

Walk No 5 THE DRIFT TO WREATH

Circular walk: Perry Street -> Nutshole -> Wreath -> Perry Street

About 2 hours: moderate going, waterproof footwear essential in wet weather.

This walk starts at the Perry Street end of the Drift (on the B3167) about 200 yards up the hill from the Golden Fleece public house. The Drift is an old drove road and the remains of its ancient banks are visible in places.

Walk along the Drift for about a mile enjoying the fine views towards Forton and Chard in the west until eventually, you reach a metalled road. Cross straight over and follow the track signposted 'Chard Reservoir' through mixed woodland of oaks and beeches with a fine display of rhododendrons and other flowers in the spring and early summer.

Soon you will reach another metalled road (B3162) just below a house known as The Myrtles. Cross over and continue along the Drift for another 150 yards until you reach a metal field gate on your right.

Go through the gate into a field and follow the hedge line to another field gate in the far left hand corner which takes you into a wide track known as Horn Lane. Turn left along Horn Lane passing some farm buildings and a cottage with a low stone wall on your right.

Soon the lane forks. Take the right fork and after 50 yards, at a large oak tree, the lane swings right into a farmyard. You must leave the track in front of the oak tree and walk down the slope, through a gap in the hedge and across a small field until you reach a low concrete bridge over a stream.

Cross the stream and continue up the field, keeping the hedge to your right until you reach a stile at Nutshole Farmhouse.

Cross the stile and walk straight ahead in front of the farmhouse, over a cattle grid and turn left onto a concrete track. After passing some farm buildings the track turns sharply left and you will see an iron field gate in front of you. Cross this gate with care and walk straight ahead with the wire fence on your right. Take care as the field is boggy. At the rise in the field cross the wire fence (we await the installation of a stile at this point) and continue straight ahead across the field to a field gate in the far corner.

On reaching the gate, pause to enjoy the view behind you towards Snowdon Hill. Go through the gate into a lane in front of Wreath Farm.

Walk along Wreath Lane until you reach the course of the disused A30 (the new road is in front of you). Turn left crossing a stile and follow the old metalled road now covered with moss alongside a wood known as Turbary. (See if you can find a set of cats' eyes in the old road)

After 150 yards cross another stile and continue straight ahead keeping to the grass verge of the new A30.

Soon you will reach a sign 'The Drift' on your left. Turn left and rejoin the Drift. You will shortly pass New Hayes Farm on your right. Note the field gate on your left. This marks the western end of Wreath Lane.

At its junction with the track leading to Nutshole Farm on your left, the Drift reverts to a rough undulating track. Follow this peaceful, tree lined ancient track until you re-join the B3162 near The Myrtles and from there retrace your steps to your starting point above the Golden Fleece.