



Walk 48. Horner, the Dunster Path and Luccombe.

- 6.5 miles, ascents and descents of 370 metres. 2 hours 45 minutes continuous walking, allow 3½ hours.

Terrain: Paths, tracks and quiet lanes. Expect some mud and slippery surfaces.

Access: Park in the National Trust car park in Horner (SS 899 455, TA24 8HY; £ for non-NT members). Bus 10 (Minehead to Porlock) stops at West Luccombe half a mile from the start. Alternatively start from Webber's Post car park (SS 903 439, off the Dunkery road).

Map: Croydecycle 03 Horner & Dunkery or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

Refreshments: Seasonal tea-room in Horner; more in nearby Porlock or Minehead.

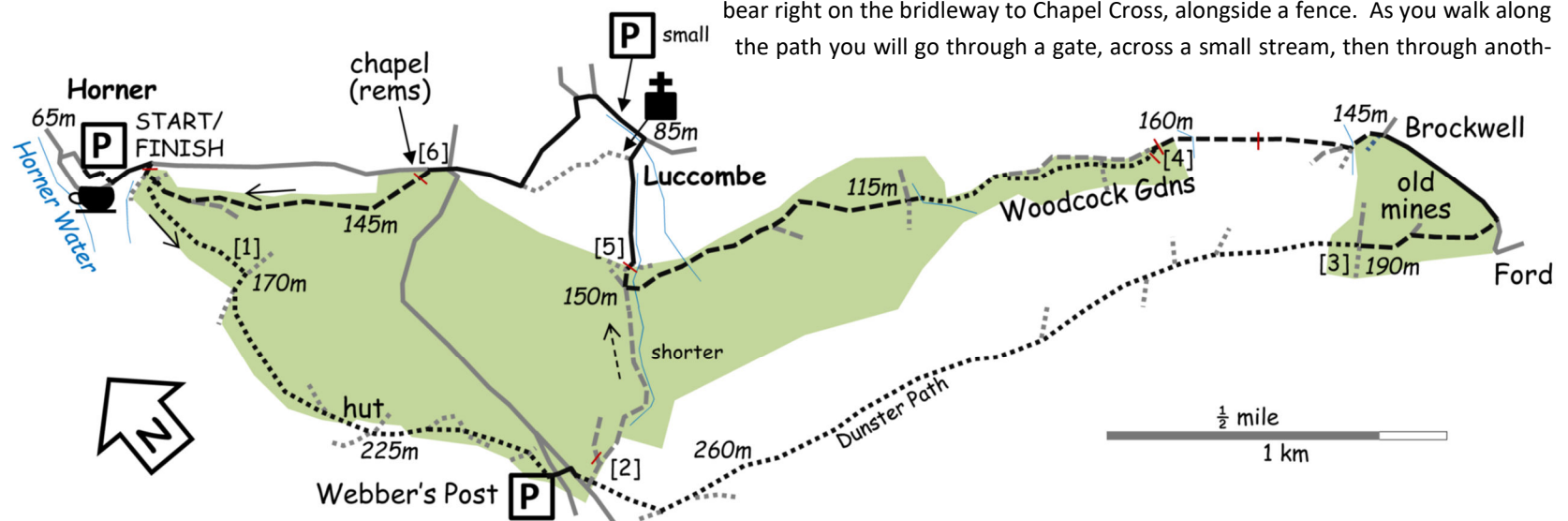
THIS SHORT WALK FROM HORNER HEADS UP THROUGH ATMOSPHERIC BIRCH AND PINE WOODS on the eastern side of the Horner Valley to Webber's Post, where there are views across the valley and to Dunkery Beacon. It then skirts Dunkery Hill on a contouring path across moorland, with views to the north and east over Selworthy and the Grabbist ridge. The return route, on a gently undulating track, visits the pretty village of Luccombe, like Horner part of the great Holnicote Estate which is now owned by the National Trust. Hardly less attractive than Selworthy or Bossington, Luccombe lies off the beaten track with no real facilities, but with the advantage of quietness even in the summer.

