



Walk 51. Exford to Winsford via the River Exe.

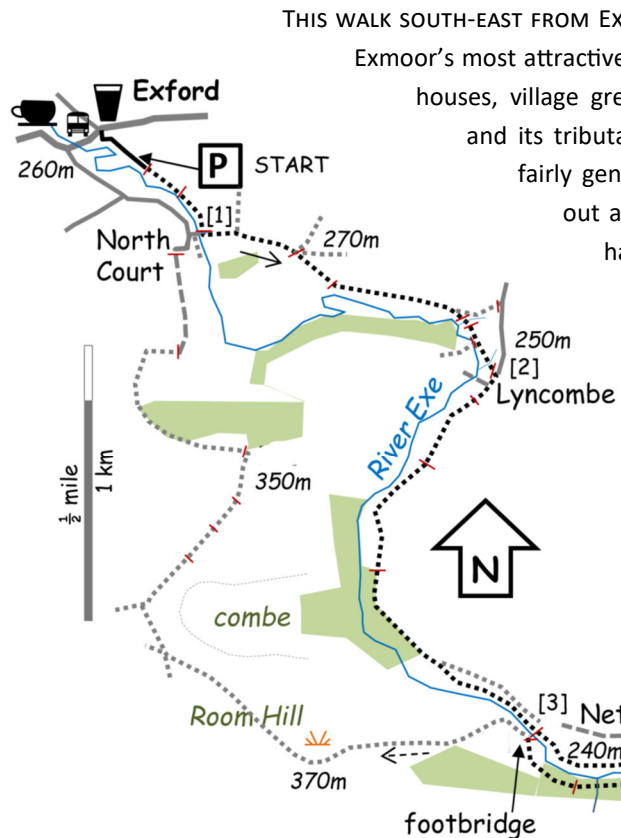
- 5.5 miles with ascents of 170 metres and descents of 235 metres. 2 hours constant walking, allow 3 hours.

Terrain: Paths, fields and short stretches on roads. The first half along the River Exe can become very muddy.

Access: Winsford and Exford are connected by the twice-daily 198 bus (no Sunday service) from Dulverton to Minehead. Park in Winsford (SS 906 349, close to TA24 7JG) and take the morning bus to Winsford. Alternatively if you have transport back (and for the circular walk) park in Exford (SS 854 383, near TA24 7PP).

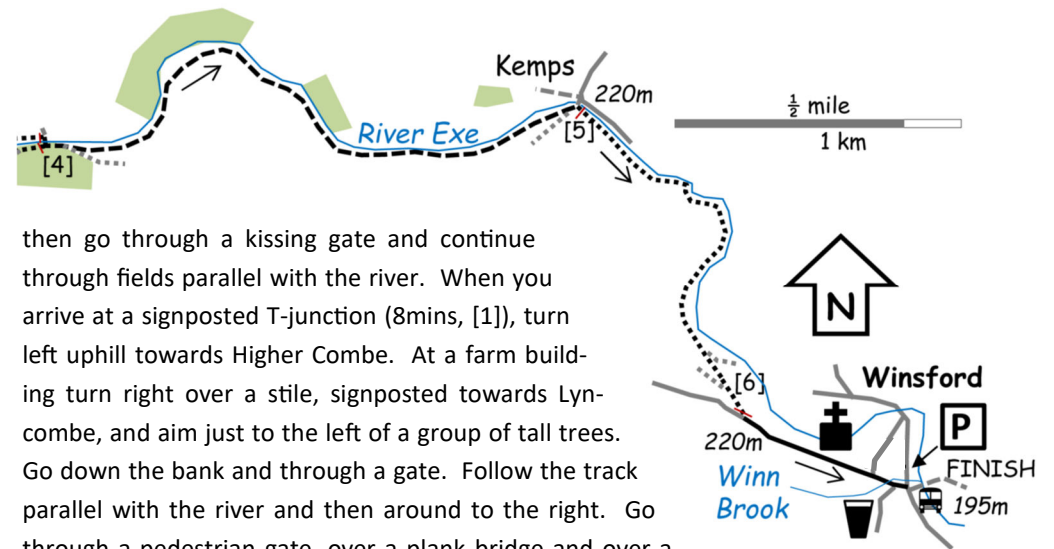
Map: Croydecycle 53 Exford or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

Refreshments: Pubs and seasonal tea room in Exford, pub in Winsford.



