

# The Limestone Link

## *Linking the Cotswolds and the Mendip Hills*

A 38 mile walking route between the Cotswold Way at Cold Ashton and the West Mendip Way at Shipham.  
The route passes through valleys and villages south of Bath, is mostly flat and not too strenuous.



The Pond at Compton Martin.



Walking on The Limestone Link.

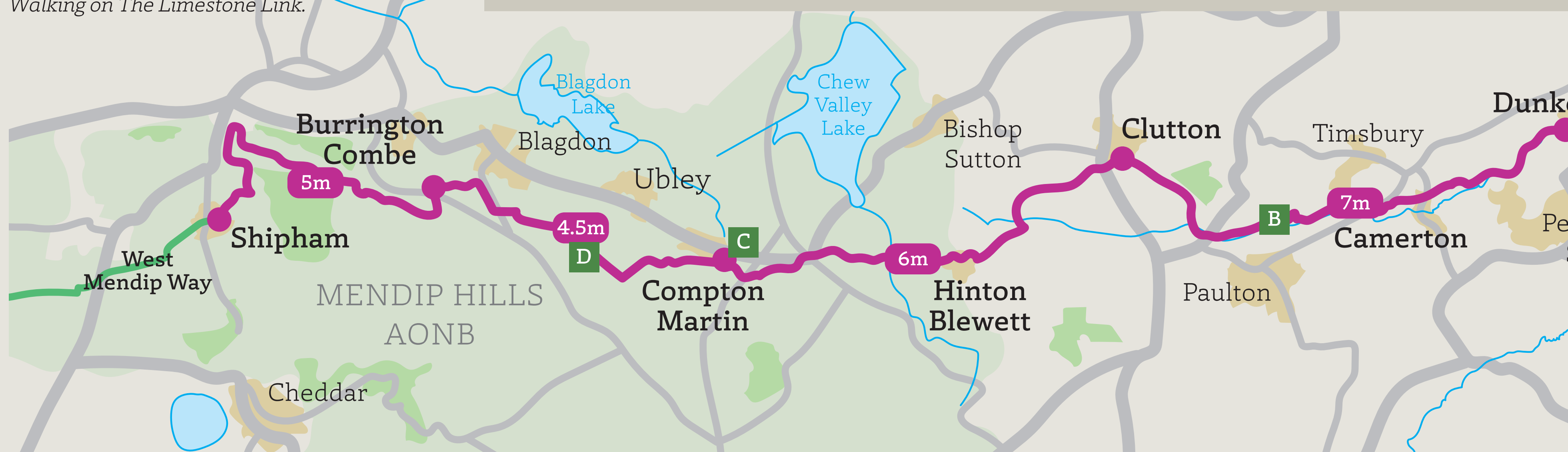
### Geology of The Limestone Link

The 'Limestone Link' takes its name from the geology of the area, connecting the Oolitic Limestone area of the Cotswolds with the Carboniferous Limestone area of the Mendips.

Between those areas, coal appears in the surrounding Somerset Coalfields. The local rock beds have many folds and faults. The mines have all closed but there are remnants of the industrial past to be seen along the Limestone Link. Once, the Mendips were mined for lead, silver, coal, ochre, fuller's earth and zinc but this has finished. The Mendips are a major source of aggregates, whilst at the Cotswolds end the Bath Oolite Limestone is still quarried as a building material. The geology has created the beautiful and protected landscapes we see today, with valleys, caves and wildlife habitats.

The area around the Limestone Link was one of the first areas in the world to undergo systematic geological study and mapping by William Smith in the 18th century when he was surveying the route of the Somersetshire Coal Canal. During his time as surveyor Smith devised a system of dating and sequencing rock formations by their fossil remains. This system was the start of the science of geology, earning Smith the title "Father of English Geology". The Limestone Link passes by the house where William Smith lived at the time.

You can read more about the history of the area in the introduction to the Limestone Link as referenced below.



Please respect, protect and enjoy the countryside, its livestock and its wildlife by following the Countryside Code.  
[www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code)



For further information and route descriptions:  
See the Limestone Link web pages, with origins of the route and points of interest – at  
[www.somervalleymramblers.org.uk/limestone-link/limestone-link-intro.html](http://www.somervalleymramblers.org.uk/limestone-link/limestone-link-intro.html)