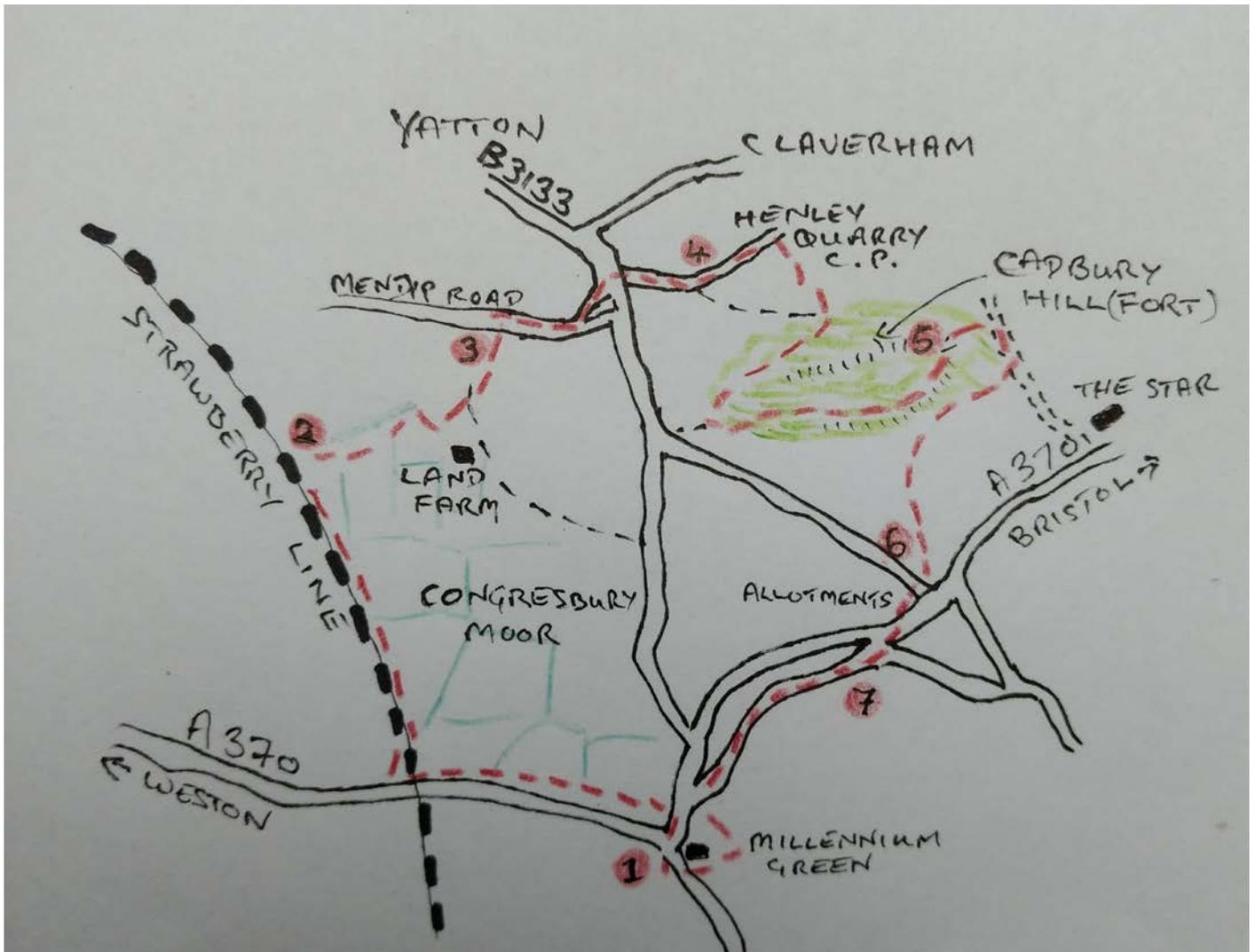


Walk 2

Down the Line to Cadbury. A varied walk along an old railway, through farmland (dogs on leads please) and uphill to an Iron Age fort with glorious views and plenty of history. Distance 3 to 4 miles, depending on the routes you choose on the hill.



