

DIRECTIONS:

1. The walk starts at the beginning of Canal Way, opposite Wharf Lane Car Park. Follow the footpath beside the recreation ground down to where it enters a side path at the entrance to the additional playing area.
2. Turn left into the playing field and follow the hedge, keeping it on your left, up the field and the Incline to the top of the field. Go on to the track straight ahead and continue to the kissing gate.
3. Cross the field diagonally right and go through a ramblers gate three quarters of the way along the far hedge line. Turn right and continue up to the corner of the field, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through a ramblers gate on to the Medieval Road.
4. Carry straight on along this track passing through a further ramblers gate and field gate until you reach a ramblers gate in the hedge. Go through and turn left. With the ponds (Marl Pits) on your right, continue downhill through a gap in the hedge into another field. Continue, keeping the hedge on your left to a ramblers gate. Go through and turn right. Keep hedge on your right and continue through two further ramblers gates and a field gate. Please leave gates as you find them. Go ahead keeping the hedge on the right to a ramblers gate in the right hand corner of the field. Go over the footbridge and turn left.
5. Follow the path beside Dowlish Brook. Continue on to the metalled road by the bridge. Turn left until you meet Watery Lane. Turn right and following the lane keep straight on until you meet the Chard to Ilminster cycle way. Turn right onto the cycle way.
6. Continue along the cycle way to the restored railway halt at Donyatt where an opportunity arise to go back over Herne Hill to Ilminster or a short walk up into the village of Donyatt (Church and Pub).
7. Continue straight along the cycle way until meeting Canal Way. Turn right and follow the footpath back to where you started.

The Old Medieval Road - Donyatt to Ilminster

The old Donyatt to Ilminster road started in Church Street, Donyatt, passing via Down and Dimpole Farms crossing the southern slopes and shoulder of Herne Hill and then down to the Cross (the area of the Royal Oak in Ilminster). This was a convenient way to Ilminster and perhaps the shortest distance from the centre of the village. It is likely to have been a better drained road and less muddy in winter than the lower route via Sea. This road was probably used for taking pottery to Ilminster market using the Stibbear/Crow Lane route. The road was also used as an access to the field systems on the southern slopes of Herne Hill which were used by the local inhabitants. There was a Quaker Burial Ground situated along the route.

