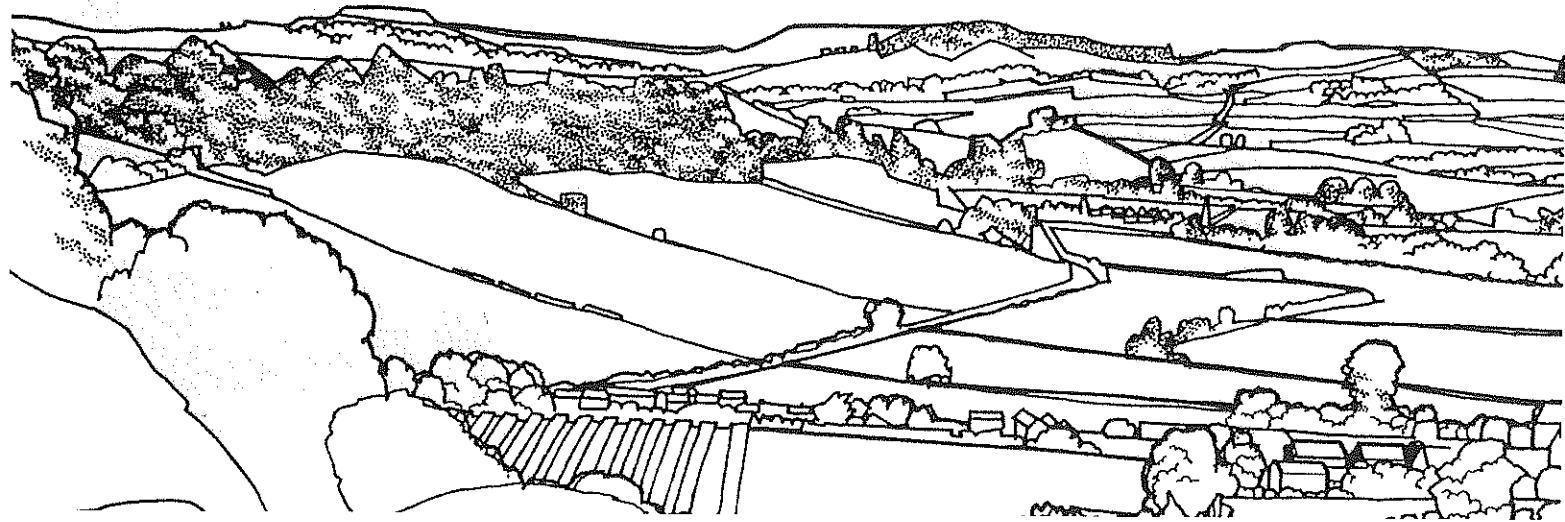




*P*ENSELWOOD TO BRUTON

Stage-1

4.8 miles - 3 hours



Points of Interest

The Start

What more fitting start than King Alfred's Tower? Just 100 yards into Somerset and described by Edith Timperley in her book about Ancient Trackways in Wessex - "not a folly but a symbol of the meeting of contrasting countrysides". From the Tower looking east is the "austere beauty of the Wiltshire downland with its vast unhedged arable fields and high pastures". To the west the prospect is of Somerset. "Here the intimate homely landscape of Somerset fields and orchards is netted in winding lanes and winding streams".

King Alfreds Tower

Stands on Kingsettle Hill on the edge of an escarpment overlooking the Somerset plain. The tower was conceived in 1762 and commemorates peace with France and the succession two years previously of George III. The 160' tower contains a staircase which can be climbed when the tower is open.

The inscription on the tower reads:

"Alfred the Great A.D. 879 on this summit
Erected his Standard against the Danish
invaders
To Him we owe
the origin of Juries

the establishment of a militia
the creation of a Naval force
Alfred the light of a benighted age
was a Philosopher and a Christian;
the father of his people; the founder
of the English Monarchy and Liberty"

Penselwood

Still mysterious, the area of Penselwood was once part of the medieval forest of Selwood, that great tract of ancient woodland on the borders of Somerset and Wiltshire beyond which King Alfred had rallied his troops in 878 against the Danes. The Norman kings converted the area to a royal forest where deer were protected for the Crown by law - 67 bucks and does were given away from Selwood by the king in 1258. Places which were once part of the woodland include Shave Farm in South Brewham, so named from the Saxon word "shaw", meaning wood.

The descent towards Bruton follows an arrow-straight path to the gate of Redlynch House. The path is in places cobbled and runs almost parallel with the metalled road which follows the course of the 'Hard Way'. This is known to have been part of a drove road from the west which can be followed from Cary Moor. Cattle were driven along here to Salisbury Plain and thence to the London markets. A field beside the river Cary near Rubbery Farm, Lydford, was an

overnight stop. A ruined cottage still traceable by the river bank served as a shelter for drovers, and the field when ploughed has yielded many ox shoes. An equally intriguing story is of a secret link between Redlynch House and Stourhead House which allowed unnoticed social visits to be made between the two by horse and trap!

Bruton

Your approach to Bruton will be in sight of the dovecote which once belonged to Bruton Abbey and which provided the monks with food. Leland is the only source for the belief that the abbey was founded in Saxon times by Algar, Earl of Cornwall, on the spot where St. Aldhelm had earlier built a church. The precinct wall of the medieval monastery still stands. The dovecote and hill are owned by the National Trust. Bruton parish church has two towers, an ancient crypt, and a rare (for Somerset) 18th century chancel. Bruton is a town best appreciated on foot. Thursday is early closing day in Bruton. However this does not affect the several pubs which serve food. There are toilets located at Grove Alley off Patwell Street.

Stage-1

4.8 miles - 3 hours

CAR PARK

At Alfred's Tower, Brewham, Somerset, 3m east of Bruton, part of Stourhead Estate (N.T.).

1 Leave car park, walk 250 yards down Kingsettle Hill to footpath on the left (S.P. Pen Selwood 2½m, Redlynch 3½m). Turn left into the woods follow the waymarks straight on where path branches left. Straight on and downhill at next waymark. On to wide track and bear left.

At crossroads of footpaths turn right and walk down to gateway. Straight on metalled road for approximately 250 yards to signpost (Redlynch 3m) on right hand side just off road. Through gateway and straight on track through woods.

At fork bear right downhill, pass track on right and continue. Take next branch on left. Where track bends left go straight on to edge of wood and gate/stile.

2 Over stile and straight on across field with woods on left hand side. Leave edge of woods at corner continue straight across field to join track. Continue straight on to two stiles/gates. Over and straight on keeping Stavordale Woods on right hand side (remains of track is just discernible).

Over stile and continue through metal gate on track to junction with farm track. Straight across here over stile in electric fence and down hill to stile and gate.

Over stile and up hill bearing to right to stile and gate on top of hill. Over stile and straight ahead of track, over stile by metal gate into farmyard, exit over stile on to metalled road.

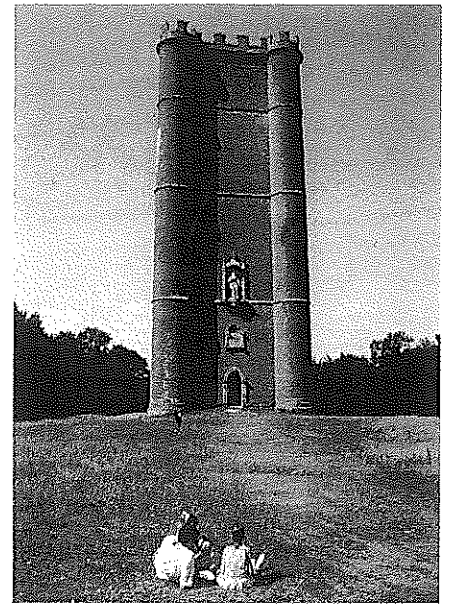
3 Across road to stile (S.P. Redlynch 1½m). Coach road is visible here, follow straight ahead over series of four stiles. Keep fence on right - coach road is still visible.

Leave fence at corner and keep straight ahead on track. At point where track turns right keep straight on and aim for point slightly to right of cottage ahead. Over stile in left hand hedge, diagonally right to next stile/gate leading to wooded area. Walk in straight line to gate/stile and continue on to wide fenced path. Over stile at end of track and stile/gate on to metalled road opposite gates to Redlynch Park.

