

Channel to Channel 5 - Denzel House to Watchet

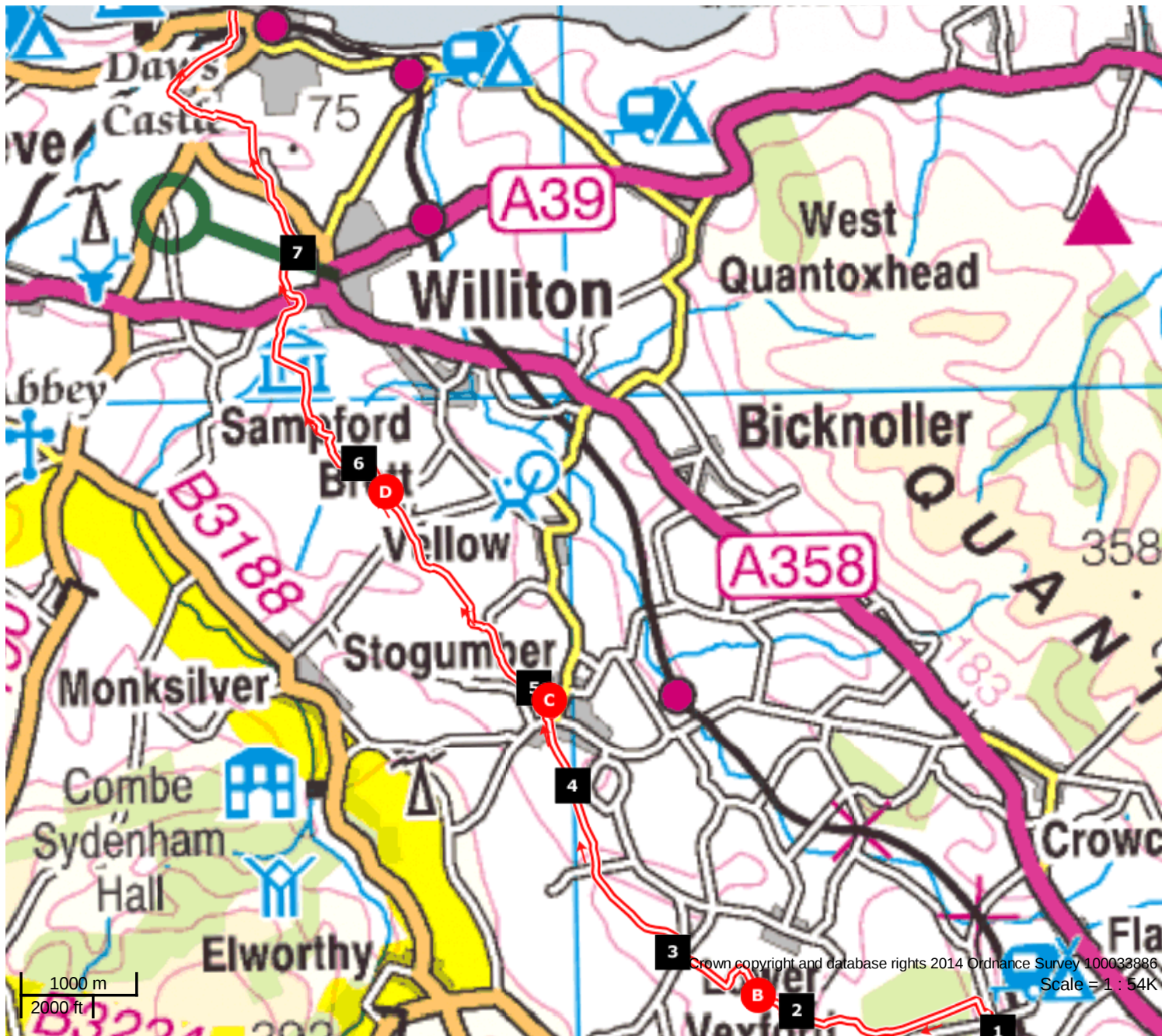


Starts at Crowcombe Heathfield Station

3 hours 10 minutes | 9.6miles 15.4km | Moderate

ID: 290.5 | Developed by: Robin Segulem | Checked by: Edward Levy | www.ramblersroutes.org

