

No.5 Horner Wood National Nature Reserve



A walk along a track running through a beautiful oak forest and National Nature Reserve beside a cascading stream.



Start point:

National Trust car park at Horner, near Porlock.

Postcode: TA24 8HY

Grid Reference: SS 898 455

What3Words: folks.blackbird.flip



Distance: 2½ miles / 4 km there and back, with 220 feet / 70m of ascent & descent - but can be shortened by turning around anytime.



Toilets: Accessible public toilets in the car park at the start / end of the walk.



Refreshments: There are seasonal tea rooms at Horner

Grade: Access For Some: Suitable for sturdy pushchairs, assisted wheelchairs and more robust, all-terrain type equipment.

Directions: From the car park take the path to the right of the toilets to emerge on the lane beside the tea rooms. Turn right down the road (take care and look out for traffic) and after 100 yards take the bridlepath on the left. Stay on this track until you want to turn around.

Surface and terrain: This is one of the most challenging walks in this collection of Exmoor strolls. The route is along a forest track which has two short (c. 50 yards each), steep (max 1:6) sections. After these the path becomes more level and runs close to the stream.

- Horner Wood is one of the largest temperate rainforests in Britain, full of ancient trees dripping with mosses and lichens.
- Keep an eye out for red deer, dippers and summer migrants of pied flycatchers and wood warblers. In autumn at dusk, you can spot bats flying around the woods - 15 of the UK's 17 known species live here.
- In the late 16th Century iron was mined in the valley, charcoal from the woods powered the smelters, and a water mill built near the confluence of the Horner and East Waters.

