

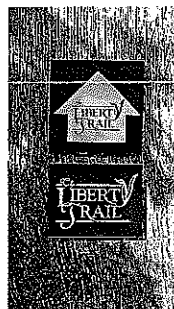
AN INTRODUCTION TO The MONMOUTH REBELLION



THE LIBERTY TRAIL IS BASED ON THE STORIES OF SOME OF THE MEN WHO JOINED THE MONMOUTH REBELLION. IN THIS INTRODUCTION THE SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORIAN, BOB DUNNING, EXPLAINS SOME OF THE FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE INFLUENCED MEN TO JOIN MONMOUTH'S CAUSE, AND DESCRIBES WHAT BECAME OF THEM.

In the 17th century, the route from Ham Hill to Lyme Regis described here connected the heartland of South Somerset's cloth-making industry with the port whose ships sailed south to France and Spain and west across the Atlantic.

Many folk in the villages along the route had, by the later years of the century, strong political and religious convictions. In national politics Parliament had less power over the king than it wished and could only get its own way by refusing to vote money from taxation. In religion the Church of England was supported by laws which made separate worship by Dissenters illegal. These laws were relaxed only when the king needed political friends.



Internationally, France and Holland both threatened our export trade, but Louis XIV, Europe's leading Catholic, was also perceived by many as a threat both to Parliamentary liberty and to survival of the Church of England.

By the 1670s such fears were increased because Charles II's likely successor was his openly Catholic brother James, Duke of York. The King's political adversaries identified another potential king, Charles's illegitimate son James, Duke of Monmouth. In 1680 he came

to the West Country. Travelling from Ilchester to Brympton, Hinton St. George and Forde, just north of the present route, he attracted huge crowds and became a popular hero.

Monmouth's implication in a plot to overthrow the King, led to his exile first in Brussels and then near Rotterdam. The death of his father and the urgings of men from the West of England brought Monmouth with three small ships and just over 80 men to Lyme Regis, the signal for a rising for the Protestant cause.

Something like 3,000 men joined Monmouth within four days of his landing; more, walking from Yeovil and beyond, joined at Chard, Ilminster or Taunton. Exactly how many will never be known though the names of

almost 4,000 have been traced. About the same number followed Monmouth towards Bristol, skirmished at Keynsham, defeated the royal troops at Norton St. Philip and faced the murderous fire of the royal guns through the early morning mist at Sedgemoor. Those who were not shot to pieces, cut down in the corn or strung up on trees were herded into Westonzoyland church or later rounded up with remarkable speed.



Walkers at Coney's Castle on Stage 5 of the Liberty Trail.

In the trials before "Judge" Jeffreys at Dorchester, Exeter, Taunton and Wells 329 men were condemned to death, 890 to be transported as virtual slaves to the Caribbean. Some later escaped, others were ransomed, and at least 50 found the Liberty they sought in the Carolinas and Virginia.

*G*UIDING YOU FROM HAM HILL IN SOUTH SOMERSET TO THE DORSET COAST AT LYME REGIS, THE LIBERTY TRAIL TELLS THE STORIES OF SIX REBELS FROM VILLAGES ALONG THE ROUTE. WITH GREEN SPRIGS IN THEIR HATS TO MARK THEIR SUPPORT FOR MONMOUTH, AND USING FARM SCYTHES FOR WEAPONS, SOME OF THEM MAY HAVE WALKED TO LYME TO JOIN MONMOUTH ALONG THE SAME PATHS THAT YOU WILL FOLLOW ...



The
LIBERTY
TRAIL

STAGE 1 • HAM HILL to WEST CHINNOCK

THE LIBERTY TRAIL IS A 28 MILE WALK FROM HAM HILL TO LYME REGIS. IN THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1685 VILLAGERS FROM THROUGHOUT SOMERSET AND DORSET WERE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE COAST AT LYME TO JOIN THE DUKE OF MONMOUTH WHO WAS EXPECTED TO LAND AT LYME TO LEAD A REBELLION AGAINST THE KING WITH THE RALLYING CALL OF 'LIBERTY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD'.

"Now the Lord stirred up James, Duke of Monmouth, reputed son of the former King Charles II, who had been in an exile state for some time. And on the 11th day of the month of this year 1685, he safely and peaceably landed at the haven belonging to Lyme Regis. Tidings of his landing was spread far and near very speedily, and diverse persons from several quarters hastened to resort to him. A great number of sober and pious people marched forth with the army'.

3½ Miles • 1¾ Hours



JAMES CARRYER'S MESSAGE

SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN WARNED BEFORE HAND BY STEALTHY MESSAGES SENT FROM HOLLAND WHERE THE DUKE HAD BEEN IN EXILE. ONE TO JAMES CARRYER, THE BLACKSMITH AT ILMINSTER HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED IT WAS THOUGHT ODD THAT THE BLACKSMITH SHOULD RECEIVE A LETTER - URGING HIM TO IMPART IT TO "SUCH AS YOU CAN TRUST, THAT YOU MAY ALL BE PREPARED AND READY AGAINST THE APPEARANCE OF A CERTAIN PERSON..." MEN FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES PREPARED TO MEET MONMOUTH. A MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF 80 HORSEMEN WERE SEEN TRAVELLING THROUGH THE NIGHT ON THE 1 JUNE: ON THE NIGHT THAT MONMOUTH ARRIVED, SAMUEL DASSEL, THE DEPUTY SEARCHER OF CUSTOMS OF LYME, REPORTED MEETING TWO GROUPS OF MEN HURRYING TO LYME EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NEARLY MIDNIGHT.

"Now were the hearts of the people gladdened, and their hopes and expectations raised that this man might be a deliverer for the nation'.

Points of interest

Ham Hill is one of the largest Iron Age Hill Forts in Europe. Five times larger than Maiden Castle in Dorset, its 210 acres are enclosed by 3 miles of man-made ramparts. If size is anything to go by, then it must have been a very important site in Iron Age Britain!

At the North West corner of the fort a twelve-roomed Roman Villa was built. Some of the rooms were tiled with mosaic floors, and crocks of Roman coins have been found here over the last century.

Stories of the Apocalypse, or the end of the world, have traditionally played an important role in people's religious beliefs. Mother Shipton, a Tudor Prophetess, had foretold: "And the world unto an end shall come, in eighteen hundred and eighty one".

The impressive nature of Ham Hill was such that some local parishioners believed it to be the

centre of the world. During 1881 some extraordinary events took place which seemed to confirm Mother Shipton's prophecy. Two-headed lambs were born and the weather, which had been extremely cold with snow right up to May, suddenly turned into a heatwave, causing four people to collapse and forty people to be struck by lightning in the ensuing thunderstorm. Legend has it that hundreds of people converged on the Hill to await their fate...



Many of the buildings in the surrounding villages are built from "Ham Stone", a golden coloured stone which has been quarried on Ham Hill since Roman Times.

Witcombe Medieval Village below Ham Hill was still populated in 1566 with "twenty poor tenants" who held ten acres of land on lease from Montacute Priory. The hamlet is supposed to have been wiped out by a plague in 1665. The strip lynchets, which you can see on the side of the hill, were terraces built by medieval farmers to extend the land available for cultivation.

The sixteenth century traveller Leland described the country between Ham Hill and Crewkerne as hilly, and local names reflect this: "Monte Acute" means very steep hill; "Chinnock" refers to the local hills. On your walk you may come to agree with him!

Ham Hill: Setting off along the ramparts

STAGE 1 • HAM HILL to WEST CHINNOCK

3½ Miles • 1¾ Hours

1 Ham Hill Country Park has a number of car parks. Use Norton car park and follow Liberty Trail waymarks initially.

The path takes you along a rampart to the edge of the Country Park. Keep on the main path, through edge of car park. At sheep fencing bear right. Keep left with stone wall on your left.

