



Walk 95. Triscombe, West Bagborough and Will's Neck.

- 4.7 miles, ascents and descents of 310 metres. 2 hours 5 minutes constant walking, allow up to 3 hours in total.

Terrain: A mixture fields, tracks and paths, including a steep stony ascent. Can be muddy and slippery in places.

Access: Either park at Triscombe Stone approaching via Cockercombe (ST 164 359) or in Triscombe village (ST 156 355, TA4 3HE) coming from the A358; don't attempt to drive between the two. The walk can also be started from Lydeard Hill car park (ST 180 338), adding just over a mile, or West Bagborough. By bus, the 28 from Taunton to Minehead stops next to Flaxpool Garage on the A358. Head along the main road in the Taunton direction, then turn left towards Triscombe and follow the road uphill to start the walk from Triscombe (an additional 1.3 miles each way and 85m of ascent).

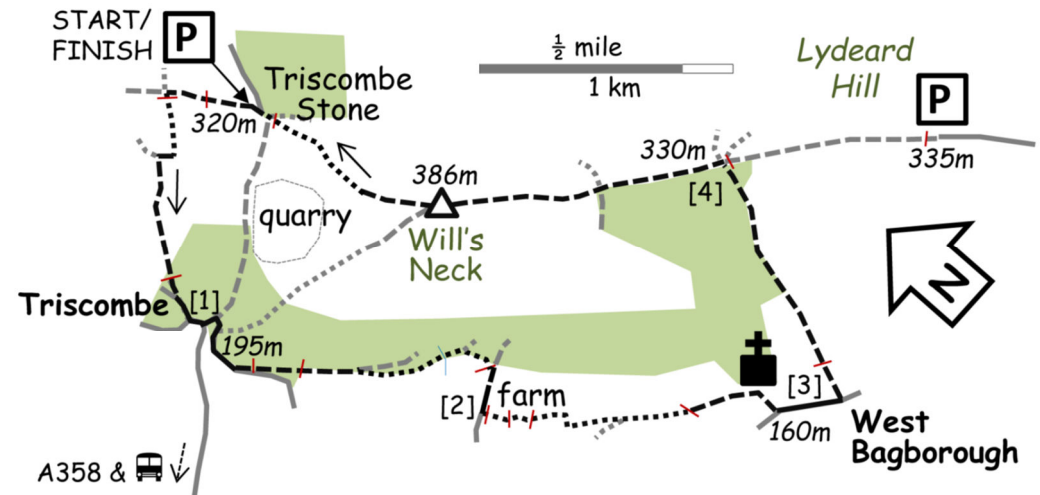
Map: OS Explorer 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgwater.

Refreshments: None on the route.

THIS IS AN IDEAL SHORT WALK ACROSS MIXED COUNTRY – woods, fields and open hills – for motorists who want to explore the highest part of the Quantock Hills while avoiding the bus connections needed for walk 97. There is a steep ascent from West Bagborough up to Will's Neck, but on a clear day the reward is far-reaching views across the Taunton Vale, Bristol Channel and Mendip Hills.

Starting from Triscombe Stone you will have turned right into the car park. Continue ahead away from the various gates on a very wide double track between trees, the Drove Road. At a fence across the whole width of the track go through one of the gates. A couple of minutes later turn left through a small gate, and follow a grassy path into Triscombe Combe. Turn right at a T-junction, then bear left under trees. Continue downwards through the combe on a wide stony track. Eventually go through a gate and arrive at a hard road. Turn left here, then left again in front of a long house (20 minutes, [1]). This used to be the Blue Ball Inn, a characterful but not particularly profitable hostelry. Follow the road around, keeping the inn on your right. (If you have walked up from the bus stop, turn right and right again around the house to join the route here).

Five minutes beyond the former inn, take a wide track that bears left from the road opposite a small layby. In another seven or eight minutes, at a group of pine trees, the track is marked private. Keep right on a path here to continue along the contour line (and the edge of the wood). Splash through a stream below an isolated house. Keep to the right as the path heads first up a little, then down. Continue downhill through a gate and past a farm; less than a minute later go through an inconspicuous kissing gate on the left (45 mins, [2]). Cross the



fields ahead: after two gates come to a gap, then the path heads right around the field. Bear left to walk alongside a barn, keep the hedge on your left, and then at a stag-headed oak go through a gate to join a greenway with some seats. Note the walled garden on your left, followed by the churchyard and Bagborough House. Follow the path around to the right to come to the road. Turn left into the village (1hr5mins, [3]).

The second half of the walk is more typical Quantocks fare, and it starts with a steep (and potentially muddy) climb: take the stony path at the side of the former inn, following it through a gate and upwards until it emerges into the open at the top of the hill (1hr35mins, [4]). Turn left, with the beech trees on your left. There is a fair chance of seeing deer or ponies here. At a yellow-marked post take the left-hand, upwards fork on to open moorland. Head upwards until you reach a trig point: this is Will's Neck, at 384m the highest point on the Quantocks (1hr50mins). Take the right-hand fork to descend. There are views to the coast on either side: to Minehead on the left and Bridgwater Bay to the right. Drop down into light woodland and go through a gate to return to the Triscombe Stone car park.



From Triscombe Stone

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