



Walk 78. Crowcombe and Stogumber to Washford.

●/● 10 miles (11.8 miles to Watchet), ascents of 270 metres and descents of 370 metres. 3 hours 45 minutes constant walking, allow 5-6 hours.

Terrain: Fields, paths and tracks: potentially muddy. There are no particularly steep hills.

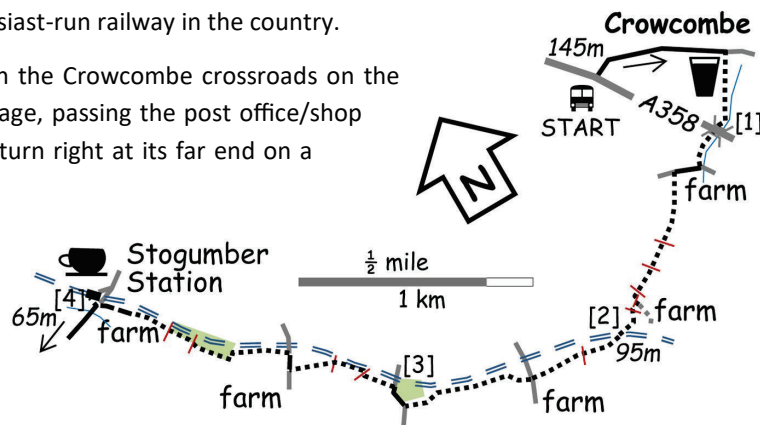
Access: Park in Washford and use the bus (for Crowcombe) or train (for Stogumber). There is a small layby on the A39 near the pub, station and bus stop in Washford, at TA23 0PP, but it is often full; otherwise park in the village hall car park (donation) at ST 049 412, near TA23 0PB. To return to station turn left out of the car park, walk past the school, and where the road comes to a T-junction continue ahead on a footpath alongside the railway to the A39; the station is ahead, the bus stop to the left. Bus 28 (frequent, Monday-Sunday) connects Washford with Crowcombe (but not Stogumber) as well as Minehead, Watchet, Williton and Taunton; the seasonal West Somerset Railway runs between Minehead and Bishops Lydeard via Washford and Stogumber. Using two cars there is a car park just to the east of the pub in Crowcombe at ST 140 365.

Map: OS Explorer 140 and OL9. The last part of the walk (from Aller Farm) is also on Croydecycle 55 Watchet & Quantock North.

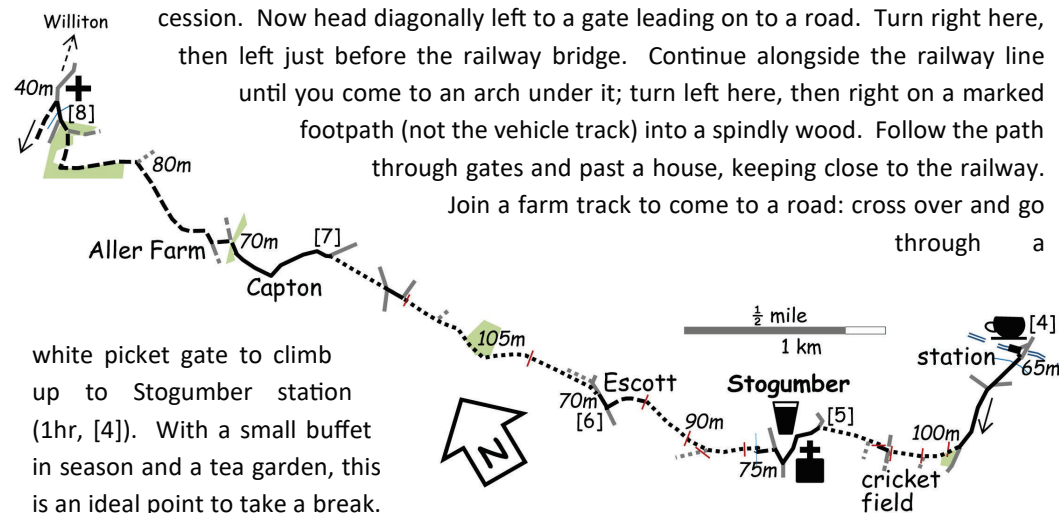
Refreshments: Pubs in Crowcombe, Stogumber and Washford; tea garden at Stogumber station in season.

