



Walk 55. Wheddon Cross to Porlock.

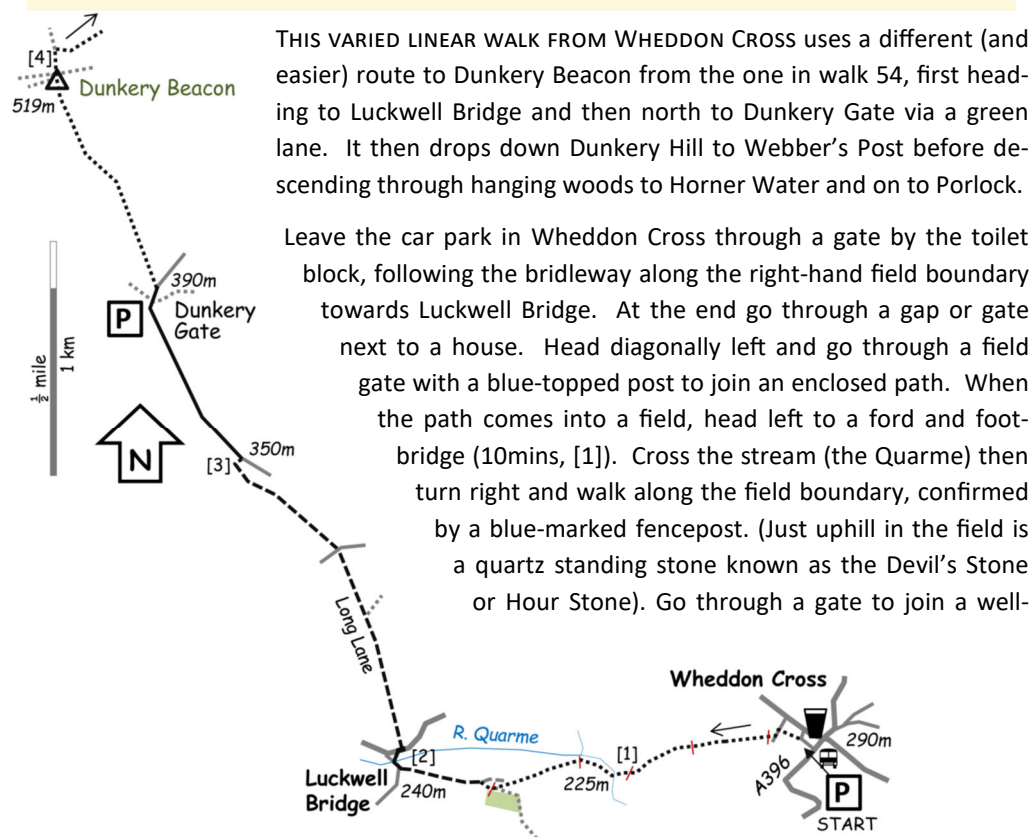
- 8 miles, ascents of 390 metres and descents of 640 metres. 3 hours 20 minutes constant walking, allow 4½-5 hours.

Terrain: Lanes, stony tracks, paths and a few fields. Some paths are very muddy in winter and after periods of rainfall.

Access: Start at Wheddon Cross car park next to the Rest and Be Thankful inn (SS 924 388, TA24 7DR). Unless you have return transport arranged park in Porlock and take bus 10 to Minehead followed by 198 to Wheddon Cross (weekdays and Saturdays), or park in Minehead and be back in Porlock to catch the last bus 10: check timetables carefully.

Map: OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor. Dunkery Gate to Horner is also on Croydecycle 03 Horner & Dunkery.