4 Turn right (take care busy road) and walk to crossroads, turn left (signposted Shepton Montague) follow road and just past houses, turn right into grassy gateway (S.P. Bruton 1½m). Over stile and keeping hedge on right walk to top right hand corner of field to stile/sleepers/stile in hedge. Over and straight across middle of field - with hump on left - to stile in hedge opposite.

Over stile and keeping hedge on right down field to stile at bottom leading into wide enclosed section.

Left to stile/gate, continue over two stiles and follow hedge on right to stile/sleepers/



Alfred's Tower conceived in 1762 - the starting point of the Leland Trail

stile in right hand hedge. Cross here so that hedge is now on left. Walk down field keeping hedge on left then diagonally right quarter way over field to gate/stile. Turn right onto road and follow for a few yards and on to main road.

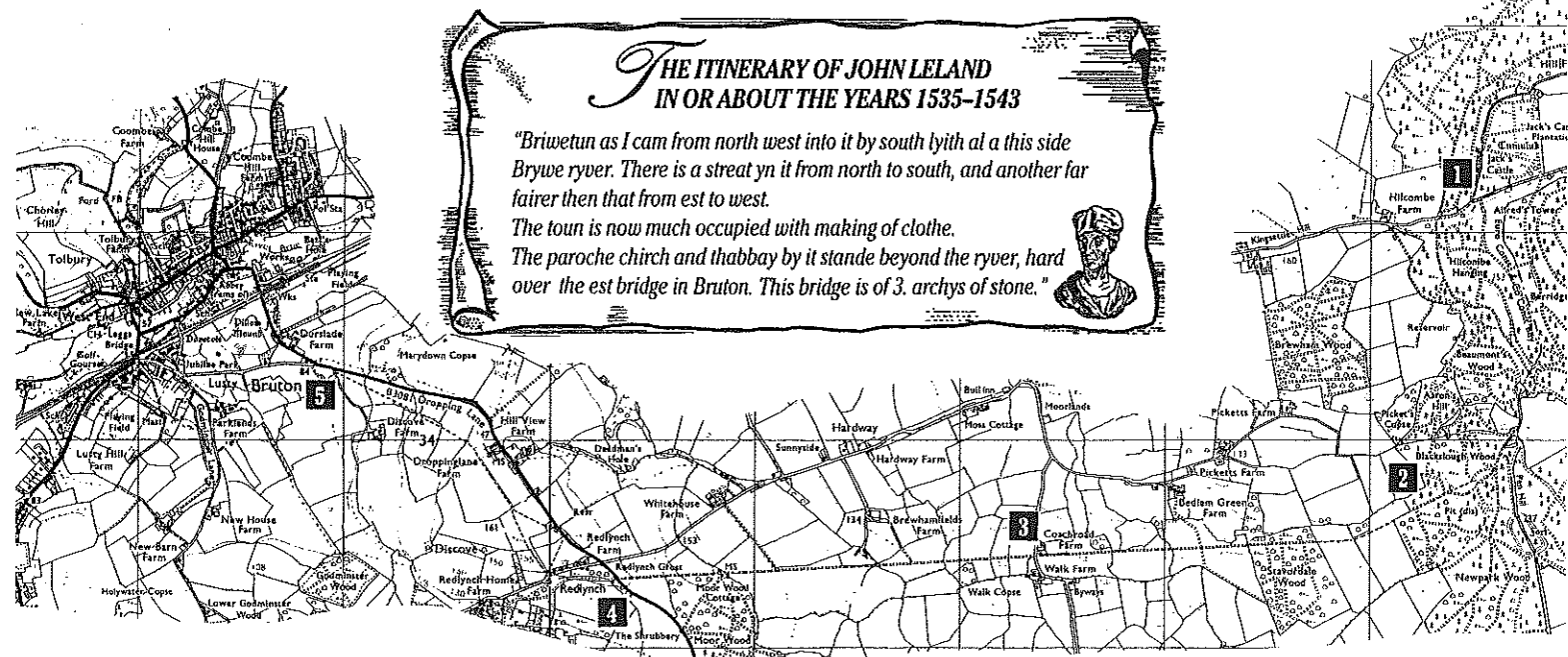
5 Turn left and after 50 yards left at road junction following road round through Bruton (passing the Dovecote on right). Turn right into Godminster Lane then over railway bridge into Plox. Cross road, straight ahead down steps over wooden bridge and turn right into Lower Backway. Follow road along river past Packhorse Bridge on right, continue along gravel path to Patwell Street. Turn left into High Street.

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"Briwetun as I cam from north west into it by south lyth al a this side Brywe ryver. There is a streat yn it from north to south, and another far fairer then that from est to west.

The toun is now much occupied with making of clothe.

The parochie chirch and thabbay by it stande beyond the ryver, hard over the est bridge in Bruton. This bridge is of 3. archys of stone."





B RUTON TO CASTLE CARY

Stage-2

4 miles - 2½ hours



Points of Interest

Ridgepath

The ridge path between Castle Cary and Bruton is clearly an old trackway. Leland's description of a stony hill is accurate today. From the ridge top above Bruton Glastonbury Tor can clearly be seen. After the descent there is the very unusual 17th century Church and Manor House of Wyke Champflower - the Church in the late perpendicular style is attached to the Manor House.

Somerset and Dorset Railway

The valley is full of reminders of the age of steam - the old Somerset and Dorset

Railway passed through here and Cole, where there was a station. Viaducts and bridges still remain as silent reminders of the trains that passed.

The valleys around this part of Somerset often retain marks of medieval field patterns with lynchets clearly visible on the valley sides.

Ansford and Castle Cary

Ansford, now adjoining Castle Cary, was the home of Parson Woodforde the great 18th century diarist. He often walked to Cole.

Castle Cary owes its name to a castle built in the early 12th century, and stormed by

King Stephen in 1138. Castle Cary is a suitable stop for a respite. The Market House rebuilt in the 19th century has 17th century pillars. Walk around the rear of the Market House to see on Bailey Hill the 'pepper pot', a lock up for the town built in 1779.

The climb up over Lodge Hill will again give you splendid views over the fertile lowlands of South Somerset.

Thursday is early closing day for most shops in Castle Cary and Ansford.



Stage-2

4 miles - 2½ hours

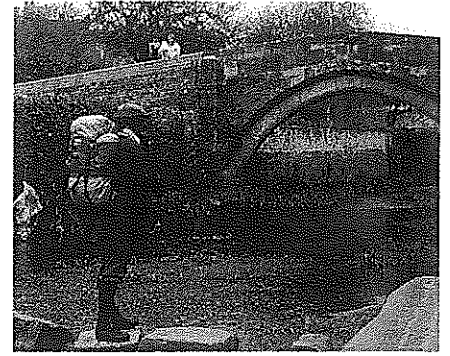
6 At bottom of Bruton High Street turn right into Trendle Lane (S.P. Wyke Champflower 1¼m) (to right of garage workshop). The lane gives way to enclosed footpath. Continue over entrance to fields. At end of hedge, stile is on the right, over stile then turn left, leave hedge where it turns corner and carry straight on downhill and walk down to two stiles on either side of surfaced track. Over these then straight on (slightly diagonally left) across next field to exit on to lane via stile to right of farm buildings and Wyke Champflower Church.

7 Left on road, over disused railway bridge then immediately left into Wyke Lane. Continue on Wyke Lane for approximately 1 mile, under two railway bridges and over the River Brue into Cole. Right at T-junction and follow road uphill round past Cole Farm on right hand side.

8 Just past barn conversion on the right (S.P. Ridge Hill 1½m) over stile/gate and diagonally left to far corner of field. Over stile at right hand side of post and rails, then after 20 yards over footbridge on right and straight up between fruit trees to hedge, then left keeping hedge on right hand side. Stile in top right hand corner of field, over and keeping hedge on right until it turns

corner then keep fence on right and follow path right round hill to stile at end of wire fence on right.

Over stile and straight on with hedge on left, steps down bank, into lane and left for approximately 100 yards. Turn right into bridleway (S.P. Solomon's Lane, Ansford ½m). Exit at traffic lights in Ansford. Turn right, cross road immediately then left down Ansford road, turn right into High Street, through Castle Cary.