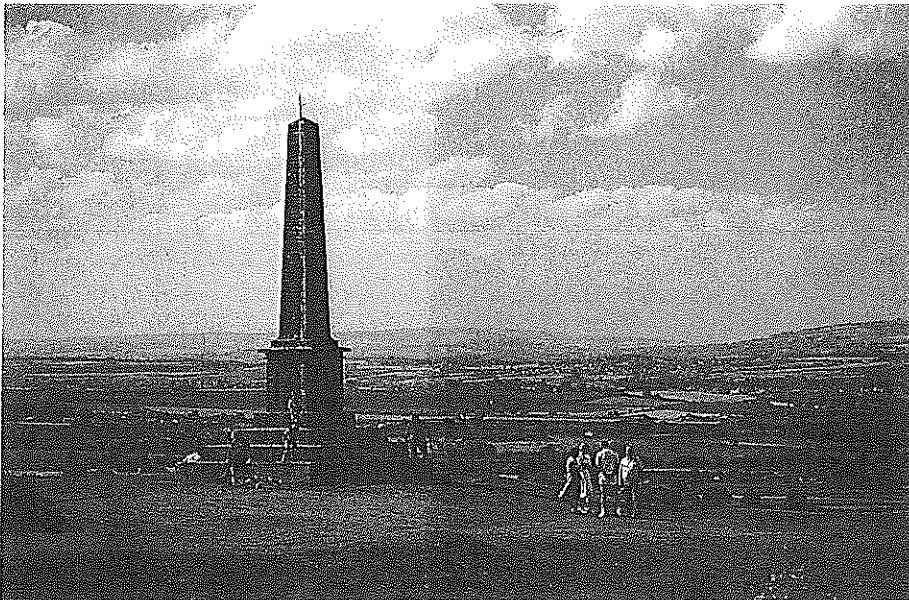
At hedge ahead, turn down right to come off hill (site of Witcombe Mediaeval village in valley on left).

At road turn right, pass "Tinker's Bubble" spring on right. Straight on at road junction.

In Little Norton left at road junction S.P. Norton-sub-Hamdon and Chiselborough, past waterfall and flour mill on left. At next road junction (Greenham Cross) bear left with orchards on left. At speed de-restriction sign, left into bridleway S.P. Pease Hill. Climb for approximately ½ mile to road. Left on road, turn right at cut through into Smokey Hole Lane, turn right. Continue down hill, past road junction on right.

2 After 300 yards at metal gate turn left into field S.P. Eastfield Lane 1/6 mile. Slightly right down to opposite hedge and stile/gate, right on Eastfield Lane. Turn left into field at gate/stile on left S.P. Middle Chinnock ½ mile. Keep hedge on right to corner then straight on to metal gate. Ahead to gate/stile. With hedge on right straight on to metal gate and footbridge over Chinnock Brook. Straight ahead, through wooden gate/stile and slightly diagonally right to stone stile and signpost to right of farm. Right on road for approximately 100 yards to stile on left S.P. Lower Street ¼ mile, Poop Hill ¼ mile.

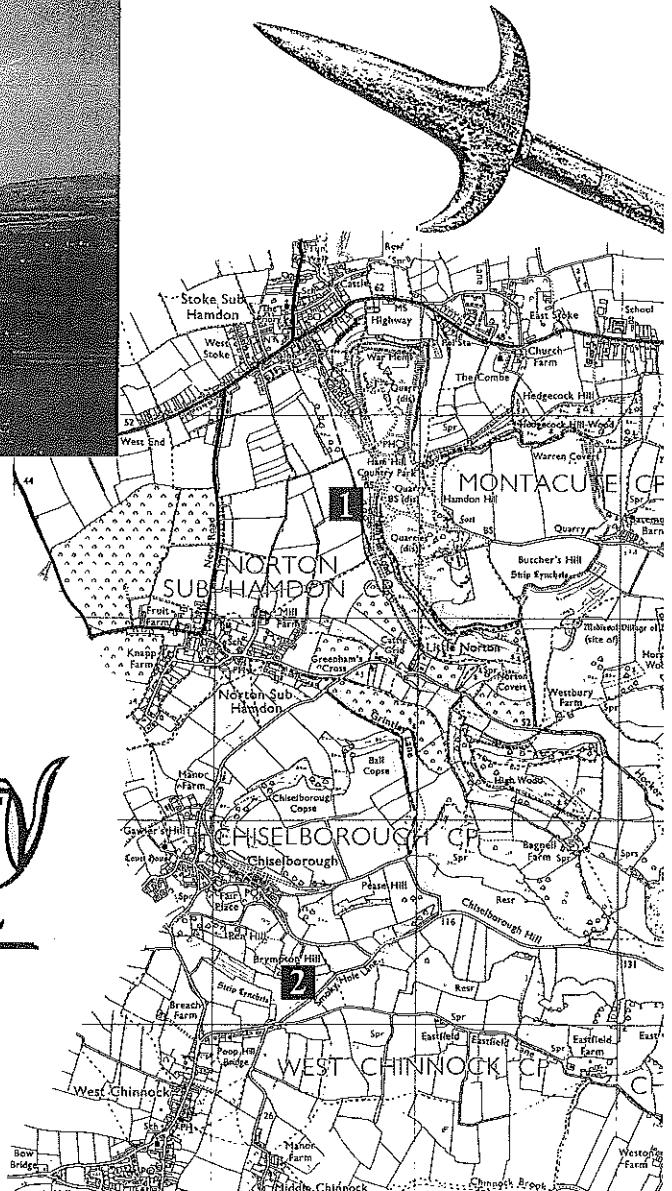
Over stile and straight across middle of field to opposite hedge and stile. Slightly right to gate/kissing gate into lane leading to road.



Ham Hill: The starting point of the Liberty Trail.



The
LIBERTY TRAIL



STAGE 2 • WEST CHINNOCK to MISTERTON

IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF WEST CHINNOCK NICHOLAS TEMPLEMAN MADE UP HIS MIND TO SET OFF TO LYME TO JOIN MONMOUTH. HE HAD LIVED WITH HIS FATHER, ALSO CALLED NICHOLAS, AND HIS MOTHER EILEEN TEMPLEMAN IN A COTTAGE IN THE VILLAGE (NOW CALLED STONEWAYS) SINCE HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD. AGED TWENTY FIVE, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THEM AND TRUST HIS LUCK TO MONMOUTH'S CAUSE.

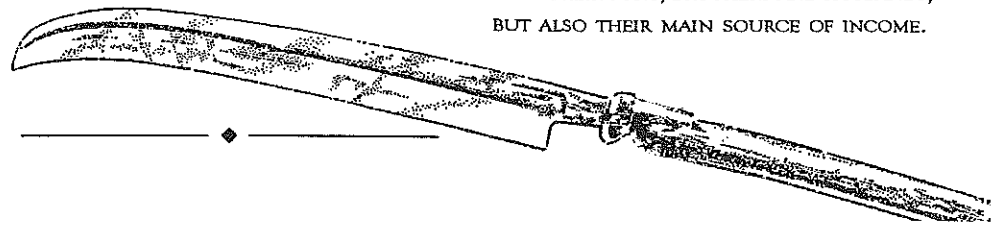
HE WORKED AS A SACK CLOTH, OR 'GRIT WEB', WEAVER AND, IN THIS WAY, WAS TYPICAL OF MANY VILLAGERS WHO EARNED THEIR LIVING SPINNING OR WEAVING, AS CLOTH MANUFACTURE WAS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT. DANIEL DEFOE, WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN THE REBELLION, GAVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE SOMERSET CLOTH INDUSTRY IN AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN IN 1727:

'The principal clothing towns eg. Bruton, Castle Cary...are interspersed with a very great number of villages, hamlets and

5 Miles • 2½ Hours



NICHOLAS TEMPLEMAN



scattered houses; in which generally speaking, the spinning work of all this manufacture is performed by the poor people; the master clothiers, who generally live in the greater towns, sending out wool weekly to their houses, by their servants and horses and at the same time, bringing back the yarn they have spun and finished which is fitted for the loom'.

