

Around Hartridge

Map OS Explorer 115 – Exmouth & Sidmouth. 1:25000.

A short but excellent 4 mile walk from Beacon and back via Hartridge. Incredible views from the hill, wonderful level walk around the ridge and returning by way of magic paths. Almost entirely off road.



Take the Dunkeswell road away from the NE end of Honiton and in about one mile take the minor road off right towards Dumpdon. Pass Dumpdon Hill and its little parking area on your left and drive on through wonderful little lanes to Beacon. Straight across at Beacon Cross on the Upottery Road. Drive 0.27 miles and find a small pull in (GR 1769 0543) on your left. (Don't take an earlier pull-in). Park here and then walk 100 yds. up the road to find, just after the minor road off left, a track leading diagonally right off the road and up the hill.

What a view all around but especially of Dumpdon Hill on the skyline. As the track levels out move ahead into open ground keeping the hedge on your left. Stay on the stony track and at the junction bear left, passing barns on your right. You are now following the edge of Hartridge on a wonderful track. Incredible open landscape with isolated very distinctive trees. This is access land and privately owned so no bikes nor vehicles! Eventually, where your track curves to the left look for the Public Footpath sign down to the right into the woods.

Through the wooden gate and drop gently downhill along the field edge and through another small gate. You are passing through the most beautiful woods and the scenery is wonderful. Clamber over a stile then a thin wooden footbridge – hardly necessary! – and again the view is magic. Now just follow this gem of a path and down the old wooden steps, over a stile and on to a good stony track bordering open pasture. The track arrives at a junction of Public Footpaths and Public Bridleway. Cross over the concrete ridge in the track and take the Bridleway ahead. No end to these beautiful tracks.

Pass through the wooden gate and on to the County Road. Very un-road like, more like a lawn! Come to and pass through the holiday complex – Odle Farm and Primrose Farm. At the top of the good road and where it bears right you must bear left and take the upper right hand one of the two tracks. Views and more views. Beautiful. Bear left at the top and meet the road. Now, cross into un-signed grassy track. You now have about 200yds of Nature at its best. Potter down through the woods to meet the little road. Left and slowly back to your car, staying on the road until you find it.