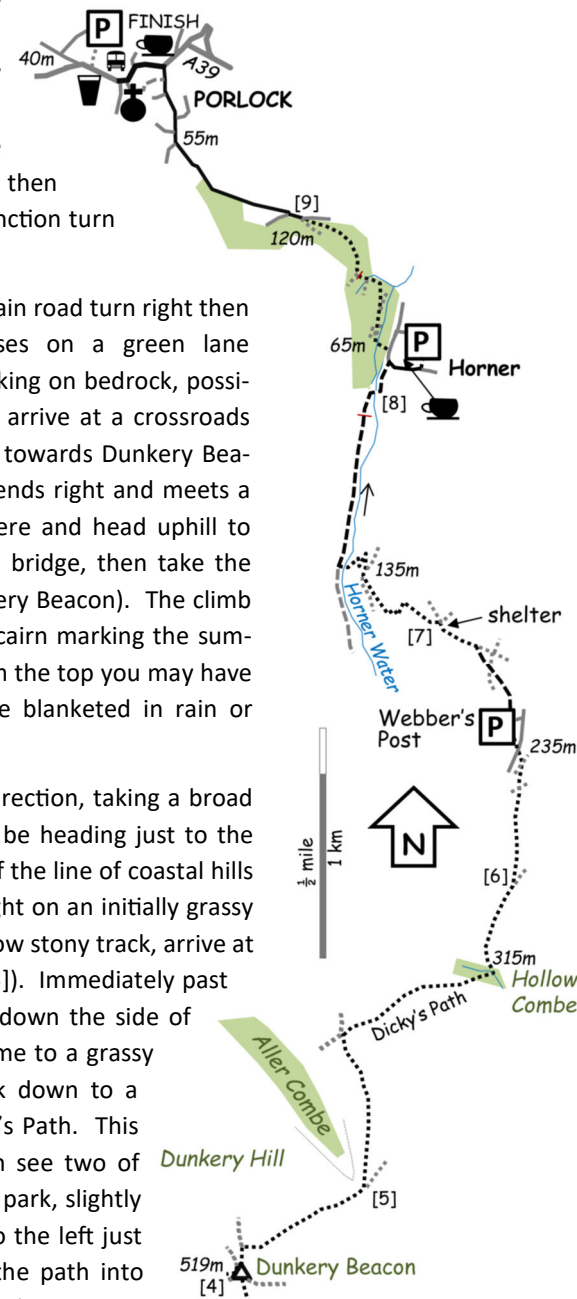
Refreshments: Pub (and takeaway from the shop) in Wheddon Cross, seasonal tea gardens at Horner, more choice in Porlock.



defined track running parallel with the stream. Keep left at a fork to come into a small open area, the remains of a shallow quarry; follow the sign towards Luckwell Bridge. At a second old quarry continue ahead through the right-hand field gate, then bear left to join a vehicle track. At a T-junction turn right over the bridge (25mins, [2]).

Turn right at the telephone box. At the main road turn right then almost immediately left between houses on a green lane ('unsuitable for motors'). You will be walking on bedrock, possibly slippery. In a little over ten minutes arrive at a crossroads and continue over, now on a wider lane, towards Dunkery Beacon. In less than ten minutes the lane bends right and meets a surfaced road (55mins, [3]). Turn left here and head uphill to Dunkery Gate. Cross the cattle grid and bridge, then take the second path on the left (signposted Dunkery Beacon). The climb is steady, but not particularly steep; the cairn marking the summit comes into view only at the end. From the top you may have magnificent views in all directions, or be blanketed in rain or cloud (1hr35mins, [4]).

Continue beyond the cairn in the same direction, taking a broad path almost due north. Initially you will be heading just to the left of Bossington Hill, the left-hand end of the line of coastal hills in the distance. In a minute or so turn right on an initially grassy path. After eight or ten minutes on this now stony track, arrive at the head of a steep combe (1hr45mins, [5]). Immediately past the combe turn left and descend gently down the side of the hill. In another ten minutes or so come to a grassy clearing with stunted thorn trees. Walk down to a crossing path and turn right; this is Dicky's Path. This too becomes a stony trail. You will soon see two of your objectives ahead: Webber's Post car park, slightly to the left, and the Jubilee Hut, further to the left just below the hilltop. To get there follow the path into woods, down to a stream (Hollow Combe), and back out again to contour around the side of the hill. Five minutes beyond the stream the path forks (2hr5mins, [9]); take the left-hand way. Ignore crossing tracks, cross a narrow road and continue into the car park.



Your route ahead is on a broad and possibly muddy path into woods, starting from near the (vehicle) entrance to the car park; it is marked by a low Coleridge Way signpost ('Porlock 2¹/₂') in the form of a quill pen. Pass a stone seat to come to a wide triangular junction; veer left on the bridleway towards Horner, which will bring you to the Jubilee Hut (2hr20mins, [7]). This simple and useful shelter is designed so that at least two of its four segments should be protected from the elements. Turn left here, downhill towards Horner Water. Zigzag down until you come to a crossing path; head right then left to continue on Tucker's Path. At a T-junction turn left away from Horner then cross the footbridge over Horner Water and turn right. Stroll down towards Horner on this broad track, crossing back over the river on a stone bridge (2hr45mins, [8]). At the road keep left (the tea garden is on the right). Look out for a blue-signed public bridleway to the left, just before the (inconspicuous) entrance to the National Trust car park.

Follow the bridleway over a stone bridge and around to the right; ignore a path heading up to the left. The path now climbs up above Horner Water then levels out and bends left. Go through a gate and head right, walk alongside the fence, then take the left, upward fork. Join a road (3hrs, [9]) to walk uphill, soon forking right towards Porlock. Keep right after a steep downhill gradient to come into Porlock. At the main road turn left for the church and car park, right for the short-stay car park and bus stop.



On Dunkery Hill

NOTE. In 2021 the National Trust closed several paths in the Horner area due to ash dieback. None of the closures currently affect this route. A map of the affected paths is linked from the Central Exmoor: North page on exmoorwalker.uk.