



### Walk 34. Crowcombe and Stogumber to Washford.

- 10 miles, 3 hours 35 minutes. Ascents of 270 metres and descents of 370 metres.

Terrain: Fields, paths and tracks: potentially muddy. There are no particularly steep ascents.

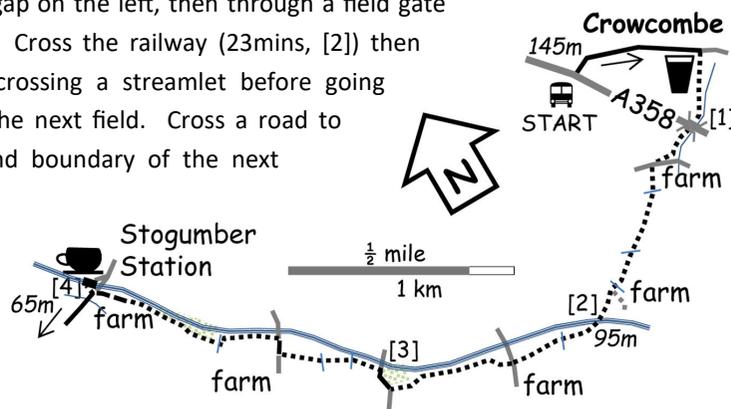
Access: There is limited parking in Washford (try the memorial hall (donation) at ST 049 412). Bus 28 (frequent, daily) connects Washford with Crowcombe (but not Stogumber) as well as Minehead, Watchet, Williton and Taunton; the seasonal West Somerset Railway runs between Minehead and Bishops Lydeard via Washford and Stogumber.

Map: OS Explorer 140 and OL9; the last part of the walk (from Aller Farm) is also on Croydecycle 55 Watchet & Quantock North.

Refreshments: Pubs at Crowcombe, Stogumber and Washford; small buffet at Stogumber station in season.

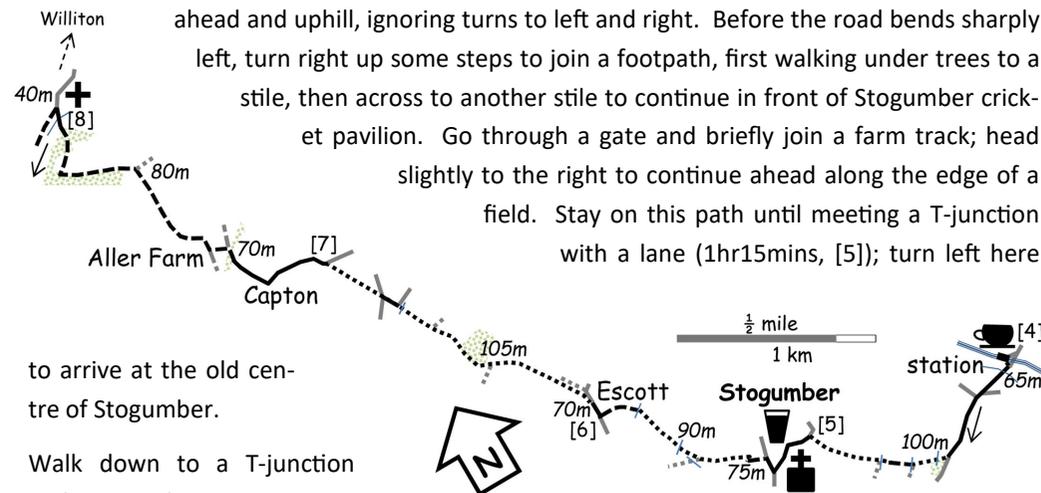
THIS GENTLE TO MODERATE ROUTE crosses the valley between the Quantock and Brendon Hills, a mixture of flat and gently rolling country. There is little dramatic scenery; instead you will encounter traditional villages, hamlets of thatch and stone, some substantial old farmhouses, and the West Somerset Railway, the old branch line between Taunton and Minehead which is now the longest enthusiast-run railway in the country.

The bus will drop you on the Crowcombe crossroads on the A358. Head into the village, passing the post office/shop and coming to the pub. At the far end of the pub turn right on a footpath and walk across the field. This will take you underneath the A358 next to a stream (11mins, [1]). Cross a road in front of a thatched farmhouse, and continue along the edge of a field. Go over a stile, across the field, and through a gate; go down some steps, through another gate, through a gap on the left, then through a field gate and cross the next field. Cross the railway (23mins, [2]) then continue just below it, crossing a streamlet before going through two gates into the next field. Cross a road to head along the right-hand boundary of the next field, back alongside the railway. Turn left to keep a small wood to your right, go through a gate next to a house, and turn right on a lane; just be-



fore the railway bridge, turn left through a metal kissing gate (40mins, [3]). At first keep next to the railway; in the next field cross diagonally to a stile, then walk down the left-hand field edge to come to a road. Turn right, then left just before the railway bridge. Continue alongside the railway line until you come to an arch under it; turn left here, then right on a marked footpath through a fenced-off, spindly wood. Go through several gates, keeping close to the railway. Join a farm track to come to a road: cross over and go through a white picket gate, to climb up to Stogumber station (55mins, [4]). With a small buffet in season and a tea garden, this is an ideal point to take a break. Using the train, you will be starting from here.

Leave Stogumber station the way you came, on the path marked to the White Horse and the village. Turn right on the road and cross a stream. Continue ahead and uphill, ignoring turns to left and right. Before the road bends sharply left, turn right up some steps to join a footpath, first walking under trees to a stile, then across to another stile to continue in front of Stogumber cricket pavilion. Go through a gate and briefly join a farm track; head slightly to the right to continue ahead along the edge of a field. Stay on this path until meeting a T-junction with a lane (1hr15mins, [5]); turn left here



to arrive at the old centre of Stogumber.

