The Saxon **Kings Way**

13.6 Miles | 22 km

Strenuous

This linear walk links two Anglo-Saxon kings - King Eadred, King of England (AD 946-died in Frome 955AD) and his nephew King Edgar. King of England (AD 959-975) crowned in Bath Abbev in 973AD. The route links Mendip Way East with the Cotswold Way and includes a section of the Two Tunnels as well as magnificent views over the city of Bath. The walk can also be tackled in two halves with the aid of public transport links to Frome/Bath from Norton St Philip or Hinton Charterhouse

Route written by Miriam and Chris Hare for Walkers are Welcome. Please make sure you have the relevant OS map before starting this walk.

START

1 Starting from the Cheese and Grain (the end of the Mendip Way East), walk north-west, towards the canoe club on the river Frome. Take the footpath that follows the river under the railway bridge keeping the river on your left. Walk past the pump track and children's play park on your right. When you reach Welshmill Lane, turn left over the bridge and immediately right following the footpath sign directing you along the "Riverside Path to Low Water". The river is now on your right. The tarmac path takes you through a meadow towards houses. Go along the front of the houses. The path turns left and then right signposted 'Spring Gardens'. This section of the walk is wheelchair friendly.

2 Go through the gate and through Whatcombe fields. When entering the third field the footpath leaves the tarmac path. Go straight on, head for the telegraph pole and kissing gate straight ahead.

Go through the kissing gate, with a view of Selwood Manor in the distance. Cross the field and go through the imitation stone stile. Follow the path straight ahead with trees to your left followed by a wall and Whatcombe Farm on your left.

Go through a kissing gate passing the Whatcombe Wall canal embankment (part of the Dorset and Somerset canal that was never completed) on your left and poplar trees to your right.

Go through a kissing gate. Stop, look and listen and beware of trains, before crossing the railway track. Go through a kissing gate, cross the pasture, through another kissing gate onto Coalash Lane.

3 Cross the road and take the footpath straight ahead, over the stile, crossing the field. Go over another stile into Jeffries Lane. Turn right, passing Jeffries Mill on your left. At the end of Jeffries Lane, follow the footpath sign at the gate, go over a stile and go straight ahead. After 100m take the right fork up the slope, go over a stile, following the hedge on the righthand side. At the corner of the field go over the stile continuing straight ahead and following the hedge on the right-hand side.

Go through the gate. Continue straight up the hill heading towards the woodland. Go over the stile at the entrance to the woodland and continue up to the top of the hill. You are now in the Orchardleigh Estate. There is wire fencing on the right - follow the path clearly identified. Orchardleigh House is soon in view to the right. There are two gates to cross the active airfield runway. Keep a look out for aircraft, dogs need to be on leads. The footpath becomes the track, keep straight on down a slope.

There are stables straight ahead, Orchardleigh church is on an island off to the right with a lake behind it. The church is well worth a visit as it is one of the most popular wedding venues in the area. If visiting the church then retrace your steps.



4 From the stables, the track bends left and then right uphill through the golf course. Stay on the tarmac road. When you reach a T-junction, turn right and just after a sign to the right marked 'The Village', is a footpath sign to the left through the golf course. You are now ioining The Macmillan Way. Walk straight, as pointed by the finger post, to the right of green 2 and the left of the lake, to the stile in the boundary fence. There is a bar and restaurant open to the public at Orchardleigh Golf Course Club House. Watch out for flying golf balls and please keep dogs on leads. Cross the stile and bear right across the field aiming for 2 o'clock. Keeping the wood on the right, cross the field and go through the gate. Lulllington church is now in view. Follow the farm track which joins a tarmac road right into Lullington Village. After quarter of a mile you reach the village pump and green and old school. Turn left to pass the church on your left.

