Hemyock to Culmstock Beacon loop, Blackdown Hills

Route Summary

Lovely circuit around the Culm Valley taking in the high ground of Culm Davy woodland and Black Down Common with great views from Culmstock Beacon

Route Overview

Category: Walking
Length: 12.960 km / 8.10 mi
Last Modified: 14th July 2020
Difficulty: Medium
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Rough
Date Published: 13th July 2020

Description

Starting in Hemyock you climb out of the Culm Valley onto the northern ridgeline of the Blackdown Hills. The route combines footpaths with small country lanes that take you around the edge of the ridge until you pop out of Culm Davy woodland onto Black Down Common.

Culmstock Beacon at the end of the common is a great place to enjoy a picnic and the views.

From there you drop down into the Culm Valley, cross a footbridge over the river just east of Culmstock village (another great picnic spot) and then head up the south side of the valley.

The return leg brings you along the wooded edge of Hackpen Hill and back into Hemyock.

Waypoints

Start point in Hemyock
(50.91522; -3.22801)
There is parking in Hemyock near Spar shop. Walk down through the village and across the river to cluster of houses
called Millhayes.

Cross road junction in Millhayes to start of footpath  
(50.91924; -3.22571)  
Footpath heads straight up hillside through fields to the road (which you left at the bottom)

Turn left onto road  
(50.92319; -3.22399)  
then turn right onto smaller road at corner

Turn left  
(50.92763; -3.22871)  
Road goes downhill, look out for footpath on your right opposite Culm Pyne Barton

Turn right onto footpath  
(50.92612; -3.23322)  
Path follows dry leat along the edge of an orchard

Turn left onto road  
(50.93107; -3.23738)  
Look for footpath on right through farmyard

Turn right through farmyard  
(50.93063; -3.23764)  
Walk up hillside through field to houses and a track that bears left

Turn left onto road  
(50.93031; -3.24433)  
Look for next turning on your right

Turn right up lane  
(50.92928; -3.24751)  
Lane becomes forest track as it enters Culm Davy woodland

Follow forest track  
(50.92999; -3.24753)  
which skirts along edge of woodland and up onto Black Down Common

Bear left onto Black Down Common  
(50.93409; -3.26090)
Follow heath and tree covered ridgeline to Culmstock Beacon at the end

**Culmstock Beacon**  
(50.92825; -3.26772)  
Great spot for views and a picnic. From the Beacon bear left and a path through the bracken and gorse zigzags down the hillside to the footpath that skirts across the flank of the ridge

**Turn right onto a permissive path**  
(50.92594; -3.26457)  
Signs ask you to avoid going through Pithayne Farm by taking this permissive path down the hillside instead.

**Turn right onto footpath**  
(50.92434; -3.26470)  
which goes through a hedge and across another couple of fields to Pitt Farm.

**Turn right onto lane**  
(50.92200; -3.26708)  
Lane goes through Pitt Farm which is something to behold! It's a walk into history going past this old farm.

**Turn left straight after farm buildings**  
(50.92230; -3.26850)  
Go through an iron gate and down through fields to the road.

**Cross footbridge over the River Culm**  
(50.91687; -3.26899)  
Another great place for a picnic by the river.

**Cross over road**  
(50.91335; -3.27004)  
Head up driveway, past stables and along edge of fields - very funny sign warning about speeding! Footpath is taking you up Hackpen Hill from which you will have great views back over to Culmstock Beacon and Wellington Monument on the northern ridgeline of the Blackdown Hills.

**Turn right onto road**  
(50.90766; -3.26678)  
Look out for footpath a couple hundred metres up on your left.

**Turn left up track**  
(50.90680; -3.27038)
Walk alongside more fields with horses until footpath splits at start of woodland, take the path going left

**Turn left**
(50.90555; -3.26884)
where path splits and follow up through woodland to a fenceline at the top that divides the wood from fields. Path follows fenceline into more fields and then passes back into the woodland and follows its edge to the road. Great views along this stretch.

**Turn right onto road**
(50.90653; -3.25253)
Look for bridlepath on your left that follows another driveway to more stables.

**Turn left down drive**
(50.90474; -3.25223)
Path goes past stables and along the edge of Conigar plantation until you turn right and head down the hillside past Regency House and into Hemyock.

**Turn right**
(50.90869; -3.24309)
after track does a sharp left around edge of plantation.

**Head down hillside**
(50.90912; -3.24034)
all the way into Hemyock. Signs asking to take care closing gates.

**Cross road and follow path along river**
(50.91210; -3.23096)
Path goes between Hemyock Castle on left and church on right

**Continue down footpath between houses**
(50.91272; -3.23041)
Path brings you back to main road through Hemyock