

Walk 7

River Tone - Windmill Hill -Willows & Wetlands Centre

3.1 km (1.9 mls)

4.1 km (2.5 mls) with extension to Willows & Wetlands

One short steep hill to climb. Several stiles. Option of visiting Willows & Wetland Centre, with shops and Cafe

Updated April 2022

Starting with your back to the shop and the Royal Oak **1** turn right into Willey Road and then through the gate on your left into the footpath alongside the school **2**. Go straight across Huntham Close and through the next path into a field / back garden. Continue straight till you reach some apple trees **3** and turn right up towards a stile **4** at the top of the field. Go over the stile into a green lane, cross that and up some steps which are fairly steep but do have a hand rail into the playing fields. Keeping along the hedge alongside some poplar trees, walk across to the stile **5** and over the stile into the field and then through two gates or over the stiles alongside onto the main road through Meare Green **6**. Walk straight down the road opposite (Curload) until you pass a stile on your left **7** and reach the drove on your left **8** which goes towards Hook Bridge over the River Tone. Not far past the last house on the left, which is part thatched, and as you reach the river bank, there is a stile on your left **9** - it can be quite difficult for some dogs but there are plans by the owner to see if she can install a dog gate. *[If your dog cannot manage it you can go back to the road - Curload Hill - and turn right over the stile on your right **7** and across the field to the next stile **7a**].* Follow the bund round till you get to a stile on your left **10**. Go over that and turn left - this gets very muddy after rainfall - and then right up the steep but short hill (easier going up than down!) and through the gate at the top of Windmill / Garlands Hill **11** *[If you chose to return to the road - see **7** - you miss the worst of the mud].* There is a viewpoint there, where a windmill once stood, and a perching tree trunk with lovely views in all directions. The sewage works is visible across the field. Head towards that and through the gate **12** along side the sewage works - not for long! Turn left at the entrance to the sewage works **13** and follow the track to the main road **14**. Cross the road diagonally right and walk past two cottages sideways on to the road to the stile **15**. Go over the stile and keeping to the right and then left and into the next field turning left **16** along the hedgerow to the stile. Climb over the stile **17** and walk diagonally left back to the bridge **18** into the next field (or round the field boundary). Turn right and follow the hedge to just before the next stile **19** and turn left. Go over the bridge **20** at the end of this hedge and along the narrow path through the gap and keeping to your right follow the path though to Huntham Close and turn right **21**. Walk down towards Huntham Lane and turn left back towards the shop and Royal Oak **1**.

*At the sewage works **13** you can extend the walk by going down some steps to the right and across a couple of fields then turn left **13a** on to the drove to the Willows and Wetlands Centre for coffee, etc. You can exit the centre on to the main road. Cross the road diagonally to the right **13b** and walk along a sunken path to a stile **13c**. Climb over the stile and turn left, follow the hedge round until you pass the stile **17** and follow the directions above.*