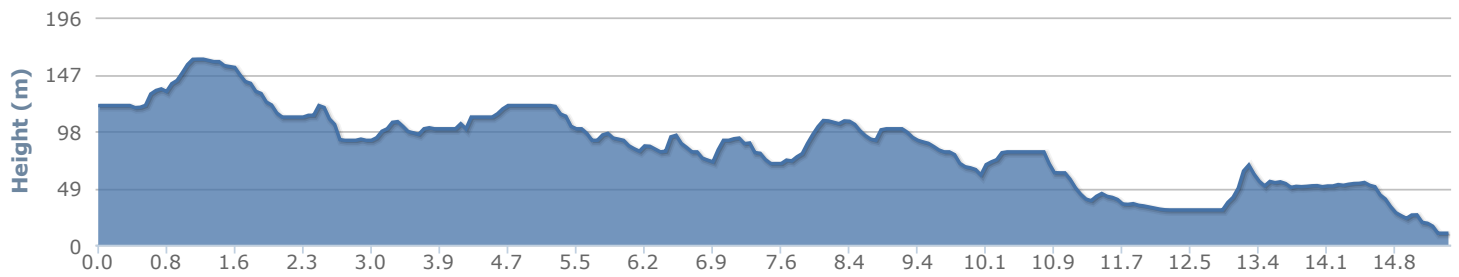
A long linear walk that passes through woodland and farmland up some steep slopes which provide great views of the the Bristol Channel and the Quantock Hills. The route finishes at Watchet Harbour.



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

Distance: 15.38km Ascent: 276m Descent: 386m

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

Crowcombe Heathfield Station, Bakers Orchard Road, Crowcombe Heathfield, Somerset

Ends at

Watchet Harbour, Market Street (B3191), Somerset

Getting there

A heritage steam and diesel service from Minehead to Bishops Lydeard stops at both Crowcombe Heathfield Station, where this walk starts, and at Watchet where it finishes. Service is infrequent so check West Somerset Rail's schedule first.

Alternatively, Crowcombe Heathfield station can be accessed by public transport by taking the number 18 or 28 buses that run between Taunton and Minehead to Crowcombe Heathfield turning and walking for roughly half an hour to the starting point.

Watchet is also well served by bus; there is the number 14 to Bridgwater, numbers 18 and 28 to Taunton and the numbers 18, 28 and 106 to Minehead.

By car, Crowcombe Heathfield station is 3/4 of a mile off the A358 and Watchet is just off the A39.

Route instructions

[1] From the station, turn left up Bakers Orchard and then turn left again to cross over the railway line. The road bends immediately to the right, follow and then take the first left onto Broad Oak Hill. Continue along the lane with its wide verges through the woodland. Pass a left turn and continue uphill uphill to where the road bears left at Broad Oak. Turn right on this corner and walk a short distance to a gate. Go through the gate and on to a stone track through open woodland. After about 300 yards, as the track begins to descend, look for a gate into a field down on the left (there is a tall pine tree at this point approx. 10ft above the path, a board is nailed to it). Go through the gate and possible electric fence keeping the woodland, then hedge, on the right.

(A) Ahead you should be able to see the tower on Willett Hill, an eighteenth century folly.

As the field dips steeply go through a farm gate on the right and down the rutted track along the field edge to two more gates and farm buildings on the left. Continue out on to the lane at Rexton Farm.

[2] Turn left and pass through the farm up to the last buildings on the right. Just before the final building take the track on the right, which passes through a gate and then bears right behind the farm. Follow the track to the top of the hill.

(B) Here there is a wide view of the Quantock Hills on the other side of the valley.

The track turns sharp left and shortly reaches a gate entering into a field. Go through the gate and follow the track in the grass steeply downhill. Cross a path running from left to right and go ahead to a gate and a footbridge. Pass through the gate and bear right uphill to cross a field and then downhill to a gate. Pass through gate and turn left onto a hedged track. Follow the track past a small pond on the right and then uphill to a gate also on the right underneath power lines. Go through gate and cross field veering diagonally downhill to the right. At gap in hedge ahead, where a track passes into the next field there is a small gate in the hedge on the right which is waymarked. Pass through the gate and keep by the left-hand hedge to Higher Vexford Farm. Pass to the left of the buildings out onto the road.