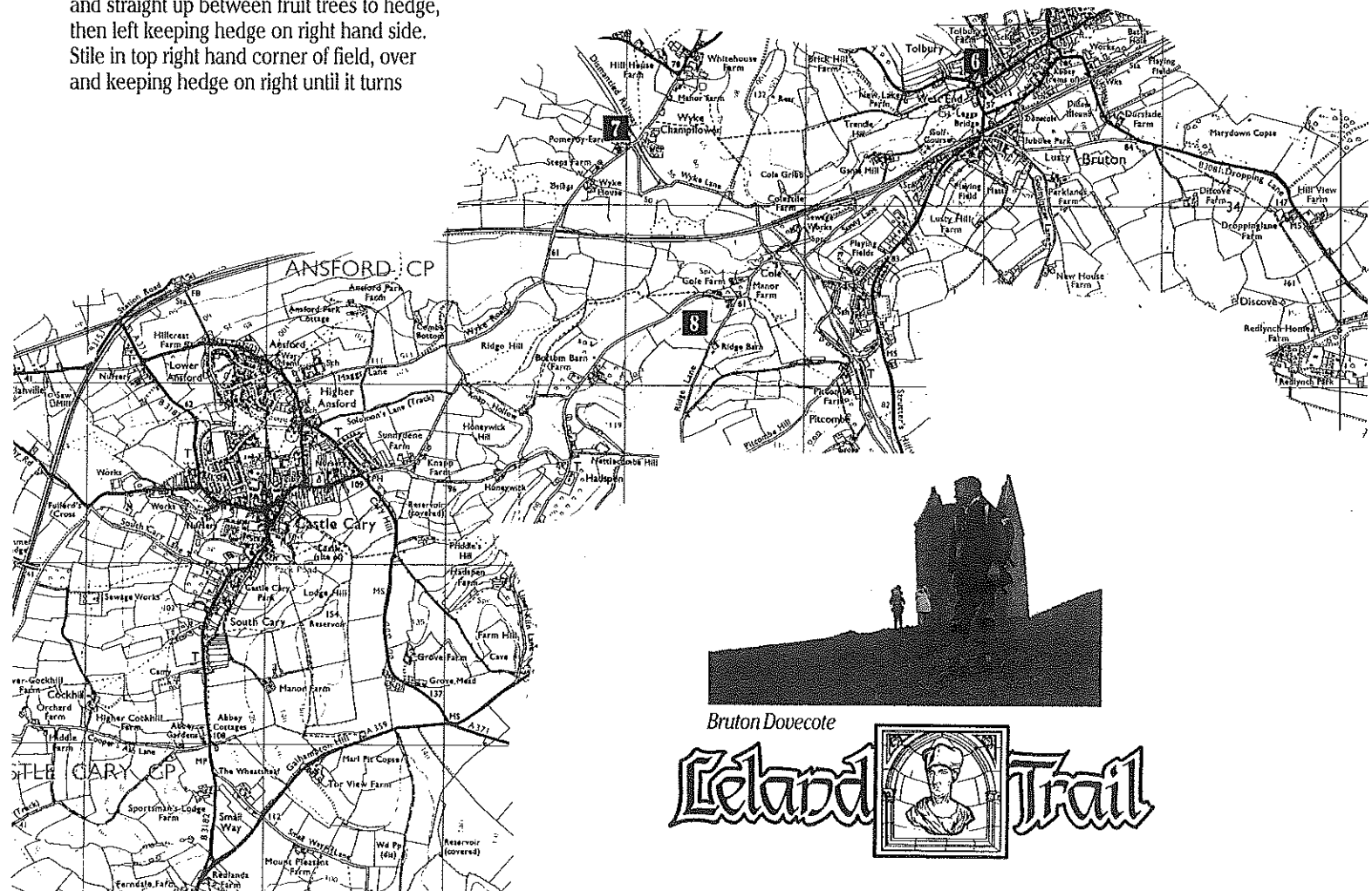
Bruton Packhorse Bridge

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"Ther is in the market place of the toun a new crosse of 6 arches, and a pillar yn the midle for market folkes to stande yn, begon and brought up to fornix by Ely laste abbate of Brutun. The abbay ther was afore the Conqueste a place of monkes foundid by Algarus, Erie of Cornewal. Moion set chanons there sins the Conquest, and diuers of the Moions were buried there. One Wylliam Gilbert of late tyme beyng prior of Brutun went to Rome, and there procurid first that the name of the priory of Brutun might be chaungid ynto an abbay. This Gilbert beyng abbate did great cost in the abbay Brutun in building, almoste reedifying it.

The toun of Briwetun to the marquet crosse standith yn Selwod. About this quarter where Briwe risith, that is to say withyn a 2. or 3. miles ther about, risith Stour and Wilugh.

Goyng out of the toun of Briwetun I passid over a stone bridge of 3. arches at the west south west end of the toun, and there cam a broket from north-est ynto Briwe."



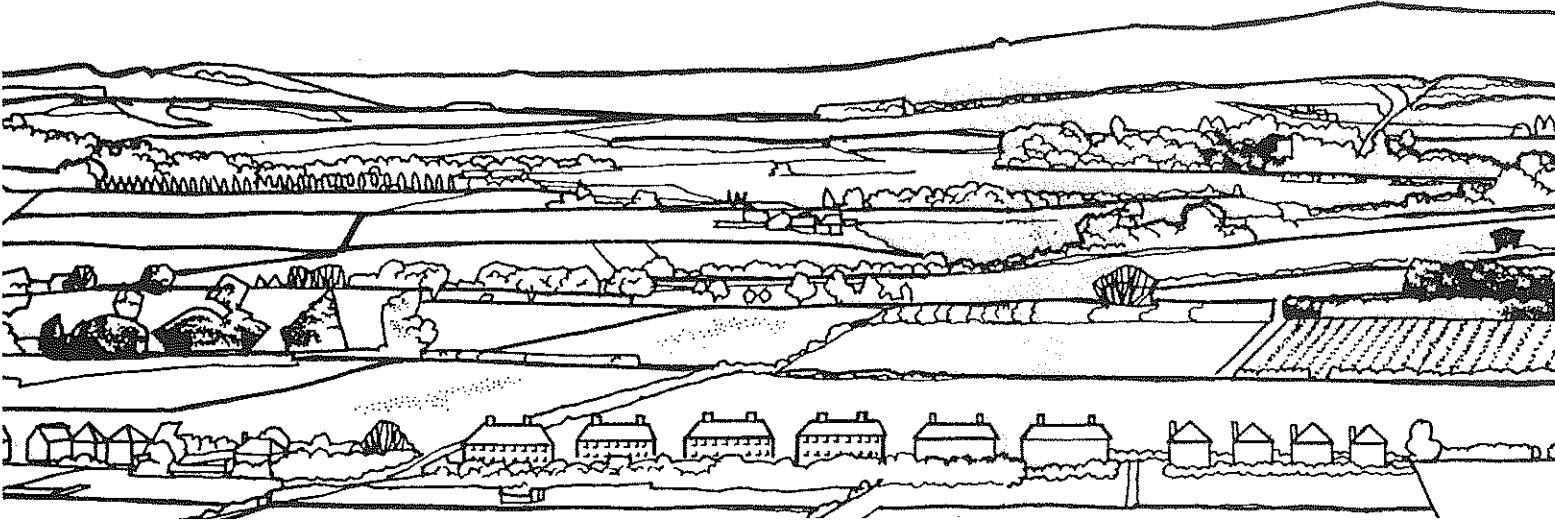
Bruton Dovecote



CASTLE CARY TO
NORTH CADBURY

Stage-3

4 miles - 2½ hours



Points of Interest

North Cadbury

North Cadbury Court and Church remind the walker again of the rich history of this part of South East Somerset "an uncommonly fine picture". (Pevsner). The beautiful Court (not open to the public) can be glimpsed from the approach to the Church, and from the Churchyard.

It is a large Elizabethan mansion built by the Hastings family in the 16th century. The Church rebuilt (except for the tower) for use by a college of priests in c. 1422, contains fine bench ends of c.1538 and an alphabet in the vestry to teach medieval children. The village has a pub offering food and accommodation.



