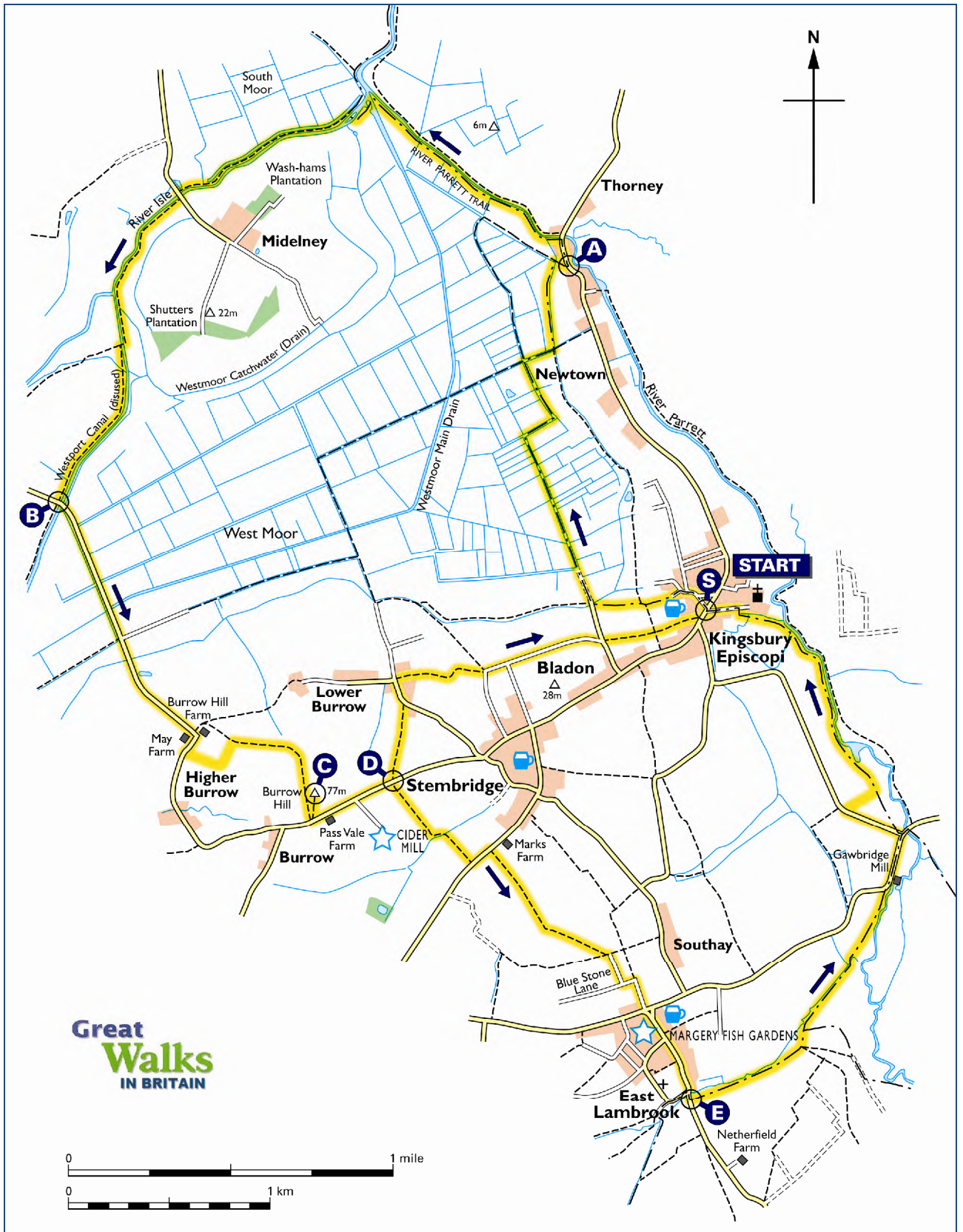
**East Lambrook Manor's** Grade 1 listed gardens are internationally known as 'The Home of English Cottage Gardening'. They were created in the 1940s and 1950s by the late Margery Fish and are full of rare and unusual plants. The 17<sup>th</sup> century malthouse now houses a tea rooms and gift shop.

**Burrow Hill** is the home of the Somerset Distillery which produces Cider Brandy on site.

In 1989 Somerset Cider Brandy was awarded the first full cider distilling licence in recorded history. Cider has been sold here for 150 years and is produced from 40 varieties of apple all grown locally. In all over 100 varieties are grown in the traditional orchards around the site.

**THE SOMERSET LEVELS FROM  
KINGSBURY EPISCOPI  
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
KIN S	S	43391	21016	10
KIN A	A	42675	22881	2
KIN B	B	40190	21560	5
KIN C	C	41452	20130	75
KIN D	D	41837	20181	25
KIN E	E	43316	18626	16



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		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.