THIS GENTLE TO MODERATE ROUTE crosses the valley between the Quantock and Brendon Hills, an area of gently rolling hills. While there is little dramatic scenery this is a rewarding walk, more remote in feel than it looks on the map. You will encounter arable fields and pasture broken by belts of woodland, streams, traditional villages, hamlets of thatch and stone and some substantial old farmhouses. Plus one of the prettiest stations on the West Somerset Railway, the old branch line between Taunton and Minehead which is now the longest enthusiast-run railway in the country.

The bus will drop you on the Crowcombe crossroads on the A358. Head into the village, passing the post office/shop and coming to the pub; turn right at its far end on a footpath (if you are starting from the car park turn left on the road and pass the church to arrive at the pub, turning left before it for the footpath).



Walk across the field and then underneath the A358 next to a stream (11mins, [1]). Now keep the stream on your left and come to a gate on to a road. Turn right, pass a thatched farmhouse and immediately after it take a footpath on the left that heads along the edge of a field. Continue ahead when the field widens out. Go through a kissing gate, across the next field and through another kissing gate above a house. Now go down some steps, through a gate, left through a field gate at into a farm and immediately right through another field gate. Keep to the left-hand edge of the field; ignore a footbridge, crossing the railway just afterwards (25mins, [2]). Bear right and continue almost parallel with the railway. Cross a hedge and a streamlet before going through a gate into the next field. Aim just left of a house. Cross the road and follow the path to the right, then to the left to follow the railway. When you come to a small wood turn left and keep it on your right, arriving at a lane just to the left of a house. Turn right here; just before the railway bridge turn left through a metal kissing gate (40mins, [3]). Keep close to the railway; cross a stile in the hedge then two stiles in succession. Now head diagonally left to a gate leading on to a road. Turn right here, then left just before the railway bridge. Continue alongside the railway line until you come to an arch under it; turn left here, then right on a marked footpath (not the vehicle track) into a spindly wood. Follow the path through gates and past a house, keeping close to the railway. Join a farm track to come to a road: cross over and go through a



white picket gate to climb up to Stogumber station (1hr, [4]). With a small buffet in season and a tea garden, this is an ideal point to take a break.

Start from here if you are using the train.

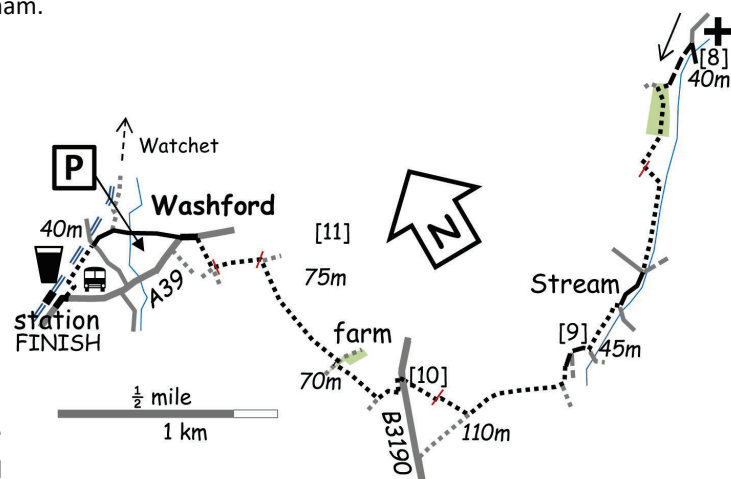
Leave Stogumber station the way you came, on signposted to the village. Turn right on the road and cross a stream. Continue ahead and uphill, ignoring turns to left and right. Before the road bends sharply left turn right up some steps to join a footpath. Head diagonally left under trees to a kissing gate, then across to another gate to continue in front of Stogumber cricket pavilion. Go through a gate and cross a drive, briefly joining a farm track. After the farmyard go through a pedestrian gate on the right, continuing ahead along the edge of the field. Stay on this path until meeting a T-junction with a lane (1hr20mins, [5]); turn left here to arrive at the old centre of Stogumber.

