

Around Kingston St Mary

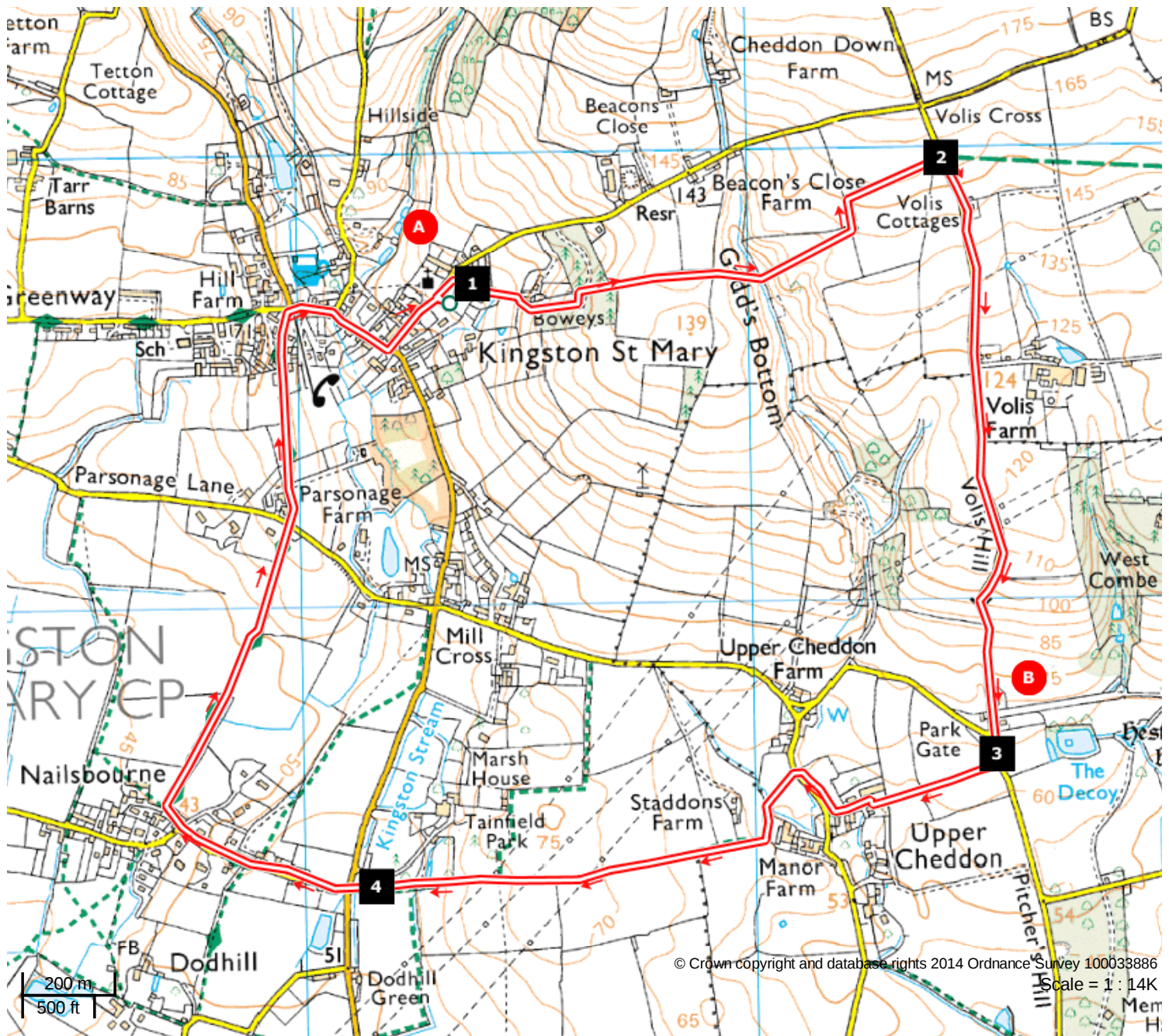
Starts at Kingston St Mary

2 hours 0 minutes | 4.0miles 6.5km | Leisurely



ID: 0.3082 | Developed by: Edward Levy | www.ramblersroutes.org

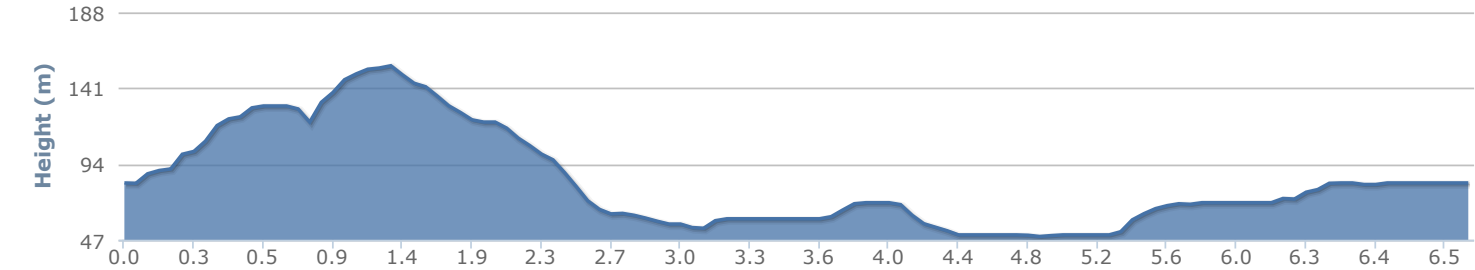
A circular walk from Kingston St Mary which lies 3 miles north of Taunton at the edge of the Quantock Hills. This walk takes in some of the lower slopes and gives pleasant views towards the Blackdown Hills.



