

# 6 Circular Walks

*in and around*

# Kilmington

An area within both the East Devon and Blackdown  
Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



# Walk 1

## Kilminster, Shute Barton and Haddon Corner (approx 3.5 miles – 5.6 km)

**This circular walk starts in Kilminster and passes through its pretty streets before leading on to bridleways and byways which take you through woodlands and on to the charming small village of Shute. On the return leg the walk takes you past Shute House in the grounds of Shute Barton and back along narrow lanes as you drop back down to the village of Kilminster. Along the walk there are a number of viewing points giving lovely panoramas of East Devon countryside and even the sea on a clear day. The walk begins from Kilminster Village Hall Car Park and should take approximately 1 1/4 hours. If time is limited it is possible to do just one loop of the walk by parking at Haddon Corner and doing the circular walk through the woodland around to Shute past Shute House before returning to Haddon Corner (No.9 on map).**

1. Park in the Village Hall Car Park. On leaving the car park turn left past the church and down a small hill. Just before Hurfords Stores turn right into The Street. Walk along this road passing the old red telephone box on your left on Jubilee Green and up a hill to the top of the village. Continue on this road past George Lane on your right and turn left into Silver Street. Go down the hill and at the bottom opposite Silver Lea turn right into a very narrow part of Silver Street. Walk up this pretty street lined with small cottages on the right hand side. Follow the street up hill and around to the right until you reach Springhead Lane.

2. Turn left and walk along Springhead Lane until it bends to the right shortly after "Lambley Brook". At this point go straight on, taking the small track in front of you with the brook immediately on your right (do not take the tarmaced driveway leading to "The Firs"). The track takes you up the hill passing "The Firs" on your left hand side and widens as it leads you into more open wooded area. Follow the path around to your left and after a short distance turn right following the fencing on the right hand side. Continue up this path until you reach the road.

3. On reaching the road cross over, go through the gate and head up the hill on the track. After about 80m turn left going back on yourself heading around the hill. In 20m take the footpath on the right which will take you up hill to Shute Beacon. On a clear day you will have lovely views of the coast at Seaton.



*Shute Barton*

4. Leave the Beacon by the same path and head back down the hill. At the t-junction of the path turn left and follow this path past the wider track that you came up from the road. After a short time the path bends to the left and then right. Keep walking along this wooded path which will take you along the side of the hill parallel to the road.

5. After about 10 minutes the path meets another path at a junction, this path has a bank on the far side which you need to cross, bear right at the junction and you will see a track through the bank leading to a wider rough track. Turn left along the wider track with open fields on your right before heading down hill to the small village of Shute. As you walk down towards Shute there are good views of typical East Devon rolling countryside.

6. On arriving in Shute you will be greeted with the impressive entrance to Shute Barton. Carry straight on past the entrance to Shute Barton on your left hand side. At the end of the grassed area turn left up towards Woodend Farm. Beyond the barns on the right hand side turn right through the gate (Public Footpath sign) into the field. At this point you have good views of a typical East Devon valley. Follow the hedge on your left hand side bearing around to the left and through the gate, follow the field boundary on your right and head up the slope and over a stile. This part of the walk over the fields can be very wet so care will need to be taken. Follow the left hand field boundary for a very short distance and continue over a second stile. This path will take you around the rear of Woodend Farm. Continue slightly up hill and over a third stile.

7. At this point bear left across the field to a muddy track and a kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue downhill to a small bridge (a little overgrown) and begin to go uphill to a stile which will take you up along the edge of a wooded area which is a privately owned wildlife conservation area.

8. At the top of the slope continue over the stile and turn left. Almost immediately you will reach a tarmaced drive. Turn right

and walk past Shute House. Follow this driveway for another 10-15 minutes until you arrive at Haddon Corner. Just as you are about to leave Shute House drive you pass a magnificent Turkey Oak tree thought to be over 250 years old. It has the largest unsupported crown up to 54m across, 70% wider than the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. As you walk to Haddon Corner you can see the Axe Estuary.

