



Walk 56. Wheddon Cross to Dunster via Clicket.

- 9.6 miles, ascents of 400 metres and descents of 650 metres. 4 hours constant walking, allow 5-5½ hours.

Terrain: Paths, tracks and fields, some slippery bedrock and mud; small streams to cross.

Access: By car either park in Dunster (see walk 73) and take the morning bus 198 to Wheddon Cross, or park next to the inn at Wheddon Cross (SS 924 388) and return by bus or taxi. Dunster is also served by bus 28 from Taunton (stops on the A39) and in season by the West Somerset Railway.

Map: Croydecycle 15 Timberscombe & Luxborough or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

Refreshments: Pubs in Wheddon Cross and Timberscombe, plenty of choice in Dunster.

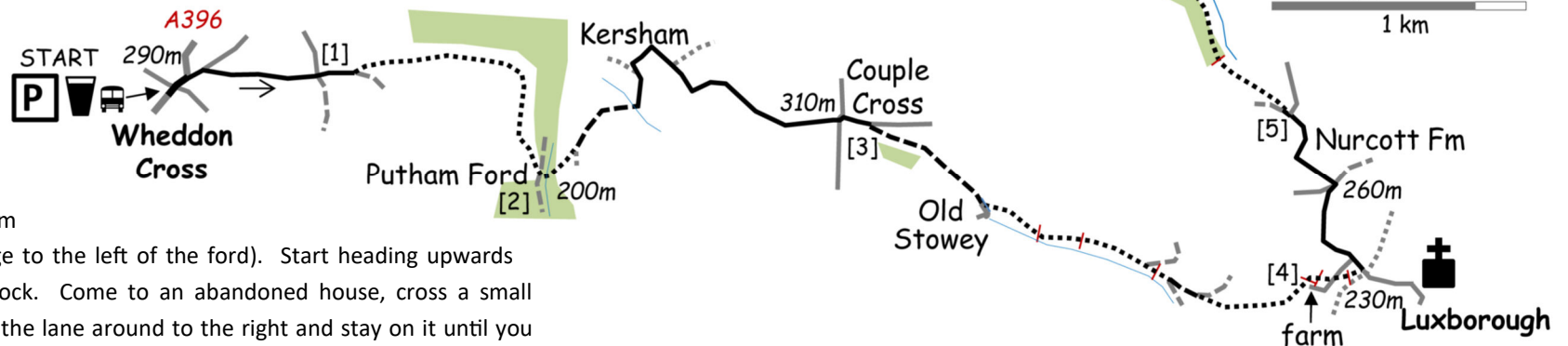
THIS WALK TRACKS ACROSS THE BRENDON HILLS ALMOST TO LUXBOROUGH before descending along a stream valley to the abandoned and crumbled village of Clicket. Clicket was inhabited until Victorian times and had a mill and a quarry. A photograph taken in 1890 shows some of its residents, but they seem to have left by the following year or soon after. The walk continues via Timberscombe, crossing Timberscombe Common to Nutcombe Bottom and arriving via the 'back door' into Dunster. Allow plenty of time as it is easy to get absorbed searching for ruins in Clicket and exploring the well-preserved former market town of Dunster (described more fully in walks 73 and 74).