MANY OF THE MEN WHO JOINED THE REBELLION ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE WORKED IN THE CLOTH INDUSTRY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT BECAME OF NICHOLAS, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT HIS FAMILY LEFT THEIR COTTAGE IN THE VILLAGE TWO YEARS AFTER THE REBELLION. WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE SUFFERINGS OF THE FAMILIES OF THE MEN WHO DIED IN THE REBELLION WHO LOST NOT ONLY THEIR SONS, BROTHERS AND HUSBANDS, BUT ALSO THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME.

Points of interest

West Chinnock continued to be a centre of the Coker cloth manufacturing industry, and many of the buildings in the village are connected with the industry. A generous and philanthropic employer, Richard Hayward who is mentioned in the church, gave the village its school building and built cottages, such as Church Cottages, for his weavers.

During the Middle Ages Haselbury Plucknett was a holy site of pilgrimage. From 1146 to 1154 a hermit called Wulfric lived here in a tiny cell and was visited by Henry I and Stephen, before he became King.

Misterton means town of the Minster.

Crewkerne was described by Leland as "a mene market town ... set under the roots of the hill" which is what its name means. The church, St Bartholomew's, has a

magnificent western front reflecting the town's prosperous clothmaking past - the sails for Nelson's flagship Victory were made here.

Pubs, teashops, B&B's and a bus link to Yeovil make Crewkerne an attractive detour for walkers doing the Liberty Trail.



Haselbury Plucknett Church

STAGE 2 • WEST CHINNOCK to MISTERTON

5 Miles • 2½ Hours

3 Left at Muddled Man public house, up road, bear left at triangle along East Lane.

After 300 yards cross stile on right S.P. Little Silver 1/6 mile and diagonally left across field to stile onto road. Turn immediately right S.P. Haselbury Plucknett 1 mile. Up enclosed track for 50 yards then bear left down to gate at end of garden boundary.

Over gate and down field between banks, over stile/track/stile. Straight ahead towards footbridge in opposite hedge. Cross footbridge and straight ahead to gate/stile in opposite hedge. Over stile into coppice and out over stile. Straight ahead with hedge on left. At gate on left turn right across drive and keeping orchard on left and fence/hedge on right walk towards corner of field. Just beyond corner turn right through deep hedge over stile/sleeper/stile and into field. Keep hedge on left to 2 stiles in corner of field. After second stile slightly left to footbridge. Over footbridge straight ahead for a few yards then diagonally left to second of four oaks. Keep oaks on right and straight ahead to metal gate/stile in opposite hedge.

Through and immediately left to stile in left hand hedge, over and slightly right to gate/stile in middle of opposite hedge. Over stile and straight ahead aiming to left of low barn and stone wall in distance, stile is in left hand hedge. Over stile and diagonally past telegraph pole (align with church).

4 This is the main A30 therefore TAKE GREAT CARE. Straight across to gate opposite.

Diagonally left heading for white building to left of Haselbury Church.

Over 2 stiles on either side of concrete track and straight across field to gate/stile. Over stile and straight on to corner of churchyard railings. Turn right at end of fence and through kissing gate on to enclosed path with hamstone stiles at each end.

Right, pass church, bear left then turn left at metal barriers into enclosed footpath. Left at fork through hamstone squeeze-through stile and continue on enclosed path to road.

Turn right on road, up Swan Hill for ¼ mile to footpath on left between bungalows S.P. North Perrott 1 mile. Through kissing gate/metal gate at end and straight across middle of field to stile at end of line of poplars.

Over stile and immediately right through squeeze through stile at top of steps, turn left and continue down field with poplars on left. Approximately two-thirds way down field cross hedge via steps in bank turn right and continue to Willis Lane. Turn right on road. Branch left where road continues to right into fruit farm. On enclosed path to metal gate with stiles on both sides.

Over left hand stile S.P. Crewkerne 1 ½ miles, over next stile and straight across field to opposite hedge and stile. Over and straight down hill to bridge over mill stream at bottom of hill. Straight across field to next bridge.

To visit Crewkerne:-

After second footbridge half left up field onto track, over stile just before cottage. Right up track, at right hand bend bear left into field. Across field on track, slightly right to keep on higher ground. Straight on to opposite hedge. Over stiles and diagonally right across field to gate/stile in opposite corner. Onto enclosed footpath. Right at metal squeeze through and stile. In field keep hedge on left to metal rails. Right on enclosed lane and follow to A30, turn left to Crewkerne.

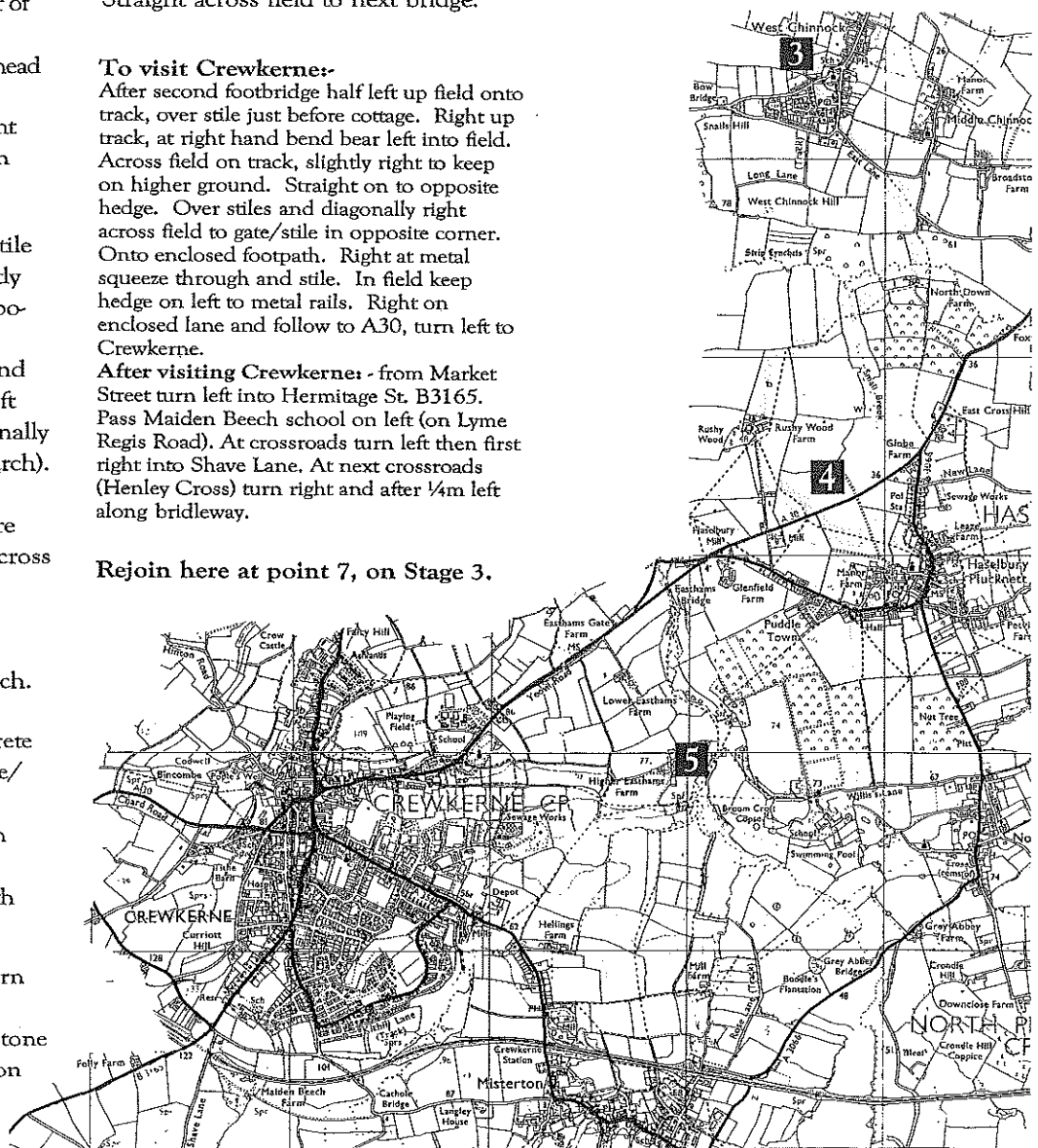
After visiting Crewkerne:- from Market Street turn left into Hermitage St. B3165. Pass Maiden Beech school on left (on Lyme Regis Road). At crossroads turn left then first right into Shave Lane. At next crossroads (Henley Cross) turn right and after ¼m left along bridleway.