5 Follow the footpath sign through Court Farm farmyard. The footpath has been diverted slightly here and your OS map may be out of date. Do not go through the gates in front into the field but turn left and after the long building turn right into the field. Walk to the stile and little footbridge and another stile. You are now back on the original path. Having crossed the bridge, go over the stile, walk over the middle of the field and cross another stile. Walk around the right edge of the field. Halfway around this large field, just after a 90 degree right hand corner, go through the gap in the hedge to enter into the next field on the right and follow the same hedge but keeping the hedge on the left. When you start to enter the wood look out for the footpath sign, signposting you left. Within 3m turn right and follow the footpath through the woods. Go over the stile, through the field keeping Park Woods on your right. After 200m go over the stile on the left, across the stream, then guickly over another stile. Go straight across the farm track passing beside the farm gate.



6 Go straight ahead and take the gate on your left into the farmyard. Take the track to the left of the stone building and towards the brick building. Bearing right, you can now see Laverton Church in front of you. Cross the track to a two-bar wooden structure in a gap in the churchyard wall in front. The top bar can be pulled to one side to allow easy passage into the churchyard. Walk through the churchyard to the church front gate. Opposite the church gate, cross the road and there is a footpath sign. Go over the stile and cross the field diagonally at 1 o'clock to the gate in the corner of the field down the slope. Go through the gate, over the stone footbridge and across the corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate onto the road. Turn right, walking past the terrace of houses on the right. On your left, go over the stile into the field.



7 Go straight on across the middle of the field, down the slope to the gate in the left corner of the field. Go over the stile. Continue straight on aiming for the left-hand corner of the field. Go over the stile onto the road. Go straight across the road and straight through the zigzag gate onto the stud farm. You are requested by the owners to keep dogs on leads, not to feed the horses, or enter the paddocks. Turn left. After 200m, bear right up a wide green fenced path towards the farm buildings. Keep the farmhouse on your right. Cross two drives. Keep straight on aiming for a wooden boundary fence. Turn left at boundary fence following Mendip Ring signs. After 200m, at the end, go through a gate, turn right along path around the edge of a field. Go through a zigzag, and over a footbridge. The footpath goes straight through the middle of a large field. You will find a stile onto the road in the top left corner. The route meets the Mendip Way here.

8 Turn right along the road. 50 yards after Southfield Farm, there is a gap in the hedge with a stile on the left. Go through the stile, keeping the hedge on your right. After 100m turn right and go over a stile on the right. Turn left and keep the hedge on your left. Go through a gap in the hedge at the left corner of the field. Go diagonally left across the next field past a pond on your right to a gate at the bottom left corner. Go through the gate onto a gravel track. Turn right, passing the Old Vicarage on your right, the school on your left and Norton St Philip Church on your right. More over >>>

Route Marker

Walking Route

KER





Map design by Fancy Studi





Strenuous

13.6 Miles 22 km

Kings Way The Saxon



Respect

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Follow paths where crops are growing. Use gates or stiles if possible

Avoid climbing walls or fences. Don't disturb ruins or historic sites. Don't interfere with machinery or livestock.

Protect

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home. Be careful not to drop matches or smouldering cigarettes.

Keep your dog under effective control so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife

Always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly.

Enjoy

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.

9 At the end of Vicarage Lane, cross the A366 road (Church Street) and turn right, and walk along the raised pavement. After 250m, turn left down The Barton, passing near to the Tudor Dovecote on the left. Bear right after the sign to the Dovecote along Lyde Green and up Chevers Lane. Cross straight across the B3110, over the stile, aim at ten o'clock, to a stile to the right of a house across the field. Keeping the fence on your left, after 50m cross the stile onto the road. Turn right and follow the road for quarter of a mile. Just after the farm track on the left, turn left through a metal kissing gate. Go diagonally across the field to a gate. Go through the gate, over a footbridge, and through another gate. Walk straight through the middle of the field, through the gate opposite keeping the hedge on your right. After 50m walk through a large gap in the hedge on your right into the next field. Go diagonally across the field to a kissing gate. Go through the wood. As you come out of the wood turn left. Go straight on and follow the footpath through a copse. Go over a stile, keep walking straight ahead, go through a kissing gate onto Green Lane. If you'd like to save the rest of the walk for another day, you can catch the D2 or X67 bus back to Frome from Hinton Charterhouse. To do so, turn left along Green Lane into the village for the bus or to refuel at the Rose & Crown, The Stag Inn or the village shop.

