

Walk 1

BW 36 + FP 55 + 58

Time Approx 2 hours

Park at Slade Road (off road to Seaton) or walk from town

The walk covers varied terrain, along open lanes, through pasture land and up and down hills. It is recommended that an anticlockwise route is followed to finish with an easy lane walk.

Walk from Slade Road into the driveway, Knightstone Lane (BW 36) at junction with Longdogs Lane.

Walk through the hedge banks. Go through the gate following the track, keep close to the hedge on your left and go past the farm.

Notice sandstone carved with initials on the right in the hedge bank. You will also notice Knightstone Manor, a 14th century manor house. Cross the ford and turn right into Knightstone Road.

Turn at the first gate on your left into FP 55. Climb up the slope and follow the top of the telegraph pole and ash tree to the stile in the hedge. Go over the stile through Holly Bower. Keep close to the

hedge on your right until you reach the gate, then bear left diagonally across and down the field to the corner. Look down into Wiggaton hamlet, nestling in the valley on your right. Cross over 2 stiles at each side of a small gully, then bear diagonally right to the gate at the bottom of the field.

Turn left into Wiggaton Road. Turn right, up the track between old cob farm building and stream.

(FP 58).

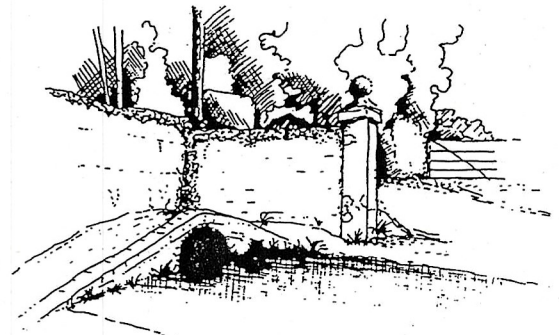
Walk up to a gate, following the path directly to a stile leading into a wooded valley with a deep gully. This area is rich in flora and fauna so be aware that you are sharing the route with other living things.

During the spring the flowers are abundant here; however, later in the year bracken also becomes abundant. Keep well up the slope and head towards the right upper corner over a stile into field. Bear right up towards the hedge line, then go over a stile at a thick hedge. Look back towards Ottery and over to Barrow or Knapps Hill beneath the East Hill Strip and forward to Sidmouth Gap, with West Hill to the right.

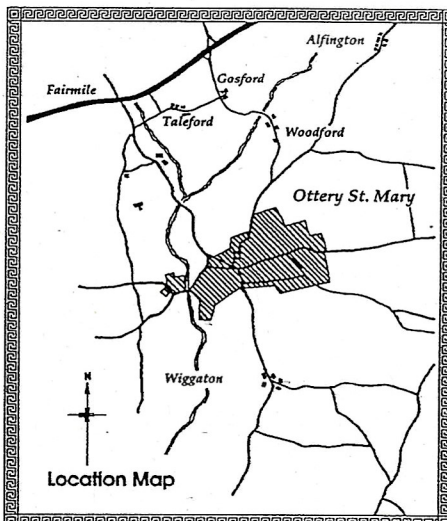
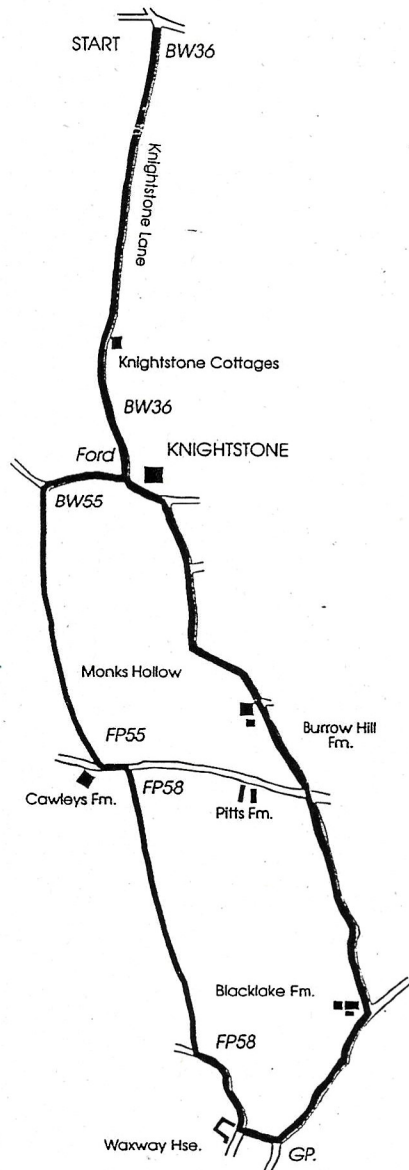
Turn left: follow the hedge to the gate. Then turn left up a lane through the farm area - please respect farmer's property - and shut the gate after you.

