

LITTLE DEWCHURCH CIRCULAR WALK 1

Typical time 3.5 hours, about 6 miles.

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From village hall car park, turn right to crossroads, then right again, walking uphill passing The Plough Inn on your left. Approaching the top of the hill take 1st turn left up stone track signposted 'The Friars' and 'Birches'.

Pass right turn to 'Birches', then after 40m turn right through metal gate. Keep hedgerow on right crossing 2 fields, entering 'Ballis Wood' through metal gate. Follow path through wood, ignoring footpath on right, bearing left at the end reaching a stile. Cross and walk to obvious stile in opposite hedgerow.

Cross and turn left, walking downhill for 40m, then right down steep, narrow path which can be slippery when wet. TAKE CARE HERE. Reach stile, cross and walk straight down field towards cottage in the distance. Cross stile in hedge to left of cottage and turn right, keeping hedge on right reaching footbridge over stream. Cross and walk straight to second footbridge then tarmac road.

Turn left reaching footpath on right where road bends sharply left. Walk up footpath then turn right after 40m entering 'Bolstone Wood'. Walk straight on obvious path ignoring side paths, reaching exit stile. Cross and walk right towards 'Gannah Farm' in distance through trees. Cross stile to left of farmhouse, then turn left keeping stone shed on right.

Walk straight on to metal gate keeping hedge on left. Go through to opposite corner of field with hedge still on left. Keep straight, walking downhill for 10m, then turn right down fenced path, following obvious route over stream with waterfall on right. Climb obvious stile on left hand side then walk left on headland to end of hedgerow then straight across field to stile in middle of opposite hedgerow. Cross and turn right, then left at field corner ignoring stile ahead of you. Keep hedge on right walking for half a mile, reaching field corner then straight on with small wood on left.

Walk straight up track eventually reaching gates to tarmac road. Ignore opening to road going straight on with hedge on right, parallel to road reaching stile in field corner. Cross and walk straight to opposite corner entering next field and reaching tarmac road in opposite corner.

Turn left onto tarmac road reaching staggered crossroads after ignoring a left and right turn. Cross stile on opposite side of the road in field corner and walk half left to stile/gate opening left of wood.

Walk right up track keeping wood on right reaching 'Merrivale Farm'. At top of track cross stile/metal gate straight ahead walking downhill through farmyard passing farmhouse on right. Walk straight on ignoring side turns uphill into green lane, eventually reaching group of houses. Turn left down lane then straight down another green lane reaching metal gates. Go through gates and stile entering 'Athelstans Wood' reaching stone track. Turn sharp left down track reaching sharp righthand bend.

Turn left here and walk 60m then right down steep slope to footbridge. Cross stream then climb slope to reach wooden steps. Climb steps then turn left and then right, ignoring path on left then immediately right again following narrow path uphill through woods reaching exit stile. Cross into field and bear left walking to right of pylon. On reaching hedge there are extensive views across much of the surrounding countryside to the East and South. Walk straight into next field through opening keeping hedge on right reaching field corner. Bear right then left downhill to tarmac lane keeping hedge on left.

Walk downhill to T junction, turning left past church (or through churchyard and out the other side). Continue uphill through village then downhill to car park and maybe to The Plough Inn to recover.