

The Budleigh Salterton to Yettington Round.

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

11.5 miles 4 – 5 hours

A long walk for the true connoisseur. The river, the hills, wide sunny tracks, sunken narrow mystic tracks, common land and forest. What more is needed? No great hills and refreshment available to revive the weary in the last mile.



Approach Budleigh Salterton from Newton Poppleford on the B3178 and at the town sign turn left on South Farm Road, signposted to Pynes Farm Shop (EX9 7AY). Follow the road round and look for a parking spot on the left on the straight. Return along the road to the main road where, with care, you cross and drop down on to the lane leading under the brick railway bridge. Move under the bridge and uphill to the right. Just before the main road move left along the track and left again before the house gate. A wee bit overgrown but a magic little track. Your track will very soon emerge at a wide track junction. Right here stay on this track for some way, crossing one minor road and then at the second move downhill 20 or 30 yds on the road and look for a good track off left. Now stay on this just magic hidden lane all the way into East Budleigh. The track meets a road and you bear sharp left beside Wynards Farm (opposite the school). Pass through the farmyard and follow the distinct wide track – Hayeswood Lane - uphill (looks like a favourite track of the cattle!) and over a number of “cross-tracks” (as opposed to a cross-roads). Stay on this slowly rising track – you won’t want it to end – and ignore a Public Footpath sign off right by a metal gate but rather carry on for nearly 500 yds dropping down into the woods. Look for a footpath sign off right by a wooden gate (GR 050 843). Move uphill through the coniferous forest – seem like a lot of warning signs of “beware”, “do not” etc but you are fine on the public footpath, just a bit of a possessive landowner, or protecting the shooting! Pass a small cottage on your left and follow the open field edge down to meet a minor road. Cross over to the Public Footpath passing a huge slurry pit on your left. Bit diffuse here but basically stay in a straight line and don’t be tempted to veer off right into open field. I promise you will emerge on to a small road. Right here to the junction then left through Yettington. Up the hill to the woods then right on the Public Bridleway. Follow this excellent track, curving left and passing a low barrier. You can see open land through the trees to your left. Note that this Bridleway is shown on the map to be closer to the open land than it really is. Stay on this slowly rising track to

arrive at a junction and semi clearing. (GR 048 865). Follow the Bridlepath signpost diagonally left, gently uphill to emerge opposite an old gateway onto a good wide track crossing your path. Move right for a few yards and then take the track off left with open moor on your right. In about 50 yds and opposite a bench look down to the left at a small pool. Scramble down here and over the pool. Follow the track curving uphill and right to eventually exit on to a good stoney track. Right down here , crossing a stream, to find a quiet lane. Left here into Stowford, passing Stowford Farm on your left and look for a track off to your right using a small footbridge to cross a stream Now just enjoy the incredible leafy track for quite some distance until you emerge at cross roads where you move straight across into Colaton Raleigh.

You hit the main road just above the Otter Inn- could be worth a stop but then cross over and follow the public footpath beside the Inn until you meet the road. Right and follow the road all the way through the village passing the Church and interesting thatched wall. Move on to the public footpath at the end of the road and follow it down to the banks of the river Otter and then, keeping an eye open for the kingfishers, beavers, divers mullet ... follow the river on its right bank all the way back to the bridge and your car- possible stopping off at Otterton Mill for a cream tea!

Revised October 2018