Rejoin here at point 7, on Stage 3.

5 To continue via Misterton: Over bridge and sharp left with stream on left to cross third wooden bridge.

Follow stream on left, pick up hedge and trees on left and continue up field to stile in top corner. Keep coppice on left, cross two stiles. Straight ahead over open field to stile. Into enclosed section, exit at stile. Straight ahead then right on path with hedge on right. At stile/steps on right turn left across middle of field in line with enclosed lane ahead.

Into enclosed lane, under railway bridge this is Newbery Lane. On to 'T' junction. Turn right on Silver St. at 'T' junction turn right on Middle St. Through village to second road junction on sharp bend. Cross road and turn left into No Through Road.



STAGE 3 • MISTERTON to WAYFORD

IN 1685 IT WAS ILLEGAL TO HOLD RELIGIOUS MEETINGS OUTSIDE A PARISH CHURCH. THE "DISSENTERS", WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH THE SERVICES PREACHED IN CHURCH, WERE FORCED TO HOLD THEIR MEETINGS IN SECRET. IT IS RUMOURED THAT SUCH MEETINGS USED TO BE HELD IN WAYFORD WOODS WITH AS MANY AS 200 PEOPLE ATTENDING.

WHEN MONMOUTH LANDED AT LYME HE DECLARED THAT "NO PROTESTANT OF WHAT PERSUASION SHALL BE MOLESTED OR TROUBLED FOR THE EXERCISE OF HIS RELIGION". ENCOURAGED BY THIS, SOME DISSENTERS DECIDED TO JOIN HIM INCLUDING A LOCAL MAN JOHN SPIRING. DURING THE REBELLION JOHN WAS CAPTURED AND, AS A PUNISHMENT FOR HIS ROLE, HE BECAME ONE OF THE 890 WESTCOUNTRYMEN WHO WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE CARIBBEAN. THE STORY OF HIS ADVENTURES IS TOLD IN "THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE", WRITTEN BY A GROUP OF HIS FELLOW DISSENTERS.

4 Miles • 2 Hours



The ADVENTURES of JOHN SPIRING

"He was likewise sentanc'd for banishment and...carried Captive into the Isle of Barbados, where he was sold as a slave"

THE BOOK DESCRIBES HOW, BETWEEN THEM, THE DISSENTERS MANAGED TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY JOHN'S RELEASE. UNFORTUNATELY, JUST AS IT SEEMED THAT HE WAS GOING TO RETURN HOME SAFELY AFTER HIS LONG ADVENTURE, THE SHIP THAT JOHN WAS ON SANK:

"A sum of money; which was agreed unto and the money being collected of christian friends was sent for his ransom... returning home to his family and to the house of God... whilst he was on the seas both the ship in which he sailed, with the persons and wares in it, were cast away and drowned.."

IT WAS YET ANOTHER TRAGIC EPISODE IN THE ADVENTURES OF PEOPLE WHOSE HOPES HAD BEEN RAISED BY MONMOUTH'S PROMISE OF 'LIBERTY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD'.

Points of interest

Henley Manor Farm, is over 500 years old and was built by one William Montague. "Shave Hill" is named after the old English word shaw, meaning wood. The nearby Seaborough's name means seven hills. Part of Somerset until 1896 it was the home of the Gold family, one of whom went on the Crusades in 1220s.

Clapton Court Gardens are one of Somerset's most interesting and beautiful gardens with many plants and shrubs of botanical interest - including Britain's largest Ash Tree! Open: March - October (not Saturdays).

Wayford Manor was built by the Daubeney family in 1600.

"James Dawbuny...whose posterity owne it at this time...being allured with the pleasantnes of ye place have built a faire house upon it for their habitation well accommodated with gardens and orchards"



View from Liberty Trail at Wayford.

The magnificent gardens were designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Harold Peto in 1900s and are occasionally open to the public in association with the National

Gardens Scheme. At the time of the Monmouth Rebellion Samuel Pepy's eye specialist lived at Wayford Manor!

STAGE 3 • MISTERTON to WAYFORD

4 Miles • 2 Hours

6 Pass St Leonard's churchyard on right and turn right through gate. Diagonally right to top right hand corner of field. Over stile, turn immediately right and keep hedge on right. At end of hedge straight across middle of field to stile in hedge opposite. Over and continue with hedge now on right to stile/gate. Again with hedge on right to gate. Onto track pass drainage pits on right. Round bend to gate/stile on left into field, diagonally right up towards where copse juts into field. Follow field boundary over electric fences (all have handles) to stile adjacent to copse. Over and again keep copse on left to stile at bottom of field. On short enclosed section to road.

Right on road to T junction (Ducks Field crossing) and turn right for 3/4 mile to cross roads (Henley Cross).



Wayford Manor Garden

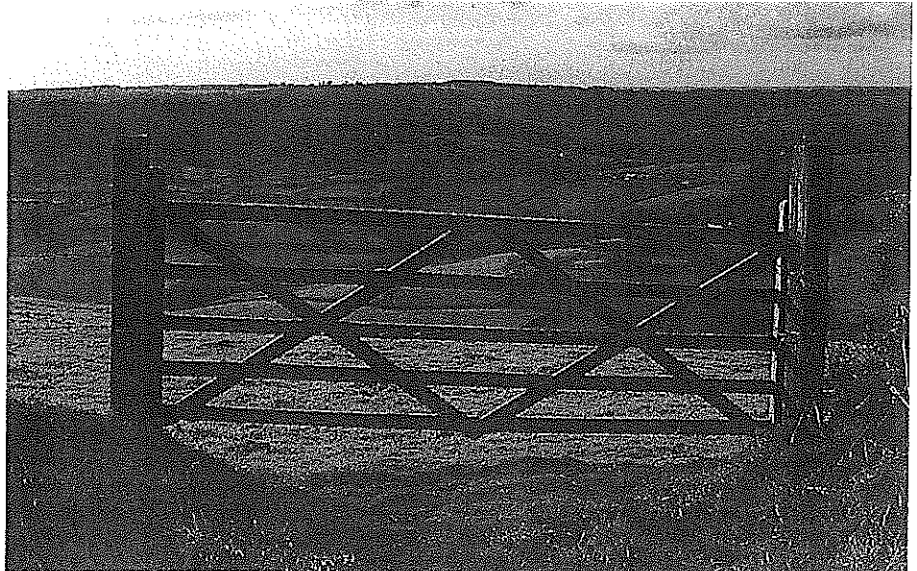
Crewkerne diversion rejoins route here.

7 Straight across and after 1/4 mile left along bridgeway. Through gate and continue with hedge on right to bridlegate, through and cross middle of field towards where left hand hedge juts into field. Keep hedge on left and bear left round corner to bridlegate. Through and on track to third bridlegate, follow track through field passing Howe Copse on left to gap. Continue on track with fence/hedge on right down hill to gate.

