

Dig out some history around Sandford quarry

This route combines two shorter walks, courtesy of Winscombe and Sandford Strollers.

Walk information

Distance: about 3 miles in total (could split the walk in half for two shorter ones)

Difficulty: easy/medium – if combining the walks, there is a short uphill section between Winscombe and Sandford

Accessibility: No stiles. Strawberry Line is wheelchair-friendly

Duration: about 1.5 – 2hrs

Map: OS Explorer 141

Refreshments: Cafes, shops and restaurants in Winscombe

Public toilets: Woodborough Road, near Millennium Green

How to get there

Car

Follow A371 or A38 to Winscombe. Free parking next to Woodborough Inn

Bus

Routes 126 and 121 serve Winscombe

Did you know?

Walks previously published in *Life* can be downloaded in PDF format from the council's website. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks



Park next to the Woodborough Inn and walk towards Sandford along Sandford Road.

The public footpath is on the left, immediately before the fire station. From here veer slightly left across the community centre playing field, through the gate onto the Strawberry Line (National Cycle Network route 26).

Turn right onto the Strawberry Line (which was built as a railway in 1869) until the path forks near some allotments. Take the left-hand path which slopes gently upwards, and then turn right to cross the bridge.

Cross Sandford Road and you could walk into Shipham Lane for the chance of seeing some donkeys in the field near the Caravan Club.

If continuing onto Sandford, turn right from Shipham Lane back onto Sandford Road, head up the hill, and turn right into Quarry Road. A disused lime kiln will be on your left.

At the end of the road an information board tells you about Sandford Award Land. The land was awarded to the parish of Winscombe



in 1799 for people to quarry stone to repair roads and pot holes. It is now a regionally important geological site and forms part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



At the path fork, take the left-hand bridleway, which veers slightly upwards.

At the next fork, take the right-hand path, veering around the green metal gate. Just on your right is a bench to enjoy the views and soak up some winter sun.

If you continue along this wooded track you will come to two old metal stores which were once used to store the quarry's explosives.

Retrace your steps back to the green metal gate then carry straight ahead, taking the right-hand fork through the next metal gate. This is the entrance to Mike's Path, a former railway track.

Continue along here, passing the tiny quarry on your right, wonderful views to Crook Peak on your left, and the remains of a railway wagon.



Opposite the wagon, take the steps back down the quarry. Near the bottom is the old forge which was used to build steam crushers. It was re-opened during World

War Two and worked by Italian prisoners of war who were based nearby.

Turn right into Quarry Road and left down Sandford Road. Turn right into The Grove and follow the road to the left. A public footpath sign will be on your right, between two houses, heading back towards the Strawberry Line.

Turn left, back towards Millennium Green (the former train station) and Woodborough Road.

Kissing gates

Seven new kissing gates have been installed around Winscombe to enable more people to enjoy public footpaths. Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council and North Somerset Council replaced stiles with kissing gates after receiving a grant of £2,000.



Start and finish

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Winscombe and Sandford Strollers: Short walks – 1st Tues of month, 11am, from St James' Hall
Longer walks – 2nd and 4th Tues of month, 11am, from Woodborough Inn • 01275 546 746 • www.nsstrollers.co.uk

