

Mendip Hills AONB



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Moderate

DISTANCE

4.8km (3 miles)

TIME

1½-2 hours

OS MAP

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

CONTACT

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FACILITIES

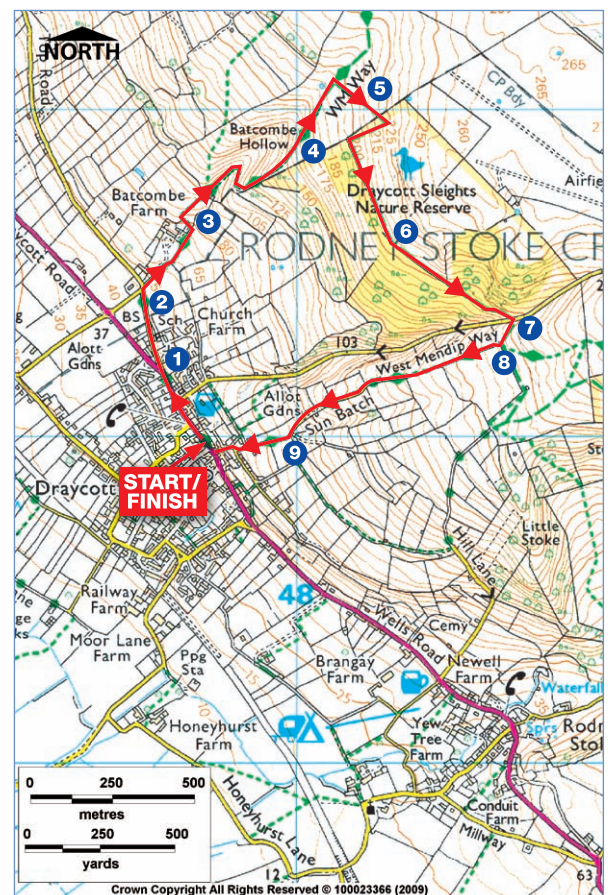
Pubs in Draycott:
Strawberry Special &
The Red Lion

Draycott Sleights

Draycott Sleights, a sunny south-facing scarp with its steeply-sloping grassland, rocky outcrops and limestone cliffs, provides the perfect habitat for many plants and invertebrates – all against the backdrop of one of Somerset's finest views. The grassland is rich in herbs, orchids, delicate ferns and contrasting patches of lichens, and the wealth of flowers attract numerous butterflies. The many grasshoppers and crickets include the nationally scarce rufous grasshopper. Dragonflies and many species of snail are also present. The natural caves and fissures in the limestone are home to rare greater and lesser horseshoe bats. Other mammals include badgers, brown hares, roe deer and the diminutive muntjac. Look for patches of sheltered sunny turf close to thick cover and you may spot the black zigzag of a basking adder. They're wary creatures which try to bite only if cornered or trodden on so all you'll notice is the rustle in the grass as they make themselves scarce. You may also spot the secretive slow-worm. The Sleights' many birds include numerous raptors, including buzzards, tawny and little owl, kestrels and peregrine falcons. This site has been managed for hundreds of years by sheep-grazing ('sleight' means sheep pasture). Limestone grassland that hasn't been 'improved' by modern agriculture is increasingly difficult to find, which is why Draycott Sleights is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Jim Hallett/Countryside Agency



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START/END

Draycott, OS Grid Ref
ST 477 510

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

Draycott is 1½ miles
off Sustrans National
Cycle Route 26 (the
Strawberry Line)
www.sustrans.org.uk

BY BUS

Service 126 Weston-
super-Mare to Wells
stops near the start of
the walk.

BY CAR

Draycott is on the A371
between Cheddar and
Wells.

DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

Waymarking: Look for the waymarkers wherever there are stiles, gates or changes of direction.

From Draycott village centre, follow footpath alongside the road towards Cheddar.

Bear right **(1)** and after 200m take the bridleway right **(2)**, past Batcombe Farm **(3)**.

Follow the bridleway up past Batcombe Hollow **(4)**.

Look out for the bridleway junction, take the right hand route **(5)** and follow this into the reserve **(6)**.

Follow the bridleway, crossing New Road **(7)**, until you meet the West Mendip Way **(8)**.

Follow the West Mendip Way downhill to Sun Batch **(9)** and pick up the lane back into the village.

Other things to look out for at or near Draycott Sleights

- Amazing views of the Somerset Levels and Moors (*below*)
- Glastonbury Tor
- Gliders from the nearby glider airfield
- Dry stone walls
- Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve

