

Walk 7 – Crookhill to Ryewater Round Walk Description

Approximately 3 1/2 miles, 2 hours.

The recommended start point is at the foot of Crook Hill (National Trust). Cars can be parked off the road just to the east of Crook Hill adjacent to a modern barn (A).

A gate from the road gains access to a bridleway (B), which descends through a field with a fence on the left. The panorama of hills to your right provides the watershed for the river Yeo. After passing through two gates (C), a high hedge on your left guides your descent on a former cart track to a bridge (D) over a stream. Once over the bridge cross the field by following the track which rises diagonally to a farm gate (E).

From the gate proceed straight on maintaining the farm buildings on your right until you are facing a number of gates, with the farm track to the Weston road on your right. Take the left-hand gate in to a field (F). Follow the footpath keeping the hedge boundary on your right, use the map to negotiate the right turn (G) climb over another gate into a sloping field. Keep to the high side of the field with the hedge now on your left. Pass through the gate (H) at the bottom of the field.

Ignore the ford towards the Corscombe road to your right, but turn left to follow the tree lined track through two gates (I) with farm buildings on the right. The track now becomes narrow and more often than not muddy. You will pass a gateway on the left which marks the entrance to Ryewater Farm. This 38 acre reserve is owned by Plantlife and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is well worth a visit especially in the summer.

To continue the walk, go through a small gate (J) which marks the entrance to a coppice in which the footpath is waymarked on the tree trunks. Cross the small stream and continue through the coppice until the footpath emerges into a field via a bridge and a stile (K). The path proceeds to the left and soon crosses another stile. Keeping the hedges on your right cross this field, two more stiles, a second field and finally another stile bringing you out onto the road beside Halstock Sheds (L). Turn left and at the junction left again.

Follow the road toward Winyards Gap which returns to the start at Crook Hill. On this road is the "The Wessex Joinery Company" (N), which has an impressive showroom of solid wood furniture.

Walk 7—Crookhill to Ryewater Walk Map

