



Walk 28A. Dulverton and the Ansteys.

- 10.8 miles, 4 hours 10 minutes. Ascents and descents of 520 metres.

Terrain: Paths, tracks and fields, muddy in places. Some slippery steps and descents, and some road walking.

Access: By car, park in the long-stay car park next to Exmoor House (SS 912 280, TA22 9HL, £). Dulverton is served by bus 25 from Taunton and Bampton, 198 from Minehead and 398 from Tiverton and Bampton.

Map: 114 Exeter and the Exe Valley.

Refreshments: Plenty of choice in Dulverton, nothing on the route.

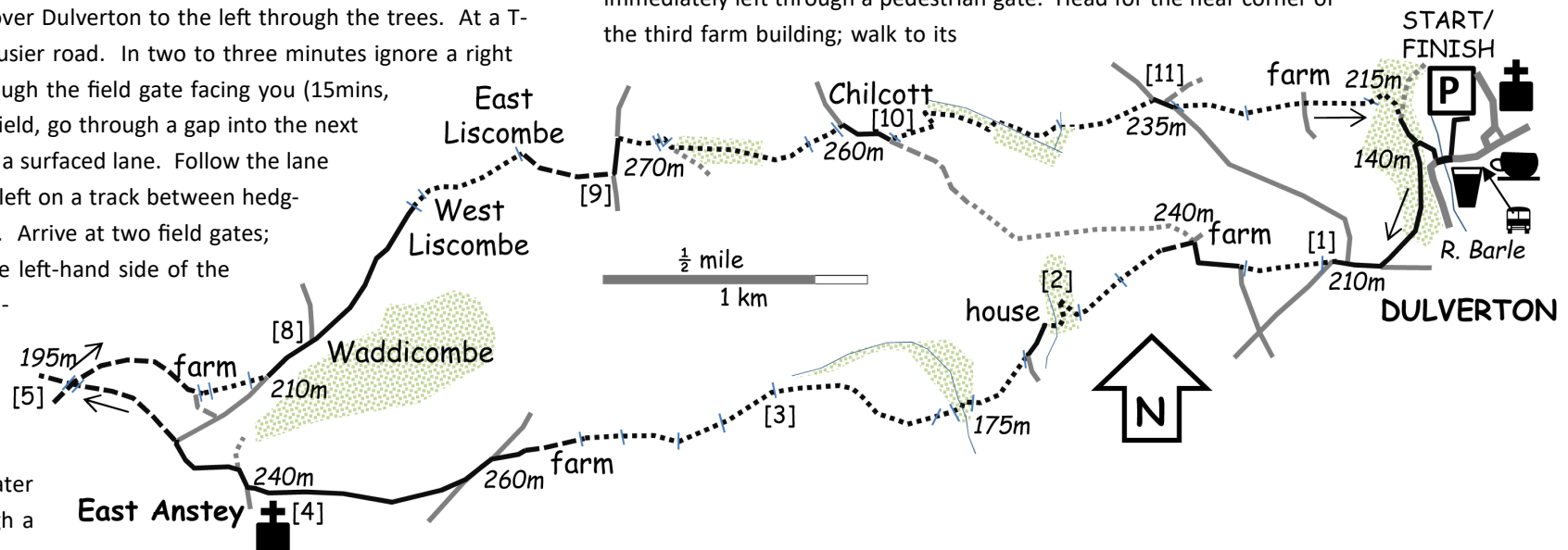
THIS ROUTE TO THE WEST OF DULVERTON TRAVERSES ROLLING FARMLAND, with a few green lanes and areas of woodland. You will have frequent views across the north Devon countryside, not as spectacular as those from the high moor maybe, but enough to give the walk an open and varied feel. The further reaches of the walk come to the small villages of East and West Anstey and their respective churches; both are worth a short detour to explore. The return route reverses the outward part of Walk 28, ending with a steep descent into Dulverton.

