

A very Short Walk from Cadhay Bridge, Nr Ottery St Mary, and back.

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

Time: About 2.7 miles. 2 hours

Grade: Easy and very leisurely. May be slightly muddy in Winter. Great river and beech wood walk.



Park on the Ottery St Mary side of Cadhay Bridge, opposite Cadhay Bridge Farm (GR 094960). Slip over, or through, the low stile and follow the stream (maybe once a Mill leat) up to the weir. Ignore the bridges off to the right. Take a moment to look at the weir and the rusting sluice gate then right, uphill into the woods. Here the ancient beeches bear the worn initials of long gone now grown-up children. There are wonderful glimpses of the meandering River Otter down to your left. At times old wooden steps guide you down and along the path. Incredible traditional holly berries adorn the bushes – well, in the season!

This wonderful path extends for about a mile, passing extensive nursery greenhouses, and eventually it drops to open pasture for a few paces before, via a little metal gate, exiting on to a minor road. This road leads left to Patteson's Cross and right to Ottery St Mary. Take a moment to look at the shallow weir and the fine old bridge. Now, across the road and on to the Public Bridleway. Follow this wide track for just over half a mile, enjoying the traffic-free route until you meet the road. Bit of care needed! Only a minor road but the traffic seems to come very close to the hedges.

Turn right and stay on the road until you see the Otter Nurseries Car Park on your right. Good chance to leave the road by moving up through the car park to the top road and then moving left down the road. (Nothing to stop you breaking the journey with a coffee here or slightly further down the road in the other little nursery.) Either way, continue left down the road to the junction.

Turn right here. After about 300 yards on from the junction look for the Public Footpath off to the right. Could be a little muddy but it's a wonderful, partially sunken little enclosed path winding around the edge of the fields. At one point a wooden walkway eases the path over a potentially wet patch and then gently you move up to the crest of a small hillock passing an ancient, smooth sandstone bank. Drop down to and over the small bridge where, by turning left, you will arrive back at your vehicle.

Chris Harwood. Revised February 2012.