9. On joining the country lane at Haddon Corner turn right. At this point it is possible to see the sea at Seaton on a clear day. Continue along this lane, do not take the right hand fork, but carry straight on. Follow Bimbom Lane downhill until you arrive at Fernwood Farm. Now take the right hand fork and follow Gore Lane downhill back to the village of Kilminster. As you walk down this narrow lane you will be afforded views over the village of Kilminster and surrounding countryside.

10. At the bottom of Gore Lane you will arrive back at Jubilee Green. Turn right and continue until you reach Hurfords Stores. Turn left and walk back up past the church on your right until you arrive back at the Village Hall Car Park.

*Turkey Oak Tree*



# Walk 2

## Axe Valley & Stop Line (approx 3.6 miles – 5.8 km)

**Experience the wide flat expanse of the Axe Valley and stroll along the banks of the Rivers Axe and Yarty. The land is so flat here that the rivers meander back and forth across the valley. The straighter footpaths here head away from the rivers banks at several points only to rejoin them further on. Take time on this walk to just stop and observe a wide variety of wildlife that enjoys this landscape and environment. Also to be seen en-route are defensive features and gun emplacements – which were built in 1940 as part of the Taunton Stop Line; a Second World War defensive line that ran from coast to coast north-south for approx 50 miles. It was designed *“to stop an enemy’s advance from the west and in particular a rapid advance supported by armoured fighting vehicles (up to the size of a German medium tank) which may have broken through the forward defences.”***

**A word of warning: The height of the rivers is very much affected by the amount of rainfall in the preceding few hours. After periods of heavy rain up-stream the Yarty and Axe both flood across much of the Axe Valley making this walk potentially dangerous and so we would advise against making this walk during such events. The walk is also across fields used for grazing – so one must beware of cattle and sheep and make sure that dogs are kept under control.**

1. Starting from the Village Hall turn left as you leave the car park walk along Whitford Road immediately passing The Kilminster Boulder (dug out of a quarry in the village and said to be 100,000,000 years old). With St. Giles’ Church (if you have time divert into the churchyard and visit the Millennium Garden at the rear) and the primary school on your left and then Hurfords Stores and Post Office on your right you are in the middle of a Conservation Area with traditional cottages surrounding the village green with the brook running through it.
2. Follow the road up a gentle incline before turning left along a marked Public Byway. Beware: this metalled track is used by heavy lorries from time to time. It is also part of the Sustrans Stop Line cycle path which will eventually run from Seaton to Weston-Super-Mare so also be aware of the occasional cyclist.

3. Leaving the village behind you glimpse views across the picturesque Axe Valley towards Axminster as you descend down a gentle slope to the valley floor. Passing an engineering works on your left and Water Works on the right continue through the first of many combined gate and cattle grids along the well-marked cycle track through farm land. Take time to look around. If you look back to Kilminster you will see that it is almost invisible as the houses nestle amongst the trees. The track eventually takes you under the A35 (head room 5 feet 9 inches) and close to the River Yarty before coming to a small wooded area and then a small gentle slope up to Trafalgar Way. Take care here as the road is not well signed and not visible as you walk up the track which leads you directly on to the road – there is no barrier!

4. At this point there is a choice – taking a circular route across the valley and back to this point before continuing across the road via Axe Valley Wildlife Park.

5. To take the circular route turn right and cross the bridge over the Yarty and then step over the crash barrier and you will see a metal kissing gate leading into a field. The path heads southwards alongside the edge of the meandering River Yarty. Despite the proximity of the A35 it is very pleasant walking next to the river observing the abundant fish, birds and other wildlife. Proceed through the kissing gate at the far end of the field and then under the A35. The head room is restricted - starting at about 5 foot and reducing to about 4 foot.

6. The route of the path is not clear but you should head away from the river bank diagonally across the field towards the distant end of the hedge which can be seen to your left – where there is a finger post and the Yarty has meandered back to the path. At this point the Yarty and Axe are close – but do not quite join but may do so in a few years.

7. The path becomes more obvious here (or are they tracks used by the cattle?) as one heads towards a raised footbridge that takes you over the River Axe. The footbridge is well constructed with wooden steps up and wooden hand rails.