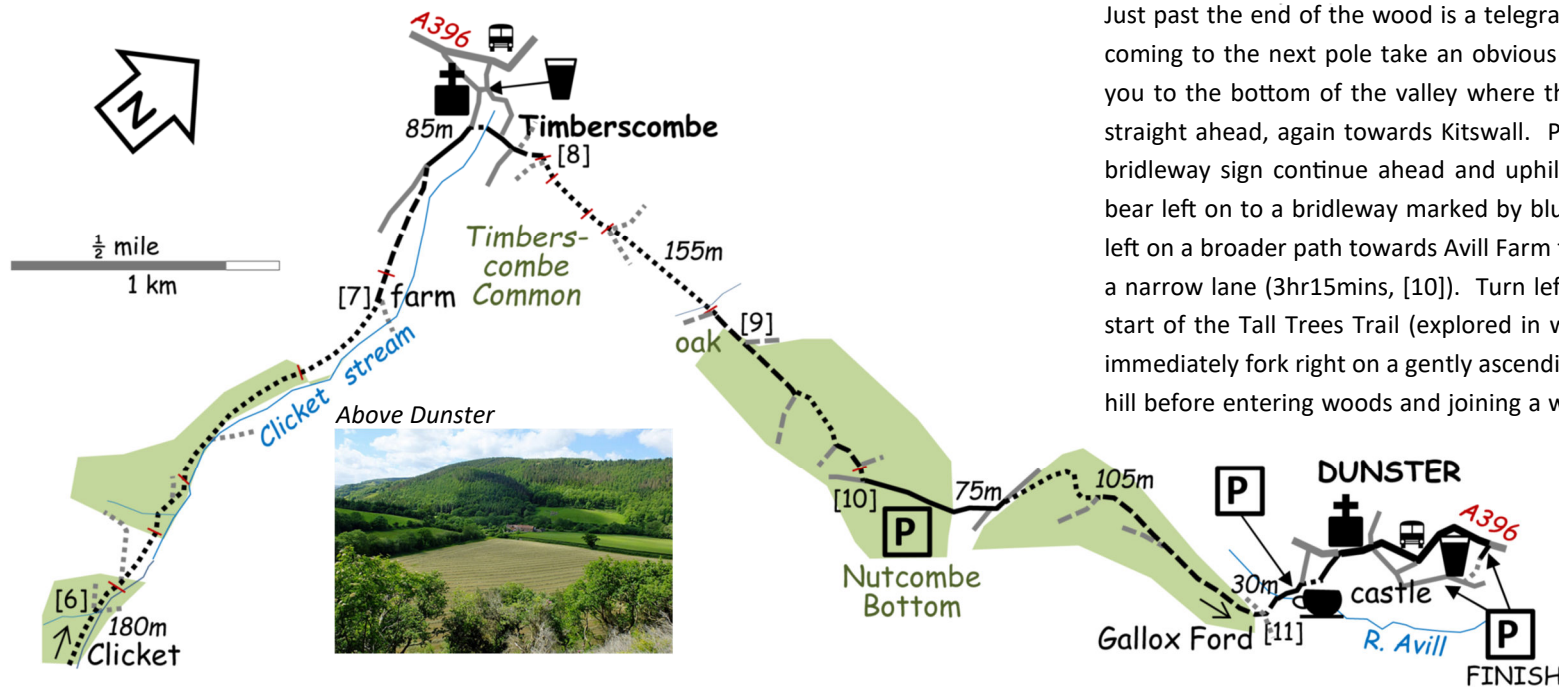
From the inn in Wheddon Cross, start the walk by taking the main road towards Minehead and Dunster. In less than a minute turn right at a memorial, then right again on a lane towards Putham. In just over five minutes the lane bends left (8mins, [1]); continue ahead on a restricted byway towards Luxborough, then just in front of a cattle grid take the path to the left. Be aware of slippery bedrock as you descend on this path. Ignore a track (a water run-off) turning off to the left. At a crossroads (Putham Ford, 25mins, [2]) carry straight on and cross the stream ahead of you (there is a small footbridge to the left of the ford). Start heading upwards again, watching for more slippery bedrock. Come to an abandoned house, cross a small stream and pass Kersham Farm. Follow the lane around to the right and stay on it until you

arrive at a crossroads (Couple Cross, 1hr, [3]). Continue straight ahead here, then in under two minutes turn right on a farm driveway to Old Stowey, also signposted as the footpath to Luxborough.

Arrive at the entrance to Old Stowey house. Turn left on the footpath to Churchtown and follow the field boundary above an ornamental lake. Where the fence turns to the right, walk ahead and slightly right to join a gully that brings you to a gate. Continue ahead across fields until you join a farm track and go through a gate. Keep left as a wider track comes in from the right, then in under two minutes bear right at a small, easily-missed post with yellow arrows to join a vague footpath. Soon bear left to keep to the right of a tall hedge. Go through a gate and cross a wire fence using a small stile. Approaching a farm, the path is diverted to the left around the yard and buildings (1hr30mins, [4]); continue as directed through gates, cross a driveway with gates either side, then turn left in the next field towards a pair of houses. Go through a gate, pass the right-hand house and go over a stile to arrive at a road on the edge of Luxborough.

