

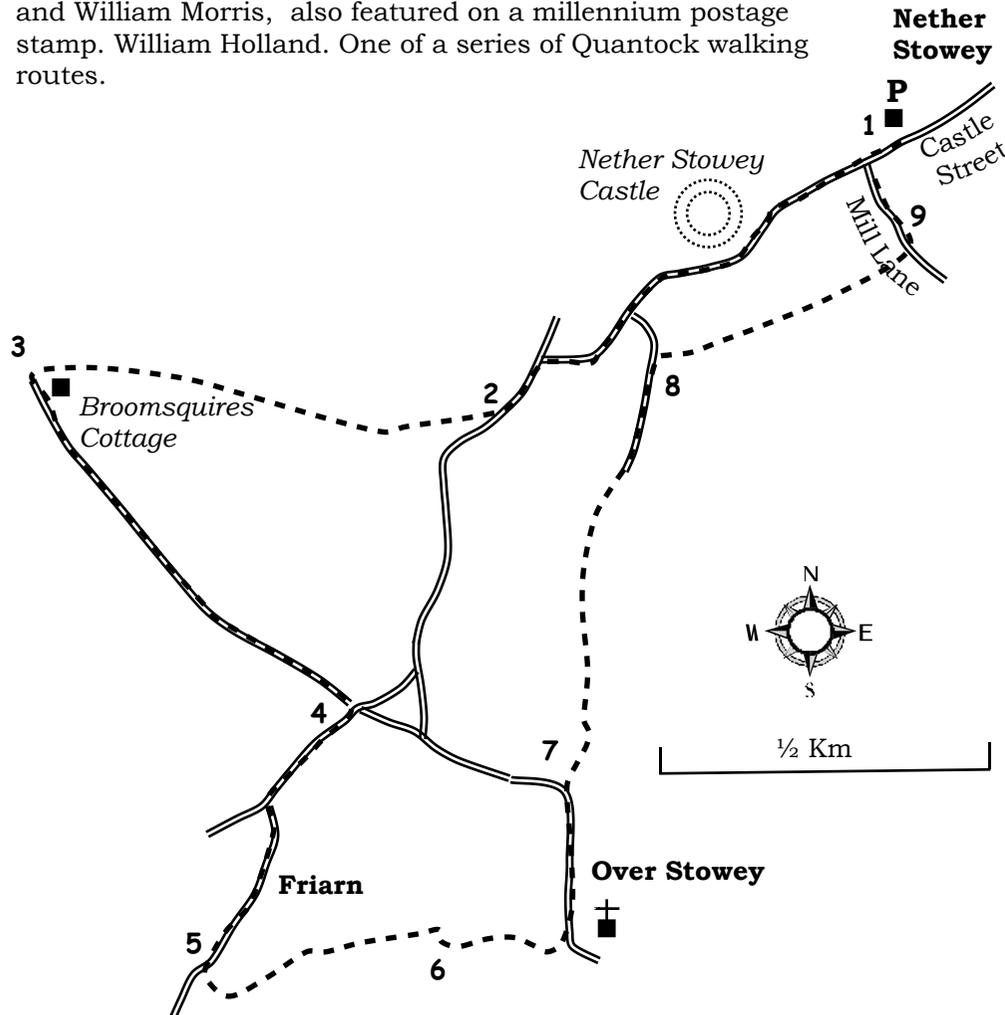
# Nether Stowey

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## The Parson's Round

3.1 Miles (5 Km), Total Ascent 402' (122m)

A gentle ramble of 1-1 ½ hrs with some fine views, taking in Over Stowey church, with windows attributed to Burne-Jones and William Morris, also featured on a millennium postage stamp. William Holland. One of a series of Quantock walking routes.



1 ST 190 396  
Starting at car park in Castle Street, walk SW uphill along Castle Street. At top of hill, (which is the steepest part of the route), on right you can visit the remains of Stowey Castle. Continue over the hill and, at end of the lane, turn left. After about 200m take the obvious bridle way, marked blue, on your right.

2 ST 183 392.  
Continue along the path, which follows a stream in parts, for about ½ mile until reaching a crossroads next to Broomsquires cottage.

3 ST 177 393  
At the cottage turn left (SE), joining the Quantock Greenway until point 5, and walk along a quiet lane for about ½ mile. At first the lane goes quite steeply upwards, but soon levels off to pass through an overarching avenue of trees.

