

CRANMORE TOWER



Park your car in the car park of Cranmore Tower.

Map 3
Circular walk from
Cranmore Tower to Asham Wood.
7.9 miles

Cranmore Tower is a tall Victorian folly from the 19th century. The tower, built for John Moore Paget of Cranmore Hall has a viewing area around the top and is designated as a Grade II listed building by English Heritage. The tower served as a lookout tower for the Home Guard and the Royal Corps of Signals during World War II. An interesting note is that during some repairs in the 1980's, a hoard of coins was discovered next to the tower.



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Cranmore Wood is mainly a beech wood and in early May is spectacular when the new light green leaves appear. There are deer in and around the woods and a badger set on the edge of the wood.



Leave the tower and head along the footpath with the garden on your right and woods on your left. Follow this path going straight across at the main bridleway crossroad. Proceed to the end of the path and bear left walking along with the edge of the woods on your right. After about 100 meters you will see a gate on your right. Go past this gate for

another 20 meters until you come to a kissing gate stile on your right.

Follow the path to next kissing gate straight in front of you. Keeping the field boundary to your right. At the first five barred gate with stile go straight through. Veering slightly right go down the path leading to farm buildings, past Dairy House Farm to the T junction. Turn left, heading into Downhead along Slait Hill Road.



Downhead has a lovely Parish church and just on the outskirts is the medieval settlement of Tadhill.



Once the lane meets the road turn left and follow the road round to the right for about 500 meters until you see a lane going off to the left. The Old Schoolhouse is on your right a Grade 11 listed building and Ashley Farm to your left.

Follow the track to the end and you will see the footpath goes through a private drive. Follow this and after a short time you will come to gate with a kissing gate to the left of it. There is a sign indicating the footpath to Asham Wood.

Asham Wood is a biological site of special scientific interest which is the largest and most diverse of the ancient semi-natural woods in the Mendip Hills. The wood occupies 2 deep valleys and the intervening plateau. Most of the underlying rocks are calcareous limestone and shales. There are a range of unusual flora and fauna. Note the sign as you enter the wood.



Follow the path through the woods keeping the perimeter of the wood to your left. Cross the stream following the track up to a four way junction. Take the second right, keeping the field boundary directly on your left.

You will now follow this track for a while. You will be walking along the top of the wood with fields to your left and will pass 8 green pillars soon after you proceed along this track. Go through two gates 'restricted bridleway' and walk on to a third gate.

Continue straight ahead under a bridge and through another gate. Follow the public footpath sign straight on passing the 30 mile an hour speed limit sign.

At the farm at the end of Bull's Green Lane. Post Office.

Mead, leading through a field to a gap on the far side. Follow the gap and field. At the crosses the right. Turn right and out of the field trees, into another



of the track bear right into You will pass the old Turn right into Bullen to Black Lane. public footpath gate and across a in the hedge on Go through the straight across the far side a track field from left to and follow it downhill through an archway of field.

Ahead is a stile in the hedge. Go over it and turn left onto the road (Bulls Green Road). Continue to the T junction at the end and cross the busy Chantry bypass.

Take the public footpath on the opposite side of the road. Go straight ahead through an open area. Follow the path straight ahead left and you will eventually see a stone wall that descends on the left and hear a stream flowing behind it.

The path then starts to go uphill to a larger area. Keep straight ignoring any paths veering off to the right. The way flattens out and you will pass a wooden bridge on your left which you should ignore. keeping straight on with the stream on your left. Walk along the narrow path through the woods and then ascends steeply, eventually bringing you along the outer edge of the quarry.



Keep to the left hand path as it goes on through the woods until arriving at a crossing of the paths.

Turn left with a brickyard on your right and follow this path to the end where it opens up into the quarry itself. It is a busy site with lorries moving back and forth so great care is needed as you cross the road and walk to the right for a short distance.

Another quarry path sweeps round and if you look across this path you will see a public footpath sign which leads out of the quarry.

Cross the road and turn right for a few meters and ahead you will see a public footpath sign guiding you out of the quarry.

Follow this lane for a distance until you come to the gate entrance of Lodge Hill. There is a huge granite bolder on the footpath and to the left a lane. Go through the gate and follow this path as it does a 'U' bend to the right. There is a seat there where you can take a well deserved break. The wooden bench overlooks the quarry.

Go left
gate
the gate
along the
(on your
you
gate
of the
here and
road, and
onto Slait Hill.



and you will see a
ahead. Go through
and follow this path
edge of the quarry
left). Continue until
come to an open
which is also the end
quarry. Turn right
follow the path to the
at the gate turn left

Walk a short way down the hill to the first turning on your left. There are two cottages at the entrance to this bridleway and also two gate posts at the beginning of bridleway. Continue up the bridleway and you will see Cranmore Tower at the top of the hill to your left. Notice the badger sets half way up the hill. Go on into Cranmore Wood to the crossing of the bridleways. Now turn left and this track brings you back into Cranmore

Cranmore Tower is an old folly prominently sited on a high point of the East Mendip range in Somerset. Built in the 1860's by local Stone Masons upon request of land owner John Moore Paget, the Tower still stands today proudly overlooking the countryside and offering spectacular views from a elevation of 1050 ft above sea level.

Come visit us, walk and relax in the beautiful, tranquil, deciduous Cranmore wood. Climb the Tower's 184 steps and enjoy spectacular views of the Somerset countryside and 6 other counties on a clear day. Enjoy nature and delight in spending moments with your mind at peace, your spirit calm and your soul in its rightful state of joy. Have a cup tea or coffee and try our delicious cakes at the recently opened tea rooms. Bring everyone including your pets!



The tea room is open every day:

Tuesday-Friday

10.00 - 5.00

Saturday - Sunday

10.00 - 6.00