Stage-3

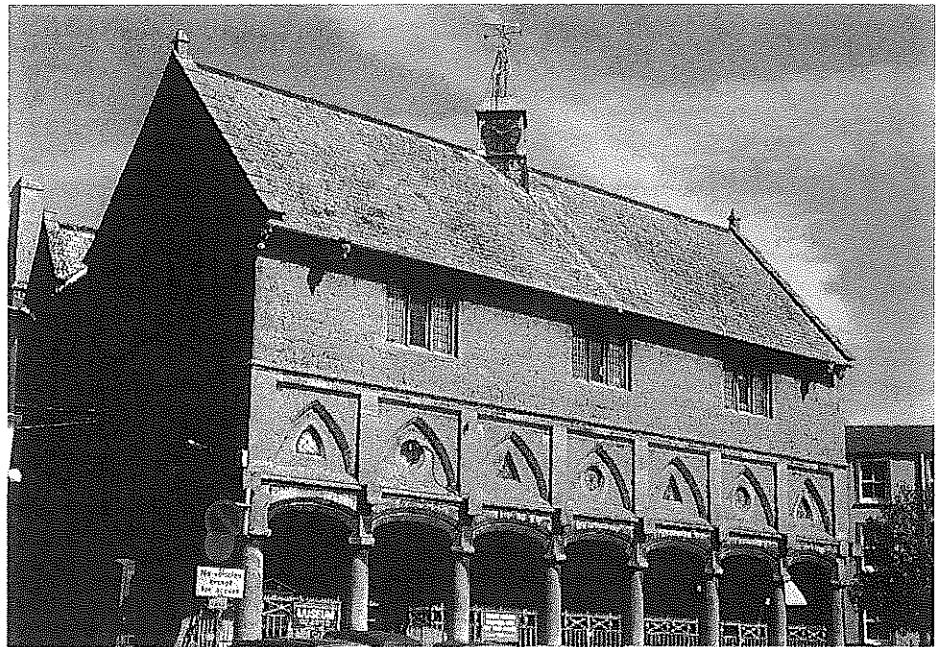
4 miles - 2½ hours

9 Turn left next to the George Hotel/Pub into Paddock Drain. Bear right into enclosed footpath (S.P. Lodge Hill ½m) up steps at end and over stile into field. Turn left and with the fence on the left walk up Lodge Hill (crossing two stiles), spectacular views. Walk along brow of hill passing reservoir on left, cross over concrete and iron stile on left and continue with fence on right hand side up towards old pig sties.

10 Pass these on right, across top of track and over stile into field. Follow fence on right for 50 yards to gate/stile in field boundary, over and keeping fence on left hand side continue straight ahead towards telegraph pole at end of hedge. From here follow hedge round on left hand side to stile in field corner. Over stile and walk up left hand side of field to small gate leading around front of electricity sub-station and left onto A359 (take care busy road) for 100 yards to bridlegate on right. (S.P. Hicks Lane ½m, Yarlington 1½m).

11 Through bridlegate and keeping hedge/ditch on right, down field to gate. Through gate and with hedge on right straight on to bridlegate/metal gate. Through bridlegate and bear left along enclosed track (Hicks Lane), down track on to metalled road.

12 Follow road for 200 yards to stile/gate on right (S.P. Sandbrook Lane ½m, Brookhampton 1m). Over stile, straight across field, aiming for stile in hedge. Over stile and walk straight ahead to cross sleeper/stile, and with stream on left continue straight on to stile in left hand corner. Cross two stiles into small orchard.

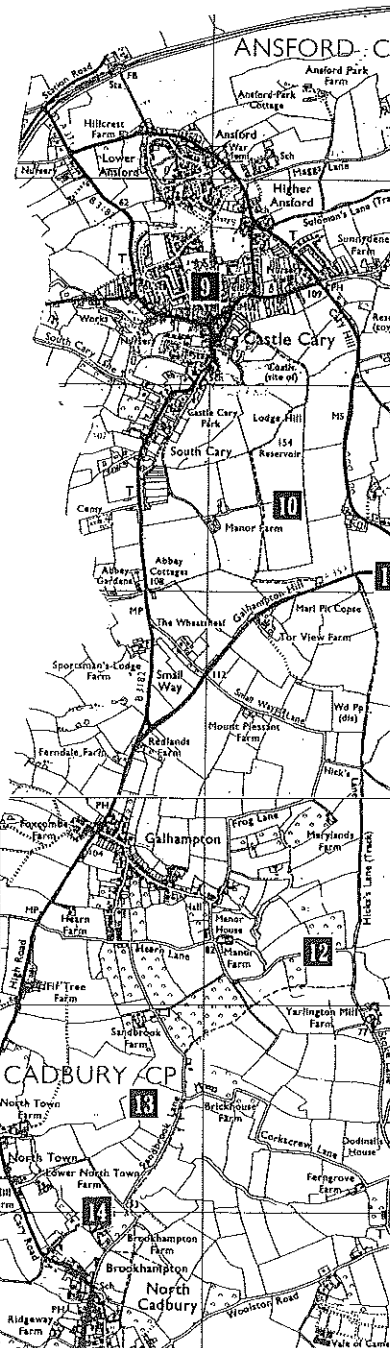


Castle Cary Market House

Keep fence on left to exit orchard at stile/sleeper/stile. Continue with fence on left to stile just before opposite hedge. Over stile and bridge and turn right. Follow stream on right hand side to corner of field, cross over foot-bridge and exit next field via gate onto metalled road. (Footpath officially diverted).

13 Turn left and walk along lane for approximately ¼ mile to stile on left (S.P. Brookhampton ½m). Over stile and keeping hedge to right walk through narrow field to stile and on to metalled road.

14 Turn left, cross bridge, continue for 150 yards along lane up steps and over stile on left (S.P. North Cadbury ½m). Diagonally across middle of field to opposite corner and over stile. Straight on with hedge on left to stile across school playing field (please respect the dog fouling notices) hedge on left and over next stile into enclosed footpath. Straight on then bear left where path sweeps round to right, onto made up path, over wooden bridge/stile and straight through middle of field aiming for stile in top right hand corner. Over stile and straight on enclosed footpath to metalled road in North Cadbury.



THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"I rode from the bridg up a stony hille to a very fair and fruteful champain, and so passid forth a v. miles by litle woode; at the 4. miles ende of this way I passid over a broke by a stone bridge, and so cam strayt to North-Cadbyri a village, and about a mile farther to South-Cadbyri, and ther a litle beyond be great crestes of hylles."

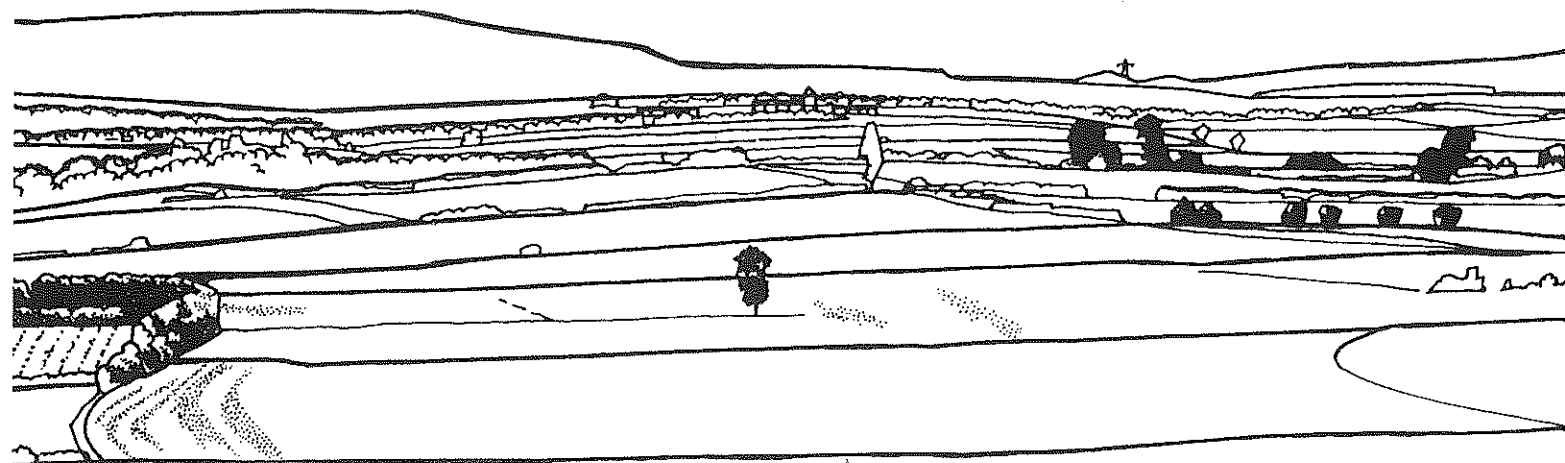




NORTH CADBURY TO
QUEEN CAMEL

Stage-4

4.8 miles - 2½ hours



Points of Interest

Cadbury Castle

This section is dominated by Cadbury Castle, and when after a short deviation the climb to the summit is made, read Leland's description of this marvellous testament to the life of our forefathers. From Cadbury Castle summit look north-east and you can discern the towering King Alfred's tower on the skyline above Compton Pauncefoot Church. From the western ramparts the view on a clear day will extend to the war memorial sited on the northern fortifications of Ham Hill - your ultimate goal.