— Main Route — Alternative Route **H** Point of Interest **4** Waypoint

Distance: 6.47km Ascent: 134m Descent: 134m

Route Profile



*move mouse over graph to see points on route

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity. We work to safeguard the footpaths, countryside and other places where we all go walking. We encourage people to walk for their health and wellbeing. To become a member visit www.ramblers.org.uk



Starts at

Church Car Park, Church Hill, Kingston St Mary Somerset TA2 8HR. Grid Ref: ST 223 297

Getting there

Kingston St Mary lies 3 miles north of Taunton. From the A358 road which runs across the north of Taunton follow the signed road to Kingston. Hatch Green Coaches service No. 23 from Taunton runs through the village at 2 hourly intervals.

Bus

timetable: <http://www.travelinesw.com>

Route instructions

[1] Leave car park turning right into road in front of church and then almost immediately turn right into a lane.

(A) Kingston St Mary Church: The church in Kingston St Mary dates from the 13th century but the tower is from the early 16th century and was reroofed in 1952, with further restoration 1976–8. It is a 3-stage crenellated tower, with crocketed pinnacles with bracketed pinnacles set at angles, decorative pierced merlons, and set back buttresses crowned with pinnacles. The decorative "hunky-punks" are perched high on the corners. They may be so named because the carvings are hunkering (squatting) and punch (short and thick). They serve no function, unlike gargoyles which carry off water. The churchyard includes tombs of the Warre family who owned nearby Hestercombe House.

Follow the lane passing cottages on left. As the lane turns a path comes into view going straight ahead where the lane bears left. Turn onto the path and follow it up hill through woods. The path exits the woods over a stile into a field and then goes ahead to a further stile. Cross this stile bearing slightly right and go downhill where you will find a footbridge in the hedge. Cross the footbridge and the 2 stiles in quick succession after it and then bear slightly left and go up hill across a field. As you ascend a stile in the hedge ahead will come into view. Head to the stile and cross it and then turn immediately left and follow the hedge-line round the field to reach a gate, which exits into a minor road.

[2] Turn right into the road and follow it downhill past Volis Farm on the left, then under power lines and further ahead pass the entrance to Hestercombe House and Gardens on the left.

(B) Hestercombe House is a historic country house in the parish of West Monkton. The house is a Grade II listed building and the estate is Grade I listed on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.*

The house, which was originally built in the 16th century was used as the headquarters of the British 6th Corps in the Second World War, and has been owned by Somerset County Council since 1951. It is used as an administrative centre for Somerset County Council. It is surrounded by gardens which have been restored to Gertrude Jekyll's original plans (1904–07) and have made it "one of the best Jekyll-Lutyens gardens open to the public on a regular basis", visited by approximately 70,000 people per year.

Shortly after passing the Hestercombe House entrance a road joins from the right. Continue ahead a short distance and then turn right over a stile.

[3] Cross two fields heading towards the grey gabled roof of a cottage ahead which will lead you to a stile exiting to a road. Cross the stile and the road bearing slightly right to the stile on the opposite side. Cross the stile into a field and then head across the field towards the trees in the hedge opposite where you will find another stile. Cross this stile and immediately turn left and follow the hedge line around the field edge and then straight ahead until it meets a road.

[4] Cross the road into the road opposite and follow a short distance downhill into the community of Nailsbourne. Where the road turns left go straight ahead by the side of a house into a concrete driveway. In approximately 50 yards turn right onto a footpath running alongside a stream on the right. Follow this path straight ahead, cross a minor road and continue following path in same direction. The path ends in Kingston St Mary village in a small flight of steps leading down to the road. Go straight ahead along the road through the village and round the right hand bend. After rounding bend turn first left into lane leading to the church and the car park.

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Additional 'Point of Interest' information

Map: Explorer 140 The Quantocks and Bridgwater

Notes

Map: Explorer 140: Bridgwater & Quantock Hills

Terrain: A gentle climb to waypoint 2 followed by a gentle descent to waypoint 3. Then through gentle fields and paths with minor undulations.

Refreshments:

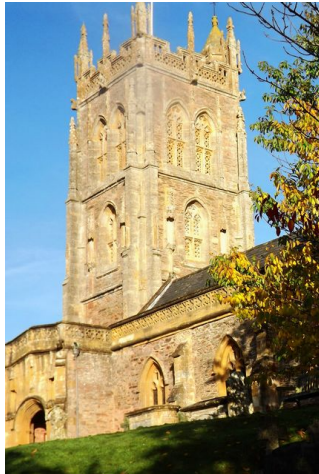
Acknowledgements

Developed by: *Edward Levy*

Wikipedia



Autumn Colours Around Kingston Church
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Kingston St Mary Church
Photo taken by: Edward Levy

