

6 Circular Walks in the north eastern Blackdown Hills

Walk 1 – Blagdon Hill, Feltham and Adcombe Wood

A varied and reasonably demanding route on footpaths, minor roads and permissive paths. It includes woodland, hills, farmland and some lovely scenery. What's more, it starts and finishes within sight of two inns. In significantly wet weather it could be quite challenging.

Park by the roadside near the higher end of the village of Blagdon Hill.

Explorer map 128. Grid Ref: ST 211 182. 5 miles, 8 kilometres.

The route begins at the stile by the phone box opposite The Blagdon Inn. Walk across Blagdon Green to a stile and turn left along Curdleigh Lane. Bear right at a fork and follow this lane to its end, where it reaches Curdleigh Farmhouse. Turn right, on a footpath. At the top of the first field the path enters woodland. Keep ahead, with a little stream on your left. Further on, ignore a track on the left and keep gently and then more steeply uphill.

At the top you meet a wide forest track, where you turn sharp left (unless you would like to visit the Holman Clavel Inn, just a few hundred yards ahead). This forest track takes you down through open habitat. Ignoring all paths to the left, the track eventually narrows and zigzags down to cross a small stream and to take you to a T-junction of paths at the wood's edge. Turn right and follow this path up to the B3170.

Turn left and after only 15 yards, left again down the lane signed for Feltham. Enjoy the views to the hills beyond. Walk past the houses and up the hill to the end of the wood. Here a path turns off through a gateway on your left. The path soon divides, but stay on the higher path, with fields on your right. Further on, the path takes you down through Adcombe Wood and to the Woodland Trust sign at the bottom.

The path can now be a bit like the bed of a stream in a jungle, but not for long. Pass a house on your right and at a junction of ways, follow the footpath between hedges to the left. Cross the first field diagonally to the left. Just to the left of the bottom corner of the field the challenge is to find a stile and little bridge well concealed in the hedge. Cross the next field, heading slightly to the right of the little spire of Pitminster church. Cross two small bridges as you approach the church and a metal gate.

Through the gate, turn left up a wide track to a field. Go through a gate and turn sharp right along the edge of the field to a stile. After a few yards you descend a set of steps to a bridge and more steps. The route crosses the next field, slightly left, to a hedge corner and then straightens out to a stile. Continue ahead, across fields to return between houses to Blagdon Hill. The start of the walk is regained to your left.