Start from the car park in Horner. Walk past the toilet block and out through the footpath exit, turning left on to the road. Pass the houses, then turn right on a bridleway signposted to Webber's Post, going through a gate in a tall fence. Keep left on the wider path at first, then in less than a minute turn right on a crossing path. Climb steadily on this stony, possibly slippery path. Take a right fork, then at a T-junction (20mins, [1]) turn right and then bear left on the permitted bridleway to Webber's Post. Head up through pine and birch woods; the Horner Valley is to your right. As the

trees thin out, join a path coming in from the left. The way ahead now becomes more level, and most of the steep climbing is now over. You will soon have views over Dunkery Hill as you approach a shelter (the Jubilee Hut, also encountered on walk 49). Continue ahead here to head gently downwards through more pine woods. Bear right at a signposted fork, then at the next signpost continue ahead on the easy access path. This will take you past a large stone seat and some wooden sculptures, in various states of repair, to arrive at Webber's Post car park. There is a viewpoint on the right over the Horner Valley and Dunkery Hill.

Leave the car park via its main entrance, cross the road, walk along a short unsurfaced track, and turn right on another narrow road. Bear left into a small parking area at a signpost for the Coleridge Way (a quill pen, looking more like a yellow leaf), cut diagonally across it to another Coleridge Way signpost (45mins, [2]), and follow the path ahead. A path soon comes in from the right. You are now on the Dunster Path, which skirts around the north-eastern flank of Dunkery Hill for over a mile and a half, gradually losing height as it traverses through gorse and bracken. You will have views first to the left over Selworthy and the Grabbist Ridge, then ahead over Wootton Courtenay. Ignore any paths turning off to the left. Eventually descend into light woodland. Continue ahead at a crossing path (1hr15mins, [3]) on the permitted bridleway to Ford, initially walking between banked beech trees. Ignore a path coming in from the right and another forking off to the left. This area was worked for iron ore in the nineteenth century; the remains of open cast mines can still be seen, though they are mostly covered by scrub and trees.

Arriving at a narrow lane, turn left. Pass a small parking area. When the road bends right at the hamlet of Brockwell, continue straight ahead on a wide unsurfaced track. At a stream bear right on the bridleway to Chapel Cross, alongside a fence. As you walk along the path you will go through a gate, across a small stream, then through another



er gate (1hr40mins, [4]). Your way on is directly ahead, but as an alternative go through a gate just up to the left to walk through Woodcock Gardens, a local nature reserve. Keep next to the right-hand boundary, cross a bridleway, then a couple of minutes later leave the reserve on the right to rejoin your original track, which has now narrowed. Continue beside a stream before crossing it and heading along the edge of the moorland at the foot of Dunkery Hill; your outward route can be seen up to the left. Ignore a crossing path, and continue through woodland. Head uphill with a stone wall on your right, then join a track coming in from the left; the track now becomes a broad unsurfaced road between stone banks. Pass a stream, head uphill, go over a bridge, then turn right on a restricted byway to Luccombe (2hr5mins, [5]). Go through a gate and continue on a hard road into the village, between a mixture of yellow-painted former estate cottages and more modern houses.

Walk through Luccombe to the crossroads, then turn left to pass the church, village green and parking area. Turn left at the next junction, and the one after. Follow the road through a right-hand bend, then go straight on at a crossroads. The road will take you back to Horner, but it is very narrow and well-used by traffic, so shortly after the crossroads turn left on a track and go through a gate (2hr25mins, [6]*; just beyond on the right-hand side of the road are the footings of medieval St Andrew's Chapel). Follow this broad track alongside the fence; you will catch occasional views of Selworthy and the Vale of Porlock. The path soon descends, and keeping right, rejoins your outward route. Go through the gate and turn left to walk back to Horner.

Shorter walk: Horner, Webber's Post and Luccombe (● 3.4 miles, ascents and descents of 270 metres). Follow the walk instructions almost to the 45min point ([2]), but keep left through the second car park and join a broad track that heads downhill (ignore a track to the left that goes through a vehicle barrier). You will soon be walking beside a stream. Follow the path downhill and continue ahead at a crossing track (the 2hr5min point, [5]) into Luccombe, rejoining the main walk.



Luccombe

* There is also a permissive path on the other side of the road that gives good views over Selworthy and North Hill. At the 2hr25min point ([6]) turn right into a small parking area and go through the gate. Head uphill to go through a gate at the crest of a ridge. Turn left here and follow the signs to return to the Selworthy car park. This route may be closed in April for lambing.

NOTE. In 2021 the National Trust closed several paths in this area due to ash dieback. None of the closures affect the routes described in this leaflet. An update on the affected paths is linked from the Central Exmoor: North page on exmoorwalker.uk.

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