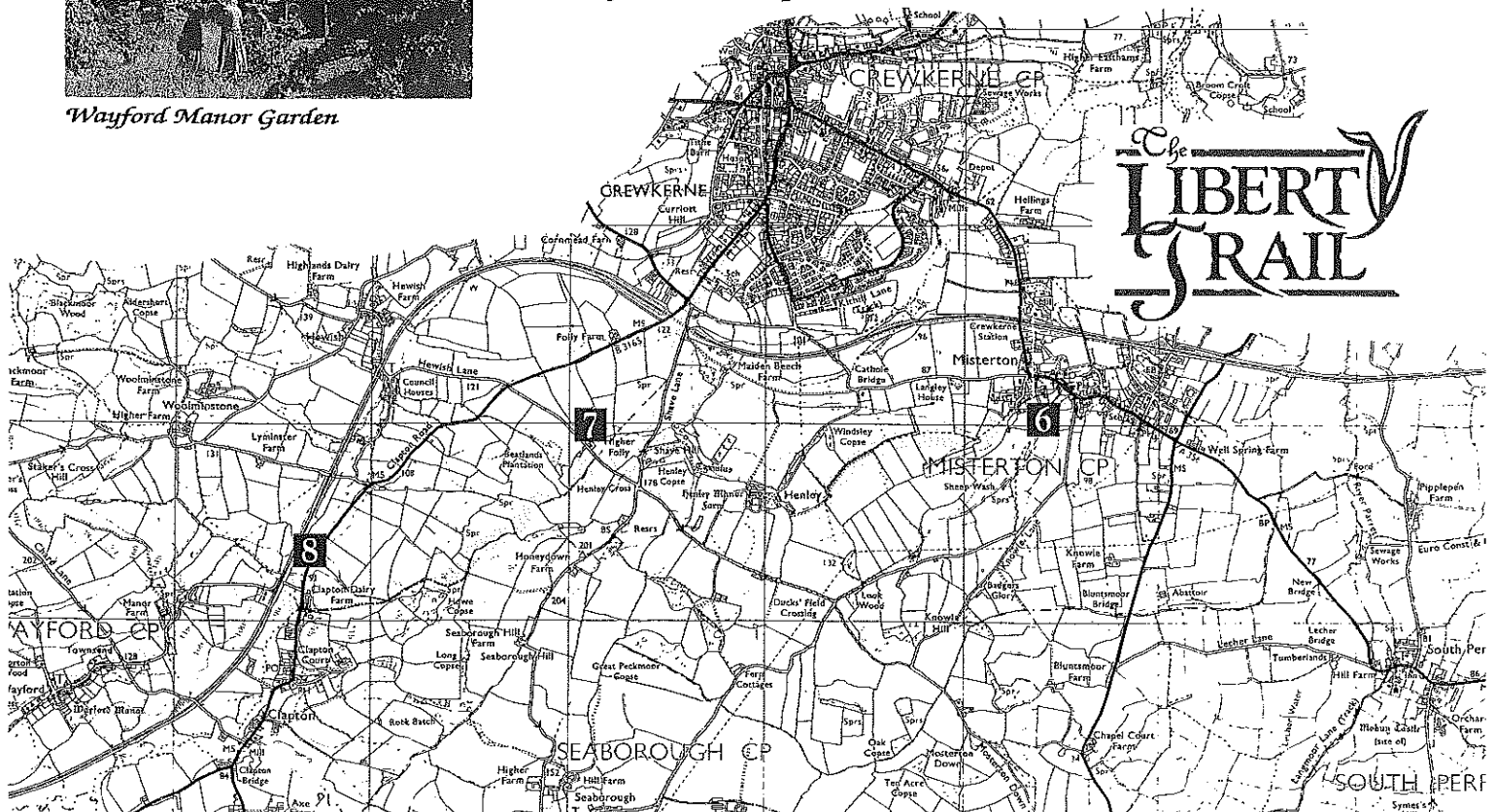
Through middle of field to gate into farmyard.

Straight through farmyard to metal gate, onto road and turn right. (CARE - MAIN ROAD).

8 First left, over bridge and up lane under railway bridge, to crossroads, straight over and on road to Wayford.



View from the Liberty Trail at Lambert's Castle.



STAGE 4 • WAYFORD to THORNCOMBE

FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE REBELLION EDMUND PRIDEAUX HAD ENTERTAINED MONMOUTH TO SUPPER AT FORDE ABBEY. PRIDEAUX HAD NON-CONFORMIST SYMPATHIES AND HIS FATHER HAD FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR AGAINST THE KING, SO IT WAS PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED THAT IN JUNE 1685 MONMOUTH WOULD AGAIN TURN TO PRIDEAUX FOR SUPPORT.

PRIDEAUX WAS "PEACABLY WITHIN HIS HOUSE" AT 8 O' CLOCK ONE EVENING WHEN A PARTY ARRIVED DEMANDING HORSES AND ARMS TO HELP MONMOUTH'S CAUSE. ONE MALACHI MALLOCK IS SAID TO HAVE TOASTED MONMOUTH'S HEALTH AND THE REBELS ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE LEFT FORDE WITH A GIFT OF £500 AND SOME FINE HORSES. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NEVER PROVED, PRIDEAUX WAS MARKED OUT AS A REBEL SYMPATHISER. AFTER MONMOUTH'S DEFEAT AT THE BATTLE OF SEDGEMOOR PRIDEAUX WAS IMPRISONED ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY. THE KING

6 Miles • 3 Hours

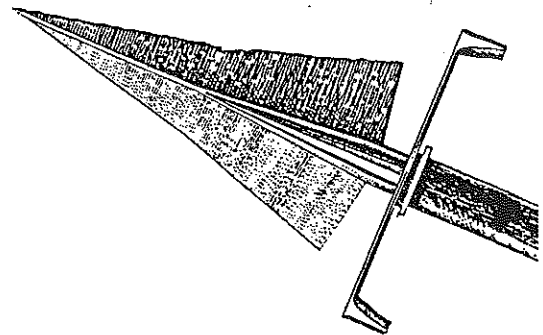


EDMUND
PRIDEAUX

"GAVE" HIM TO THE NOTORIOUS "HANGING JUDGE JEFFREYS" WITH THE SOLE CONDITION THAT HIS LIFE WAS TO BE SPARED.

JEFFREYS IT IS SAID, DESIRED NOTHING LESS THAN THE BEAUTIFUL ABBEY FOR HIMSELF AND SO LEVIED AN ENORMOUS FINE OF £15,000 ON PRIDEAUX - THINKING THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO RAISE THE MONEY TO PAY IT AND THAT JEFFREYS COULD CONFISCATE IT FOR HIMSELF.

PRIDEAUX'S WIFE, HOWEVER, MANAGED TO RAISE THE MONEY AND SO FORDE, AND HER FAMILY, WERE SAVED.



Points of interest

Winsham Church, has a "scratch dial" and a wooden board decorated with a C15 painting above the roof loft. These pictures are only found in a few churches and this one is unique because it shows the crucifixion rather than the usual last judgement scene.

4 miles North-West of Winsham is Chard, a bustling town with a good range of accommodation, shops and pubs. Chard is famous for being the birthplace of powered flight, as John Stringfellow, who invented it, lived here. Nearby is Cricket St Thomas where "To the Manor Born" was filmed.

Forde Abbey has a tranquil setting in a curve of the River Axe. It was originally founded as a Cistercian Monastery, but was partly destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In 1650 it was rescued by the Prideaux family and Edmund invested the money he made from inventing Britain's first

organised postal service in its restoration. The beautiful gardens of the Abbey have won the prestigious

Christies Garden of the Year Award and are open to the public daily, throughout the year.



