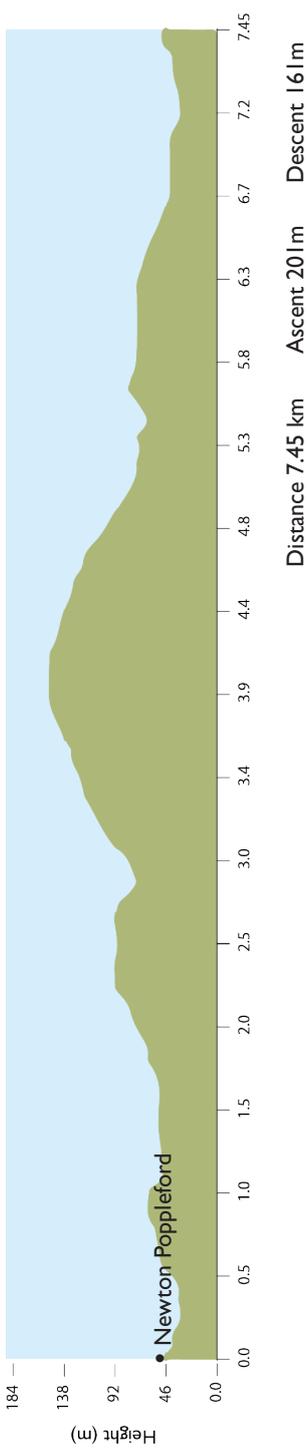


Circular 3

Aylesbeare Common Circular



Difficulty: Leisurely
Walking time: 2 hrs 40 min
Length: 7.5km / 4.6mi



Circular Route 3

Aylesbeare Common Circular



Difficulty: Leisurely

Walking time: 2 hours 40 minutes

Length: 7.5km / 4.6mi

Start location: Newton Poppleford free car park SY085897

Route Summary: Walk from Newton Poppleford to Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons.

Map: Explorer 115 Exmouth and Sidmouth

Description

[1] Take the path from the car park to the main road via the west side of St. Luke's Church, cross the road, turn left then first right into Meadow Drive. Use the traffic light controlled crossing.

[2] At T junction turn left, west, and after an electricity sub station turn right on a footpath between houses. At a road cross through a metal gate and follow the path up hill through an orchard.

[3] At the top of the hill you reach the East Devon Way, turn left, west, follow the path over a stile through a gate to the road.

Cross the lane and take the road to Southerton.

Where lane turns right go straight ahead on a footpath past a house on the right.

[4] Go straight ahead on the path. As it comes onto the common bear right at the top of the hill. Carry on along this path past a large house on the right, Benchams, to a wide track, The East Devon Way.

[5] Turn left onto a track down hill to a ford, cross the bridge and continue along the path which becomes a surfaced lane. Follow the lane, or the parallel bridleway, up hill.

[6] Carry on along the lane until you reach a substantial wooden bench by a track on the left. Go down the track to a junction turn right towards some trees. At the trees take a path to the left down hill. At the next path junction, by a boggy area, take the left path to cross a wooden footbridge.

This is the highest point on the walk and there are good views. This the central point of the Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons area, well known for Dartford Warblers and Nightjars in season as well as many types of butterflies and plants. You may wish to continue along the surfaced lane for about 200 yards to the RSPB notice board which often has brochures and details of events during the summer months.

[7] Keep along this track until a ford is reached, cross at the wooden bridge and keep up hill until the path becomes a track, past Outer Hanger house.

Follow the track until it reaches a lane, turn left.

[8] On reaching the road go straight on down hill to road junction. Go straight across into Back Lane. Take the first path on the right. At the T junction turn left, then first right, over the footbridge to the main road.

Retrace your steps back to the car park.

Refreshments: Newton Poppleford has a number of refreshment outlets.

Route developer: James Baldwin

Route checker: Ted Swan