

British Walking Federation Mere and White Sheet Hill Walk organised by Yeovil Yompers Permanent Trail 330



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DISTANCE: 10Km

GRADE: 2+

ENTRY FEE: Pay by Cheque £1.50 per walker, with cash £1 per walker.

AWARD: None

STAMP: By post to contact, cheques made payable to Anna Stares or cash in person in Yeovil by prior arrangement or any walk that the organiser attends.

START VENUE: Salisbury Street Car Park, Mere. Map: OS LR 183 GR813323 SAT NAV CODE: BA12 6HB

CAR PARKING: At start, free.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES: At start & finish.

REFRESHMENTS: None on route. In Mere: Takeaways, supermarket, shop, public houses, chippy and tea room.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Bus services very infrequent. No 57 from Warminster and No 25 from Salisbury. All buses stop in the Town Square, (walk passes by). Nearest railway station Gillingham 4m.

NEAREST TOWN: Mere, start & finish. Modern Mere dating from the 17th C after a disastrous fire destroyed a large part of old Mere, boasts a castle (now earthworks!), three churches, Hillbrush with the only brush museum in the UK, a library and museum. Small sections of two long distance trails are en route, the Monarchs' Way and the Mid Wilts Way. A short section of a Roman road is en route.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION Updated 28th July 2022

Exit car park near toilets into Salisbury Street (no name), turn left, cross street turn left on pavement, 50m turn right along Pennybank Lane to end. Turn left along road to take angled path on right 15m before junction. Turn ½ right onto Manor Road and follow road, passing housing, over A303 bridge, pass entrance to Manor House and ahead approx. 120m to turn right onto track bridleway through small chained gate. Ahead on track, go left at Y, through 2 gates and follow the off road vehicle track uphill, *the horseshoe shaped area to the right was an ex military firing range, safety boards are still evident and to the left in the distance Stourhead National Trust property and King Alfred's Tower on the horizon, to reach large stone bench on left.*

Q1 What FOOTPATH GROUP is named on bench?

Proceed ahead, fence on left, on same vehicle track veering slightly right, passing to left of green "bin" to go through gate in top right hand corner to track (*Roman Road*), *this field is a Paragliding facility and straight ahead in the middle distance is a very active Glider Airfield*, turn left. Stay on track, passing reservoirs, White Sheet Castle mounds, trig pillar, aerials, all away on left hand side. At left bend go downhill passing old milestone on right to reach car park on left. Enter car park and exit in right hand corner on green track. Pass the "excavator" bucket, down and up through dip to reach small copse and the 1945 Dakota crash memorial.

Q2 What airfield was quoted?

Ahead downhill to old gate gap with orange arrow and turn left just after through gap by gate and ahead along track, open field on right. Pass house on left, stay ahead on lane/track passing Search Farm and house on right to old gated gap at T junction. Kink left then right on vehicle track. Stay on track and eventually the dulcet tone of the A303 beckons, cross over bridge to reach small gate slightly left in front. *To avoid short steep climb, take path next to gate on right follow with fence on left, go left through gate on left then right to follow footpath uphill to small gate, continue at #*Through gate and ahead steeply uphill passing benches and then down to small gate. *It is possible to see feral goats grazing on this section, dogs on leads please.* #Through gate and ahead up slope and steps to the top of Mere Castle to the 43rd Wessex Division memorial and proceed to the topograph over to the left.

Q3 How far to Stonehenge?

Circumnavigate the castle and retrace your steps back down steps and slope, turn sharp left, down 9 steps onto path to turn right after 2nd wooden bench on left, down steps, ahead through gate and down steps, follow path ahead between fences, passing playground on right to kissing gate. Cross lane and ahead through alleyway to end. Turn right on pavement for 60m cross road at "The Cottage" to black bollard and straight on alleyway through wooden bollards to road, turn left. Ahead to pass church on right, library and museum on left and the town centre with its' clock tower and war memorial. Keep to right pass the Post Office/shop veering right into Boar Street, cross road at the United Reformed Church, turn right, then left along Dark Lane to reach steps on left, up and into car park and the finish. Well done!

Yeovil Yompers hope you have enjoyed your walk, please come again!

When you have completed this trail please use the Permanent Trail Entry Form.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

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Trail valid until 31st December 2022