8. The path to the left takes you upstream initially close to the banks of the River Axe crossing several small foot bridges across drainage ditches and back under the A35. From the footbridge after the A35, head straight across the field towards the left edge of the trees in the far right corner. These trees in fact cover a disused railway embankment (the branch line from Axminster to Lyme Regis via Compyne). At the top of the embankment

can be seen concrete “teeth” protruding at an angle. These were installed during WWII to hinder tanks and other vehicles.

9. In the last field one can see a 6lb Gun Emplacement – another part of the WWII Taunton Stop Line defensive position. In the event of an invasion from the West during WWII this would have been manned to fire at enemy traffic approaching from the other side of the Axe heading east. The River itself forming a natural barrier with vehicles having to use the bridges.

10. Turning left to walk along Trafalgar Way one then crosses the River Axe and on the far side of the bridge one can see the remains of a “bridge block” construction. There would have been one of these on each side of the road and would have been used simply to create a physical barrier to enemy traffic by inserting and supporting something like railway lines. The bridge would also have been mined ready to be blown up if necessary to impede enemy traffic. As one crosses the bridge one can see the tower of The Minster and Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in the centre of Axminster.

11. The walk then takes you along Trafalgar Way which is part of the historic route used to carry dispatches with the news of the Battle of Trafalgar overland from Falmouth to the Admiralty in London in 1805. There is a plaque commemorating this fact at the Village Hall.

12. Heading back towards Kilminster take the concreted track to Axe Valley Wildlife Park. The path splits three ways, take the middle path between the buildings and on to Balls Dairy. On your left opposite the house and over the stream is a stile. Turning right, historically the path followed the hedge on the right passing over the small stream in two places, but if the field is grassed you can proceed up the field passing the fishing lake on your left and at the top left hand corner you will find another stile with steps on the far side. (You may notice another marked footpath on the right of the field over a stream this leads back down to a further footpath in the bottom left corner of that field, this path leads to another short walk over Coryton Park land. The field boundary hedge has been changed so is not as per map).

13. Climb the steps and you will see a house to your left and young spruce trees directly ahead, walk through the trees and you will shortly arrive on a concrete path and gate with Millers Farm Shop on your left.

14. Cross the A35 on to Whitford Road passing the playing field and magnificent Monterey Pine on your right before arriving back at the Village Hall.



# Walk 3

## Haddon Corner – Fernwood Farm (approx 1.4 miles – 2.2 km)



Although Kilminster is hilly this circular walk is relatively flat, keeps to tarmaced roads, but nevertheless provides lovely views of the Axe Valley and Estuary. (There is one section for about 1/2 km with approx 7% ascent). These are Devon lanes narrow in places so it is best to avoid school run time. Hedges can be high during the summer months but there are gateways that provide excellent views. The road can have surface mud in places.

**Parking – the walk is on the border of Kilminster and Shute and you find the start by travelling up the Shute Road and you find the start by travelling up the Shute Road. There is a small parking space on the right at the far end of Mount Hungary (at the start of the track leading to The Beacon). There is a car park further along the Shute Road, (marked on the map but no road sign) the entrance is a sharp turn to the right just as the road bends left and descends.**

