



Walk 67. Dulverton, East and West Anstey.

- 10.8 miles, ascents and descents of 520 metres. 4 hours 10 minutes continuous walking, allow 5½-6 hours.

Terrain: Paths, tracks and fields, muddy in places in winter or after prolonged rain. Some slippery steps and descents, and some road walking.

Access: By car, park in the long-stay car park next to Exmoor House (SS 912 280, TA22 9HL, £). Dulverton is served by bus 25 from Taunton and Bampton, 198 from Minehead and 398 from Tiverton and Bampton.

Map: OS Explorer 114 Exeter and the Exe Valley.

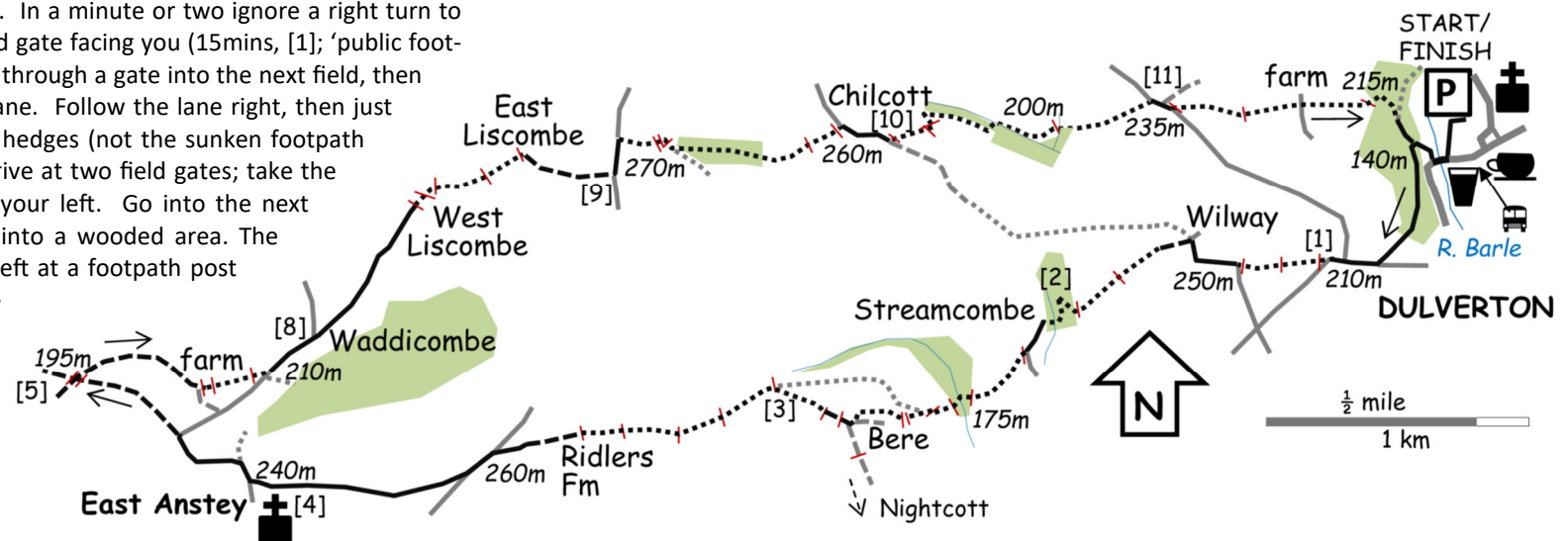
Refreshments: Plenty of choice in Dulverton, nothing on the route.

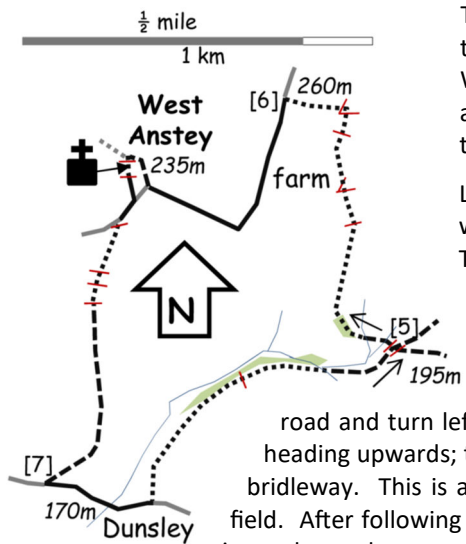
THIS ROUTE TO THE WEST OF DULVERTON TRAVERSES ROLLING FARMLAND, with a few green lanes and areas of woodland. You will have frequent views across the north Devon countryside, not as spectacular as those from the high moor maybe, but enough to give the walk an open and varied feel. The further reaches of the walk come to the small villages of East and West Anstey and their respective churches; both are worth a short detour to explore. The return route reverses the outward part of walk 64, ending with a steep descent into Dulverton.

