

Suggested Walks 10

Aveton Gifford Circular Walk

A perfect taste of the South Hams countryside - this walk goes along on paths and green lanes, taking in hills and combes, gentle pasture, woodland and stream, with views to the moor for good measure & takes roughly 3 1/2 hrs at gentle pace including some short stops.



Parking is available in Memorial Hall car park in middle of Aveton Gifford. Turn left out of car park, then right at T junction up Church Lane. Take public footpath on left, past refurbished house known as Little Court. Go through 1st gate, over stile into main field. Drop down across field to gate by small tree on far side. Go through gate & over footbridge & through 2nd gate into next field. The grass here is quite long & usually wet!

Look out for buzzards wheeling on the thermal air currents, with rich brown plumage and pale markings & broad wings with 'fingered' tips.



Carry on through next field to far gate, bridge & stile, and then across 3rd field, bearing to right at end around small hill & up to far gate. Go through, over footbridge & stone stile into next field which usually contains cattle. Climb up to post, avoiding the cows(!), & follow track along ridge, keeping fence on right. This track gives a great view of the stream, which becomes Parson's Brook a little downstream, & the surrounding countryside.

Cross 2nd field & just before end of field, go through large farm gate on right signed Public Bridleway, ignoring other signs at far end of field. Keeping hedge to left, go up hill & across to metal gate at top, with blue marker on post. Enter field & follow edge keeping hedge to right, & also across 2nd field.

The path leads into a green lane. Turn left immediately before reaching road, go up slope, through gate & follow path, keeping hedge to left. Go through 2nd gate, continue along path, then through 3rd gate & into a rocky green lane, a good example of the local ancient 'Green Lanes' used for trading, droving & smuggling.



Bear left in front of Stockadon Farmhouse at bottom, right past Chestnut & up narrow green lane & muddy farm track to Lixton. Turn right at road & bear right up hill to Greyhill Cross. Turn right then immediately left along signed Public Bridleway known locally as Beer Hill & another of the local Green Lanes. Towards the bottom, the woods on left hand side are home to vast swathes of bluebells in Spring. The lane flattens out & joins another bridleway. Continue left down this lane until Grade 2 Listed, Allerton Bridge is reached.



Just before bridge, take gate on right through field, go through 2nd & 3rd gates, following stream on left. The path continues alongside the stream & through the woods but is often muddy. Again, bluebells can be seen in the woods in Springtime.

Follow the babbling brook through the trees until eventually path rises & passes a cottage on left. Turn right just before cottage & follow path up beside orchard. Turn right up road & continue along road round bends until a double gate on left side signed 'Public Footpath'. Cross field to stile on far side following direction sign points in, cross stile & next field keeping hedge to left until a 2nd stile & steps down to road. Turn left on road. At this point, the walk can be shortened by carrying on down the road straight into Aveton Gifford.

Otherwise take 1st left off road signed Hoppy Green Lane. Go up, then along & down this lane until reach bottom. Turn right & then right again as meet next lane, following it through a delightful green tunnel of trees. As it dips, follow sign for footpath on right side. Go through gate & climb hill though field. In Spring 2014 this field was planted with oil seed rape which looked stunning. The views over Avon valley & surrounding countryside are pretty spectacular.



At top, go through gate & across next field which was planted with tall corn on the cob in Autumn 2014, a very different experience. Go through gate into Churchyard & back down lane to Car Park.

St Andrew's Church, built in 1250, is worth a quick look. Four bombs were dropped on the Village by mistake in 1943 & one destroyed the Rectory. The church was restored in 1957.