Turn left and follow the road up the hill. Keep left, and enjoy the panoramic views on a clear day. Turn left past Blacklake Farm on the left. Walk down the hill and over the cross roads further down. This is an old pack horse route. Pass Burrow Hill Farm (the name referring to Barrow Hill nearby) Pass Monks Hollow thatched cottage, a grade II listed building dating back to at least the 14th century and reputed to be a rest halt for those using the old pack horse route from Sidmouth. Follow the lane, turning left into Knightstone lane.

Turn right, and follow BW36 across the ford and retrace your tracks back to Slade road and Ottery.



THE FORD AT KNIGHTSTONE LANE



You may find a copy of the Ordnance Survey Land Ranger Map 192 and O.S. Pathfinder sheets SY 09/19. 1:25,000 useful, where Public Rights of Way are shown in relation to other landscape features. See also the Ottery St. Mary Town Map.

For local Public Transport Information use the Devon County Council Devon Bus Enquiry Line: Exeter, Barnstaple, Plymouth or Teignmouth 382800. For further details and advice relating to any public path matters please contact: The Public Rights of Way Service, County Environment Department, Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QW. Exeter, Plymouth, Barnstaple or Teignmouth 382550.

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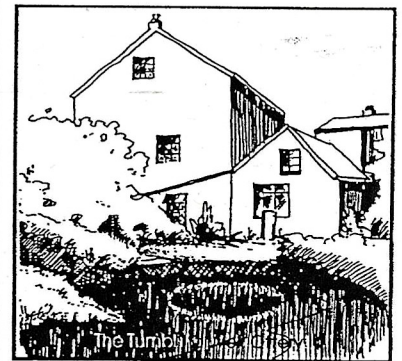
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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Devon
Circular Walks
Ottery St Mary



The Parish of Ottery St. Mary lies in the valley of the River Otter, 12 miles east of Exeter and 6 miles inland from the coastal resort of Sidmouth. The Parish boundary is virtually unchanged since it was set by Edward The Confessor in 1061. Public Rights of Way cover the whole parish and offer delightful walks among the red bluffs and soft valleys.

Please wear clothing suitable for the season, as some paths can become wet and muddy.

Walks 1 & 2

ENVIRONMENT

Walk 2

FP.20 + FP.22

1 hour 30 minutes

Park in the main car park at Canaan Way

This is a pleasant and easy walk and a short cut may be taken (Route A) or the longer route followed (Route B). The walk offers views across meadowland, crossing a dismantled railway and the rivers Otter and Tale. When walking on the river please keep to the right and be aware of traffic.

From Car Park turn left through Dunkirk. Notice a large rookery in trees on your left and the mediaeval Otter Leat which provides water power to a mill on your left.

Cadhay Bridge Farm bear right along the footpath (FP22) to Head Weir on the River Otter, go over the bridge and turn left, walk under the arch trees and follow the path parallel to the river. When emerging from the wood climb over the first of a series of stiles into a field keeping parallel to the river, over the second into another wooded area and walk along the river to the third stile. This is into a field and keep close to the gate/fence on your left to the corner. Turn left over a stile and follow the path. On your left there are views into meadowland, through which the river and old dismantled railway run. Go into the field keep to the right and then over into the road. Turn left along Gosford Road.