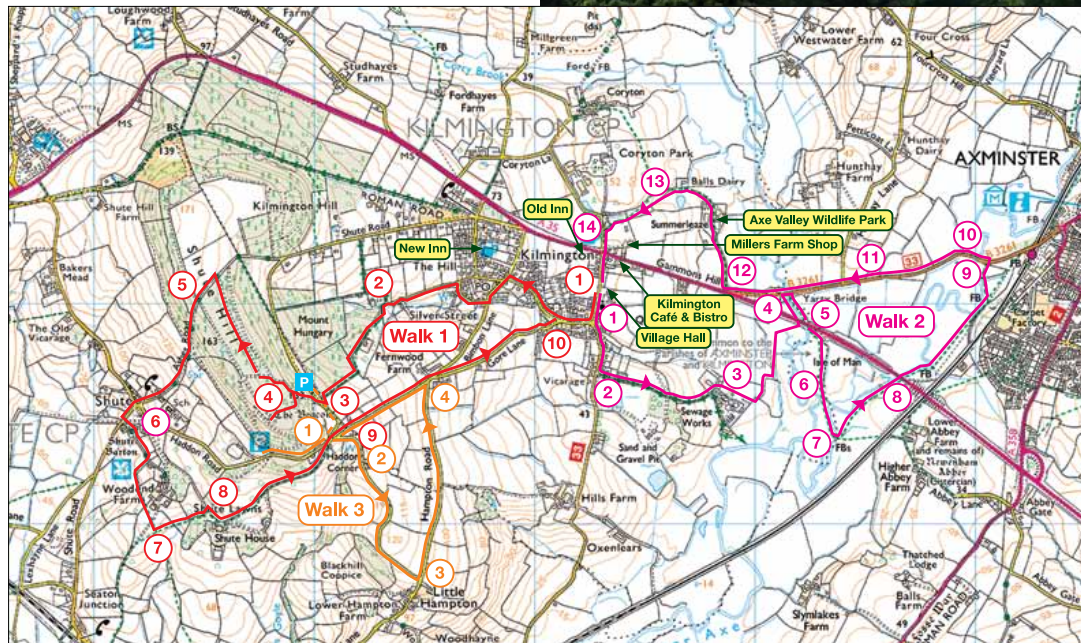
1. The walk starts at Haddon Corner (junction of roads – signpost Kilminster, Shute, Hampton, Whitford). Coming from the car park you will get glimpses of the coast as you pass the house on the right. Coming from The Beacon parking area, on the left there is a gate that provides a view of the west end of Kilminster with Axminster to the distant right and views of the countryside beyond.

2. At Haddon Corner there is a lovely view of the Axe Estuary with Axmouth to the left and Seaton to the right. Turning back to the road take the right fork (Hampton & Whitford). A short distance along this road, just past the house on the left there is a gateway on the right, if you are lucky and quiet you may just notice deer resting in the long grass. There is then a short gradient, at the top a gateway on your left provides a view of distant hills across the Axe Valley, a little further on a gate on your right provides a view of Shute Stables and Shute House amongst the trees. Deer may well be grazing near the far side of the field to your right.

3. Follow the road which gradually descends to the junction of Hampton Road and turn left. Along this road, from gateways on your right, you can see across the Axe Valley plus views of Kilminster Church as you near the end. Towards the end of this road the banks to the side of the road become higher and in spring these are covered with primroses.

4. On reaching the next junction turn left, the Kilminster Village sign can be seen directly in front. This is the start of the long upward incline, there are however two gateways, one about halfway up and the second about three-quarter along the way, which can provide places to rest and enjoy the view. On reaching the top you will see the Haddon Corner signpost, the starting point.

River Axe Estuary





# Walk 4

## Shute Woods and the Roman Road. (approx 2.5 miles – 4 km)

**This walk requires sturdy boots, shoes or wellingtons, due to some muddy and rough paths.**

1. This walk commences at Kilminster Village Hall opposite the playing field. Turn left and note the rare and huge boulder on the bank of the car park, then pass St. Giles' Church (always open to visitors) with Kilminster Primary School set back next to the Church. Further on with The Green on your left and Hurfords Stores and Post Office opposite turn right and travel up The Street.

2. On the left you will see a plaque depicting the numerous flowers that grow on the banks of the stream that runs alongside The Street - If you are lucky you may see trout which are returning to this stream. After a short distance pass Jubilee Green on your left and a now redundant telephone box adopted and refurbished by Kilminster Parish.

3. Continue up and along The Street, pausing at the junction with George Lane to look back down the hill at the view beyond, then follow the road to left and then right until you come to The Hill on your right. Turn right and note the running water outlet on the left side of the road. This is a piped outlet from a spring behind Kate's Well in Shute Road and for many years was used by a large number of parishioners for their drinking water – until it was deemed unsatisfactory in December 2000.