Forde Abbey

STAGE 4 • WAYFORD to THORNCOMBE

6 Miles • 3 Hours

9 Past Manor House on left, through Wayford on road/track. Pass Wayford Woods on right and continue on track towards Ashcombe Farm (part of the path is permissive where it passes through Ashcombe Farm yard). Continue to Hay Farm and Broadenham Farm. Left at S.P. Wayford/Winsham beside stone barn through gate into yard. Ahead to gate into field. With fence and house on right through fields. Keeping hedge on right, through gap and straight across made up track into narrow enclosed footpath (Broadenham Lane). Footpath widens and leads to surfaced road. Bear right at bend on Court Street to road junction.

10 Right on Church Street, through village to turn left just past St. Stephen's Church. Follow road round then take footpath with post and rail fencing to graveyard. Over stile straight ahead, adjacent to metal gate. On enclosed section, through two fields.

Straight across field to stile opposite, straight ahead again to stile. Keep fence on left to narrow wooden gate and then metal gate onto road.

Left on road through Ammerham and over railway bridge. Through gate on left just after stone bridge over stream S.P. Forde Abbey. Keep hedge on right to stile onto road.

To visit Forde Abbey turn left, otherwise continue straight across road through gate S.P. River Axe ½ mile. Straight through middle of field, field narrows where river bends, through narrow part and straight ahead.

Keep in middle of field with River Axe away on left and slope on right. Pass rear of Forde Abbey and continue as before to bridge over River Axe on left at end of field.

Over bridge, turn right and head diagonally left passing cedar tree on right to corner of copse, pass stile and follow fence on right for a few yards to stile. Over and immediately left up field on track to gate onto road.

11 Straight across road, through gate opposite into field. Straight ahead through middle of field passing copse

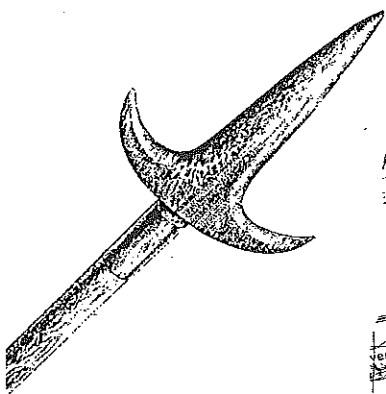
on left. Follow power line to far corner of field and gate.

Through gate and straight ahead to pick up hedge on left at corner. Keep hedge on left to stile/gate over track, again, keep hedge/fence on left to stile, onto track. Straight on, i.e. right. Where track splits bear left. Ahead through the middle of three gates.

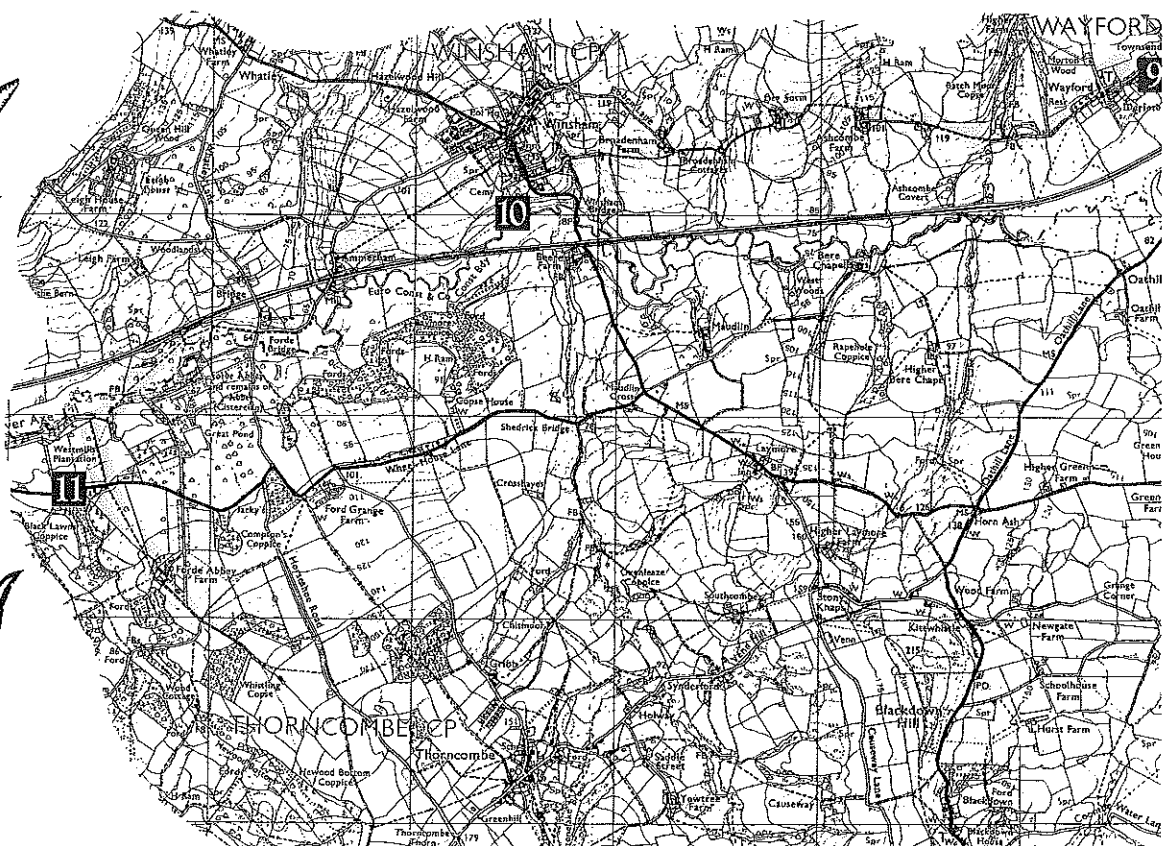
Diagonally left across field to stile half way up left hand hedge. Over stile and down bank onto road. Turn right on road, continue for approximately ½ mile to crossroads.



Forde Abbey Kitchen Garden



The
LIBERTY
TRAIL



STAGE 5 • THORNCOMBE to WOOTTON FITZPAINE

WHILE SOME MEN WERE MAKING THE CHOICE TO FOLLOW MONMOUTH, OTHERS WERE TAKING UP ARMS TO JOIN THE MILITIA - THE PART-TIME ARMY WHICH EVERY COUNTY WAS OBLIGED TO KEEP.

JOHN COAD WAS A CARPENTER FROM STOFORD, NEAR YEOVIL, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOMERSET MILITIA. AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DECISION TO DEFECT AND JOIN MONMOUTH IS GIVEN IN HIS MEMOIRS, CALLED 'A MEMORANDUM OF THE WONDERFUL PROVINCES OF GOD TO A POOR UNWORTHY CREATURE DURING THE TIME OF THE DUKE OF MONMOUTH'S REBELLION' (SLIGHTLY ADAPTED FROM THE ORIGINAL)

'I had decided that it was better to incur the wrath of an earthly King than an almighty God and so, on the 13th day when I was commanded out for King James, I set off from home with full resolution to go to the Duke's assistance as soon as I could.'

5½ Miles • 2¾ Hours



JOHN COAD'S STORY

'In view of the weight of this affair and the danger of such an enterprise, I had great reasonings within me while marching in the King's train about my plan to defect. The hellish oaths and ribauldry of many of that company soon strengthened my resolution however: I saw that my choice lay between popery (Catholicism) and slavery on the one hand and protestantism and liberty on the other. To contend for the former and oppose the latter was directly against my principle and conscience'.

COAD DEFECTED SUCCESSFULLY BY HIDING IN A HEDGE WHEN EVERYONE'S ATTENTION WAS DISTRACTED, BUT WAS SHOT IN THE BACK WITH A MUSKET BALL NOT LONG AFTER JOINING THE REBELS.