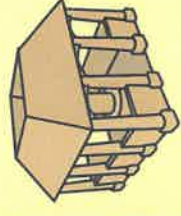


View along the Medieval Road

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ILMINSTER

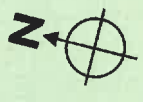
Medieval Road & Donyatt

WALK 06

3.5 Miles
2 hours
Wharf Lane Car Park

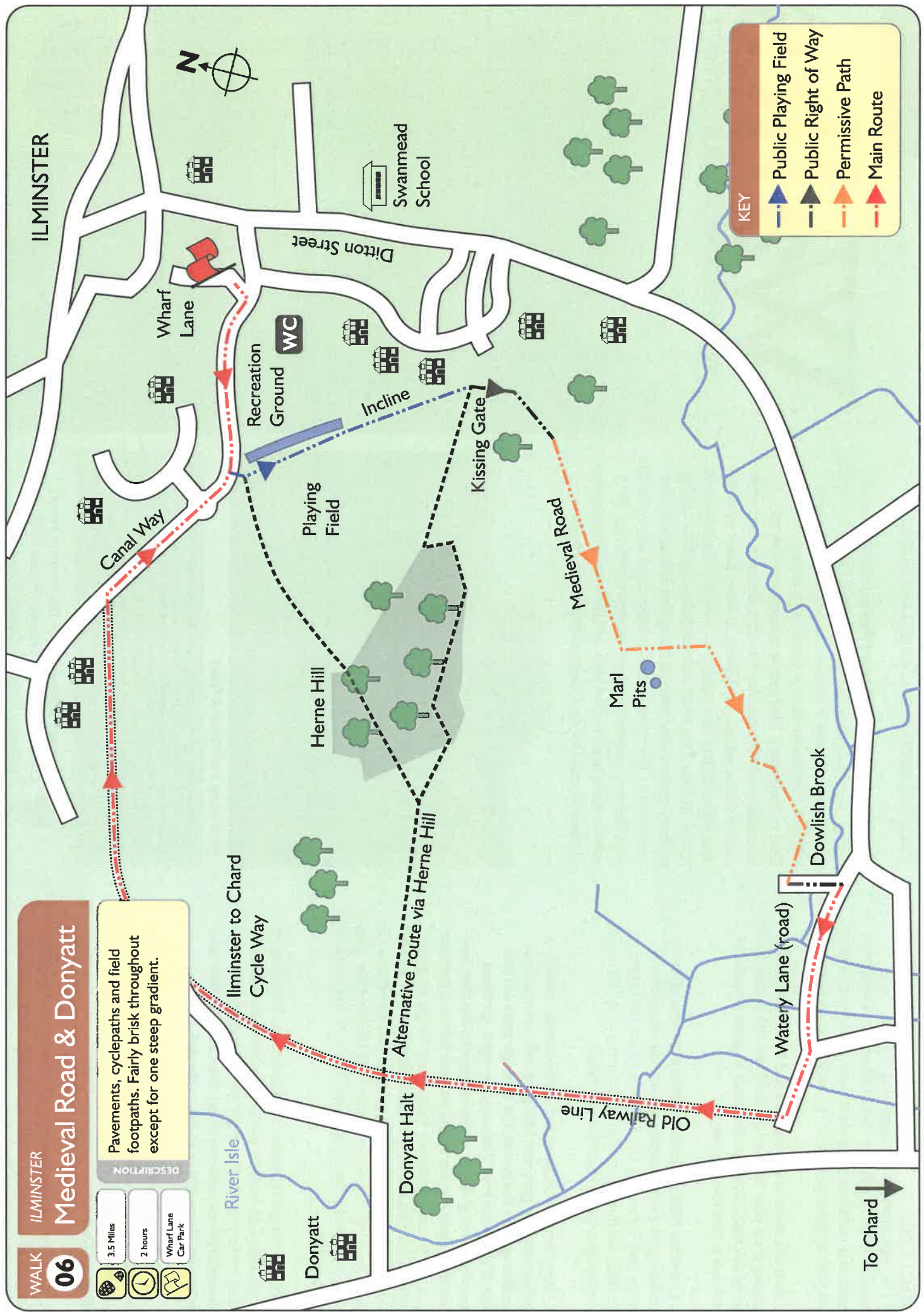
DESCRIPTION

Pavements, cyclepaths and field footpaths. Fairly brisk throughout except for one steep gradient.



KEY

- Public Playing Field (Blue triangle)
- Public Right of Way (Black dashed line)
- Permissive Path (Orange dashed line)
- Main Route (Red dashed line)



To Chard

Walk Through Dillington Park

Ilminster, situated on the fringe of the Somerset Levels and the Blackdown Hills, is an ideal tourist base, especially for those who wish to explore this exceptional countryside on foot. It doesn't matter if you have but a few hours, or a few days there are walks to suit all. As you wander through a diversity of scenery, links with the past are never far away.

Where better to start than from the Market House said to have been rebuilt in 1813, though its depressed arches and Tuscan columns together with other elements indicate an earlier structure.

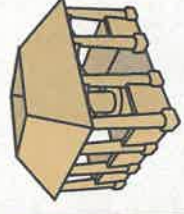
Directions:

1. Leave the Market House and walk eastward up East Street passing on the right what was once the old Unitarian Church but is now the Meeting House Arts Centre. Its front has been altered, but the main structure dates from 1719.
2. Continue up East Street to Bay Hill until you see two Lodge Gatehouses on the opposite side of the road.
3. Cross the road, go between the Gatehouses and continue along the metalled path, which is part of the cycleway along Dillington Park Drive.
4. During World War II, Ilminster was one of several towns that were fortified as part of defensive line, built between the Bristol Channel and the English Channel, as protection against a possible German invasion through the South West. The defence works along the Drive were part of the fortification.

5. On reaching a gateway, pass through and continue on the path through the field to a gateway on the road by Dillington House. Dillington House was the home of Lord North on of the Prime Ministers of England.

6. After passing through the gate turn left onto the road and follow it to the junction with the main road (B3168). Turn left, cross the road and proceed up the hill towards Ilminster. Half way up the hill turn left into Old Road, which is an old stone footpath. (Alternatively continue on the footpath along the main road to get back into the town – following the pavement for approximately half a mile. At the bottom of New Road turn left to get back to the town centre.

7. Continue on up Old Road and straight down the other side, passing a commemorative Beacon on your left. On reaching the end of this footpath cross the main road and continue straight on down North Street to the Market Square.



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WALK **07**

ILMINSTER

Dillington Park

3 Miles

1.52 hours

Market Square

DESCRIPTION

Pavements, cyclepaths and field footpaths. Fairly brisk throughout except for one steep gradient.



To Yeovil

Ashwell

B3168

Old Road

x Beacon

Ilminster

New Road

Dillington House

Pill Box

Tank Traps

Gatehouses

North St.

East St.

Market Square

WC

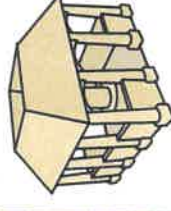
Directions:

1. Start in the car park (charges apply) Shudrick Lane South, St365147. This is opposite Tesco.
2. Leave the car park and turn right. Continue to the end of the lane and go through a ramblers gate into the field, Signposted 'Permissive Path Kingstone Hill 3/4 miles'. Turn immediately right through a gap in the hedge.
3. Keep the hedge on your left and follow the stream along through four fields.
4. Go over a footbridge into the fifth field. Keep to the hedge on the left and head uphill to a ramblers gate.
5. Go through the gate and go left through a large gap in the hedge into the next field. Bear slightly right uphill to the corner of the hedge opposite.
6. Keep the hedge on your left and go through a ramblers gate in the corner of the field. Go through the gate and head diagonally left to the hedge corner jutting out of the field. Beyond this is a further ramblers gate that leads out on to a fairly busy road. **TAKE CARE!**
7. Turn right up the road and go through the first gate, set back a little way from the road, on the right. As an alternative route you are able to stay in the field and follow the hedge up until you reach the gate.
8. Keep straight ahead along the top of the hill with the hedge on your left. Cross the second, a double stile in this hedge into the next field. There are great views of Windwhistle Hill from here.
9. Turn right and follow the hedge line around to a gap in the hedge and go into the next field. Keep the hedge on your right and follow the edge of this large field to a stile.
10. Cross the stile and go diagonally across to the right where there is a gate behind the houses. Take the narrow path, fenced on either side, down onto a residential street (Long Close).
11. Turn left and go to the end of the street.
12. Turn right and go down the hill towards Ilminster Town Centre. Pass the petrol station on the left and take the next turning right which is Shudrick Lane, where you started.

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WALK
08

ILMINSTER

Shudrick Stream / Pretwood

2.5 Miles
1 hour
Shudrick Lane Car Park

DESCRIPTION
Pavements, and field footpaths.
Fairly brisk throughout except for one steep gradient.

