

# Mendip Hills AONB



## TRAIL TYPE

Horse riding and off-road cycling.

## GRADE

Moderate cycling and horse riding.

## DISTANCE

9 miles (14km)

## TIME

2 hours

## OS MAP

Explorer: 141  
Landranger: 182

## CONTACT

[projects@thetrailstrust.org.uk](mailto:projects@thetrailstrust.org.uk)

## FACILITIES

Car parking on gravel areas alongside Priddy Green.  
Pubs and farm shop in Priddy. Shop and pub in Westbury sub Mendip.

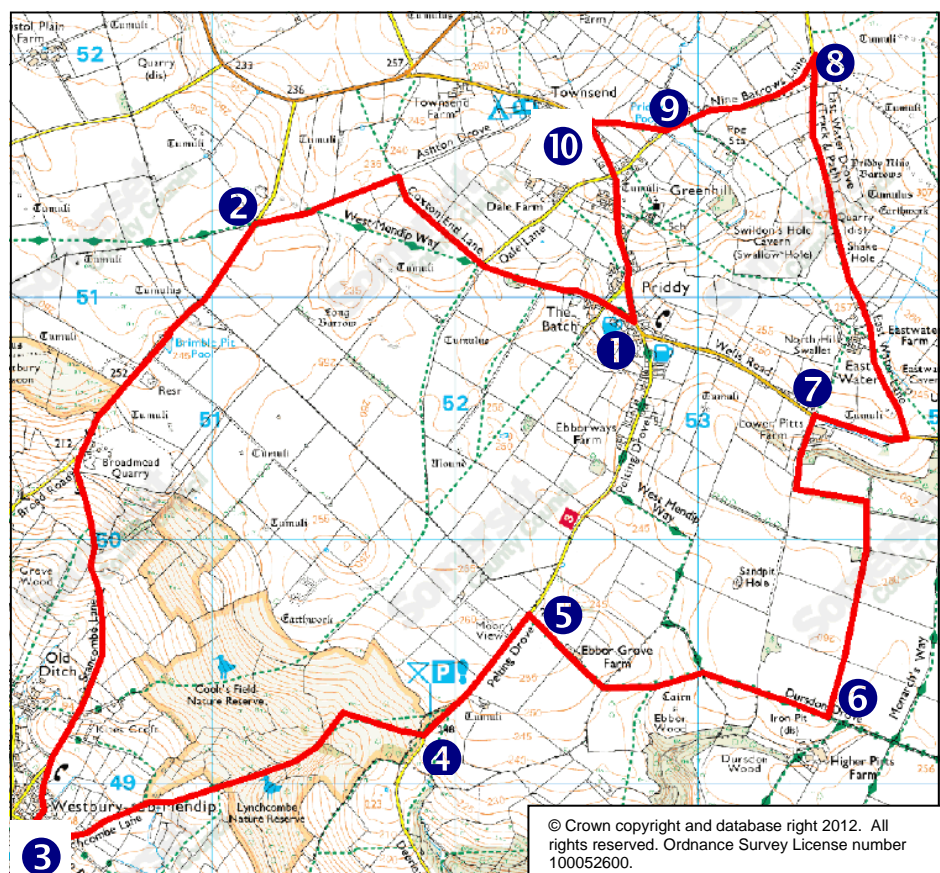
# Priddy & Deer Leap

The village of Priddy lies in a hollow at the heart of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, some 250 metres (800 feet) above sea level, and centered on the green where the hurdles stack symbolizes the famous sheep fair held annually since 1348.



## TERRAIN

The trail takes you along roads and tracks once used for the droving of cattle and sheep and strings of packhorses carrying lead, wool and corn. Mostly good surfaced routes with some steep climbs.



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# Mendip Hills AONB



## START/END

Priddy Green, grid ref:  
ST527509

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

Priddy is on Sustrans  
National Cycle Route 3.  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### BY CAR

Priddy is signposted from  
the B3135 (Cheddar Gorge  
to Oakhill road) and the  
B3134 (Burrington Combe  
to Wells road).

## DIRECTIONS AND INFORMATION

**Notes:** FG means a field gate (usually 12' or more wide), BRG means a  
bridleway gate (usually 5' wide).

(1) Start at Priddy Green outside the New Inn. Keep the pub on your left and go straight up The Batch to the junction with Dale Lane. Go straight along Coxton End Lane to the Westbury Road Junction.

(2) Turn left up the Westbury Road going first uphill to pass Brimble Pit Pool on your left and then downhill to Broadmead Quarry. Just past the quarry bear left down steep and narrow Stancombe Lane.

(3) Go all the way down this lane into the centre of Westbury Village and turn left up Lynchcombe Lane. Follow the lane all the way past the stables on your right to where it becomes a stony track leading to Westbury Combe bridleway. Go through a BRG and head straight up the steep grassy combe, through a FG, then straight up the steep slope and bear right along the grassy track to the FG out of the field. The grass track through Westbury Combe was once a coffin route, where the villagers of Priddy carried their dead down to Westbury sub Mendip for burial.

(4) Go through the gate out of the field and turn immediately left to follow the grass path up to the Deer Leap car park and picnic area. Deer Leap, often said to have the best views in Somerset, has been farmed since medieval times and the remains of three medieval settlements can still be seen today. Go through the car park and follow the verge side path to Pelting Drove. Bear left onto Pelting Drove and, just past Moor View Cottage on your left, look out for Durston Drove Byway (track) on your right.

(5) Turn right into Durston Drove, past the farm on your left, go along the drove to Pitts bridleway on your left.

(6) Turn left through a BRG and follow Pitts bridleway as it bends sharply first left and then right and passes Lower Pitts Farm on the right to a BRG exit onto Wells Road.

(7) Turn right onto Wells Road and then left into Eastwater Lane. Go up the lane, just past the farm and campsite on the left and the house on the right, the lane becomes Eastwater Drove restricted byway (track).

(8) At the end of the track turn sharply left down narrow and pretty Nine Barrows Lane to Priddy Pool on your right.

(9) Turn right by the pool into Dark Lane restricted byway (track) to Paynes Green Cottage. Priddy Pool is an important water source for wildlife, especially roe deer which can often be seen drinking here.

(10) Continue past the rear of Paynes Green Cottage to the road. Turn left and go straight down the road, past top green on the left to Priddy Green for a pub stop at the new Inn or Queen Victoria!