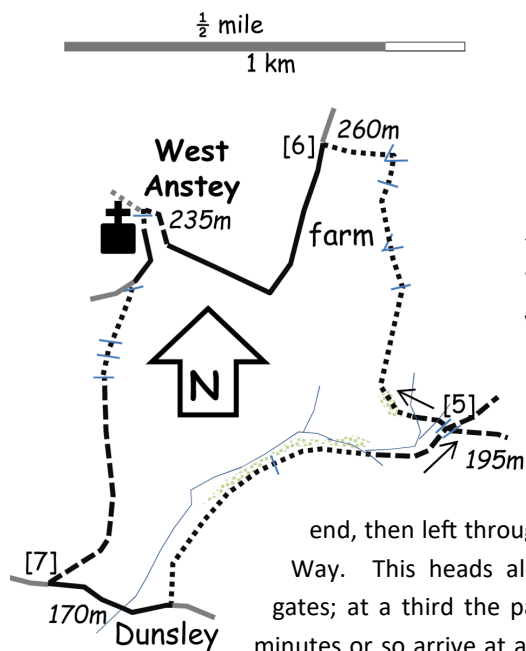
From the car park, walk past the statue of Lorna Doone to the Bridge Inn, then turn right over the Barle bridge. Turn immediately right on Oldberry Lane, and follow it around to the left and uphill. You will have broken views over Dulverton to the left through the trees. At a T-junction turn right, taking care on this busier road. In two to three minutes ignore a right turn to Hawkridge, but just after go through the field gate facing you (15mins, [1]). Keep to the right-hand side of the field, go through a gap into the next field, then through a gate to continue on a surfaced lane. Follow the lane right, then just before a farm turn sharp left on a track between hedges (not the signposted footpath beyond). Arrive at two field gates; take the right-hand one, and keep to the left-hand side of the field. Continue into the next field, heading down into the valley, then through a gate into a wooded area. The path heads right; in about a minute turn sharply left at a footpath post (35mins, [2]). Less than a minute later bear a little to the right, then go through a

gate and over a plank bridge in front of a house. Leave the house on a rough drive; where the drive bends left, continue ahead through a field gate. Follow the field boundary in front of you, heading for a line of trees.

At the end of the trees follow the field edge, then take a signposted path to the left down steep steps, across a rickety wooden footbridge, and over a stile. Enter a field and keep to its right-hand edge. Go through a gate in the field boundary and continue ahead with the field edge now on your left. Bear right with the field boundary, then follow it leftwards above a wooded valley. Keep roughly level and head for a gate in the far side of the field (55mins, [3]). Go through and keep to the left-hand side of the field on an indicated bridleway. Go through a gate and continue ahead across the field; continue through another gate, then pick up a grassy track that goes through further gates. Head past a farm, joining a surfaced track. Pass a second house on the right, and come to a road T-junction: turn left here. In about two minutes turn right on a side-road. Around ten minutes later, arrive at East Anstey church on the left (1hr20mins, [4]). This attractive church with a simple interior is worth a short stop.

Just past the church, come to a T-junction and turn right, following the road first left then right. At the second right-hand bend, continue ahead on a track between banks, marked as a public bridleway. In five or six minutes come to a gated crossroads (1hr35mins, [5]): the main walk continues ahead here, while the shorter route back to Dulverton heads right. Continuing ahead, go over two small streams, the second at a white house. Arriving under a group of oak trees, head diagonally right uphill into the field to come to a gate or gap in the hedge. Continue diagonally left to the corner of the next field, go through a field gate then immediately left through a pedestrian gate. Head for the near corner of the third farm building; walk to its





right, go through a gate, cross a small field and go through a pedestrian gate, then turn left through a field gate. Walk along the left-hand side of the field to arrive at a road (1hr50mins, [6]). Turn left here. The road bends right then left; at the left-hand bend, turn right on a drive, marked as a bridleway. Within a minute turn left on a track that takes you alongside West Anstey church; enter the churchyard through a gate on the left.

