

Cycling in the Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route 5 – Churchinford, Upottery and Culm Valley circuit
A moderate 17.5 mile ride or an optional shorter route of 12 miles

Rating: Moderate, with some challenging uphill and downhill sections on main route

Distance: Main route 17.5 miles, shorter route 12 miles

Start: The village hall car park, Honiton Road, Churchinford

Main route (1 – 15)

- 1 Turn left out of the car park and follow road for 4 miles to Upottery
- 2 In Upottery turn right, signposted Hemyock, 50 metres before the Sidmouth Arms
- 3 At Mathayes Cross turn right, signposted Hemyock
- 4 Turn left at Riggles Cross
- 5 At junction turn left, then right, signposted Madford, Hemyock
- 6 At crossroads (Fourways Cross) turn left
- 7 At Culm Bridge turn right (sharp)
- 8 Take right fork and follow for 1.5 miles
- 9 Turn left at Lilycombe Cross, signposted Churchstanton
- 10 At junction turn right on to ridge road
- 11 Turn first right, signposted Burnworthy
- 12 At junction turn right, signposted Churchstanton
- 13 At crossroad go straight over, signposted Churchinford
- 14 At crossroads go straight over, signposted Churchinford
- 15 At junction turn left on to main road and then right into car park

Shorter route – 12 miles (replaces stages 1- 6)

- a Turn left out of car park and then right into Red Lane opposite the York Inn
- b At crossroads go straight over, signposted Hemyock and follow for nearly 4 miles
- c Turn sharp right at Culm Bridge

Go to instruction 8



Otterhead lakes

Look out for:

Dunkeswell Abbey: Take a short detour to visit the ruins of an Abbey founded in 1201 as a Cistercian Monastery.

Churchinford: Note the seven way crossroads!

Otterhead Lakes: Take a detour to this former Victorian estate, now a local nature reserve with a mile of lakes, woodland, grassland and some surviving heritage features.

Smeatharpe Airfield: One of three local airbases used by the Canadian and US air forces in the Second World War. The two others are at Dunkeswell and Trickey Warren, Culmhead.

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 193 when planning your visit.

Safety: Take extra care at junctions and bends. Take particular care crossing the road at point 5, travelling between 10 and 11 and crossroads at 13 and 14 as traffic speeds may be high.

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

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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