

Cycling in the Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route 2 – Hemyock, Blackborough, Broadhembury and Sheldon circuit
A moderate 22 mile ride, with two optional shorter routes

Rating: Challenging and moderate

Distance: Main route 22 miles. Shorter routes 7 or 12 miles

Start: The public car park in Hemyock (100 metres from the Catherine Wheel pub)

Main route (1 – 23)

- 1 Turn left out of the car park and left just after the Catherine Wheel pub
- 2 Turn right at Lickham Cross
- 3 At crossroads go straight over, signposted Leigh
- 4 At junction turn left
- 5 At junction turn right and then go over ford
- 6 At junction turn left, signposted Hayne, Bodminscombe, Sheldon and then first right
- 7 At junction turn left
- 8 Turn right at Downlands Cross, sign-posted Kerswell, Cullompton. Just past Knowles Wood car park, take the unsigned road on the left
- 9 Turn left at Windwhistle Cross
- 10 At crossroads (Causeway End) turn left, signposted Broadhembury
- 11 Follow through Broadhembury then turn right at Broadhembury Cross
- 12 At junction turn left on to main road and left again, signposted Dunkeswell
- 13 At crossroads (Turbarry Cross) go straight over, signposted Blackborough
- 14 Turn second right at Golden Lane Cross, signposted Sheldon, and follow for 3 miles, passing through Sheldon
- 15 Turn right, signposted Ashill and follow for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, then turn right signposted to Leigh and go over the ford
- 16 Turn first left and continue until reaching T-junction
- 17 At junction turn right, signposted Culmstock
- 18 At junction with Uffculme Road turn right into village and continue over river
- 19 Turn first right after Culm Valley Inn into Harts Row, through residential area

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Broadhembury

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- 20 At junction, turn right
- 21 Turn right at Whitehall Cross, signposted Hemyock
- 22 At junction turn left, signposted Hemyock
- 23 Turn right and return to public car park

Shorter route (A) – 7 miles (replaces stages 4-16)

At junction turn right then go to instruction 17

Shorter route (B) – 12 miles (replaces stages 8-14)

Turn second left at Golden Lane Cross, signposted Sheldon, then go to instruction 15

Look out for:

Broadhembury: probably the most complete 16th century village in Devon.

Hembury Hillfort: the finest prehistoric hillfort in Devon with massive defensive ramparts. Access via the public footpath off the A373.

Blackborough: whetstones used for sharpening tools were mined here in the 18th century.

Maps: This route is based on OS Explorer maps and is intended as a guide to cyclists. Refer to Explorer 115 and 128 or Landranger 192 and 193 when planning your visit.

Safety: Take extra care at junctions and bends. Take particular care when travelling between sections 1 and 2, along the A373 at 12, between 18 and 19, between 22 and 23, as these are busy roads. A special characteristic of the Blackdown Hills AONB is its high hedges, which can restrict visibility, particularly in summer.

General Information: For information about safe cycling and further information to help plan your visit, see www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the route directions and descriptions, responsibility cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions. If you discover any errors please let us know.

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Blackdown Hills AONB

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A challenging 22 mile or two moderate 7 and 12 mile rides