From the car park walk past the statue of Lorna Doone to the Bridge Inn, then turn right over the Barle bridge. Turn immediately right on Oldberry Lane and follow it around to the left and uphill. You will have broken views over Dulverton to the left through the trees. At a T-junction turn right, taking care on this busier road. In a minute or two ignore a right turn to Hawkridge, but just afterwards go through the field gate facing you (15mins, [1]; 'public footpath'). Keep to the right-hand side of the field, go through a gate into the next field, then through a gate to continue ahead on a surfaced lane. Follow the lane right, then just before a farm turn sharp left on a track between hedges (not the sunken footpath beyond). Go through a gate (often open) then arrive at two field gates; take the right-hand one and continue with the hedge on your left. Go into the next field, down into the valley, then through a gate into a wooded area. The path heads right; in about a minute turn sharply left at a footpath post (35mins, [2]). Less than a minute later bear a little to the right, then go through a gate and over a plank bridge in front of a house (Streamcombe). Leave the house on a rough drive; where the drive bends left, continue ahead through a field gate. Follow the field boundary in front of you, joining a line of trees.

At the end of the trees follow the field edge, then take a signposted path to the left down steep steps, across a footbridge and over a stile. Enter a field and keep to its right-hand edge. Go through a gate on your right and continue left alongside the hedge. To follow the official right of way, go over a stile and through a pedestrian gate, fork right, keep left of some standing stones, then follow the path ahead as signposted to take you around Bere farmhouse. Come to an old trackway under tall trees, with farm buildings ahead of you. Turn right and go through two gates in fairly quick succession. Ignore the first gate on the left, continuing alongside the hedge to a second gate (55mins, [3]). (Unofficially it's easier to ignore the stile and continue up and around the field boundary, then head out into the field keeping roughly level to come to the same gate). Either way go through the gate and keep to the left-hand side of the field on an indicated bridleway. Continue through a gate and directly ahead across the field. Go through another gate, then pick up a grassy track that takes you through further gates. Head past a farm, joining a surfaced track. Pass a second house on the right and come to a road T-junction: turn left here. In about two minutes turn right on a side-road. Around ten minutes later arrive at East Anstey church on the left (1hr20mins, [4]). This attractive church has a clean, uncluttered interior; it is worth a short stop.

Just past the church, come to a T-junction and turn right, following the road first left then right. At the second right-hand bend, continue ahead on a track between banks, marked as a public bridleway (the short route back to Dulverton continues on the road here, rejoining the main walk at the 2hr50min point [8]). In five or six minutes come to a gated crossroads (1hr35mins, [5]) and continuing ahead, go over two small streams, the second at a white house. Arriving under a group of large trees, head diagonally right uphill across the field to come to a gate in the hedge. Continue diagonally left to the corner of the next field, go through a field gate then immediately turn left through a pedestrian gate. Head for the third farm building; go through a gate, keeping the barn on your left. Go through a gate to cross a small field. Immediately after the next gate turn left through a gate and walk along the left-hand side of the field to arrive at a road (1hr50mins, [6]). Turn left here.





The road bends right then left; at the left-hand bend, turn right on a concrete drive marked as a bridlway. Within a minute turn left on a track that takes you alongside West Anstey church; enter the churchyard through a gate on the left.

Leave the churchyard through the front gate and walk down a somewhat picturesque small street. Turn right on the road at the end, then left through the first gate on the signposted Two Moors Way.

This heads alongside the field edge through two further gates; at a third the path becomes a track between banks. In five minutes or so arrive at a

road and turn left (2hr20mins, [7]). Descend to a stream, then start heading upwards; turn left into a field opposite a farm, on a signposted bridlway. This is a well-defined track along the left-hand edge of the field. After following a line of individual oaks go through a gate and continue above the stream; go through another gate to arrive back at the

crossing-point (2hr35mins, [5]). Continue ahead, then in five minutes or so walk through an attractive farm, leaving directly ahead through two field gates. After another gate come to a house with a road beyond; turn left here. In about three minutes arrive at a post box (2hr50mins, [8]); turn right here, on a private road. Keeping to the right, follow the road to West Liscombe farm where it runs out. A bridlway continues through a gate: look for a second gate on the left, then turn right through another gate and continue alongside the hedge to East Liscombe. Go through a gate, pass the farmhouse, then turn right to leave on the farm drive. This will bring you to a road (3hr10mins, [9]).

