

Walk No. 3 DORSET VISTAS

Circular Walk: Dyke Hill -> Chilson -> Dyke Hill

About 1 ½ hours: Easy going, but waterproof footwear advisable in wet weather.

About 50 yards up Dyke Hill from the Spar Shop, opposite the Linkhay turning, you will see a footpath to the left which is where this circular walk begins. Take this path and walk down it alongside a small stream.

On reaching the lace factory our path is intersected by another, and you must turn right along a shady lane which passes Hurtham Farm Nurseries and Greenend Farm. At the end of the lane is a road to the right, but our path veers off to the left between two high hedges. Here the path is known as 'Rivers Lane' and at the bottom you will reach a bridle gate. [Here you may, if you wish, make a short detour by walking straight ahead to cross the railway line carefully and view the River Axe.]

Turn right at the bridle gate (as indicated by the waymark) to the stile straight ahead. Cross the stile and continue up the field keeping close to the hedge on your right until you reach a field gate on your right.

Go through the gate, following the waymark and cross a double stile immediately on your left. Walk diagonally across the next field in the direction of the waymark until you reach another double stile. [Pause in this field to enjoy some interesting glimpses across the River Axe into Dorset and fine view of West Ford Mill.]

The double stile leads into a shady green lane leading, to the right, to the hamlet of Chilson Common. However our route is to the left, soon reaching a field gate with stile. Cross this and walk straight ahead to cross a narrow sleeper bridge and stile. Walk at an angle across the next large field, carefully following the direction of the waymark, towards a belt of trees where you will find another sleeper bridge and stile.

Cross these and the next field, again at an angle shown by the waymark, until you reach a field gate and stile leading into a wide track known as Sheep Wash Lane. Turn right along this lane and almost immediately left through a field gate.

Skirt the right hand side of the next field, keeping close to the hedge on your right, until you reach a ditch and stile. Cross the field ahead to two double stiles just to the left of the cottage with two chimneys and out into the lane in the hamlet of Chilson. Pause in this field to enjoy some superb scenery on your left. The villages of Hawkchurch and Holditch can be seen.

Turn right along this lane until you pass a bungalow on your left and see a field gate with a sign post. Go through the gate and walk up the left hand side of the field, keeping close to the hedge, until you see a field gate on the other side of the field leading on to the busy B3167 road.

Turn right on to the road taking great care as it can be very busy. Keep to the right hand side of the road where there is a grass verge for some of the way.

After about 300 yards you will see a double field gate with a waymark on the other side of the road. Go through this gate and you will see two hedges in front of you. Follow the right hand hedge and, keeping it to your left, walk ahead to a distant field gate in the direction of the waymark.

Go through the gate and follow the lane directly opposite you (Stockham Lane) which eventually brings you back to Crossways. Here a right turn will return you to Dyke Hill, your starting point.