

Dalwood and Danes Hill from Kilmington and Only One Hill

Map OS Explorer 116 – Lyme Regis and Bridport. 1:25000.

Time: About 7 miles. 4 hours

Grade: One grassy hill with fabulous views otherwise easy and very leisurely. Wonderful riverside and track walking.



Take the A35 from Honiton to Axminster and, having passed the Kilmington Village sign slow down and take the first little road right (The Hill). At the first junction turn right and then move over to the right into Roman Road. (Grid Ref SY 266 984) Find somewhere suitable to park on the left. Now set off for a great walk on an excellent track through the woods. After some time you will negotiate without any problem a travellers' camp – the dogs may be a bit intimidating but just keep walking! Not far from the camp are the remains of a broken old stone cross on the ground – some pet dog's last rest? Eventually you will meet the road on a bend. Take the public footpath off to the right and soon meet the main road.

Cross with great care and move left along the verge to the next road junction where you must turn right on to the Dalwood – Stockland road. Quickly, bear right on to the Dalwood Road and for a while enjoy the quiet lane for about 1 Km until you find a Public Footpath and stile off to the right – opposite a few white cottages. Move slightly diagonally right downhill following the ancient oaks and, in line with the oaks, find a small stile out on to a lane. Left here and up to Sunnylands Cross.

Take the Public Footpath right just beyond the crossroads and wander down, slightly diagonally right, passing an enclosed pool on your left.. Through the gate and then left across to a wooden gate. Move diagonally right down to another gate on to the road. Right and then immediately sharp right on to an unmetalled road / lane (Looks a bit like a drive to a house) Left over a wooden footbridge and then follow the river or rather Corry Brook via a little wooden gate. (Not the one into Sarahs Patch!) Emerge beside a house and move left – Something under the tarpaulin looks like part of an ancient guillotine or maybe just a cider press! - Up the lane. Left at the top and follow

the narrow road. At Buddleia Cottage – move right up the short concrete farm road to join a Public Bridlepath, Naish's Lane.

Now – The Hill! Follow the hedge on your right and plod slowly uphill, taking time to look back at the fantastic views. Pass through a couple of gates and then drop on to a sunken track. Soak up the beauty of this track and soon emerge on to a minor road. Left here and follow it with – yes, more great views left. You are now skirting around the base of Danes hill. Bit frustrating that you are so near the summit but not quite there. (No visible track up but a scramble via the old gate would give access!). Right at the cross-roads (Danes Hill Cross) and then right up the unmetalled road for about 400m to a small house. Follow the green lane that starts on the right of the house and potter slowly down this incredible track for quite some way to emerge on to a road beside a cottage at Beckford Cross. Briefly left along the road, not straight over, and then right down a lane to find the most wonderful little packhorse bridge – Beckford Bridge -over the river Yarty. This bridge is Grade 11 listed and is thought to be medieval .Over this bridge and look for Public Footpath off right on the further side of the road. Over a stile and follow the river.

This is the place to take your time and meander slowly along, even good for a picnic. After some 2000m and just after having passed through a small metal gate, look for a low concrete bridge on your left that will get you over a small drainage brook. It would be easy to jump the ditch but why not use the bridge? Move up to the gate and continue to follow the river. Eventually, at Higher Westwater Farm, beautifully renovated but probably not an active farm any longer, take the footbridge, beside the ford, back over the river and follow the good track, eventually re-crossing Corry Brook over a thin bridge in the middle of pasture land. Pass through Coryton Farm yard and bear right after the house and then left on the road. Soon, bear right at the junction on a left hand bend and then look for the Public Bridleway after some 200m off to left. This takes you along a leafy way to emerge on the fast and noisy A35. Cross – again with care – and up the lane back to the start.