

Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

6 Circular Walks in and around Chard

Walk 1

From Chard to Chaffcombe

An easy-to-follow walk through some attractive and interesting countryside. There is one hill to climb, but the subsequent view is outstanding.

The route starts from the nature reserve car park at the end of Oaklands Road. Map ref: ST 337 094. 4 miles. 6.5 kilometres.

Cross the area of grass adjoining the car park to reach a lane. Turn right and walk along for about 150 metres. Take the footpath on the left, signed for Chaffcombe. Cross the field to a footbridge and stile. Continue across the next field and over a stile and stay ahead to another stile. Turn left on a wide track. Ignore a footpath option to the right, at the top of a rise, and follow the track with the reservoir increasingly nearby on your left.

When the track meets a road, you turn right. After about 600 metres it turns sharp left and climbs steadily upwards to Sprays Hill. At the top, take the footpath on your right to follow around the edge of the wood which crowns the hill. If you have brought any refreshment with you, this would be a good place to enjoy it as the panoramic view is splendid. It takes in the Quantocks, the Brendon Hills, Ilminster and of course the Blackdown Hills and Chard.

Continue between the gorse bushes to a stile. In the next field, with Chaffcombe House on your right, the footpath descends to a stile just to the left of the bottom right hand corner. Head downhill through the copse to a

footbridge. Continue to another stile ahead and then follow the right hand edge of the field to a lane. Turn right. You are soon in Chaffcombe village. Look for a handsome little medieval church and a totem pole carved and painted by a local artist from a broken cedar branch from the churchyard.

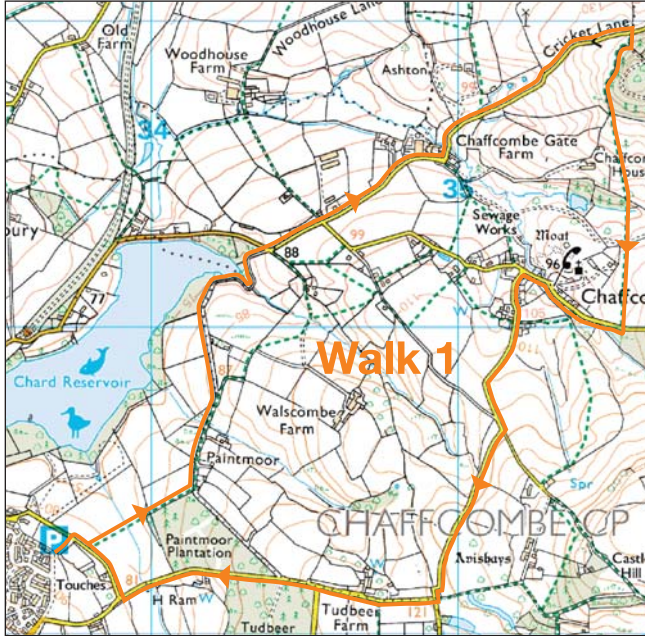
At the war memorial turn left and follow the road ahead, ignoring the 'No Through Road' sign. You will see Avishayes over on your left. When you meet the end of the drive, take the turning on your right. This takes you through a small area of woodland. Turn right, along the lane signed 'Restricted Byway to Chaffcombe Road.' Very soon you will see the car park on your left. You could, if you wish, divert across the field to the reservoir before you leave.



Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Walk 1 map



Crown copyright. All rights reserved. South Somerset District Council - LA100019471 - 2009