

Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Circular Walks in and around Stockland

Walk 2

Dalwood, Horner Hill and a view of the English Channel

This walk, on the easterly side of the Parish of Stockland starts and finishes in Dalwood Village. It takes a delightful route on paths and country lanes through the turbary on Horner Hill, with splendid views of the Corry Valley and at one point to the Channel in Lyme Bay.

Approximately 4½ miles, with the option of an additional mile long diversion to visit Beckford Bridge, a mediaeval packhorse bridge. The route contains two fairly steep ascents and therefore also two enjoyable descents. In winter, some sections can be muddy.

Park in Dalwood village in the wide section of road between the church and the Tuckers Arms. Walk past the pub, over the bridge and where the road bends left, take the footpath on your right. It passes some houses and then enters a field, where your first steep ascent begins. Continue up the fields until you reach a lane, where you turn left. Walk along the lane for nearly half a mile, but where it bears left, take the footpath on your right. It takes you downhill on a tree-lined track to a gate, then down a steep field to another track in the left hand bottom corner. This takes you to farm buildings and a signpost sending you to your right. Follow the farm track to the lane.

Turn right if you want the diversion to Beckford Bridge, about half a mile away. It is a delightful spot on the River Yarty.

If you have gone to the bridge, retrace your steps along the lane. If you chose not to, turn left and walk along the lane, past Newlands and Cuckford Farm to Three Ashes. Turn left at the sign which indicates an unmetalled road. This is your second ascent, passing the drive to Lower East Horner Farm and later taking the left fork in front of a metal field gate. The path narrows and meanders upwards, giving good views to the left over the Yarty Valley and into Dorset. When you reach a road, turn right

for just a short distance and find the bridlepath on the left, opposite the drive to a house called Sandpitts. This takes you through woodland to a right turn through a gate. The path then leads downwards beside what is locally known as The Bomb Feld, in which a German bomber once jettisoned some of its armaments.

At the next gate you enter the turbary and the path levels out in woodland, passing the ruins of three cottages, uninhabited since the 1930s, but believed to have housed workers in the Flax Mill in the valley below. Ignore the path on your right, which heads down to the valley floor. Our path is briefly steeper and then leaves the woods for heathland. At one point there is a view ahead to the sea, near the mouth of the River Axe. The path continues uphill into woods and then begins a short but steep descent to a wide track, on which you turn left.

Where the track meets a lane (along which you walked earlier) turn immediately right through a metal gate. This footpath takes you into the grounds of the old Baggaton Inn, apparently known at one time for cider and smugglers. Follow the path downhill for over a quarter of a mile until you reach the road. Turn right and walk back down to Dalwood village.



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Walk 2 map