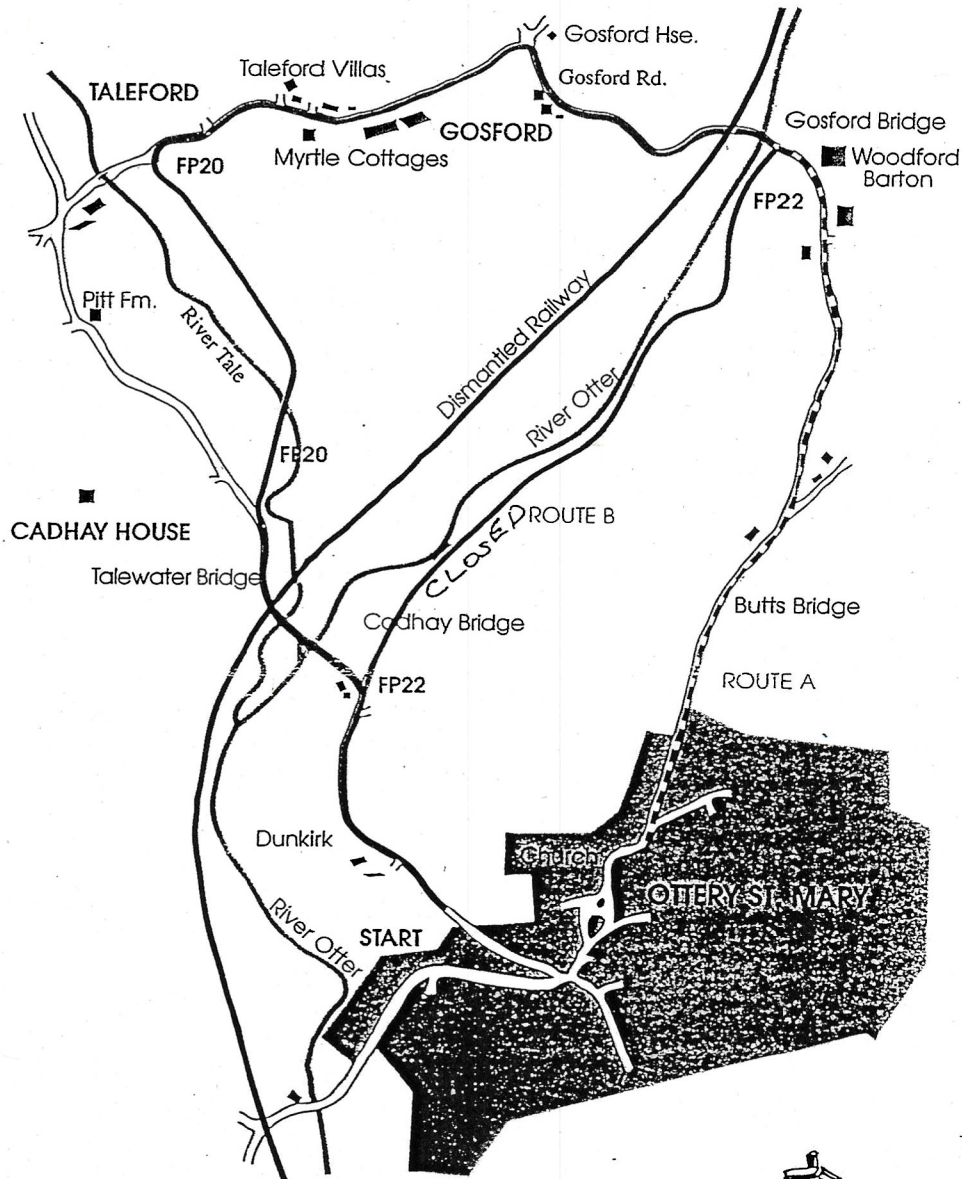
Route A (short cut back to the town). Turn right and follow Gosford Road back to Ottery past a garden centre into the north of the town.