Southwards are the "great crests and hylles" referred to by Leland. The summit of these is almost certainly an ancient trackway. The northern branch from the hillfort is called King Arthur's Hunting Path. A branch of the Harrow Way took travellers from Camelot south connecting with ridgeways past Corton Denham to Dorset.

Leland took this southern route to the important centre of 'Shirburne' "by champayne but fruteful ground", that is good open-field country, a mixture of arable and grassland.

"A little beyond this Cadbyri" wrote Leland, "I turnid flat west by a litle chapelle". This building, only re-discovered in the last fifteen years, lies a few



Cadbury Castle

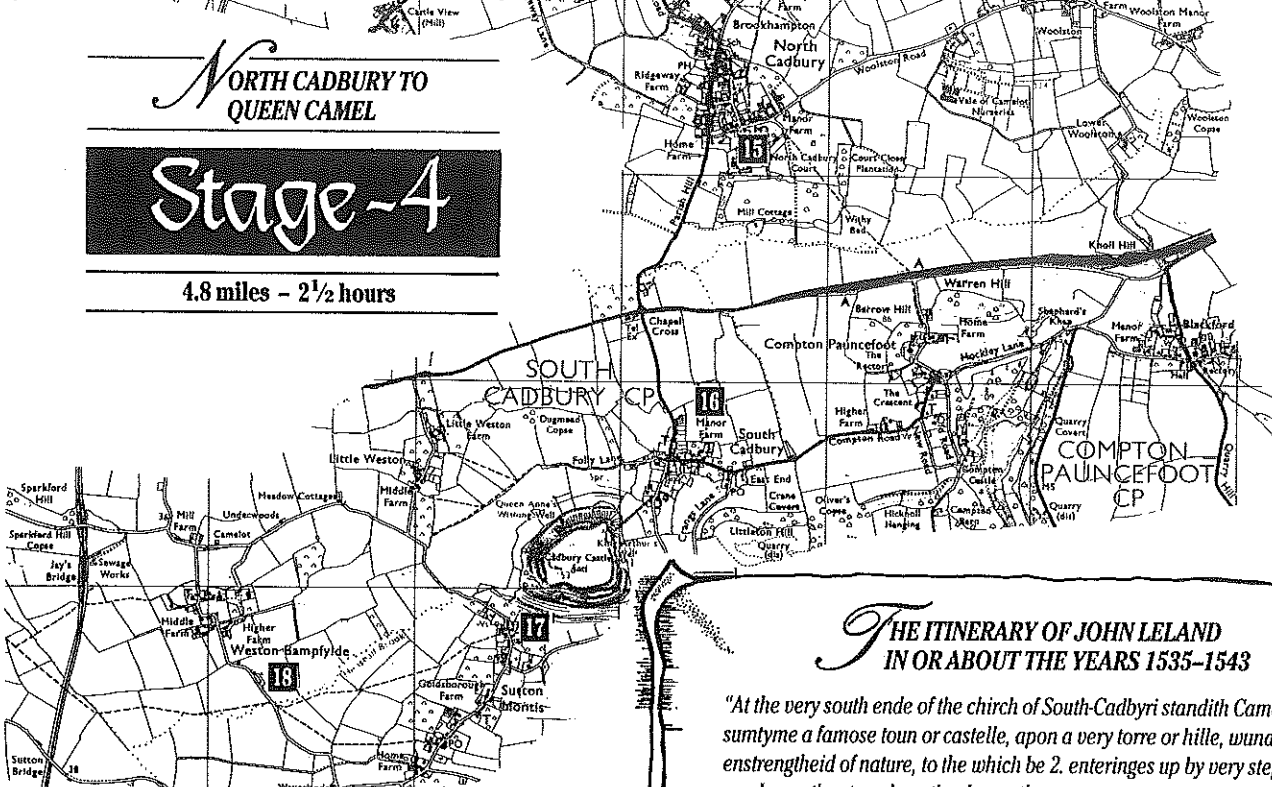
yards to west of the footpath - now on the edge of the A303 at Chapel Cross where the road from South to North Cadbury once crossed. (It is in stark contrast to Leland's day). He headed west into Ilchester, but our route avoids the dual carriageway and takes an altogether more peaceful route to Sutton Montis, and Queen Camel. At Sutton Montis the Church has a fine Norman Chancel arch, and the

legend says that King Arthur and his knights sleeping in a cave beneath South Cadbury hill, come to the Church every twelfth night to water their horses! Though it is hard to imagine, the landscape here would have been thick with elms in Leland's time. Queen Camel derives its name from the river Cam and the Queen because it was an estate often held by the Queen's Consort in the Middle Ages.

NORTH CADBURY TO
QUEEN CAMEL

Stage-4

4.8 miles - 2½ hours



15 Turn right and take first right into High Street past pub on left. At T-junction straight ahead (Signposted No Through Road). 100 yards past cottage on left, turn left over stile/gate (S.P. Chapel Cross ¼m). Straight ahead to stile continue straight ahead through gap keeping hedge on left for ¼ mile. Cross concrete track, straight ahead over small rise keeping to left of large tree on brow. At tree bear diagonally left towards road. Exit through gap in hedge onto metalled road and turn right over flyover and continue along road for ½ mile to South Cadbury.

16 *Short diversion to climb Cadbury Castle.* Continue past church (on right hand side) then right up track to Cadbury summit. Walk around top perimeter rampart (about 1 mile) and return to South Cadbury. At the pub turn right into Folly Lane, continue to end of metalled road and into enclosed track (S.P. Sutton Montis 1m). At end of lane over stile/gate on right, and left following hedge, continue in straight line over three stiles. Over and continue with hedge on left to next stile/sleepers on left. Over and right with hedge on right follow round to gate/stile on to road. Turn left on lane and walk round to Sutton Montis Church.

17 At Sutton Montis Church up steps and over stone stile into churchyard, keeping hedge on left walk to stile in fence. Over stile and bear diagonally left to gate/stile half way down left hand fence/hedge (next to telegraph pole). Over stile and diagonally right to gate/stile in right hand hedge to left of Ash tree. Diagonally right next stile in opposite right hand corner of field, over and again to stile in opposite right hand corner - beyond line of trees.

Over stile on to metalled road at Weston Bamfylde.

18 Right on road then left after 25 yards (S.P. Queen Camel 1m). After stile walk in straight line across field - some yards away from stream - to stile/sleepers/stile in top left hand corner. Over stile and continue with fence on left. Leave fence where it bends left and bear diagonally right to stile/gate in opposite fence/hedge. Over stile and through field on track wired on both sides to stile/gate.

Over stile and immediately right to sleepers/stile, then follow right hand hedge to railway line - cross carefully - stiles on either side. Straight across field to stone and wooden stiles in hedge. Over and diagonally left to stile in opposite hedge, over and with fence on left to next stile into enclosed footpath, (Grace Martin Lane). Straight up lane to sleepers over small stream. Follow wider made up track round coming out on to main road by Queen Camel Church.

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"At the very south ende of the chyrch of South-Cadbyri standith Camallate, sumtyme a famosse toune or castelle, upon a very torre or hille, wunderfully enstrengtheid of nature, to the which be 2. enteringes up by very stepe way: one by north est, and another by south west.

The very roote of the hille wheron this forteres stode is more then a mile in cumpace.

In the upper parte of the coppe of the hille be 4. diches or trenches, and a balky waulle of yerth betwixt every one of them. In the very toppes of the hille above at the trenchis in magna area or campus of a 20. acres or more by estimation, wher yn dyverse places men may se fundacions and rudera of walles. There was much dusky blew stone that people of the villages therby hath caryid away.

This top withyn the upper waulle is xx. acres of ground and more, and hath bene often plowid and borne very good corne.