Your route now continues to the left (a short detour to the right will bring you to Luxborough church). Keep right at a junction where there is a central triangle with trees, then follow the road around to the left. Pass Nurcott Farm and its conspicuous Chile pine (monkey puzzle), follow the road left, then as it bends right again continue ahead on the signposted path towards Timberscombe (1hr45mins, [5]). The path heads right in front of a gate. You are now approaching Clicket; the first ruin is tucked into the bank on the left, in front of a gate. Go through the gate (or over the stile), head slightly to the right past a large ash tree, then cross the field to enter a nearby wood. Keep right at a fork, pass the remnants of a wall, go through a gate then take the right-hand fork to Timberscombe; the 'Clicket stream' is on your right. Descend towards the stream; the remains of a cottage are on the

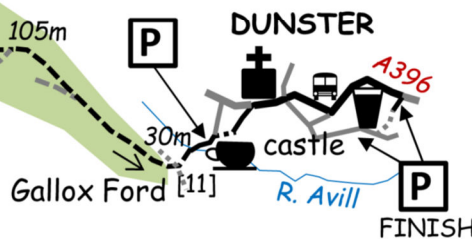




left. There used to be wolves and bears here, not real ones but life-sized models that were used as archery targets, but they have been absent for the last couple of years. Cross a streamlet and continue slightly upwards on the left-hand path. At another small stream head down to the right, to arrive at a miniature stone footbridge over the Clicket stream (2hr5mins, [6]). A derelict mill is just over the bridge, but your route continues on the footpath above the left-hand bank. Go uphill, right at a fork and over a stile; follow the path across the field parallel with the stream and go through a double pedestrian gate. Keep the fence on your left, ford a small stream and continue on the path on the far side. Enter some woods through a gate, forking right on to a path. Arrive back at the stream, again keeping to its left-hand bank. This footpath continues for half a mile until it comes to a wider track (2hr25mins, [7]); head left here, go over a stile and continue along a green lane until you meet a road. Turn right at the junction and head towards Timberscombe.

Turn right on a path just after the 30mph signs. Cross the stream and head uphill on the other side. When the road bends right, keep ahead on the (initially surfaced) bridleway to Dunster. The track comes to a wider area with several gates (2hr45mins, [8]); go through the pedestrian gate on the right, and head up and left around the back of some farm buildings. Go through a gate on to Timberscombe Common, keeping the bank on your left. Head through a gate into a lightly wooded area, then leave it via another gate. Your route ahead is into the middle of the field (signposted Kitswall) aiming for the right-hand side of a belt of woodland.

Just past the end of the wood is a telegraph pole. Follow the wires to the right, then before coming to the next pole take an obvious grassy path descending to the left. This will bring you to the bottom of the valley where there is a gate into the woods. Take the bridleway straight ahead, again towards Kitswall. Pass a stout, knarled old oak (3hrs, [9]); at the next bridleway sign continue ahead and uphill on the unmarked track. As the track turns right bear left on to a bridleway marked by blue squares on trees; follow it gently downhill. Turn left on a broader path towards Avill Farm then go straight ahead through a barrier to come to a narrow lane (3hr15mins, [10]). Turn left here, passing Nutcombe Bottom car park and the start of the Tall Trees Trail (explored in walk 74). At a road junction keep left, then almost immediately fork right on a gently ascending path. This contours around the side of Black Ball hill before entering woods and joining a wider track; turn left. A second left turn at a joining track brings you above the outskirts of Dunster. Go straight on at a crossing path, pass a long thatched cottage and cross the River Avill on the stone bridge at Gallox Ford (3hr40mins, [11]).



To return to the main car park and bus stop turn right to pass a small car park and head along a pedestrian lane, then turn left on a road alongside a small rill or leat (the National Trust café and mill is to the right here). Coming to the main road turn right and follow it this way and that through the village; if you can resist the church, castle, yarn market and multiple tea shops and hosteleries you will eventually arrive back at the car park past a small shopping precinct, set back on the right (a gate at the back takes you through to the castle drive and National Trust car park).

Shorter walks: The bus also stops on the A396 at Timberscombe, making it possible to divide the walk into two halves (Wheddon Cross to Timberscombe ● 6.7 miles, ascents of 230 metres and descents 450 metres; Timberscombe to Dunster ● 3.2 miles, ascents 180 metres and descents 210 metres). To end the walk at Timberscombe continue straight ahead at the 30mph signs and walk through the village to the A396 where the bus stops.

© Stan Lester 2018-22. Last recce 2/2022. Please email editor@exmoorwalker.uk with any updates or comments.

This route description is provided freely and in good faith. You are welcome to use, copy and distribute it for personal and non-profit purposes (attribution—non-commercial—no derivatives). No responsibility is taken for any errors or omissions, or for your navigation or safety on the walk. Introductory and safety information at exmoorwalker.uk.