Route B Turn left along Gosford Road. Cross Gosford Bridge over the River Otter and

and past the signalman's cottage. Turn left after farm buildings and an orchard. Enjoy Gosford Lane, a Devon lane, and its hedgebanks; walk to Taleford. Notice the views of East Hill Strips on the left and go past the school house on right.

Turn left into the footpath. (FP20). Go through the gate; keep the hedge close on your left and cross over the stile. Bear right to a substantial footbridge.

Cross into a field. Keep to the left, following an old, disused leat/ditch to a stile into the lane. Here you will have a good view of Cadhay, a manor house of mixed Tudor and Georgian design. Turn left and follow lane through old railway crossing past signalman's cottage and the dismantled railway. Cross the two rivers using the Talewater Bridge and the Cadhay Bridge (built in 1806, restored 1987) over the river Otter. Follow lane through Dunkirk and back to the main car park.



THE COUNTRY CODE

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep all dogs under control.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machines alone.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Help keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Exercise special care on country roads.
- Don't make any unnecessary noise.



ST MARY'S CHURCH GATE

Walk 3

This walk takes about 1 1/2 hours - and is 2 miles in length.

Leave Ottery St. Mary along Jesu Street and Yonder Street, following a sign to Seaton (Chineway) and follow for 1 3/4 miles. As you start on the steepest part of the hill and just after a minor road joins from the right and the wood begins on the left, turn right into a clearing where there is room to park.

Cross the road (slightly downhill) to the beginning of a path (Footpath 18) that follows inside the edge of the wood northwards. There is a wooden seat a few yards from the entrance.

Follow the path until it emerges into a field over a high stile (very tight skirts could be a disadvantage) and following the same contour cross the field to a stile on the left of a gate at the far end.

Cross to the front of 'Moorcroft' (marked on map as "East Hill Farm") to footpath 17. Keep to the left of the house and farm buildings, close to the hedge and across another stile. The path is divided from the farmyard by a wire fence. A further stile at the end of the yard leads back into woodland through an area of bracken. When the bracken is high the line of the path is not very clear, but it moves uphill somewhat away from the hedge on the left until it becomes clearer beyond the bracken.

The path follows the western fringe of the wood inside the hedge until it is crossed, more or less at tight right angles, by a sunken track signposted to the right as a bridleway (Bridleway 15). Follow this up the hill until it emerges on a tarred road and take this road to the right.

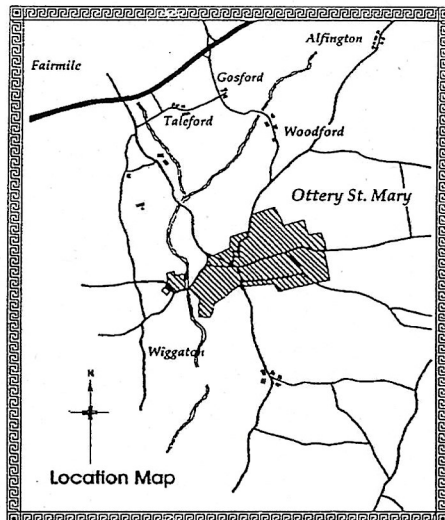
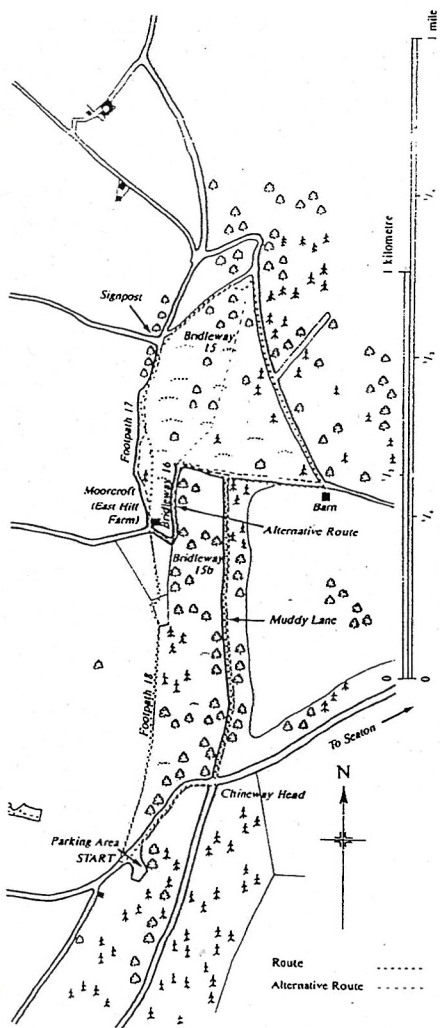
Follow the lane until it bears away to the left. At this point there is a stone building on the right of the road and a track goes off to the right in front of it. This track divides, but follow the left hand fork to the point where a wide track, closed by a log, runs between low banks to the left. This is Muddy Lane (Bridleway 15B). It

