

Walk 2 Circular Cat Head Chiselborough around the Hamdons

- Distance approximately 11 km
- Time allow 2 ¾ hours walking
- Park next to Village Hall

Refreshments:

- Cat Head Chiselborough (dog friendly)
- NT Café Montacute House 10 minutes of track
- Kings Arms Montacute 5 minutes of track
- Prince Of Wales Ham Hill (which is very dog friendly)
- Lord Nelson Norton-Sub-Hamdon (dog friendly)

Route:

Turn left past the village hall then take the next footpath to the right past the phone box.

Turn right on the road and head up the hill and out of the village at the next road junction, after stopping to admire the view over the village and surrounding countryside, take the road to the left and continue for about 1km before taking the footpath left at Anne's Wood.

Head down the hill through the double gates towards Bagnell Farm, there are sometimes Devon Red cattle grazing in this field; they are very laid back, but take care if you have a dog. Pass between the cottage and the pond into the parking area before exiting up the hill via a marked gate. Follow the footpath round the contour of the hill and pass over the style down to Hocker's Hill track, turn left and pass Westbury Farm.

After approximately 400m at the junction of three paths go through the gate to your right and follow Witcombe valley up the gentle incline, at the head of the valley you will see several buildings keep these to your left as you climb up the hill towards an information board on your right. You will see a gate through to the road at the corner of the field, cross the road here and take the footpath marked to the left of Hollow lane.

Continue down the hill next to the lane where the path meets the road; take the next footpath to your left towards Abbey farm There is a permissive path past the Abbey towards St Michael's Hill follow this to the foot of St Michael's Hill, if time allows, climb the hill and go up the tower to enjoy the views of Montacute House and surrounding countryside.

Note: As you follow the hill round climb over the first style and into the wood; in season your senses are assaulted by the smell of the prolific wild garlic (Ransoms) that grow here. The path up the hill is very steep here so it is best to follow the lower path around the hill to the next style by the notice board then ascend the hill.

Take the same path down the hill and back to the notice board then follow the path approximately 45 degrees left to the left hand side of the wood you are facing and cross the wall style (1) heading up the hill just inside the wood (this is part of the Liberty Trail), follow this path for about 1km until you reach the Prince of Wales pub (there are a number of paths to the pub, if it is muddy I would suggest you walk along the top of the fields (dogs on leads if there are sheep); listen out for skylarks as you walk the field.

With the pub at your back go left and through the gate and follow the meandering path to the War Memorial. From the Memorial good views of the surrounding countryside and Ham Hill's attempt at 'Hamhenge' can be seen.

Just below the Memorial there is a path that leads down to Ham Hill road take this heading generally towards a large white building in the distance.

Cross Ham Hill road and into the field head to the right corner and follow the footpath down the hill passing the Stoke Sub Hamdon Medical Centre on your left at the road turn right and follow the bridle path to Norton Sub Hamdon (heading generally towards the church)

Pass the Lord Nelson pub on your left and turn right across the bridge and then take the first left Little Street following the stream, after 50m take the marked path on your left following the stream towards a foot bridge, follow the path around to your left and cross another stream continue to follow the path in the general direction of Chiselborough Church, the hedge crossing is next to the large oak. The end of the walk is through the church yard and back to the pub.