Much gold, sylver and coper of the Romaine coynes hath be found ther yn plouing: and lykewise in the feldes in the moles of this hille, with many other antique thinges, and especial by este. Ther was found in hominum memoria a horse shoe of sylver at Camallate.

The people can telle nothing ther but that they have hard say that Arture much resortid to Camalat.

The old Lord Hungreford was owner of this Camallat. Now Hastings the Erle of Huntendune by his mother.

Diverse villages there about bere the name of Camalat by an addition, as Quene-Camallat, and other.

The hille and the diches kepe will now viij. shepe.

At the ground by south west, and west of Camalat lyith in a vale, so that one or 2. wayes it may be sene far of."

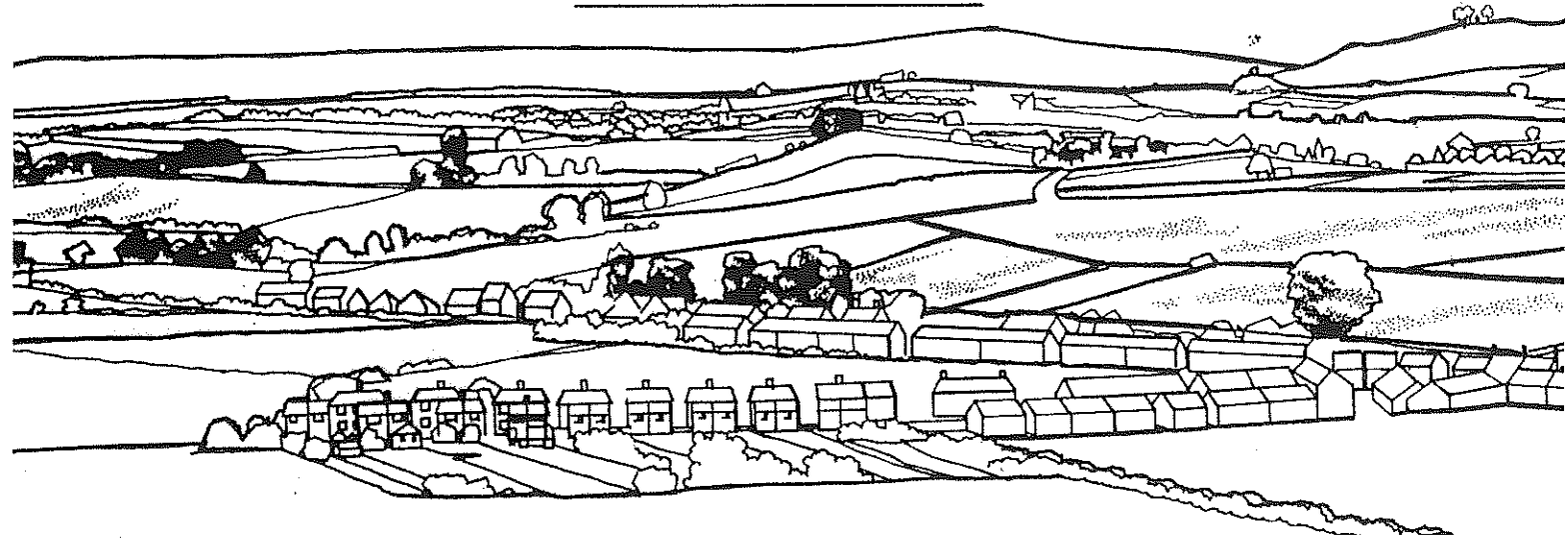




QUEEN CAMEL TO ILCHESTER

Stage-5

4.8 miles - 2¼ hours



Points of Interest

Yeovilton

On to Speckington and the edge of the RNAS airfield at Yeovilton. Before the runways were built there was a farm that specialised in raising Shire Horses. Leland commented on the numerous river diversions for mills.

A "divortium Aque" (mill leat) to serve a mill in Limington described by Leland can clearly be seen at the far side of the field after crossing the bridge at Yeovilton Weir.

Ilchester

On to the Roman town of Lindinis, (Ilchester) planted strategically on the Fosse Way; known later as Ivelchester, the 'Roman settlement on the Yeo'. History abounds here. The Roman levels lie just beneath the surface within the town, and two cemeteries are outside, evidently including both pagan and Christian burials. The medieval town was walled and gated, and once boasted six parish churches, a

friary, a hospital, and the county gaol. Its market was valuable at the time of Domesday, it had a mint, and from 1298 sent members to Parliament.

All that survives is one church, a medieval bridge, and the site of the later county gaol beside the river.

There is a small museum open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Old Town Hall. An informative guide by R. Dunning is available from the Museum.



Mill Leat in the morning.

Stage-5

4.8 miles - 2 1/4 hours

19 Turn left at main road and follow for 1/4 mile, take 2nd right into England's Lane and after 1/4 mile turn right into Green Lane (S.P. Wales 1/2m), straight on into enclosed grassy lane.

Through metal gate and immediately left to stile, over and bear right aiming for metal gate between two trees in opposite hedge (to the right of farm buildings). This is the church path leading to West Camel Church. Through gate keep hedge on left and trees on right to stile/gate on to surfaced track. Through farmyard keeping bungalow and buildings on left and barn on right. Continue to road junction, straight across into opposite metalled lane through the hamlet of Wales.

20 At end of lane turn left into small enclosed path (S.P. West Camel 1/4m), over stile and keeping fence on right hand side, continue to stile over concrete road. Straight across to stile.

Over stile and straight on with hedge on right to next stile and metal gate. Straight through middle of field to stile/gate opposite. Then diagonally right to churchyard wall. At gate/signpost on to metalled road and turn right. Left at village stores/Post Office into Back Street and continue for approximately 1/4 mile to gate/stile (S.P. Chantry Lane 1/4m) on right.

21 Straight ahead to far right hand corner of field and stile, over and with hedge/stream on right cross to Chantry Lane. Left and continue to road junction, right at junction, second left (S.P. Chilton Cantelo and Mudford). After 1/2 mile approximately, bridlegate on right (S.P. Yeovilton 1/2m).

22 Through bridlegate and straight ahead turning left just before footbridge to continue with river on right hand side. With river on right hand side continue around airfield perimeter. Through bridlegate and in 1/4 mile to footbridge/gate over river and follow perimeter fence on right, through second bridlegate on right near to metal footbridge, bear left and continue with river on left in a straight line to next bridlegate in opposite fence. Keep straight on to gate/bridlegate beside cottage.

On to metalled road and left over bridge at Yeovilton Weir. Right over stile/gate (S.P. Limington 1m, Yeovilton 1/2m).

23 Over stile and diagonally left through first field over stile in wire fence, continue straight ahead to bridlegate and with mill stream on left follow round to next narrow footbridge - through trees straight ahead.

Continue with stream on left to next bridge on left. Over this and bear right to stile/gate in right hand hedge. Over stile keeping hedge on right. Continue straight ahead towards corner of hedge and stile. Over stile/sleepers and continue with hedge on left to where hedge turns corner.

24 At this corner leave hedge and carry on straight across field down to stile in opposite fence. Over stile and straight across enclosed lane exiting via sleeper/stile. Keep hedge on right until half way then bear diagonally slightly left to stile in middle of opposite fence. Over stile/footbridge/stile and keeping hedge on right across field to gate/stile. Over stile and diagonally left to kissing gate in wall. Immediately left over steps. Turn right to Back Street, continue to road junction, then left to High Street and continue through Ilchester towards roundabout.

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"A litle beyond this Cadbyri I turnid flat west by a litle chapelle, and a mile thens, a good mile of, I passid over a stone bridge sumwhat above augmentid with the broke that risith out of Mr. Fitzjames ponde, and thens a 4. good miles of at by low ground yn sighte to Ilchestre. At this way the pastures and feeldes by much enclosid with hegge rowes of elmes.

Or I cam to Ilchestre by estimation of a mile Cadbyri water and Iwelcestre water confluebant.

The streme of . . . cummith by Iwel village, and then a 3. miles lower cummith to Iwel toun village: and here, as I hard, the streame brekith into 2. partes and sone yoynith agayn, and so even straite to Limington, and ther I saw divortium acque made longe syns and cut by hand to serve a mille in Limington, and thens the hole streame goith scant a mile of to Iwelcestre."