Walk down to a T-junction and turn right; in just over 50 metres, turn left on a public footpath in front of a small stone-fronted house. Cross a stream and a small field, and go over a stile into a larger field; at the far side, keep to the right (don't go through the gate). To your right there are views back over Stogumber and across to the Quantocks. Go through the next gate and keep along the right-hand field boundary, before crossing just to the right of the house ahead to arrive at a field gate. This is Escott. Walk past the house and through the farmyard, turning right when you come to a lane (1hr35mins, [6]). Pass a pair of houses and take the permissive path just inside the hedge on the left, continuing parallel with the lane. You will see the old overgrown footpath in a gully to your right. Continue along the field boundary, ignoring turns first to the left and then to the right; after the second turn the path now rises, with the field edge on the left. Go through a gate to join a lane; just ahead at a T-junction, go over a stile and cross the field, following the power lines. The twin masts of Washford Cross are visible to your left.

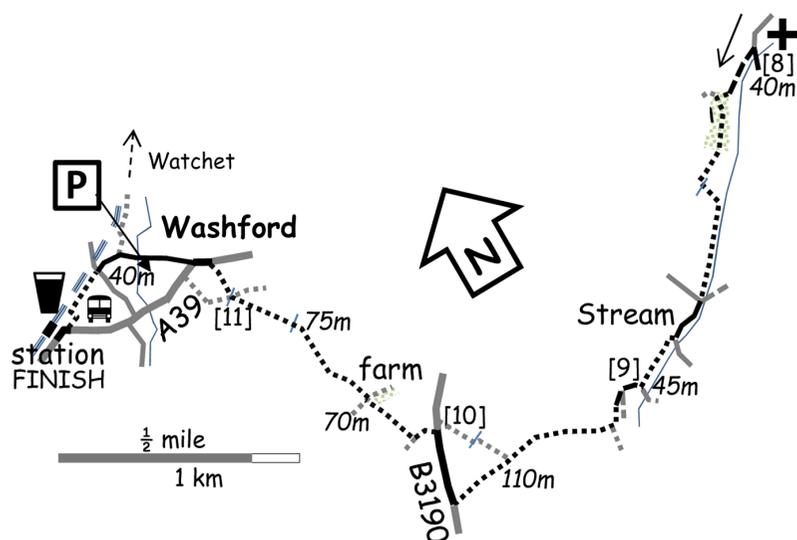
Turn left on a lane (2hrs, [7]), and walk through the little hamlet of Capton. At Capton Farm, don't continue to the farmhouse but turn right in front of the barn; this will bring you to Aller Farm, on a private drive. Turn left at a footpath sign to walk between the farmhouse and a series of stone outbuildings, among some rather splendid gardens. Turn right at the T-junction and follow the wide track to the top of a ridge and around to the left; a seat allows you to contemplate the view over Williton. The track continues down and next to a wood, until it meets a hard road at a gate lodge; continue ahead here, cross a wide stream (2hr25mins, [8]), then before coming to a church turn sharply left on a drive to the mill house, formerly the Bakelite Museum. In front of the house take the path to the right; this skirts around the back of the building and above the stream. Cross a field then turn left as signposted to arrive back at the stream; join a stone bridge, which crosses another path, then walk alongside the stream.

The streamside path soon meets a road; continue ahead on it, in front of a large thatched house. Pass Stream Farm on the right, then immediately before the road crosses the stream, turn right on a narrow path to walk beside it once again. Coming to a farm track (2hr50mins, [9]), turn right; bend to the left then take the right-hand, upper fork. The track becomes a path running along the edge of a field; follow it around to the right and upwards, ignoring the path to the left. Cross into a second field. As the path levels out, a vague path may be apparent to the right across crops; if so, follow it and cross into another field to arrive at a road; your path continues diagonally to the right into a field. Alternatively, keep along the field edge to come to gate. Turn right and take care walking along this busy road; pass a small block of conifers to the left and follow the road around a gentle right-hand bend. Just past a gate on the right, turn left to enter the field as above (3hr10mins, [10]).

Continue clockwise around the field to come to the opposite corner; just beyond, go through a gap and carry on ahead, ignoring a broad crossing path. At the far side of the field, a hedge meets you end-on; keep on its right-hand side. At the corner of the field, head left and over a stile, then along the left-hand field edge. Go over a stile (3hr25mins, [11]) and turn right to pass a children's playground and head along a narrow footpath. This brings you to the A39. Cross over with care, and briefly head left; turn right into Huish Lane towards the school and memorial hall. Walk past the hall and the school, then at the railway bridge continue ahead on a footpath. This follows the railway and (with a kink leftwards into a residential parking area) brings you back to Washford station.

**Alternative start: Stogumber station** (● 7.2 miles, 2 hours 40 minutes, ascents of 235 metres and descents of 265 metres). Take the train to Stogumber and follow the route to Washford as described above.

**Alternative finishes: Williton and Watchet.** For Williton, continue past the church and turn right for the A358 and bus stop, or left and through the town for the station (nearly a mile from the church). For Watchet, turn right almost opposite the school in Washford to follow a path alongside the railway (it uses the line of the old Mineral Railway, closed in 1898). The path joins a residential road to take you into the centre of the town, where the station and bus stop can be found. (Finishing in Watchet adds another 1.8 miles to the walk).



Capton

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