

Beacon Hill Walk

This pleasant short circular walk is 2km (1.3 miles) long and takes approximately ¾ - 1 hour. It starts from the shops at Beacon Hill (off the A287) where you can get refreshments and park nearby. The route is covered by OS Explorer map 133. The extension, which takes you through heathland and woodland, is an additional 2.5km (1.6 miles) long and takes approximately an extra 1-1¼ hours.

Much of the walk goes over uneven or hilly ground; it is therefore not recommended for pushchairs, wheelchairs or anyone with walking difficulties. Please wear appropriate footwear and take care crossing the road. During and/or after wet weather some areas can become particularly muddy. There is a climb at the end of the walk and the extension has one steep climb and a couple of gates to negotiate.

Main Route - - - - -
Additional Route ·········

1 Park in the car park behind the Beacon Hill shops (turn off the A287 into Beacon Hill Road, take the first left, opposite the school, and first left again, signposted car park and recycling centre) and take the alleyway from the car park through to the shops. Turn right along Beacon Hill Road to its junction with the A287, turn right again and almost immediately cross over (taking great care). You are aiming for a path between two large trees to the right of the telephone box (as you look at it from across the road).

3 Turn right up to another bridle barrier and turn left on the wider, main track (Boxall's Lane). Follow it for some distance as it curves downhill. Note the old boundary banks all around this area. Use the path on the left bank to avoid the very rutted muddy stretch if necessary.

2 Almost immediately the path forks by a National Trust post, take the more obvious path to the right of the post. Follow this down through the trees until you join a wider track at a bridle barrier.

7 Continue on the path as it winds uphill and curves left, ignoring any side paths. Note the path is now wider, giving access to the farm, with stones added underfoot for traction. Pass some gates and after a while take a path to your right (slightly back on yourself). At this point you are just within sight of the bridle barrier (ahead) that you passed earlier in your walk. Take the footpath up through the trees, forking slightly left and then right. Shortly you will return past the NT post near the telephone box and back to the road and Beacon Hill shops.

6 After a while you will pass a private lake on your right partially hidden behind a fence. Continue, bearing slightly left and come into a small opening. Ahead of you notice the remains of a lime kiln and one remaining wall of the ruined Dickens Farm to its left. There are also some small fruit trees on the left which were part of the farm's orchard.

5 After turning left follow the footpath through the trees, forking slightly left up towards a field fence. Continue on this path as it winds up the valley, with fields on your left and the stream in the valley to your right. Note the big conifer in Christmas Tree Field.

4 A line of wooden fencing on your right ends just before the lane gets to the bottom (you can just spot a bridge over a stream ahead); 60m beyond the end of the fence (***) turn left (slightly back on yourself) at the break in the boundary bank and a National Trust post.

(***) This is the point where the extension breaks off and returns.