4 ST 182 388  
Warning. Be careful at the end of the lane. It emerges at a bend on a fairly busy junction. Turn right (SW) and take the first lane on the left, before the cattle grid and waymarked for the Greenway. Follow the lane for about ¼ mile, looking out for a stone stile on left. The path has a yellow waymark.

5 ST 179 384  
Go over the stone stile and through the farm gate. Follow the field boundary, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through gate into a second field and continue into third field looking for a double stile in the hedge at the far end. Please keep to the path.

6 ST 183 385  
Cross the double stile and walk along the field boundary, now keeping the hedge on left. This comes to a gate leading between some cottages and then onto the road at Over Stowey, just opposite the church.

At the road turn left and continue for about ¼ mile until reaching a sharp left hand bend. Here you are faced with a tree on a mound and a stone gazebo.

7 ST 185 387  
Climb the stile to the left of the gazebo and follow the hedge across the next two fields. At the end of the second field cross another stile and down the short, enclosed track which emerges onto a small lane by some buildings. Continue down the lane until reaching a gate & stile on the right, just next to some bungalows.

8 ST 186 393  
Cross the stile and follow the well-worn track directly across field. A single tree stands to the right of the track. On reaching the other side of the field go through a kissing gate into an enclosed footpath. Continue to the road.

9 ST 190 395  
At the road turn left, shortly reaching Castle Street, where you turn right to the car park.



## The clock tower, Nether Stowey

The walk starts from the car park at Nether Stowey library, where there are also public conveniences. The library is housed in the old school, which dates from 1812. The school was relocated in 1979.

At the top of Castle Hill, which is the steepest part of the route, the remains of the motte & baily castle can be seen on the right hand side. It is worth a detour to the top of the castle to take in the surrounding views. A local story recounts a visitor hearing eerie noises coming from the site of the castle, thought to be that of a sleeping giant!

On the far side of Castle Hill is St Michael's well. This is a small stone structure next to the stream, on the right hand side of the road.

At the end of Watery Lane, point 3 on the map, lies Broom squires cottage, at the foot of Bincombe. There used to be more cottages here, this being the only remaining one. Broom squires made and sold besom brooms. The last broom squire in the area, Billy Palmer, lived here and was still making brooms in 1948.

The houses along the road, between points 4 & 5, lie in the hamlet of Friarn. Friarn was part of an estate, some of which was given to Over Stowey church by Hugh de Bonville in the 11th century.

As you follow the field boundary between points 6 & 7, there are open-views to Over Stowey with the Bristol Channel, the Mendips and Wales in the distance.

The oldest existing parts of the church of St Peter & St Paul at Over Stowey date from the 13th century - although records show that a church existed on this site from 1144, and probably much earlier. It is certain that Coleridge would have visited here with Wordsworth and, during the Spring, a 'host of golden daffodils' can be seen in the churchyard.

The final part of the walk takes you through Cross Farm and back into Nether Stowey. Enjoy the views.



Over Stowey



Over Stowey

### Castle Stores

Groceries, confectionary  
newspapers, maps,  
gifts,

DVD's & Videos

Mon-Sat 7:00am - 7:30pm

Sun: 7:00am - 6:00pm

Castle Street, Nether Stowey

### The Rose & Crown

[www.roseandcrown-netherstowey.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrown-netherstowey.co.uk)

Tel: 01278 732265

Food and B&B

A mix of dining styles, from casual bar meals for walkers and cyclists, to intimate dinners in the restaurant.

### Parsonage Farm B&B Over Stowey

[www.parsonfarm.co.uk](http://www.parsonfarm.co.uk)

Tel: 01278 733237

A traditional 17th century farmhouse, organic smallholding and apple orchard with walled garden.

### Stowey Brook House B&B, Nether Stowey

[www.stoweybrookehouse.co.uk](http://www.stoweybrookehouse.co.uk)

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Warm welcome and Luxury Accommodation in a Grade II Listed Character Village House.

### Old Cider House B&B Nether Stowey

[www.theoldciderhouse.co.uk](http://www.theoldciderhouse.co.uk)

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Edwardian elegance, modern facilities, luxurious surroundings, personal service, glorious food and fantastic scenery

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