

Danes Hill to Beckford Bridge

Walk 2

Return via Horner Hill

Time: 2hrs 45 minutes

With your back to the pub, turn right and proceed over the Corry Bridge.

Wagtails, moorhens and dippers are often seen here, and on occasions kingfishers, egrets and ducks.

After crossing the bridge take the lane to the right hand side of the telephone box and at the top of the lane go through the farm gate on your left and turn right. (In the field on your left you will see the Dalwood Vineyard which has recently been planted up by a consortium of local residents. We look forward to the day when we can sample the fruits of their labour).

Walk straight up the hill towards the top hedge and towards the last two big trees on the right, tucked behind and around the corner is a stile. Go over the stile and carry on up the hill following the left hand hedge through the gate and up to the stile. Turn round and look at the stunning views back down the hill over the village and surrounding area.

Go over the stile and turn right and follow the track up to the private driveway and turn right again and follow the drive up to the road. Turn left and take the next right down the unmetalled road.

Pass the woods on your left keep your eyes peeled for the Little Owl that frequents here. The top of Danes Hill is on your right. At the end of the road by Thorney Cleave the road continues as a track. Go down the track 30 metres and go through the farm gate on your left into the field.

The public footpath goes downhill across the middle of the field. (Line

up the finger of the finger post to the top of a lone large tree on the far hedge and just below the skyline a large white building with a smaller white house in front and head down the field towards them).

Next to the tree you will find a bridleway gate, go through the gate and carry on walking straight down the hill to the very bottom right hand corner. Go through the farm gate on your right and turn left down the lane to the road, cross straight over and down the road (signposted to Membury) for about 30 metres to the new bridge over the Yarty River.

On the left of this bridge you will see the old Beckford Bridge – This is a packhorse bridge. It was used by travellers and livestock up until the time of the invention of the motor vehicle. (Heron and egrets are often seen fishing here). On the far side of the bridge on your left you will see a small parking area, and next to that a farm gate and footpath fingerpost. Go through this gate and follow the fence on your left alongside the Yarty River until you come to a stile.

Go over the stile into the woods, turn right and then left and go over the little footbridge to the next stile about 20 metres in all. Go over the stile, turn left and again follow the fence alongside the Yarty.

As you approach the end of the field you will see a farm gate in the right hand corner. Go through this gate and head diagonally left up the hill to the top left hand corner to the farm gate (farm in background). Go through the gate and turn left down the track to a concrete road. Turn left again and head down hill following this road to the bridge over the Yarty.

At the T junction turn right. Go along this road, Cuckford Farm on right about 50 metres), take the next lane on left, opposite house called Three Ashes, fingerpost "Unmetalled Road".

After a short distance the lane turns into a track, follow the tree lined track up the hill, there are some fairly steep sections which can be wet and muddy in inclement weather, ignore the track on your right and carry on walking up the hill, indicated by waymarker C2.

As the track levels out the hedgerows have been trimmed back, take a

breather and look to your left at the panoramic view of the Yarty Valley. Carry on walking up the hill to end of track and turn right onto the road.

At the top of the short incline, about 30 metres, turn sharp left, by Sandpits, onto the bridleway. Go through the farm gate and then take the next farm gate on your right, (bridleway fingerpost), into the woods.

Follow path and go through the farm gate out into a field. (This field is known locally as "Bomb Field" The field got its name during WW2. Rumour has it that the German bomber pilot seeing flashing lights below, believed he was over the Eddystone Lighthouse outside Plymouth Sound, jettisoned his load. The lights were in fact a local farmer checking his stock late at night using a Tilley Lamp. None of the livestock were injured).

Follow the bridleway keeping the hedge on your right. The path will swing round to the left. Go through the gate into the woods and you are now in the turbarry of Horner Hill. (Turbarries are lands dating back to medieval times. They were lands that were considered too poor to become Common Land but were used to collect wood for fuel and gorse for fodder. The land is now owned by the Parish Council, in this case Stockland. This turbarry is a haven for wild Deer, Fox, Badgers, and most British birds. You may see or hear the sound of Buzzards circling overhead).

Follow the track, which now levels out, through the woods alongside the right hand hedge. You will pass three derelict cottages on your left. These cottages are believed to have belonged to mill workers from the Corry Valley below but fell into disuse in the 1930s. Follow the path a little further upwards ignoring the track going downhill on your right.

The path then gets steeper as you leave the woods it swings right and opens out onto heath land affording spectacular views to the Channel to the South and the Corry Valley below.

At the end of the heath land the path again goes upwards into woodland. As you reach the top hedge make a detour and turn left and follow the hedge on your right (800 metres or so) then look back for even more spectacular views. This is not a public right of way but a

permissible path.

Retrace your steps back to the bridleway and turn left then follow the bridleway, (there is very steep descent, which can be quite tricky in wet weather), until you meet the lane. Turn left and keep going until you reach the road then turn right through metal garden type gate (fingerpost Public Footpath).

Follow the path down the gulley and turn right (Waymarker post) follow the path and go through the bridleway gate, cross the field and over the stile. Follow right hand hedge to marker post go under the trees to your left the head diagonally left downhill to the left hand hedge, follow this hedge downhill and over stile at bottom left hand side of field onto the track.

Turn left and then right (downhill) onto the road. Follow the road around to your left at the junction (signposted Dalwood) until you reach the Tuckers Arms Public House (about 5 minutes).