10 If you've visited the village, retrace your steps to the previous point on Green Lane. Walk across Green Lane. There are cottages on the right. Take the lane straight ahead, passing the church on the left. Take the second gate into the churchyard marked 'footpath'. Continue in the same direction through the churchyard in an easterly direction. Leave the churchyard via a kissing gate across the field, with Hinton House on the left. Walk across parkland down the slope to Branch Road.

Go through the kissing gate, cross this very busy 60mph road with care, and through another kissing gate. Walk over the field at 1 o'clock.





is on your right. field towards some farm buildings. Go through kissing gate keeping the copse on your left. Go over two stiles which are very close to each other, through a kissing gate, follow the path to a quiet road. Turn left and walk through Pipehouse hamlet.

DETAIL 4

Hinton Charterhouse

Norton St Philip

DETAIL 5

11 When the tarmac road becomes a rough track take the 'Byway' sign straight ahead along the track, through a tunnel of trees. There are countryside views to the left and a sharp 90 degree bend after approximately 1 mile. There are views of Midford Castle to the right. The track eventually goes steeply downhill to the B3110. Cross it and turn left and after 100m turn right along a footpath, taking a footbridge over the Wellow Brook. Go through a kissing gate, through



Go through the kissing gate and cross the next field. Go through another kissing gate and through that field at 1 o'clock. Through a kissing gate, Hinton Priory (private) Go across the field to stile, cross the stile and walk straight over the

a field at 2 o'clock to the right of the ridge. Go through a kissing gate with the Wellow Brook on your right. Go straight across under the viaduct onto Dunkerton Road.

12 Turn right along the road towards Midford. After 200m you will meet the B3110 again. Turn left and immediately right up Old Midford Road for 10m. Then immediately right into the Hope and Anchor pub car park. In the car park follow blue signs to National Cycle Route 24 towards Bath, passing old Midford Station on the left and in time the Tucking Mill Viaduct. The Combe Down Tunnel is 1672m long and plays you classical music as you walk/ cycle through it! At the end of the tunnel continue on Route 24. Do not enter the second tunnel. After 300m and before a bridge and the start of houses on the right take a small track off the cycle track at 11 o'clock downwards, with a wire fence on the left through a wood. After 100m turn right through the gate under the viaduct. Turn right before a house called The Pines and continue along the lane keeping houses to your left. Keep on this tarmac lane until you reach Lyncombe Vale.

13 Go past The Paragon School on your right. At the T-junction take the road up leftwards which is Lyncombe Vale Road. At the next T-junction with Greenway Lane, turn left along Greenway Lane. After 50m turn right through the gate and go straight across Lyncombe Hill Common. At the far edge of the common, go through the kissing gate onto a path, turn left going up the hill, passing Lyncombe Hill Farm Allotments on your left. Enter Alexandra Park with magnificent views of Bath to your right and make your way to the viewpoint where there are seats and one of the most beautiful views of the city.

14 Keep the view/railings to your right and keep walking down a slope. At the end of the railings, turn right down the steep steps through the wood. Turn right as you come out of the wood, continue down the last few steps.

Turn right along Calton Walk. After 200m through the houses, turn left down steps to the road. Cross the road and take the pavement footpath bearing left down the slope, continue straight on. At the bottom of the hill, bear right, keeping the railings and the busy road on your left. After 50m, go through the subway to Bath city centre, turn left. As you come out of the subway go under the railway bridge, go right over the footbridge over the River Avon, keeping the Bus Station on your right, go straight ahead, up pedestrianised Southgate Street. This becomes Stall Street. Walk past the Pump Rooms on your right, walk under the colonnade and Bath Abbey and its amazing West front is straight ahead of you. This is where King Edgar the Peaceful, King of England was crowned in 973AD.

15 Bath Abbey is the start of the Cotswold Way, where you can begin to walk to Chipping Camden. Or you can catch the D2 or X67 bus or the train back to Frome.

FINISH