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## **LITTLE DEWCHURCH CIRCULAR WALK 6**

Typical time 3.5 hours, about 7.5 miles.

Energetic walk over rolling countryside with far reaching views.

Some sharp gradients with potentially rough and muddy ground.

From the Village Hall car park turn right then right again after the bus shelter onto the head of a track to 'Morraston'. Immediately bear left across field reaching stile. Walk straight to obvious stile in opposite hedgerow, cross and keeping hedgerow on right go up rising ground. Keep treeline on right and cross stile at top. Keep hedge line and solar farm on left crossing stile in bottom corner of field. After 30m turn left up steps to stile, cross and turn right following field boundary to stile in bottom right hand corner. Cross and keep treeline on right descending to stile in bottom right corner of field.

Cross to tarmac lane then turn right to T junction then go left. After 400m turn left through metal gate onto bridleway (ignoring earlier footpath). Nearing top of rise, emerging from sunken bridleway, climb steps and cross stile on right.

Follow ill-defined path along a tree and hedge line to stile in field corner. Cross and continue past barn conversion, 'Upper Barn', through kissing gate across field to 2nd kissing gate (ignoring footpath/stile short of it). Cross field to stile then tarmac road turning right downhill to Hoarwithy. At the bottom of the hill either walk a further 100m to New Harp Inn for refreshment then retrace steps and/or turn left and left again both junctions signposted Carey (if you cross the river you've gone too far). Walk along the tarmac lane adjacent to the river reaching a 2m width restricted left turn. Walk uphill, then 100m beyond a stone farmhouse the lane bears sharply left.

Take the rough lane to the right and follow this extensive green lane which can be muddy and rutted but with wonderful far reaching views until you reach a tarmac lane. Turn left, gently rising until reaching a kink in the lane with a turnoff to the right. Take this turnoff to Lower Knapp Green. At the bottom of the hill, opposite a stone cottage there is a stile. Cross and walk 1/2 left to the obvious head of a small stream. Beyond this bear right, then keeping hedgerow on left reach and cross stile. At the red brick farmhouse on left reach next stile. Cross and bear 1/2 right across open field to stile in corner.

Once over stile follow hedgerow on right, crossing 3 stiles then short descent and gate into side garden before reaching a tarmac lane at 'Lower Witherstone'. Walk right on the road crossing stream then left over a stile. Bear 1/2 right up steep grassy slope and as you crest the rise head for rooves of bungalows in the distance. Reach stile in bottom left corner of next field. Cross and turn right crossing stile in hedge at the top of field. Turn 1/2 right behind agricultural buildings, through gate turning left through yard to tarmac lane. Turn left down lane dropping gradually, looking out for bell tower of the now closed Bolstone Church in the distance. Pass 'Withybeds' on right then in 150m turn left through double gates (no stile or way markers at time of writing) and walk 1/2 right across open field to a stile left of stone cottage. Cross stile and wooden bridge over ditch turning left down tarmac lane.

Cross stream then cross double stile on right hand side and bear left across field to stile in top left corner. Enter wood and turn 1/2 right following meandering path to a stile. Walk straight on through scrubland to exit stile. Cross and walk straight across next field to stile, cross then turn left crossing 2nd stile. Walk across middle of field to stile, cross into Ballis Wood and follow obvious path through wood exiting through metal gate. Walk straight on through 2 fields reaching a hardcore track. Bear left reaching a tarmac road then turn right and enter Little Dewchurch. Either garner refreshments at The Plough Inn or return to the start.