Horse Riding in the Blackdown Hills

Circular 5 – covering Dunkeswell and Sheldon surrounds

At 20 miles this is by far the longest, and probably the most varied route taking in the valleys of the Otter tributaries and the wooded escarpments of the region. Reliably easy riding, with some magnificent lengths of bridleways to the west. There are cantering opportunities especially between Knowles Wood and Blackbororough. Keep strictly to the field edge through the gliding club. There is an unavoidable 3 mile road section to the south. Dunkewell Abbey & The Old Inn at Ashill are worth a detour.

Riding Directions (clockwise)

Orange line on map e.g. Start Point Stafford Hill (ST 118054)

1. Proceed north along BW through gates to road
2. L at road & next L (signposted BW & Gliding Club), past buildings on L then buildings on R, then ST keeping to L edge of field
3. Ignore BW to Broadhembury, & proceed to end BG, then through 2nd BG and onto car park at road
4. L downhill then R at BW/light traffic car park (watch for traffic) & proceed along wooded BW for about one and a half miles to next road
5. L at road and almost immediate R onto single track BW behind Blackboro' cottages and back to road, continue north for about ¾ mile to 2nd road on right at Allhallows Cross
6. R past Allecombe farm, ST at next X roads at Rull House, over stream, keep L and L again up to Hackpen X.
7. R at Hackpen X, up Hackpen Hill, and proceed along straight road for about one and a half miles, cross over Dunkeswell—Hemyock road Gypsy X (watch for traffic), then next R & past Moorhayes farm, over Stream, and ST through Madford (NB Dunkeswell Abbey nearby)
8. Up past Abbottsford farm, then next L and 200m R using single track through copse (Routy Lane)
9. R at road then next L, then ST X roads at Jack's House (watch traffic)
10. Immediate R past Gullyhayes Farm, & after about 1 mile, L at Combeshead and down the hill to next junction.
11. Sharp L along BW past Fairview farm, follow round to R keeping to BW marker signs, down hill forking L at BW junction, down to road
12. L over stream, uphill and, immediately after hairpin R at Hillend, take L up into a green lane

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