Walk down past the church to a T-junction and turn right; in just over 50 metres turn left on a public footpath in front of a small stone-fronted house. Cross a stream and a small field, and

go over a stile into a larger field; head for a large clump of trees. At the far side follow the path to the right (don't go through the gate). To your right there are views back over Stogumber and across to the Quantocks. Go through the next gate and keep along the right-hand field boundary, before crossing just to the right of the house ahead to arrive at a field gate. This is Escott. Walk past the house and through the farmyard, turning right when you come to a lane (1hr40mins, [6]). Pass a large house and take the track on the left just inside the hedge, continuing parallel with the lane. You will see the old overgrown footpath in a gully to your right. Continue along the field boundary for a few minutes. Go through a gate and continue along the field edge, ignoring what looks like a fork to the right. A path comes in from the right at a crossing hedge; go straight on here, heading upwards with the field edge now on your left. Go through a gate and bear left on a lane. Just ahead at a T-junction cross a stile (ahead to the right) and follow power lines across the field. The twin masts of Washford Cross are visible to your left.

Turn left on a lane (2hr10mins, [7]), and walk through the little hamlet of Capton. At Capton Farm bear right in front of the farm; this will bring you to Aller Farm, on a private drive. Turn left at a footpath sign to walk between the farmhouse (and its gardens) and a series of stone outbuildings. Turn right at the T-junction and follow the wide track to the top of a ridge, then around to the left where a smaller track joins from the right; a seat allows you to contemplate the view over St Decumans and Williton. The track continues down and next to a wood, until it meets a hard road at a gate lodge; continue ahead here, cross a wide stream (2hr35mins, [8]), then just before coming to Williton church turn sharply left on a drive to the mill house. In front of the house take the path to the right, skirting around the back of the building and above the stream. Ignore steps to the right, following the path through a gate and into a field. Continue along the left-hand edge, then turn left when you come to a wall. Walk down to the stream and head over a stone bridge which crosses another path, once a grand avenue leading to Orchard Wyndham.

Continue alongside the stream, going through a gate and soon coming to a road. Walk past a large thatched house, the start of the hamlet of Stream, then on the right Stream Farm. Immediately before a bridge turn right on a narrow streamside path; take care as the bank can be broken and



slippery. Coming to a farm track (2hr55mins, [9]) turn right; bend to the left then take the right-hand, upper fork. The track becomes a path running along the edge of a field; follow it around to the right and upwards, ignoring the path to the left. At the next corner, after a climb, keep ahead to cross into another field. As the path levels out look for a post on the left with small footpath signs. Turn right here and cross the field to a hedge. Go over a stile in the hedge, then head diagonally across the next field to a gate leading on to a road, the B3188 heading for Washford Cross. Cross the road diagonally to the right and enter another field (3hr20mins, [10]).

Continue clockwise around the field to come to the opposite corner; just beyond, go through a gap through the hedge and carry on ahead, ignoring a broad crossing path. At the far side of the field a hedge meets you end-on; keep on its right-hand side. At the end of the field turn left and over a stile, then walk along the left-hand field edge. Go over a stile (3hr30mins, [11]) and turn right to pass a children's playground and head along a narrow footpath. This brings you to the A39. Cross over with care and briefly turn left; soon turn right into Huish Lane and walk back to the village hall (see the 'access' instructions to return to the station, bus stop and pub).

Alternative start: Stogumber station (● 7.2 miles, ascents of 235 metres and descents of 265 metres). Take the train to Stogumber and follow the route to Washford as described above.

Alternative finishes: Williton and Watchet. For Williton, from the 2hr35min point ([8]) continue past the church, keep left, turn right on the A358 to come to the roundabout, then turn left for the bus stop or (three quarters of a mile further on) the station. For Watchet, turn right almost opposite the school in Washford to follow a path alongside the railway (it uses the line of the old Mineral Railway, closed in 1898). The path joins a residential road to take you into the centre of the town, where the station and bus stop can be found. (Finishing in Watchet adds another 1.8 miles to the walk).



Stogumber

© Stan Lester 2018-22. Last recce 6/2022. Please email editor@exmoorwalker.uk with any updates or comments.

This route description is provided freely and in good faith. You are welcome to use, copy and distribute it for personal and non-profit purposes (attribution—non-commercial—no derivatives). No responsibility is taken for any errors or omissions, or for your navigation or safety on the walk. Introductory and safety information at exmoorwalker.uk.