

The Gittisham Round.

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

About 4.5 miles. 2 hours or less.

An easy, short walk, through open land with some very quiet lanes and the most incredible long, downhill green lane.

Unfortunately, there is a very short distance of main road but not enough to spoil an otherwise excellent potter.



Drive to and park in the attractive little village of Gittisham, Nr Honiton, (GR SY1345 9842) as close to the Church as possible. Usually space beside the old telephone box. No multi-storeys here! As you face the Church move right up the tarmac track to the right of it and maybe half way up take a peep over the old wooden gate for a good view of the Church. The good lane gives way to a stony track and at a wooden kissing gate move out into open pasture. Follow the hedge on your right to another wooden kissing gate and narrow bridge. Follow the yellow arrow across open fields, keeping the hedge on your left. Wonderful views all around. Then, yes, another kissing gate (friendly walk this) leads out into open pasture. Follow the hedge closely on your right to ... a kissing gate!

Out on to the very quiet lane beside the imposing “Westgate” and left up the hill. At the bend in the road, beside the farm buildings, take the Public Footpath off right and move diagonally right (about 2 o’clock in non-navigational terms) following the farm buildings and passing a solitary oak to find yet one more kissing gate out on to the good track. Wander left up what is a beautiful track to meet a junction of tracks. Could be worth a breather here to soak up the views. Move right on the clear track and now just enjoy the woodland potter – detouring around a resident puddle – to meet a very obvious wide stony track. Take the signed unmetalled road right soon leaving the canopy of the woods and entering the magical wide, stony green lane.

A mile and a half of flowers, hedges, wildlife and views – everything you could wish for and it’s all downhill. Regrettably, eventually you meet the road in Alphington but, fear not, wander right up the road for 300 yards to find the welcome quiet of Mill Lane and Public Footpath on the left. Stay on the lane, passing a number of attractive cottages, soon moving into a thin wooded path leading to a metal gate. Wander straight across to the trees and follow them round to the right to an old wooden stile. Yet onwards to another wooden stile and steps down to a path from which you can see the River Otter down to your left. Shame but now out to the main road where you move right for a very short distance to the old Iron Railway Bridge. Take the road right and amble slowly back to Gittisham.

Chris Harwood September 2019.