Yeovilton Weir

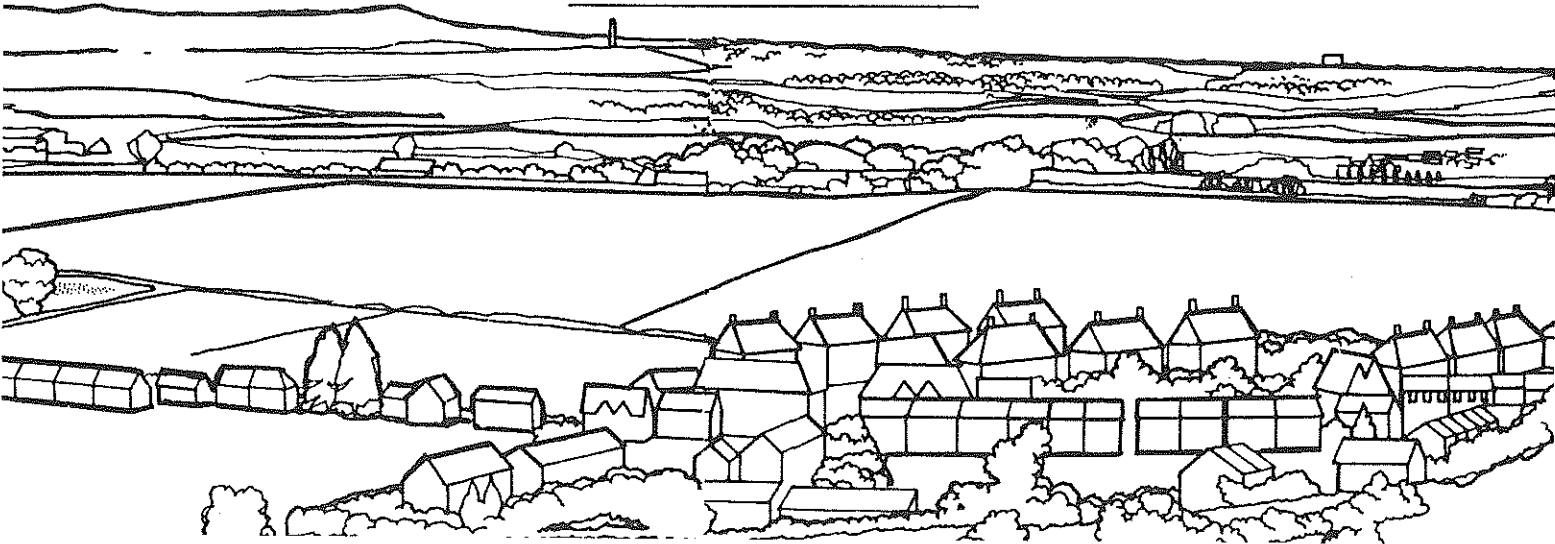




ILCHESTER TO MONTACUTE

Stage - 6

4 miles - 2½ hours



Points of Interest

Deserted Medieval village

On now along a straight path, of some antiquity, passing through Sock Dennis, so named after the family of Dacus which means Dane, and a deserted medieval village with its own church, with 7 taxpayers in 1377 and 10 inhabitants in 1428, but by the end of the 18th century 'Soke' was an 'obliterated place'. A holloway 5 paces wide runs through the centre of the field and the deserted village is bounded by a 2m bank surrounded by trees. The path passes the eastern edge of the village site.

The river 'Ivel' as described by Leland is the river Yeo and 'Lamport' is Langport in Leland's description. Leland went back to Limington to see the tombs, a fine chapel there and then on to "Montegue" (Montacute) through well wooded and fertile country with pasture and even ground.

Montacute

On towards Montacute - with an easy diversion into the lovely Ham Stone village of Tintinhull, Tintinhull House Garden (N.T.). Montacute, a 'novo burgo' was mentioned in 1240, and was probably an extension to the original town of Bishop-

ston. The long narrow plots on either side of the square suggest a medieval planned town.

Montacute House is a late 16th century house, full of Renaissance features, built originally for the Phelps family. The magnificence of the elevations of the house can be fully appreciated from the Leland Trail. The House is open from April to

October 12.00 - 5.30pm daily (except Tues). The Gardens are open all year daily (except Tues) 11.00 - 5.30pm, or dusk if earlier. Middle Street links Bishopston and the Borough was probably part of the original town. The south end of the street was probably a Roman road linking Ham Hill with Ilchester. Its path is clearly visible across Montacute Park.



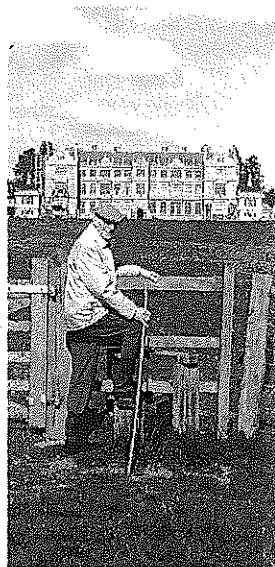
Possible Roman Road.

Stage - 6

4 miles - 2 1/2 hours

25 Leaving Ilchester. Keep to verge on right hand side. Cross road using island, to bridge over culvert, over stile (S.P. Sock Dennis Farm 1/2m) and slightly right to footbridge in corner of field. Over footbridge and straight on with stream on right to next footbridge. Over footbridge and straight across middle of field to next footbridge. Over and diagonally right across field to footbridge in middle of right hand hedge. Over and left towards middle of farmhouses and stile at Sock Dennis Farm. Over stile and left for couple of yards then right and straight on, going between two barns, passing cattle grid and house on right. Keep on track with hedge on right and on to gate/stile on right. Over stile and on to bridleway, diagonally left up field over gate/stile leading into enclosed wide lane. Straight on lane to stile/gate at end, over stile and keeping hedge on right cross field. Over stile/gate and straight across middle of field to opposite hedge and footbridge/two bridlegates. Over and into enclosed footpath (Sock Lane), following down to bridlegate keeping hedge on right through field, return to enclosed bridleway through bridlegate/sleepers on right. Carry on to road and straight across into Kissmedown Lane.

26 Enclosed bridleway (S.P. Windmill Lane 2/3m) through gate and on to stile/gate, over hump and stile/gate then metal gate and on to road. Pass farm on left and down to crossroads - metalled road. Straight across, over stile into enclosed footpath (S.P. Mill Copse). Follow to end bear left by signpost and come up on to main road (Cartgate link). Cross main road - with care - down bank and bear right beside road then follow path round to left (S.P. Back Lane 3/4m). Over stile and right, then bear left over mill stream and past site of Odcombe Mill up to gate/stile. These are the grounds of Montacute House (N.T.).



Montacute Park

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"I enterid by south west into Ilchester over a great stone bridge of vij. arches, yn the middle wherof were ij. litle houses of stone, one of the right hond, wher the commune gaol is for prisoners yn Somersetshir. The other house on the lift hond, the lesser of booth semid to me to have bene a chapelle. The toune of Ilchester hath beene a very large thyng, and one of the auncientest townes yn at that quarter. At this tyme it is yn wonderful decay, as a thing in a maner rasid with men of warre.

Ther hath beene In hominum memoria 4. parochie chirchis yn the toune, wherof one yet is occupied. The tokens of other 2. yet stond, and the 4. is clene yn ruine.

Ther is a fre chapelle in the toune, the bakside wherof cummith to the ryver side even hard byneth the bridge, and ther joynith a right praty mansion house to this chapelle. I have hard say that many yeres syns ther was a nunry wher this chapelle ys.

Ther was also a late a house of freres yn this toune.

