

Exford Circular



Fact File:

Highlights: Exford village, River Exe, buzzards, open views

Start Grid ref: SS 853 384

Distance: 3.8 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 180 metres. An easy to moderate walk.

High Point: 390 metres

Low Point: 252 metres

Toilets: In Exford village only

Eating places: in Exford only

Time required: excluding stops: 2.25 hours

Public transport: 198 bus service. Please check the current timetable on Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com before travelling.

Route description: This walk starts by following the River Exe downstream. It then gains height over cultivated Exmoor, passing by farms to then give excellent all-round views across the moor. It then loses height again passing through a hidden valley before returning to the village.

Route directions: The grid references are given should you like to follow the route on an Ordnance Survey map. They are not needed to follow the route which is described very accurately in the text.

1, SS 853 384

From the bus stop by the green, cross over the main road to go into the road to the car park, opposite the Crown Hotel. Pass through the car park to go past the Exmoor National Park Field Services. Pass through the kissing gate ahead and continue ahead to next kissing gate by the river. Continue along by the river to pass through the next kissing gate.



2, SS 857 380, 0.4 miles

Cross the farm road and pass through the kissing gate by the gate, effectively turning left to follow the wide path uphill. Soon ignore the path on the left to the church. At the top of the rise by an old barn go to the stile by a gate ahead, ignoring the one up to the left.

3, SS 860 379, 0.6 miles

Go over this stile and now follow this fields top boundary hedged bank on your left, keeping fairly level. In the far corner cross the stile by a gate and keep following the left boundary hedged bank to pass through a gap of trees on a bank across the field. From here now bear slightly right to about the centre of the trees on a slope ahead of you.

4, SS 866 380, 1 mile

There you will find a metal gate and a path down through the woods to a plank-bridge over a stream and a stile. Go up the field ahead to reach the building to pass through a bridle gate on to their track.

5, SS 869 380, 1.1 miles

Turn left on to it towards Staddon Hill, bearing right up the concreted track to a T-junction with a small road. Turn left along it and follow until reaching a main road.

6, SS 871 385, 1.7 miles

Turn left to follow along the grass verge to reach the next junction with a main road (B3224, Stone Cross).

7, SS 867 387, 2 miles

Carefully cross over to the driveway of Stone Farm by the letterbox. If the metal gates are closed, press the switch on the post to open them. (I think press the switch again on the other side to close them, although there was a delay in them closing for me). Follow the track ahead ignoring all gates and tracks off. At the pond continue ahead signed to Hillhead Cross.

8, SS 864 389, 2.2 miles

Soon ignore the gate ahead and follow the track as it bears right. Stay on this rocky track and at the top go through the gate across it to the memorial stone, still on the track.

9, SS 863 394, 2.5 miles

Almost immediately bear left, keeping the hedged bank on your left, to reach a stile by two gates. Ignore the left-hand gate, and continue ahead into the next field, keeping by the hedged bank on your left to a gate in the far left corner.

10, SS 858 395, 2.8 miles

Go through into the next field and now follow the hedged bank on your right. Shortly ignore the gate on the right and the one ahead, instead turn left to follow alongside the wire fence towards a valley. When a fence goes across you, turn left and follow the path between the gorse into the valley, following it as it swings round to the right over a stream, past ruins.

11, SS 859 392, 3.1 miles

Now go to the gate ahead as the track goes right to the stream. Follow the track to the next gate and now ignore the gate on your left, instead go down to the stile in the corner down to the right.

12, SS 859 391, 3.2 miles

From this stile bear left across the field keeping almost parallel to the stream and conifer woods over to your right, towards and left of three old trees and downhill to a stile by a gate and old tree.

13, SS 859 389, 3.3 miles

Now go down the steep slope keeping the hedged bank and gully on your right to a stile in the corner by the stream. Cross the stile and little bridge and follow the path ahead with the stream now on your left. Pass through the gate by the house and ignore the path up the steps, continuing ahead down the path to reach the track to that house.

14, SS 858 388, 3.4 miles

Bear right along it and almost immediately go left through the first gate, over the stream, through a bridle gate on the right, straight over the track up a path opposite. Follow this path over the field above the stream now down on your right. Soon the path climbs diagonally up a small hill. The church comes into view on your left.

15, SS 856 386, 3.6 miles

Go through the kissing gate in the hedged bank ahead to go straight across this field to the next kissing gate ahead. Now go straight ahead with a wire fence on your left to the next kissing gate.

16, SS 855 385, 3.7 miles

From here go ahead and take the path that goes down to the right of the road with the woods on your right. Keep the houses over to your left and go down steps to the main road at Exford where the walk started.