TRANSPORTED TO JAMAICA, HE LATER WROTE OF HIS EXPERIENCES THERE AS A PREACHER AND SLAVE. HE RETURNED HOME TO HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AT BRADFORD ABBAS, NEAR YEOVIL, IN 1690.

Points of interest

Thorncombe Church, contains fine brasses of Sir Thomas Brooke who was MP for Somerset 13 times between 1386 and his death in 1413.

The Liberty Trail meets up with the Wessex Ridgeway (part of the Great Ridgeway) which, at 137 miles long, from Marlborough to Lyme Regis is one of Britain's long distance footpaths. It is a very popular route waymarked from Shaftesbury with Wyvern symbols - an heraldic dragon which is the symbol of Wessex.



Coney's Castle



Walking over Lambert's Castle

Lambert's Castle, and the smaller Coney's Castle at the southern end of the ridge were, like Ham Hill, Iron Age Hill Forts. Lambert's Castle was given to the National Trust in 1956 and at 842 feet above sea level, provides good views across to Chesil Beach, Portland Bill and beyond. After the Battle of Trafalgar

it was chosen as the site of an Admiralty Telegraph Station, part of an early warning system designed to alert Whitehall within thirty minutes of any threat of invasion into the West Country. The system only worked, however, when there was clear visibility!

STAGE 5 • THORNCOMBE to WOOTTON FITZPAINE

5½ Miles • 2¾ Hours

12 Left into Thorncombe. After ¼ mile turn right into enclosed footpath, follow to gate into field. Through gate and with hedge on left down to stile, and then to gate in opposite left hand corner keeping hedge some yards away. In field walk along slight ridge to stile into enclosed section. Follow enclosed section with deep gully (Stonelake Brook) on left. Exit over stile into field turn right to follow bridleway to gate onto road at Sadbarrow Pound. Here the Liberty Trail joins the Wessex Ridgeway.

Left for approximately 450 yards then right, over stile and ditch. Keep hedge on right down field to stile. Turn left on track to farm.

13 Pass Grighay farmhouse on left and green roofed barn on right. Through gate, straight ahead for a few yards, track bears right then left. Keep on track passing under power lines then through gate on right into field. In next field keep hedge on left round 2 sides of field down to rails into small area of woodland.

Over rails/stile and on path through wood with hedge and stream on left to stile/rails into field. Diagonally right through field aiming for Gashay Farm, cross sleeper over small stream. On track between Dutch barn and stone barn on left and small wood clad building on right to gate on left opposite farmhouse. Through gate, keep hedge on left to ford. Cross ford/bridge and continue on track across field, hedge on left to gate. Through gate and round two sides of field with hedge on left. Over small stream to gate.

Through gate and over small ford. Up field with wet scrubby area on left. Walk around this area and bear left towards left hand hedge and up field to stile in top left hand corner. Over stile and onto road.

Turn left on road, pass turning to Hawkchurch on right, follow Marshwood sign for 25 yards then at fork bear right up track signposted to Hawksmoor Farm Bungalow. Up steep track for ¼ mile to B3165.

14 Take care crossing B3165 into road opposite. After 25 yards turn right onto National Trust footpath.



View from Lambert's Castle

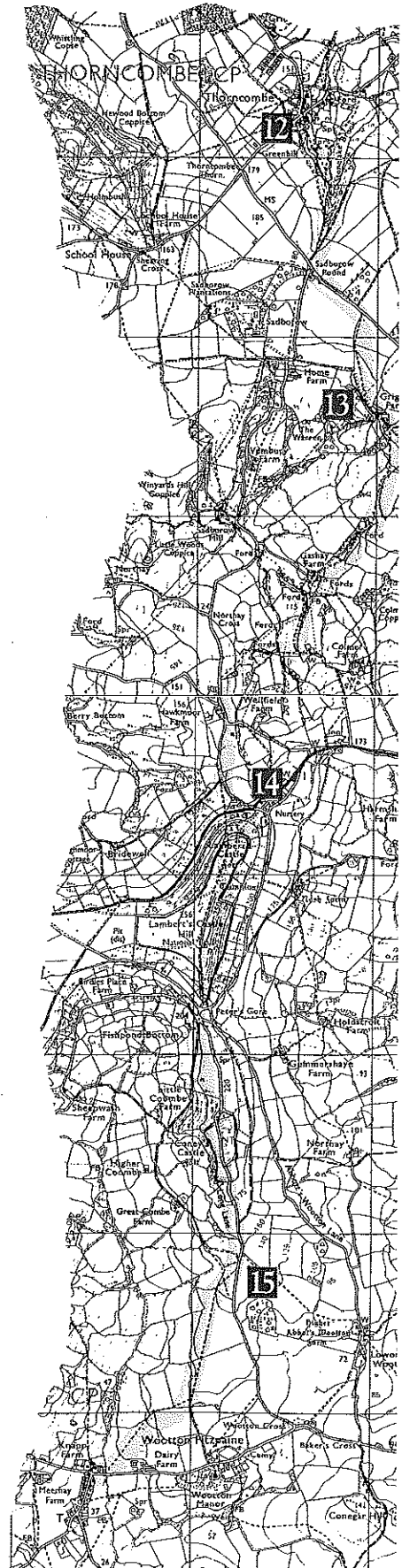
-After a few yards fork right on hollowed out path with bank on right up to bridlegate at top of hill.

Through gate to emerge at the open area of Lamberts Castle. Walk through earthworks of actual fort then keep along left hand edge of the open space. Magnificent views of hill to left and sea ahead from here. Leave hill by track on left hand edge of castle, aim at pylon, i.e. walk across eastern side of Castle with Charmouth ahead and downhill on track. Through gate at bottom of track and down to road (Peter's Gore). Straight ahead to staggered cross roads. Turn left S.P. Wootton Fitzpaine up hill towards Coney's Castle passing pylon on left.

On road for approximately 1/3 mile to National Trust car park at Coney's Castle (Iron Age hill fort) on left. Entrance to Corneys Castle is signed on left just past car park. Through castle and return to road at stile

15 Left on road for approximately ¼ mile to gate on right beyond tarmac track to Great Coombe Farm. Diagonally left across field to stile in slight dip just below first ridge. Cross large field to gate in hedge opposite. Into field, walk towards opposite right hand corner of field. Through gate on right just before corner and slightly diagonally left to gate in opposite corner. Through gate and

keep hedge on left to second gate on left just before corner. Diagonally right down large field to exit at stile adjacent to first house at bottom. This is Wootton Fitzpaine.



The
LIBERTY
TRAIL

STAGE 6 • WOOTTON FITZPAINE to LYME REGIS

ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 1685 MONMOUTH LANDED AT LYME ACCOMPANIED BY 82 MEN. AMONG THEM WAS NATHANIEL WADE, ONE OF MONMOUTH'S OFFICERS, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE SHIP FROM HOLLAND. LATER HE WROTE AN ACCOUNT OF THE REBELLION WHILE IMPRISONED IN WINDSOR CASTLE. HIS CAPTORS HOPED THAT HE WOULD REVEAL NAMES OF REBELS WHO HAD NOT YET BEEN CAUGHT, BUT HE DID NOT DO THIS AND HIS ACCOUNT CLEVERLY ONLY REVEALS THE NAMES OF REBELS WHO WERE ALREADY KNOWN OF, OR WERE DEAD.

"We came about noon to an anchor in the bay before the town, within a league of it, and immediately surprized a little fisher boat with 3 persons in it, by whom wee understood more perfectly the posture of the town and that wee should meett no resistance in it as they believed... After dinner when the Tyde

4 Miles • 2 Hours



NATHANIEL
WADE

served wee wayed anchor and came as neare the town as wee could, and landed neare Lyme on the Strand areas and came about Sunsett'.

"Before the morning (the news of the Ds landing being spread into the country) many came in and offered theyr service, I suppose some hundreds. Some sayd that they were in bed when they heard the news but they immediately arose and came away'.