4. Pass the New Inn on your right where the road narrows before passing Balfour and Salisbury Terraces – named after Prime Ministers of the day and built in the second half of the 1800s. When you reach the crossroads turn left onto Shute Road, the Common is immediately visible. Take the left fork with the Common on your right, many wild plants can be found as parts of this area are left uncut for wildlife. Further up Shute

Road is the award-winning Birchwood Farm with a herd of Holstein Friesian cows.

5. A short way after the farm turn left down a footpath and, at the bottom, turn right up Soggy/Boggy Lane a normally muddy path with surface water running down and across the path to a water fall on the left hand side. Walking up this path you will note Rhododendron Ponticum bordering the path together with Crocosmia and Foxgloves.

6. At the top turn left onto the road and shortly after on the right you will see the Public Footpath sign. Follow this path, covered by Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Larch and Holly trees, until you reach a stile, turn right down a very uneven path which will bring you back to Shute Road. Bear left down the road until you see wooden steps on your left. Take this path along the tree line (not across the field as marked on the map) and as you proceed you will see, on your right, Axminster in the distance with farm buildings in the foreground.

7. This footpath brings you to 4 deep steps on the right leading down to a kissing gate, proceed along the path to a stile and on to Roman Road – part of the Fosse Way that linked Exeter to Lincoln and it is said was the western frontier of Roman rule in Iron Age Britain. You are now about to walk a small section of the old Turnpike Road, which possibly has changed little since it was bypassed in the 1840s. It was along this road that Lieutenant John Richards Lapenotière the Royal Navy officer who, having observed the Battle of Trafalgar on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805, carried the dispatches of the victory and the death of Admiral Nelson from Falmouth to London, a distance of 271 miles in 37 hours.

8. Turn right and follow this road down to Shute Road passing the northern edge of Kilminster Common on your right. As you continue down Shute Road it is worth noting the houses on your right many of which were built before 1840; their names indicating their previous functions and importance of this road.



*Roman Road*

9. At the bottom of Shute Road you will see, on your left, the Memorial which bears the names of the Kilminster men who perished in the 2 World Wars.

10. Take the footpath alongside A35 and immediately after the Old Inn turn right at the crossroads onto Whitford Road and back to Kilminster Village Hall.

# Walk 5

## Corry Brook, River Yarty & Beckford Bridge (approx 9.6 km)



*The Painted Lady butterfly, a common summer visitor to the Kilmingston area*

**This walk is via picturesque pasture land and if you are lucky you can see kingfishers along the River Yarty and, at the right time of the year, fish leaping the Salmon Ladder – probably sea trout. It is likely to be muddy in parts and at one stage you climb 110m in approximately 1km but the views are worth it. Cattle may well be grazing in the fields you walk and it may pay to have a walking stick to hold down any electric cattle wire.**

1. The walk commences from the Village Hall turning right as you leave the car park. Cross the A35 and continue along the road passing Millers Farm Shop on your right, follow the road left around the edge of Coryton Park and you will come to a road junction on your left. Follow the road to the right, shortly after the road bends sharply left but you continue towards the farm buildings in front and to the left, with a house (Coryton View) and Public Footpath sign on your right.

2. As you enter the farmyard turn immediately left, you might be greeted by the exuberant barking dogs, you will see a track descending down to the green pasture (this can be very muddy). As you reach the bottom of the short track you will see a footbridge, well worth a pause on the bridge to take in the view of the meandering Corry Brook. Head up the slope to the right of the small copse, then take the middle gateway (there is an un-gated field to the left and second gate to the right into another field). The path takes you down a grass track bordered by hedgerows on either side. At the bottom you are greeted by the lovely view of the stepping stones across the River Yarty and to the right the dry footbridge crossing.

3. On the far side of the bridge there are the Public Footpath signs pointing left and right, you turn left with the river on your left and Higher Westwater Farm House on your right. Follow the farm buildings around and up a short slope until you are about level with the bottom edge of the left-hand building. Turn left and head directly across the field towards the gap in the trees, a little to the right of the electricity pole. The footpath is more distinct here, go through the gateway (there is also a stile) turn left and follow the wire fence the short distance to the river and you will find the Salmon Ladder, the fencing stops you getting close but with care you can see it. Move back into the field a short distance and on the far side of this field in the lower left corner you will notice a small gate, pass through the gate and across a small bridge and on the far side of the field you will see a small metal gate.

