

Backwards via Cadhay to Birdcage!

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

Time: 3 Hours. About 8 miles

What no Green Lanes? No, but a wonderfully varied walk with one stretch of over a mile along a flat track alongside open fields. This is a wee bit of a cocktail of walks daring to venture from Talaton Parish into Ottery Parish using tracks, very quiet lanes with the opportunity of refreshment half way around. Ideal if you have a hill phobia!



*F*or Talatonians, walk up the small lane, opposite the Village Hall and beside the Moor. Move to the right of Moor Cottage and through the kissing gate. Cross diagonally left through the field via two small metal gates ignoring the horses! (Again, if you are local to the village you will recognise parts of this walk and could join it at any point. If not local, then maybe park your car beside the Village Hall and commence the walk from there.)

At the corner of the field, beneath a large Oak, pass through the kissing gate and follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right – ignoring the first gate opening on your right – to arrive at another couple of gates hidden in the hedge. Move diagonally left over open pasture to the left of the large old oaks, toward the farm buildings – may be cropped but should have had a path reinstated. If not, well.... !

*A*t the road, turn right and wander slowly along to the cross roads. Left and enjoy the quiet Back Road downhill, maybe stopping to have a look across to Lashbrooke and open farmland. Near the bottom of the hill take the public footpath right, through a metal gate, and follow the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your right. Beware! No longer can you potter without regard along here but rather you need to keep an eye open for quad bikes sharing your path! In the dip move uphill emerging into open estate land. Follow the edge and before the gate into the estate move left on a wide well-defined track downhill. Have a quick

look at the Fairmile Tree – in memory of Swampy, a protester who became famous for his attempts at stopping the building of the new A30. He failed but is not forgotten!

Stay on the track passing through the rather fine old metal gate and over River Tale and up to Clapperentale Farm. Through the gate and then left up to the good estate road, passing the Clapperentale cottages. Move sharp right at the junction to drop down towards Escot House. Take the good track off left through the gate, just before the bridge. (Before taking the track it could be worthwhile to potter around and have a look at the ancient water meadows and carvings on the left AND it's only a few minutes up the road to the Escot café and restaurant if the mood takes you!) Move about 50 yds. along the track then branch off right and move diagonally left uphill to follow a row of small firs. Through a wooden gate and cross the open meadow to go down to the trees and a small gate on to a lane.

Right here and follow the track round to Escot Church. Move round to the front of the Church and take the good track leading away from the Church to meet the road. Left on the pavement some 50 yds. then cross with care to the small road off right. Wander on and turn right at the T-junction, looking for the Public Footpath off left just before the flood warning sign. The start of this path can be wee bit muddy in wet weather! In the open field follow the hedge then ditch on the left to a kissing gate. Bear right to cross the bridge over the River Tale then diagonally left to reach a stile on to the road.

Right and then quickly left into Cadhay, entering along the lime tree avenue. (Look out for intoxicated bees in summer). At the buildings follow the road round to the right to meet the public road. Right here for a few hundred yards to find the Public Footpath off left. Now to enjoy the long open track to Birdcage. In just over a mile, approach the cottage with the hedge on your left and meet the road. Right here to eventually pass under the A30. Straight ahead on a quiet lane leading you to Holly Ball Cross. Right here to potter slowly back to Talaton, emerging at Beacon Cross where the road left will bring you back to the Start.