



AW8. Langford Heathfield.

- 3 miles, ascents and descents of 90 metres. 1 hour 10 minutes continuous walking, allow at least 1½ hours.

Terrain: Mainly paths through woods and meadows, with one steep and potentially slippery section. Can be muddy; the worst parts are avoided by using boardwalks.

Access: Start from the small layby on the Holywell Lake to Wiveliscombe road (ST 107 227, near TA21 0RL). If this is full there are small parking spots on the side-road just to the north, near where it is crossed by the walk; these are shown on the map. Another alternative may be to park at the nearby village hall. Bus 27 between Wiveliscombe and Wellington stops near the inn in Langford Budville, 3-4 times daily on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

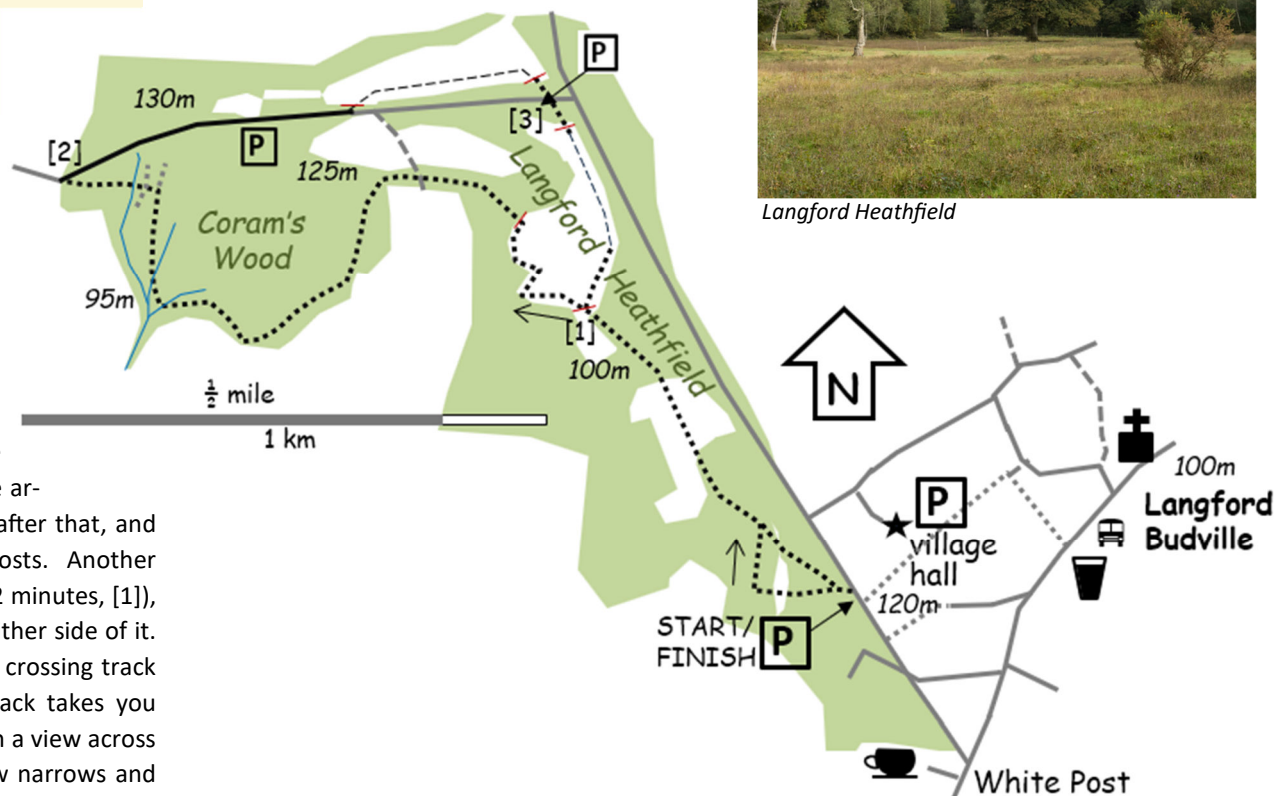
Map: OS Explorer 128 Taunton and Blackdown Hills.

Refreshments: Café at the White Post nursery near the start of the walk, inn in Langford Budville.

LANGFORD HEATHFIELD IS A MIXTURE OF ANCIENT AND NEWER WOODLAND, scrub and meadow situated in the gently rolling country between Wellington and Wiveliscombe. The area is a nature reserve owned by Somerset Wildlife Trust, and provides a rich habitat for insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. It is perfect for a short walk, and depending on the time of year you may catch a glimpse of a grass snake, roe deer, lesser spotted woodpecker, fritillary or hornet. Shetland ponies are used to graze the heathland; they are kept from straying by an electric fence which is crossed at convenient points by stiles.

Start from the layby. Walk to the information board and descend into the woods. Continue straight ahead at the marker posts as indicated by the white arrows, crossing a clearing. Bear right at the next post, slightly left at the one after that, and join a boardwalk. At its end follow a well-worn path confirmed by marker posts. Another boardwalk takes you through woods. Pass a seat in the shape of a butterfly (12 minutes, [1]), then keep left around the meadow; if there is an electric fence you can walk either side of it. Turn left at the next stile and enter woodland on a wide path. Ignore a wide crossing track (and the arrow on the marker post), continuing ahead into woods. The track takes you around the edge of the wood. First pass some open barns over to the left, then a view across the gently rolling hills that are typical of this part of Somerset. The path now narrows and starts to drop. Bear right at a large beech tree and descend steps to cross a small stream. Soon cross a wider stream on a wooden footbridge, and climb up the other side. The path widens and starts to level out; turn left on an equally wide path. Ignore a crossing path and go over a small footbridge. Soon arrive at a narrow road (35 minutes, [2]).

Turn right and walk along the road for five minutes. Pass an entrance to a meadow on your left, then two or three minutes later look for another opening on the left into a larger meadow. Enter it and go over a stile. Turn right, keeping parallel with the road. At its end turn right, go over a stile and join a broad track, crossing back over the road (50 minutes, [3]). Go over another stile into a meadow. Keep fairly close to the left-hand edge of the field; there is a fairly well-worn path to follow, with the occasional marker post. Go over a stile and through a gap between trees. Come back to the butterfly seat and rejoin your outward route using the boardwalks. After the second section of boardwalk head to the marker post in front of you, then continue ahead keeping to the left. A narrow path leads between trees back to the layby and the end of the walk.



Langford Heathfield

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