[3] Turn right then continue to a road junction where there is a signpost to Stogumber. Follow this to the left but after a 100 yards, before the road bears right, go through a field-gate on the left and pass in front of an

open barn. Continue with the hedge on the right up to a gate. Go through and continue on the same line with the hedge to the left. Pass through a gate and then, when the hedge veers left, carry on straight ahead towards the buildings of Lower Preston Farm. The path goes to the right of the buildings then down a bank over a stile to the road. Cross the road and climb another stile to continue over the field past some buildings on the left to a stile on the far side. Cross and carry on along a fence, catching a first glimpse of the Bristol Channel ahead, through a gate and across the hillside aiming to the right of the thatched roofs of Wood Farm.

[4] Climb a stile in the corner of the field down into Wood Lane and turn left to pass through the hamlet. About 80 yards past Wood Cottage look for a stile on the left hidden in the holly hedge. Go over, keeping the fence on the left, through a gate and a thicket of brushwood on a fairly well defined path. In the final field on approaching Stogumber the gate in the left hand corner is hidden in the hedge and does not come into view until alongside it. Pass through gate and in a short distance path emerges onto a road in the village. Turn immediately right and go uphill and cross the road onto an inclined footpath with a handrail leading into the churchyard and out opposite the White Horse Inn.

(C) Stogumber is a pleasant village with some attractive old buildings. Notice Seven Crosses Cottage, a former public house, on the left.

Turn left out of the churchyard and then right at the bottom of the hill. Follow the road for about 100 yards and at the road name sign "The Orchard" turn left onto a track leading to a footpath.

[5] Follow the path and cross two stiles then climb the hill, aiming for the left of two electricity poles visible ahead. At the brow of the hill pass a gate on the left and then keep the hedge on the left until a gate is reached. Go through and walk downhill with the hedge on the right. At the bottom go straight across the field to Escott Farm visible ahead and out through a field gate and the farmyard. On reaching the public road turn right and go downhill passing a cottage on left. Immediately after passing cottage turn left through a field gate to follow a track/path running uphill along the edge of the field. This footpath continues in a northerly direction for about three quarters of a mile before reaching a minor road. Bear left into the minor road and continue to a T junction. At the T junction turn right and then immediately left over a stile leading into a field. Walk through the field following the electric power line to another stile onto a minor road.

(D) There are good views here across the Bristol Channel to the Welsh Coast with North Hill, Minehead, and the edge of Exmoor a little to the left.

Turn left on the road to the hamlet of Capton.

[6] Proceed up to Capton Farm then turn right on the byway to Aller Farm, with its stately farmhouse and lovely old buildings. Continue through the complex to the T junction then take the right-hand track over the hill to Williton.

As the track bends left on the ridge, St. Decuman's church at Watchet can be seen on the hillside to the right.

Keep to the track passing Williton Church then bear left into Priest Street, which is the main A39 road. **Cross with care**, turn left and after a few yards, turn right on to a marked footpath, which skirts the village and eventually passes the single storey hospital and the fire station.

[7] Turn left on the main road, the B3191, cross over, pass a school and ignore a marked footpath off to the right. Where the road begins to bend left take the metalled byway on the right leading uphill to a water installation. Pass the covered reservoir on the right and continue to the boundary of a housing estate.

Over the hill the full stretch of the estuary has come into view with Steepholm and Flatholm Islands away to the right.

Do not enter the housing estate but turn left along the hedge, over three stiles and several gates to Parsonage Farm. Pass through the farmyard on to the public road then cross over into Brendon Road, which leads to St. Decuman's Church. Turn right at the church on to a footpath leading downhill past an old mill chimney and the extensive works of the present paper mill. The path emerges to the road where you should bear left and cross the bridge over the West Somerset Railway into Watchet town.

Continue straight down Swain Street to finish at Watchet Harbour.

Notes

Refreshments are available in Stogumber, Williton and Watchet. There is a tourist information centre in Watchet.

This route is covered by OS Explorer map 140 and OS Leisure map no 9.

Acknowledgements

Developed by: *Robin Segulem*

Checked by: *Edward Levy*

Edited by: *Margot French*

Routes numbers 24-28 from the book - Channel to Channel - A rural route for walkers from the seaside town of Seaton over Blackdown Hills Area of Natural Beauty to the old port of Watchet on the North Coast of Somerset.

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Crowcombe Heathfield Station
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Church Street Stogumber
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Watchet Harbour
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Statue of Coleridge's Ancient Mariner Watchet Harbour
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Statue of Old Sea Dog Watchet Harbour
Photo taken by: Edward Levy

