

A Walk from Stockland with Ghosts and Quakers.

Map OS Explorer 116 – Lyme Regis and Bridport

1:25000.

3 hours

About 7.5 miles

A wonderful walk with hills, lanes and the River Yarty AND some exciting historical snippets – Membury Court, The Quakers and an isolated Quaker graveyard and a Medieval listed bridge. What more could a walker want? A drive through beautiful countryside to the start of the walk? Yes, you have it!



Park in Stockland Village Hall / PreSchool Car Park GR ST 2465 0455. Very convenient because you exit left from the car park and in about 400 yds. having passed the Primary school, and at Cookers Elm, turn left on to Marsh Lane. This could have been a wonderful green lane but it has been diverted right, into the field. Never mind, still good. Follow the hedge on your left looking down tantalisingly into the lane, over the footbridge and River Yarty and on to another footbridge. Then, a small gate and diagonally right to a small bridge and follow the hedge on your right to a stile / gate. In a few yds. take the metal gate on your left and follow the hedge on your left uphill to the gate on to the road.

Move right on the road for some 400 yds. then, opposite the junction, left up Mill Lane. Wide and a just wonderful green lane. The lane emerges on to an open track beside a barn. Move briefly right and then through the metal gate on the left of the barn. Cross diagonally right over the open field to another metal gate and then continue diagonally right to an Oak and wooden stile. Again, move diagonally right and look for the gateway in the right hand hedge, not very far down the field. Move downhill to the right and see the roof of Membury Court. Exit on to the lane using the ford or footbridge and walk left and take the gateway on the right. The fallen double gate does have the yellow arrow on! Move right uphill, through a gate and then on to find a gate in the right hand corner of the field and directly in line with Membury Court. Exit on to the road – Bedlam Lane! In fact it's very quiet and peaceful. Left, climbing steadily to pass the junction and eventually come to a Y junction. Right here for some 400 yds. when you turn right into Golye Acre Lane! Where did that name come from? Stay in this lane, crossing straight over a "junction" like area, through a

metal gate and keeping the hedge on your right. Now – History! See the little metal gate, beautiful in itself, into a Quaker Burial Plot (GR 2728 0224). The stones are hard to read but an on- line search of Membury Quakers reveals some fascinating history. Said to be ghosts around too, so keep moving. There is a period of open ground but then the lane resumes and takes you down to emerge on the rather fine Lea Hill Hotel accommodation complex. The old Quaker meeting house is round here too- more ghost stories!

*F*ollow the Hotel road winding down to the highway. Turn right and in about 400 – 500 yds. see a Public Footpath going off right, over a footbridge. (Not the path right beside the red brick house). This is a delightful path over the grass and following the stream on your left. Continue to follow the hedge on your left – maybe a bit of corner cutting! – to come to Beckford Bridge. More history in the form of a listed medieval single span bridge. Maybe a bit of refreshment and on, following the river on your left on a well signed path to Yarde Farm. Pass behind the farm and on to a Public Footpath that climbs up a well-cut gully to a concrete farm track. Straight across and through a gate. Follow the hedge on your left to another gate and out on to a lane. Move up the road and look for the Public Footpath up steps on your left, passing round the back of Waterhouse Farm. Wander downhill through cultivated trees to a double stile and stroll right through open pasture. Keep moving through open land, passing a small wooden lodge on your left and over a thin wooden bridge to arrive at a metal gate on to a lane and Case Bridge. Look to the left of the metal gate for the purist's route to the road!

*I*gnore the Public Footpath in front of you but rather move right up the lane and take the first lane left, passing North Mill Farm to a sharp right hand corner where you should take the Public Footpath straight ahead towards the barn. Move right then bear left over a stile. Move diagonally left over open ground to a metal gate. Right here, following the hedge on your right to a stile and bridge. (Remember your outward journey?) Follow the hedge round on your left, over the bridge to a metal gate and then diagonally left to gates and a bridge. Straight across to another bridge and follow the hedge on your right all the way back to the road. Right and plod on to the little Hall car park.