

THE MENDIP RING. Leg 1a

Ashcott Corner to Walton Hill. 7 Miles.

Start from the car park at Ashcott Corner Grid Ref. ST449396

- 1** From the car park cross the road, you can either walk along the cycleway on the right or the footpath on the left of the rhyne, you will have to cross a bridge onto the cycleway halfway along if you use the footpath. Follow this to Sharpham Crossing, turn right into Sharpham Drove passing the Tearooms on your right, after you pass Durston's Works and the junction on your right, look for and cross a stile on your left into the R.S.P.B.reserve, follow this path which turns right. At the next right turn go over the stile on your left then over the one on your right, now follow the rhyne on your right down to the bridge, cross the bridge over the rhyne into the field and head straight across to the gate on the far side, through this over the bridge, turn left follow the path down the hedge on your right to a gate at the bottom, turn right through the gate and aim for the buildings straight ahead to regain Sharpham Drove, turn left to reach the entrance to Abbots Sharpham.
- 2** At the entrance to Abbots Sharpham turn right over the bridge then left through the gate, follow the path for approx 400m then turn right at a footpath, follow this path up the hill to reach the gravel drive into Sharpham Park, turn left and follow the drive out to the road. Turn left, just before Park End Farm take the path on your left, go over the bridge follow the hedge on your left then over a stile down the side of a fence on your right to reach a field, continue down the field with the hedge on your left. You will cross four fields in total before you lose the hedge in the fifth field, aim for the houses ahead going over three stiles, then aim for the gas pumping station next to which you will find a stile, cross this onto the road, turn left up the hill to reach the A39.
- 3** Turn right pass the Pike & Musket pub then cross the road to turn left into Ivythorn Lane, after a few metres turn left into the enclosed path just before the first cottage, follow this path through the fields to reach a housing estate, on reaching the road turn right and take the path through metal barriers by the side of a garage out to another lane, cross this entering the enclosed path opposite, follow the hedge on your left and as it turns left and right ignore the first stile you come to, continue up the field crossing three stiles to eventually reach the road. Take care here as the road is a very busy one. Cross the road to a small signpost where you will find a stile on your left, cross this and walk up the hill passing the old windmill to reach the car park on top of Walton Hill. Finishing Grid Ref.ST446350