

Criss-Crossing the River Clyst.

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

4.1 Miles

Overland to Plymtree and back via Clyst Hydon. A really easy and level but most enjoyable walk. Ideal for those who perhaps don't venture too far but want to "feel" the countryside. Mostly excellent way-marking. The term River, here, is only just valid! Parking a wee bit limited but it can be done.



Leave the Village of Talaton (GR SY068 995) on the Clyst Hydon road and in about 2 miles park at Marsh Cross. Walk a few yards from the signpost towards Clyst Hydon and take the public footpath up the lane right to Marsh Farm. Just after the farm and just this side of an interesting pool move right through a gate and then diagonally left over a concrete slab over a trickling River Clyst. Move straight or slightly diagonally right over a usually well re-instated path across the field towards some woods, passing a small copse and pool on your left. At the woods pass through two gates – one wood and one metal – and follow the edge of the woods on your left to another gate, left and then follow the hedge on your left to arrive at a good farm track. There has been a sensible diversion here following a clash between a cow and a walker! Instead of passing through the farmyard, move right along the track and move right around the big barn. Behind the barn, at the wooden gate bear right with the hedge on your left and curving round right around a very modest hill. On reaching two gates at right angles to each other take the left one, pass another small pool, and move straight across the field toward the Plymtree Church (Probably not visible behind the trees!) Pass through the plantation via a couple of wooden gates and move straight ahead to meet a concrete track. Follow this to where it meets the highway in the form of Greenend Lane. (Maybe worth a potter around Plymtree.)

Left down Greenend Lane to where an old iron gate on your left leads you on to the Public Footpath gently uphill passing the solitary Oak on your right to pass through a totally useless and isolated kissing gate ! On to a metal gate and then diagonally right to a wooden gate just beyond the Oak and by a copse. Look into the copse to your left for another interesting pool (Assuming there has been some rain!). Now, diagonally left downhill to a pair of gates tucked into a row of Poplars and out into a field. Follow the hedge on your left, crossing a ditch via a wooden bridge and on to a good wooden bridge over the old Clyst again. (No surfing on a Bore here!)

Now, aim straight across the huge field in front, maybe bearing slightly right, to a gateway on to a good farm track. Keep moving in a straight line passing through a couple of gates and then look carefully for a 3-way footpath signpost. Here take the little double gate off right and over a little bridge. Left across a small meadow and over a footbridge over, yes, the Clyst! Straight across a well-cared for piece of grass to a cottage and out on to the road. Up the road passing the ancient Chelveshayes to a gate on the left, on a bend in the road. Take the path alongside the Church hedge and out into Clyst Hydon.

Move left down the road, passing the school and look for a road to the right, beside seats and a thin river – yes, it's that one again. After about 300yds take a small path through a gate on your left and follow the hedge, maybe slowing to look at the old Manor on your left. Keep walking up to the corner of the field, towards a small house and take the semi made-up road left beside it. This track, soon concreted, leads you past buildings out on to the highway. Move left down the road about 100 paces to a gate on your right (Public Footpath sign) leading into Woodland Trust area. Rather fine bench seat here to commune with nature and maybe your flask. Follow the left edge of this copse to a gate then straight across fields, aaarhh! Solar panels. Under the pylons and follow hedge on your left to a clear farm track. Through the small wooden gate, and passing a solitary struggling oak on your right straight on to a gate beside a meagre pool. Again, straight on to emerge through a double gate out on the track to Marsh Farm, which is where you started some two hours earlier. Right and back to the car.

Chris Harwood (Revised September 2018)