

The Black Mountain

7.5 miles/12 km. Easy. Time: 3 hours 30 minutes.

DIRECTIONS
Guide map overleaf...

① Park in South Road car park just off the High St, Midsomer Norton. From car park **turn right** and walk to join High St and cross to go **straight ahead** up Northway (between Estate Agents and Opticians.) Continue to Main Road and go **straight ahead** down path crossing further road. Follow path **left** and then **right** over bridge and up steps. **Turn left** along track to reach main road at metal gate where you **turn left** and then take second road **on right**, Underhill Lane.

② Proceed down Underhill Lane and continue **straight ahead** down track that takes you into open countryside. Follow track for approx 0.5 miles to find first stile **on right**. Over stile follow path to small bridge in **left** hedge by electricity pole and cross field and stile to road. Take gate opposite and follow right hand hedge to enter Hilliers Down wood. Walk along top of hill with pleasant views **on right** into the valley. After approx 0.5 miles you come to a clearing with stile **on left** and telegraph pole stile **on right**. Take **right** hand stile and follow down the hill crossing 4 further stiles to join main road at Farrington Gurney. **Turn right** along main road passing the Miners Arms. Notice on the side of the pub the ticket office with its GWR sign. Many years ago passengers who boarded at Farrington Halt bought their tickets here.

③ At end of row of cottages cross main road and continue in same direction until footpath sign at entrance to industrial estate. **Turn left** and follow path that leads behind industrial estate to two stiles to track past cottages to join lane. **Turn right** and follow track that **bears left** towards pylon and continues **straight ahead** over two stiles to meet War Memorial on right hand side in field. (*Time 2 hrs approx.*) The War Memorial is to the memory of men killed in the field when their gliders crashed in 1944 on their way from Keevil, Wiltshire, to Arnhem. A memorial service is held every year in September.

④ Continue **straight ahead** to squeeze stile and in next field **bear left** to meet road and cross to playing field. Go **straight ahead** down path to reach metal kissing gate **on left** to enter Plumtre Road. Proceed downhill and **turn right** at swimming pool and almost immediately **left** down path before entrance to school. As hand rail ends **turn right** to walk across school playing field to find railings and steps which lead to narrow path to join main road. At this point if you wish to visit the centre of Paulton **turn left** and then retrace your steps back to this point.

⑤ Cross main road and proceed along Ham Lane, turning first **right** into Ham Grove. Follow squeeze stile to field and stile to lane. **Turn left** and then **right** to follow path towards large batch. The batch is the coal waste from the Simons Hill colliery that closed in 1844. **Turn right** at top of field and cross stiles and then take stile immediately **on left** to follow clear path around side of batch to meet further stile to field. Continue uphill over further stile to proceed **straight ahead** along track, which **bears left**, and **right** to enter field. Walk along path in field with hedge **on left** hand side to cross stile to further field and then stile to road.

⑥ **Turn right** along road and **right** again at junction. Take first road **left** and first stile **on left** and walk down field with hedge **on left** hand to gap just past BWW post. Turn left and continue **straight ahead** across field to stile to enclosed path. Walk along path to second stile **on right** to enter field. Walk along **left** hand hedge to two further stiles to field. Continue downhill to stile to path that brings you out in housing estate and onto West Road. **Turn left** and follow Station Road to junction. Follow **straight ahead** along High Street to starting point of South Road car park.

The Black Mountain

A pleasant circular walk of 7.5 miles where for most of the walk you can see the conical batch of the former Old Mills Colliery, known affectionately as the Black Mountain.

The walk can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No 142

