

Walk No. 6 TO PARADISE AND BACK

Circular walk: Parrocks Lodge -> Burr ridge Cross -> Paradise -> Parrocks Lodge

A pleasant and easy walk of 2 ½ miles taking 1 hour if walked briskly, or 1 ½ hours at a more leisurely pace. On a clear day there are excellent views of the village of Tatworth, with the hills rising south east of the River Axe and the Dorset hill forts of Lewesdon Hill, Pilsdon Pen and Lambert's Castle in the distance. Stout footwear or Wellingtons are essential as stretches of the walk can be muddy after wet weather.

Take the broad bridleway to the left of Parrocks Lodge. A blue arrow on the telegraph pole points the direction west towards the hamlets of Hook and Burr ridge. Parrocks Lodge was built in 1801 for John Deane who came from an old Tatworth family who made their money from weaving. It originally had a third storey, but the house fell into disrepair over the late 19th and 20th centuries. Consequently the decayed top storey was removed in the 1950's as part of a project to renovate the house. Continue along the bridleway passing Barnfields, a new barn conversion on the right and a large double gate on the right. Before coming to the orchard on the right, you can see an extensive hollowed out area in the field which is part of the flood alleviation scheme.

When the track swings to the left follow the blue arrow straight ahead onto a narrow canopied footpath. After a short distance go through a gate into an open field. Take the track, which continues straight ahead and gently uphill across the field. When you reach the gate stop and look back. Looking southeast you can see Tatworth village, and in the distance the Dorset Iron Age hill forts. Lambert's Castle is to the right: Pilsdon Pen (the highest hill in Dorset) lies straight ahead and the most distant hilltop to the east is Lewesdon Hill. Before going through the gate notice the badger sets along the bank on the edge of the field to the right.

Go through the gate and follow the blue arrow to the right, which takes you along a footpath between two hedges. In a few yards you will reach a gate where the blue arrow points straight ahead. The pathway takes you along the left hand side of the field. Across the fields you can see the large green roofed chicken factory.

At the large metal gate, turn right onto the narrow road. At the road junction (Burr ridge Cross), turn right. Pass the chicken factory on the right and then Chardstock House on the left. The road curves to the right. During spring and early summer the banks are full of wild flowers. See if you can spot the wild strawberries. At the crossroads take the road to the right, Paradise Lane, and immediately on your right you will see a footpath post marked 'Tatworth Church ¾ mile and a yellow waymark on the stile next to the metal gate. Go over the stile into the field.

Walk to the right along the edge of the field with views of Tatworth and the surrounding hills in front of you. Turn left at the end of the field and follow the hedge until you come to a double stile in the hedge leading into another field.

Follow the line of the hedge on your right at the top of a sloping field and go over the stile next to the gate. The footpath continues along a broad track between two hedges.

At the pathway junction turn left towards the main road. As you walk there is evidence of another flood alleviation scheme in the field on the left while Parrocks Lodge, your starting point, is on the right.