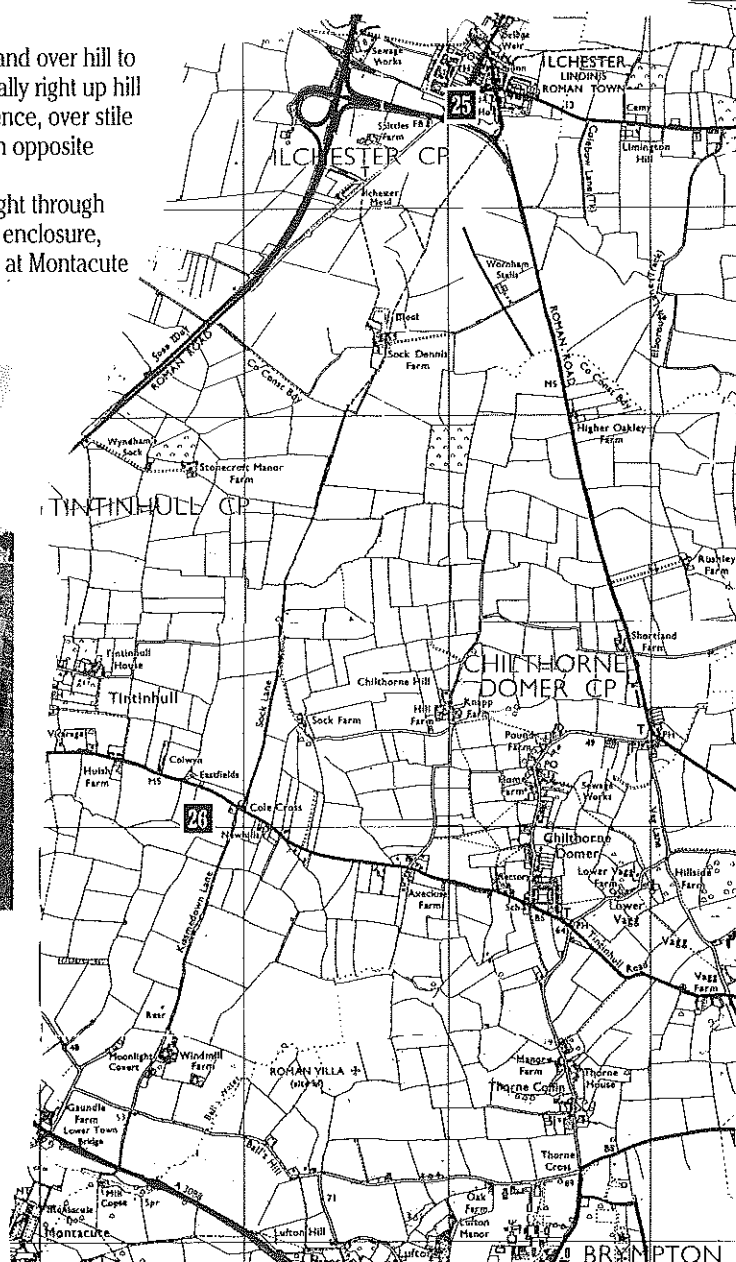
The greatest token of auncient building that I saw yn at the toune ys a stone gate archid and voltid, and a chapelle or Chirch of S. Michael, as I remembre, over it.

The river of luel rennith from Iwelcestre to Lamport a 4. miles lower. From Limington to Montegue by good pasture and come ground enclosed and meately welle woddid a 4. miles.

The toune of Montegue hath a poore market, and is buildid of stone as communelyal townes therabout be. I redde in the booke of the antiquites of Glessenbyri that this toun was cauldid yn the Saxons time Logaresburch."



Over stile and bear left up and over hill to stile/gate. Over and diagonally right up hill to stile/gate in right hand fence, over stile and straight down to stile in opposite fence. Over stile and diagonally right through parkland to gate into small enclosure, through and out on to road at Montacute via metal kissing gate.

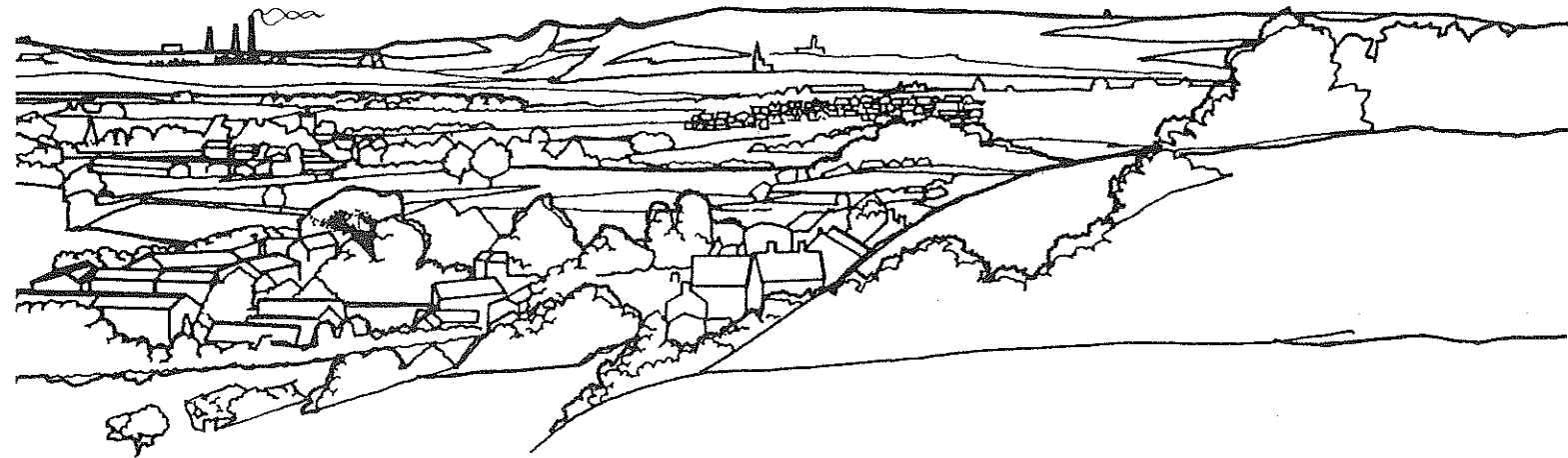




*M*ONTACUTE TO HAM HILL

Stage-7

1½ miles - 1 hour



Points of interest

St. Michael's Mount

On to St. Michael's Mount known in Saxon times as 'Lodegaresbergh' (a name Leland found in a book in Glastonbury Abbey's holy library) and after the Norman Conquest 'Mons Acutus'. The hill was shaped from an oval "motte" with an upper "bailey" on the south east. A castle was built, the work of Robert, Count of Mortain and was completed by 1086 in which year it was besieged in a revolt against William the Conqueror. Leland describes the castle site in his text. The folly was erected by the Phelps family in 1760. It is owned by the National Trust and can be climbed. Excellent views of the now temptingly close Ham Hill, and back across the countryside to Cadbury and beyond to King Alfred's Tower.

And so on to Ham Hill, Iron Age and Roman Fortress, medieval and modern stone quarry, and today a Country Park with splendid views across the whole of the Somerset countryside. On a clear day you can see Alfred's Tower from the monument end of the park.

NOTE

Join the drawings on the front of each stage insert, starting with stage one on the left to see a panorama of the view from Ham Hill.



View from Ham Hill

Stage-7

1½ miles - 1 hour

27 Turn right at main road and walk through village of Montacute. After ½m at end of village into recreation ground on left and straight ahead towards St. Michael's Mount with wall/fence on left to kissing gate in fence on left. Through and follow clearly defined path slightly diagonally right up to kissing gate, straight up to woods and stile. (This is a permissive path). Over stile and immediately right on path to stile/gate on right. Over stile and straight down towards Ash tree, just before tree turn right and continue down field adjacent with sunken track. This was a Roman road.

28 Head towards gate, through, and turn left onto track. About 100 yards after Long Field Farm bear right following well used path around edge of Hedgecock Hill Wood. Continue along main track keeping woods on the left and fields on the right, you will pass a derelict brick building on your left hand side. At Y junction bear right and follow path up steps, at top turn right. At



Montacute House west front

next junction bear right keeping fields on right and follow the path. Where path narrows turn left up steps in left hand bank. Turn right up slope to Prince of Wales pub. About 100 yards from here on your right hand side is an information panel and on a

clear day you can see back to Alfred's Tower. A final stroll around the rampart perimeter of Ham Hill Country Park, north from the pub, will give a lasting and memorable view of South Somerset.

THE ITINERARY OF JOHN LELAND IN OR ABOUT THE YEARS 1535-1543

"From Montegue to Stoke under Hamden about a mile. I saw at Stoke in a botom hard by the village very notable ruines of a great manor place or castelle, and yn this maner place remaynith a very auncient chapelle, wheryn be diverse tumbes of noble menne and wimen.

The notable quarre of stone ys even therby at Hamden, out of the which hath beene taken many a day stones for a the goodly buildings therabout in al quarters.

From Stoke to Crokehorn, a mene market town southwest from Montegue, a 5. miles, and 4. from Stoke by hilly ground."



Montacute from the Borough

