

# Mendip Hills AONB



## TRAIL TYPE

Walking

## GRADE

Moderate

## DISTANCE

8km (4.5 miles)

## TIME

2-2½ hours

## OS MAP

Explorer 141:  
Cheddar Gorge &  
Mendip Hills West;  
Landranger 182:  
Weston-super-Mare

## CONTACT

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## FACILITIES

Parking in Priddy.  
Parking at Ebbor Gorge  
and Pelting Drive.

Two pubs in/near  
Priddy: Queen Victoria  
and Hunters Lodge Inn.

## Annual events in Priddy:

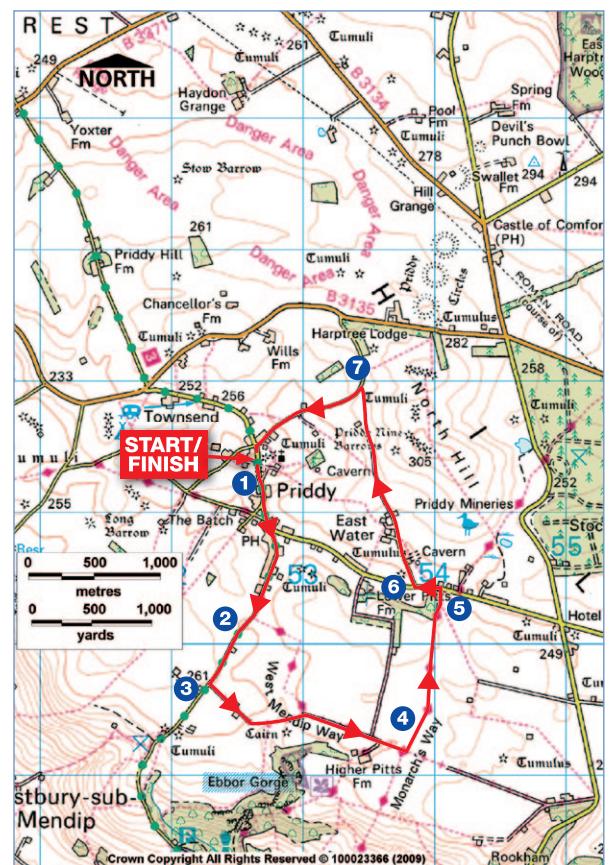
Sheep Fair (August) and  
Folk Festival (July).

# Three Priddy Drove

Droves were created to allow farmers to drive their animals from the fields to the local markets. Like roadways through the landscape, they are wide enough for animals to graze but bordered by hedges or walls to stop them escaping. Farm animals now travel by road, but the droves remain, and some have become public rights of way. Hedges, ditches, fences, roadside verges or streams which connect two existing areas of habitat and enable species to move between them are known as wildlife corridors. In the Mendips, sheep and cattle droves often act as wildlife corridors. The key features to make a wildlife corridor will include shelter and protection from predators, a favourable microclimate, hibernation or overwintering sites, and even breeding territory. Ideally it should be continuous. While the droves around Priddy, such as Pelting, Dursdon & East Water Drove, are typically marked by dry stone walls, many are also bordered by shrubs that provide a valuable habitat for plants, animals and insects. The top of the Mendip Plateau is exposed to the elements and many species of flowering plants, ferns, lichens and mosses find refuge on the leeward side of the walls. Insects, reptiles and small mammals benefit from the sun traps created on the sunny sides. Many vulnerable creatures such as small mammals, birds and lizards will keep to the shelter of the droves rather than cross open fields where they risk predation. However, their enemies have had plenty of time to work this out – and many hunt around the droves, knowing their prey is more likely to be found there.



Mendip Hills AONB Unit



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## START/END

Priddy village green, OS  
Grid Ref ST 526 509

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

The start point is on  
Sustrans National Cycle  
Route 3  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### BY BUS

Service 683 Keynsham  
to Wells (Monday to  
Friday) stops near  
the start of the walk  
(Tuesdays only).

### BY CAR

Priddy is signposted  
from the B3135 between  
Green Ore and Cheddar.

## DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

**Waymarking:** Look for the waymarkers wherever there are stiles, gates or changes of direction. This route follows part of the West Mendip Way and the Monarch's Way.

From the village green **(1)**, head south along Pelting Drove **(2)** for just over 1km until you find the entrance to Dursdon Drove on your left **(3)**.

Follow the Drove for 2km, until it is bisected by the Monarch's Way **(4)**.

Turn left and follow the Monarch's Way north (please be aware of grazing animals) until you meet the Wells Road **(5)**.

Turn left, leaving the Monarch's Way and walk for 200m and then turn right along East Water Lane Drove **(6)**.

At the end of the lane, turn left onto Nine Barrows Lane **(7)** and walk to the crossroads.

Turn left on to the lane leading back to Priddy.

The route can be extended to include the rest of Dursdon Drove, Ebbor Gorge and or the Priddy Mineries.

## What to look out for near Pelting, Dursdon and East Water Drovers

- Sheep Hurdle Stack on Priddy Green *(right)*
- Ebbor Gorge National Nature Reserve
- Milton Lodge gardens
- Priddy Nine Barrows – Bronze Age round barrows.