AS MONMOUTH SET OFF FROM LYME HE CARRIED WITH HIM THE HOPES AND FEARS OF THOSE REBELS - AND THEIR FAMILIES - THAT YOU HAVE MET ON YOUR WAY. THE FATES OF JAMES CARRYER, NICHOLAS TEMPLEMAN, JOHN SPIRING, EDMUND PRIDEAUX, JOHN COAD AND NATHANIEL WADE, AS WELL AS MANY MORE ORDINARY WEST COUNTRY MEN HUNG IN THE BALANCE AS MONMOUTH'S ARMY MARCHED AGAINST THE KING ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE 1685.

Points of interest

Leland described Lyme Regis as "a praty market town set in the rootes of an high rokky hille to the hard shore. This town hath good shippes and useth fisshing and marchauntice".

At the time of the Rebellion Lyme was an important trading port with ships from Barbados frequently in dock and many a merchant whose wealth was increased by piracy! The town had been given its royal name "Regis" in the time of Edward I, and it was well favoured by King James I too who is reputed to have said of it:

"Lyme although a little place,
I think it rather pretty,
If its my fate to wear a crown,
I'll make of it a city".

It became an elegant resort in the eighteenth century and the museum is said to have had a floorboard from the Old Assembly Rooms to commemorate one of the more famous visitors; it is labelled "danced on by Jane Austen"!

One of Jane Austen's characters, Louisa Musgrove fell from Lyme's famous Cobb and lay "as if dead". More recently Meryl Streep posed on the Cobb with dramatic effect in the film based on John Fowles' French Lieutenant's Woman.

The tourist information centre in Lyme contains detailed information if you have the energy to explore further. The town is full of references to Monmouth - in the museum and in street and place

names. Not least among these is Monmouth's Beach where he landed and where, three months later, twelve Rebels from Lyme were hung in chains.

It was here that Monmouth, dressed in purple and with black ostrich feathers in his cap, landed and knelt to kiss the ground, with a deep green banner proclaiming "Fear nothing but God". The Rebellion had begun!



The Cobb at Lyme Regis - the end of your walk - the beginning of a rebellion.

STAGE 6 • WOOTTON FITZPAINE to LYME REGIS

4 Miles • 2 Hours

16 Turn right on road, over bridge and first right at road junction S.P. to Monkton Wyld and Fishponds.

On road to track on left adjacent to Merehay Farm. Follow track through gate/stile, right here through gate and stay on track for 200 yards. Turn right through third gate. Keep hedge on right through field to stile/sleeper in corner. In field towards derelict cottage. Walk to right of cottage, across small enclosure to gap in hedge. Left across field, through marshy dip in middle of field and to gate in opposite hedge. Over and slightly left to gate into field over shallow stream and through field keeping hedge on right to gate. Through gate and straight across middle of field on same line as previous field. Ford small stream in shallow gully and over stile. Left on bank to rails, over and right on bank which initially slopes very steeply down to stream. Follow path down slope towards derelict buildings.



17 Over rails to walk between first two buildings then pass to right of third building on track. Over gate on left into short enclosed section. In field left to gate/concrete bridge in left hand field boundary. Over bridge and immediately right in field to gate. Through and follow track parallel to stream on right to gate. Through and keep hedge/stream on right to gate opposite. Straight ahead passing barn on left, just before gateway to farm turn left beside barn and walk straight up hill keeping hedge on right. Through gate and follow track, pass pond on left and turn right with hedge

on right to gateway. Through gate and left towards barn in l.h. hedge (signposted). Through gate adj. to barn, straight ahead to stile/gate opposite. Straight up field to gate in opposite hedge. Straight ahead to gate/stile/S.P., over and keep hedge on right through field. Over 2 stiles before yard area to double gates onto track. Left on track to road (Penn Fm.). Left on slip road to A35 dual carriageway. GREAT CARE HERE.

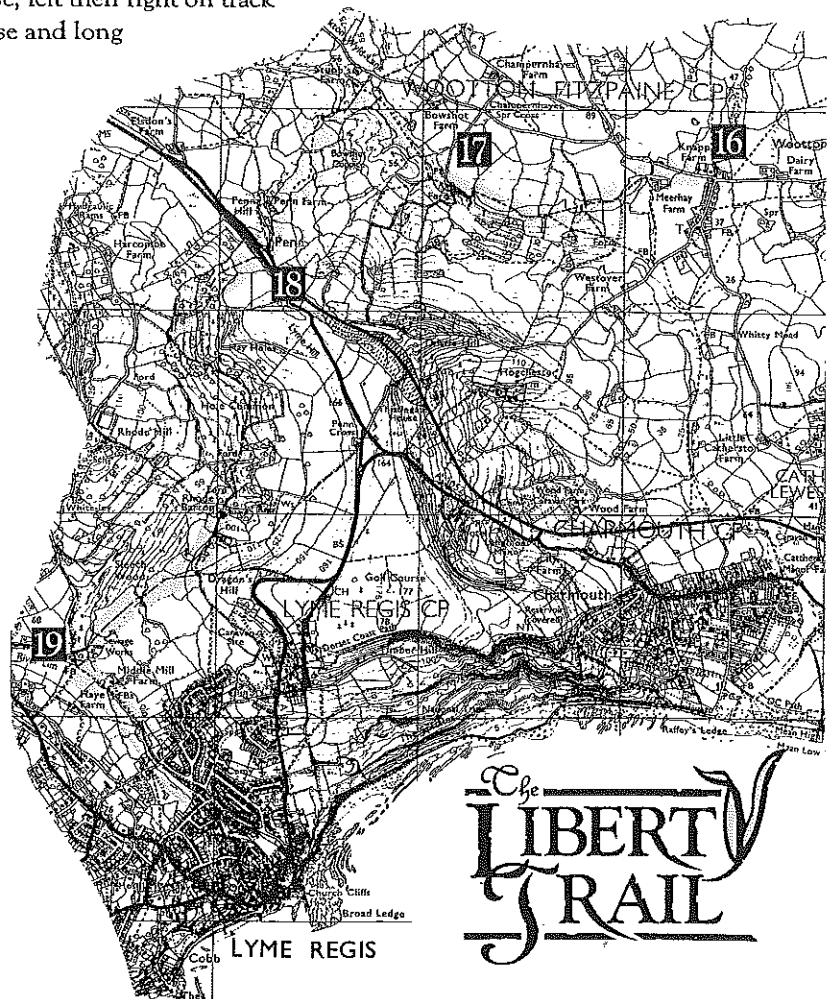
18 Across main road into side road opposite. Turn right into enclosure to gate, into field. Left at stile in right hand fence, down field to bridlegate into woods. Left through woods on path. Straight ahead across wide track and continue down through woods with open field on left. Left through b/gate into field and straight ahead keeping stream on right. Straight ahead to gate/b/gate, onto wide track. Where track sweeps round bend take second narrower track on left (S.P. bridleway) Through woods for approx 1/2 mile. Through gate and cross ford, up track to gateway. Through and up towards house, left then right on track between house and long stone barn.

Stay on track to gateway across track, through and immediately right through 2 gates. Left through second b/gate into field and down with fence on left b/gate/stile. Through small enclosure to next b/gate. Next b/gate after a few yards in right hand fence, through and left down field to bottom corner. On enclosure to gate, on stone track pass sewage works to next b/gate.

19 On track over bridge, immediately left at mill on path with stream on left. Through bridlegate and cross small field to bridge and kissing gate. Left, cross field with river away on left to k/gate. Cross R. Lim at footbridge continue with river on right.

Cross road adjacent to stone bridge into Windsor Terrace and again keep river on right.

At next road, straight across into No Through Road "Jerico". To end of road, right over bridge and continue with River on left. Left on road into Lyme. At Combe Street pick up S.P. Riverside walk, into town to the end of this walk.



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