1. From the Congresbury Arms car park, turn right and cross A370 to walk downstream on the bank of the Yeo. *The correct way is to walk to the next traffic light, head left towards Yatton (Smallway) and after 50 m turn left over a stile onto a permissive path. Walk straight across the field, over a rhyne and through a gate, following the left-hand hedge to the bank of the river and turn right. Many villagers instead climb the gate by the bridge onto the bank directly.* Follow the river bank to meet the Strawberry Line cycle path at a concrete bridge, go over the stile and turn right. Follow the track and bear right over the wooden bridge to rejoin the Line.

2. After a further 400 metres, turn right through a pedestrian gate into a field, and walk towards Land Farm with a rhyne on your left. At the end of the field, go left through a gate, over the rhyne and walk with the hedge on your right as it bends round and gives way to a small copse. The footpath goes to the right through a gap in the hedge beyond the trees, but if muddy, it would be fine to divert into the copse. Either way, you continue keeping the hedge on your right. In the corner of this field, ignore a well marked footpath going through a gate on your right, but go left and continue to follow the hedge to the field corner where there is a gate and short narrow path taking you onto Mendip Road.

3. Turn right and walk on the road for about 300m. Cross and take the no-through road at Tripps Corner, which brings you shortly to the B3133 Congresbury- Yatton Road. Cross immediately to the bus stop (*if you cross later you will be on a blind corner*) and continue to follow the brown sign pointing to Cadbury Hill. This is Henley Lane.

4. After 200 metres, through the gate into Claverham Cricket Club car park, where there are informative signs showing you the routes, natural history and archaeology of the hill.

Look at these boards (*maybe take a photo to guide you*) and take your choice of route. If you have never hugged a huge tree, it is fun to walk through the boulders to your left, along the tarmac track to Henley Quarry Car Park. The footpath straight up from this car park (not the bridleway to the left) takes you past the huge Wellingtonia (*A non-native Redwood tree. How many people does it take to encircle the trunk with outstretched hands touching?*) and through Cadbury Hill Local Nature Reserve, with a restored dewpond to your left in the bracken. On reaching the top of the hill, do take time to walk a circuit around the Iron Age fort pausing to admire the view from the southwest end.

The fort was initially constructed in the Iron Age (pre-Roman) but was important for the post-Roman occupation. It was excavated in the early 1970s and showed evidence of settled occupation with imported Mediterranean pottery, glass and metal working and a religious building. The North, South and West sides are protected by steep slopes with the footpath cutting through the ramparts of the gentler East slope, which probably formed the original gateway. There are suggestions that this was the monastery of St Congar and even more speculatively as a contender for Arthur's Camelot.

5. After leaving the fort through the Eastern “gateway”, proceed downhill through some trees, to a gate and information board, and continue down the hill following the tarmac lane to the right. Continue along this lane to just short of the wooden buildings on the left, and turn right through a gate. Cross the field roughly parallel with the pylon line to a pedestrian gate about 30m to the right of it and continue between the well manicured hedge and rose border to a gate and another gate shortly afterwards. Cross the next field diagonally to a gateway and follow the left-hand hedge to a gate onto Wood Hill.

6. Cross and walk through the bollards down a lane with allotments to the right. At the A370 cross very carefully and turn right.

The silver birch trees on the east side of the A370 were planted to mark the coronation of Elizabeth II

7. After the garage, bear left along Kent Road. Just before the A370 turn left into the Riverside Car Park and follow the river on your right to the blue Millennium Bridge and cross this to return to the Congresbury Arms.

After crossing the bridge note the Millennium Green Community Orchard in the far corner of the field to your left. This was planted by villagers in 1999 with old and local apple varieties such as Congresbury Beauty, Court de Wyck and Somerset Redstreak. The field also contains several specimen trees – the Millennium Oak, a native Lime in memory of the late Michelle Davis, and trees in commemoration of the long public service of Diana Hassan (Parish Council) and Tom Leimdorfer (District Council)