is very well named, since it has pools standing water at various points along length even in the driest season.

Muddy lane emerges on to the Chineway at Chinway Head. Follow the main road downhill to the right (or about a quarter of a mile) back to the car.

The walk can be shortened by turning right up a rough track (Bridleway 1) without passing East Hill Farm and joining the north end of Muddy Lane.

(N.B. That part of the walk east of Muddy Lane is in Gittisham, not Ottery St. Mary, Parish.)



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Walks 3 & 4



ENVIRONMENT

Walk 4

VALK IN THE METCOMBE AND VENN OTTERY AREA

Approx 5 miles - 2 1/4 hours.

Leave Ottery St. Mary over St. Sours Bridge and pass the Salston Mill on the Fluxton Road to Tipton St. Mary. Almost opposite the Village Hall turn right on to the Venn Ottery Road. At Ottery Barton keep the Church of St. Gregory's on the left. After the road is divided by a lane from the right follow on for 1/4 to 1/2 a mile. Towards the top of the rise there is a gap in the hedge on the right with a Footpath sign. Turn into a parking area just inside. This is part of Ottery Common.

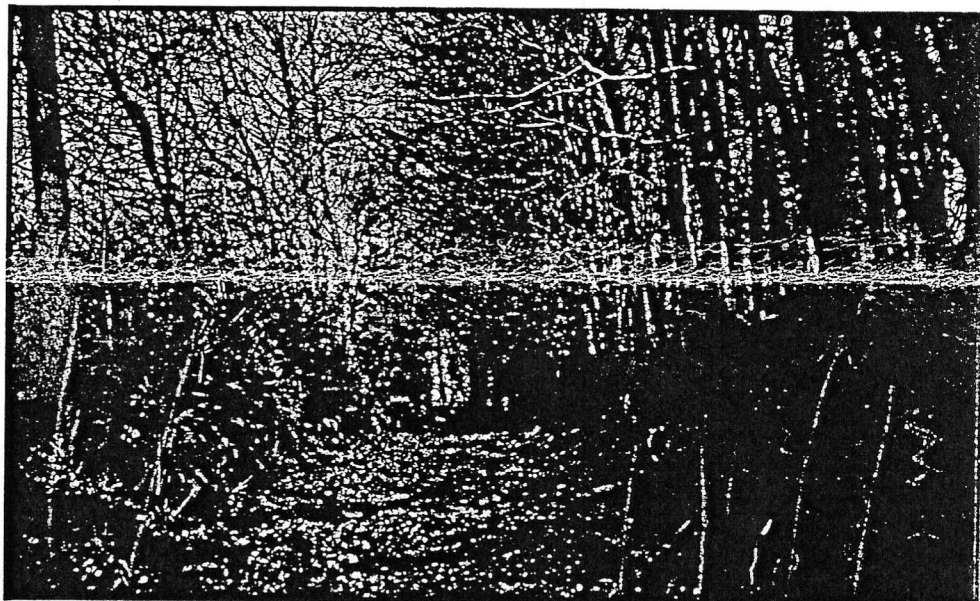
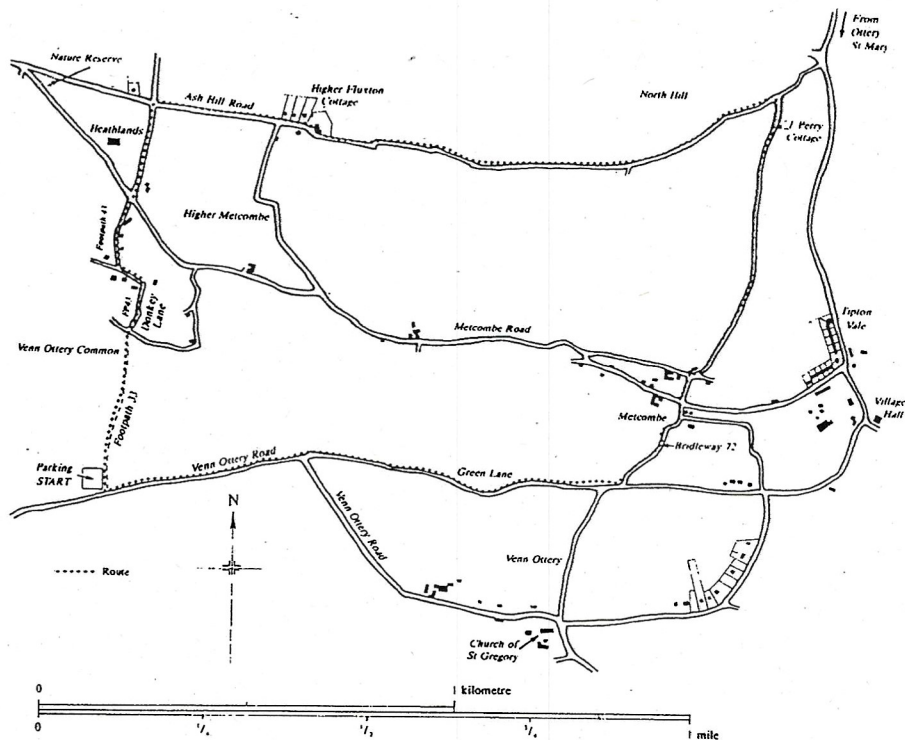
On this site there are, on a clear day, some wonderful panoramic views up the Valley through to Hembury Fort and down to the North-east with East Devon Ridge running down to the Sidmouth