THIS WALK SOUTH-EAST FROM EXFORD follows the River Exe to one of Exmoor's most attractive villages, Winsford, with its thatched houses, village green and many bridges over the Exe and its tributary the Winn Brook. It makes for a fairly gentle stroll by Exmoor standards without any significant hills, although the first half can be boggy in winter and after heavy rain. There is an option at the halfway point to return to Exford via Room Hill, or link the walk with walk 52 for an 11 mile circular route.

Starting at the Crown Hotel in Exford (where the bus stops) cross over to the school and walk down the signposted lane to the car park. Continue through the car park and pass an Exmoor National Park workshop,



then go through a kissing gate and continue through fields parallel with the river. When you arrive at a signposted T-junction (8mins, [1]), turn left uphill towards Higher Combe. At a farm building turn right over a stile, signposted towards Lyncombe, and aim just to the left of a group of tall trees. Go down the bank and through a gate. Follow the track parallel with the river and then around to the right. Go through a pedestrian gate, over a plank bridge and over a stile, then turn left opposite a gate to cross a meadow to another plank bridge. Cross over and head right to a gate or stile, then turn right on an unsurfaced lane to go past Lyncombe house (25mins, [2]). Follow the track away from Lyncombe, through a gate, across fields and through two more gates, keeping high above the river. Arrive at two beech trees on the right and take a right fork signposted for Winsford. In a little over five minutes pass a footbridge and a ford, and continue ahead through a gate (50mins, [3]; for the circular walk over Room Hill cross the bridge and turn right). After passing some houses at a distance on your left (Nethercote), go through a gate and cross the river on a concrete bridge (1hr, [4]), turning immediately left on a wide vehicle track.

Follow the track alongside the river for a mile and a half before it crosses back over at another bridge (1hr30mins, [5]). Don't cross the river but turn right just before the bridge on a footpath signposted to Winsford. In a further twenty minutes the path forks: keep right and uphill, then bear left where it joins another path (1hr50mins, [6]). You will soon arrive at a road: turn left here and stroll into Winsford. A footbridge across the Winn Brook, beside a ford, takes you to the village green, pub, tea garden, and parking area; the bus stop is just beyond, to the right.

Circular walk: Exford and Room Hill (●/● 4.7 miles, ascents and descents of 250 metres). At the 50-minute point ([3]) cross the footbridge and turn right ('Exford via Room Hill'). The track soon turns left and starts to ascend, gently at first then more steeply. It soon flattens out and comes into the open at a marker post on Room Hill. Continue ahead on an initially vague grassy track, around the end of a small valley, and at a signpost take the right turn towards Exford. Pass the head of a deep combe on your right and join another bridleway, bear-

ing right to walk alongside the hedge of trees on your left. Follow the path through three gates, the last two at lines of beech trees. After the last gate the path starts descending; turn left through a gate, signposted to Exford. You will have a panoramic view over Exford and beyond before the path goes through a gate into a small wood. The well-defined path now continues downhill towards Exford, eventually becoming a vehicle track and passing between houses. Where it comes to a junction turn right ('footpath to Exford and Winsford'), then continue ahead over a bridge. On the far side of the bridge turn left, and follow the river back to the car park and Exford.

Linked walk: Exford to Winsford and back (● 10.9 miles, ascents and descents of 525 metres). Follow this walk then use **walk 52** to return from Winsford.



Lyncombe