Turn left on the road and follow it for just over a minute, then turn right through a gate on a path marked to Dulverton. Go through two field gates and immediately right through a third. Now bear left and downhill on a track through a plantation of young trees. This path descends to a stream, then rises and bends left alongside a field edge. Go through a high gate ahead of you to cross a field, then a smaller gate takes you on to a lane. Turn right and pass the Chilcott farms. Just as the lane becomes a stony track (3hr30mins, [10]), turn left through a gate on a footpath and walk diagonally across the field, heading for a point halfway along the right-hand boundary. You may meet an inquisitive horse or two here. Go through a pedestrian gate then immediately left through a field gate. The official path continues at an angle across the bracken, but it is easier to keep to the left-hand boundary then turn right at the bottom on a more obvious path with a stream to the left. Just past a footpath marker post, turn left to go over the stream on a small footbridge. Head uphill for a few metres to join a vague grassy path heading right through fern and gorse: this tracks above the stream and its belt of trees, gradually bending to the left to come to the field corner. A gate is hidden beneath the trees. Go through, immediately cross a streamlet, then head left and then slightly right to pass two individual oaks and walk up the broad valley. Go through a gate on to a narrow road. Turn right, pass a cottage and a tree stump, then after the driveway turn left to go over a stile on a footpath signposted to Dulverton (3hr45mins, [11]).

Head diagonally right, marked by two posts. Join the treeline at the edge of the field and go through a field gate, crossing the next field to a farm building with a gate next to it. Go through, cross the road, and continue with the field edge on your left; Dulverton is in front of you. Turn left through a small gate into the trees. Now keep right to descend steeply to Dulverton: the path has some slippery rock patches and may be muddy. In winter you will have occasional views to the left over the town, otherwise they are limited to glimpses through the vegetation. Join a surfaced lane at Horner Cottage, then keep left at the junction with your outward route to come back to the bridge and Dulverton centre.

Shorter walks. The route divides into a slightly shorter version from Dulverton to East Anstey and back (● 7.7 miles, ascents and descents of 380 metres), and a short walk around East and West Anstey (● 3.8 miles and 185 metres). For the **Dulverton and East Anstey** circuit, keep right as indicated in the instructions and rejoin the main walk at the 2hr50min point ([8]). For the **Ansteys walk** park outside the church in East Anstey (avoid the occasional Sunday services) and follow the instructions from the 1hr20min point ([4]). Complete the circuit around West Anstey and Dunsley then at the 2hr35min point ([5]) turn right and retrace your steps to East Anstey. It is possible to do just the circuit shown in the map opposite (2.5 miles and 120m), but there are few places to park in West Anstey.

Alternative walk: Dulverton, Bere and Ash Hill (● 6.2 miles, ascents and descents of 300 metres). Follow the main walk to Bere (just before the 55min point), taking the official route around the farmhouse. Turn left rather than right on the old trackway, following the drive past a pond and through a gate at a cattle grid. This long, narrow drive takes you down to a stream then back up to a road. Turn right here, keeping a lookout for traffic. Soon fork left at the Iron Post junction towards Nightcott. Ignore a road to the left, but less than two minutes later turn left on a wide track just before a broken-down railway bridge. This is the former Taunton to Barnstaple railway. In just over a mile - about 20-25 minutes - turn left at a small 'circular walk' sign. A short path brings you to the road. Turn left and join the instructions for **walk 68** just before its 1hr5min point ([3]), following the shorter alternative walk back to Dulverton.

Longer return from East Anstey via the River Barle (● 12.4 miles, ascents and descents of 650 metres). At the 1hr50min point ([6]) turn right on to the road and head north until in about ten minutes it comes to a T-junction. Continue diagonally left on to a broad track (the Two Moors Way). This crosses a road and heads over moorland, fifteen minutes or so later coming to a T-junction with a narrow lane. Turn left to join **walk 64** at its 2-hour point ([6]), returning to Dulverton via Hawkridge and the river.

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