After taking in and enjoying the view, walk northwards along the track from the parking area (Footpath 33). On the right the white gas pipe-line marker marks the track to the left, which leads down into the valley. The track is a little rough and it leads down to a wooded area which can be muddy at times. At the bottom is a stream crossed by a narrow footbridge. The path then climbs up a very narrow lane deeply scoured out by surface water over the years. This lane (Footpath 33) is known as Donkey Lane and leads left into Chapel Lane at the junction of which on the right is a stile cross set into the hedge.

On reaching the Metcombe road cross the road and continue along Higher Fluxton Road. Note the big house, the Heathlands, up on the left with its walled garden.

At the first turning right (Ash Hill Road) carry straight on until the road becomes a lane after passing the lovely Higher Fluxton Cottage.

Follow this lane and note how the soil becomes very sandy in parts. Just before crossing the road at Fluxton take the track to the right, passing Perry Cottage and on Southward to the road at Metcombe.



Cross the road and take the track to the right of the cottages and bear right again up a rough track (Bridleway 72). Where the track joins another lane (Green Lane) turn right. After a short distance where another track comes up from the left stands the big stump of what was once a magnificent beech tree damaged by recent storms. Note the numerous initials etc. carved up the trunk, some sadly lost - was this 'lovers corner' between Metcombe and Venn Ottery?

Continue along Green Lane until it comes out on to the Venn Ottery Road and so up the hill to the Car Park on Venn Ottery Common and enjoy the view again, perhaps over a cup of tea and a picnic.

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