Leave the churchyard through the front gate and walk down a somewhat picturesque small street. Turn right on the road at the

end, then left through the first gate on the signposted Two Moors Way. This heads alongside the field edge through two further gates; at a third the path becomes a track between banks. In five minutes or so arrive at a road and turn left (2hr20mins, [7]).

Descend to a stream, then start heading upwards; turn left into a field opposite a farm, on a signposted bridleway. This is a well-defined track along the left-hand edge of the field. After following a line of individual oaks go through a gate and walk above a stream to arrive back at the crossing-point (2hr35mins, [5]). Continue ahead, then in five minutes or so walk through an attractive farm, leaving directly ahead through two field gates. After another gate come to a house with a road beyond; turn left here. In about three minutes arrive at a post box (2hr50mins, [8]); turn right here, on a private road. Keeping to the right, follow the road to West Liscombe farm where it runs out. A bridleway continues through a gate and on to East Liscombe farm: arriving here, go through a gate then turn right to leave on the farm drive. This will bring you to a road (3hr10mins, [9]).

Turn left on the road and follow it for just over a minute, then turn right through a gate on a path marked to Dulverton. Go through two field gates then turn right through a third. Almost immediately turn left on a track through a plantation of young trees. This path descends to a stream, then rises and bends left alongside a field edge. Go through a high gate ahead of you to cross a field, then through a smaller gate on to a lane. Turn right and pass the Chilcott farms. Just as the lane becomes a stony track (3hr30mins, [10]), turn left through a gate on a footpath and walk diagonally across the field, heading for a point halfway along the right-hand boundary. You may meet an inquisitive horse or two here. Go through a pedestrian gate then immediately left through a field gate. The official path continues at an angle across the bracken, but particularly in summer and autumn it is easier to keep to the left-hand

boundary then turn right at the bottom on a more obvious path with a stream to the left. Just past a footpath marker post, turn left to go over the stream on a small footbridge. Head uphill for a few metres to join a vague grassy path heading right through fern and gorse: this tracks above the stream and its belt of trees, gradually bending to the left to come to the field corner. A gate is hidden beneath the trees. Go through, immediately cross a streamlet, then head slightly right to pass two individual oaks and walk up the broad valley. Go through a gate on to a narrow road. Turn right, pass a cottage and a tree stump, then turn left after the driveway to go over a stile on a footpath signposted to Dulverton (3hr45mins, [11]).

Head diagonally right, marked by two posts. Join the treeline at the edge of the field and go through a field gate, crossing the next field to a farm building with a gate next to it. Go through, cross the road, and continue with the field edge on your left, then turn left through a gate into the trees. Now keep right to descend steeply to Dulverton: the path has some slippery rock patches and may be muddy. In winter you will have occasional views to the left over the town, otherwise they are limited to glimpses through the vegetation. Join a surfaced lane at Horner Cottage, then keep left at the junction with your outward route to come back to the bridge and Dulverton.

Shorter walks. The route divides into a slightly shorter route from Dulverton to East Anstey and back (● 8.3 miles, 3 hours 10 minutes, ascents and descents of 400 metres), and a short walk around West Anstey (● 2.5 miles, 1 hour, ascents and descents of 120 metres). For the shorter variation of the main walk, turn right at the 1hr35min point ([5]) and follow the instructions from 2hr35mins. The short walk depends on finding a place to park in West Anstey: follow the instructions from West Anstey to the 2hr35min point, then from the 1hr35min point back to your starting-point.

Longer return from East Anstey via the River Barle (● 12.4 miles, 4 hours 50 minutes, ascents and descents of 650 metres). At the 1hr50min point ([6]) turn right on to the road and head north until in about ten minutes it comes to a T-junction. Continue diagonally left on to a broad track (the Two Moors Way). This crosses a road and heads over moorland, fifteen minutes or so later coming to a T-junction with a narrow lane. Turn left to join Walk 28 at its 2-hour point ([6]), returning to Dulverton via Hawkridge and the river.

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