4. Once through this gate the going is level with just one gated footbridge crossing over a ditch. It is understood that the Environmental Agency has been busy improving the gravel bed of the river to improve fish hatching and the evidence can clearly be seen. Take time to enjoy the tranquillity and the

butterflies that abound, possibly because of the abundance of Himalayan Balsam. The path keeps close to the river and you follow it until you come to a stile. Over the stile and onto the road, turn left and almost immediately you will see Beckford Bridge on your right, a packhorse bridge long used by travellers and livestock before the days of vehicles.

5. Follow the road a short distance until the junction and go directly opposite onto the track marked "unsuitable for motors". Continue a short distance up this track and on your right you will come to a Public Footpath notice at a field gateway. You have a choice either to continue up the track or enter the gate and follow the Public Footpath across the field; both join again after about 1/2 km. If it is hot and sunny the original track provides shade for about half the distance. If you take the public footpath across the field you keep to the left hedge until the hedge bends to the left, at this point if you continue in a straight line you will find a gate on the far side. Go through the gate and head for the electric pylon on the skyline. As you climb up the slope you will see a gate at the far left corner of the field, this is the point that you rejoin the original track. You may wish to take a short break at this point to enjoy the view across the Devon countryside.

6. Continue up the track until you come to the road, turn left and follow around the edge of Danes Hill, the top of which is at 192m. The walk is now down hill on the road; (you do pass three footpath signs on the right, two of which are covered by Walk 6). Continue on down until you come to a road junction, turn right and on your left you have a lovely view across the Axe Valley and the route of the first part of your walk.

7. At the bottom of the steep hill you again cross Corry Brook, take the right fork as the main road bends to the left and climb up the hill. At the junction of the lane go straight across and up the path; this leads out directly onto the A35 at the top of the village. Cross the A35 and continue up The Hill until the small crossroads. Continue straight across and along The Hill passing the New Inn on your left. Turn left at the end onto The Street. Continue down through the village and turn left at the bottom by Hurfords Stores/ Post Office (ignore the Post Office sign on the map as it moved years ago); after a short distance pass the Church on your right and you are back at the Village Hall Car Park.



Top – The Village Green (Walk 3)  
Middle – Silver Street (Walk 1)  
Bottom – Stepping Stones over the River Yarty (Walk 5)



# Walk 6

## Corry Brook, Naish's Lane & Loughwood House (approx 4.1 miles – 6.6 km)

Taking you along the Corry Brook valley and across farm land, covering the north eastern corner of Kilmington, this walk offers a variety of terrain and wonderful views from Danes Hill. Although some of the walk is along metalled roads they are, in the main, country lanes with little traffic and which nevertheless still offer some interesting views. However a word of warning; the start and end of this walk takes you along the busy A35 trunk road and, for part of this section, there is no path. While there is a wide grass verge it can be quite difficult to walk along if it has not been recently cut.

There are numerous stiles on this walk with smooth wooden steps which can be very slippery. Please take care when using them. As this walk takes you across and along the banks of Corry Brook it can get very wet and muddy underfoot and so appropriate footwear is essential.

1. The walk starts from the top of the village at the junction of The Hill and A35. There is limited parking at the New Inn (if you intend to patronise it) and on village roads. Turning left, take the path along the A35 heading west towards Honiton. At the end of the path cross the A35 with care and proceed in the same direction walking on the verge facing the oncoming traffic before taking the track signposted Fordhayes and head towards the group of houses that can be seen.

2. Follow the gravel path that leads to the left between the houses until you reach a gate on the left which appears to go into a garden. The footpath is sign-posted and takes you to the right alongside the garden to a stile and into a field beyond.

3. There is no obvious path but head towards the lower left corner then towards and across a bridge over the Corry Brook. Turning left follow the brook upstream for a short distance before heading to a stile that can be seen in the hedge to the right. This is a small bridge over a ditch; there is a second stile taking you into the next field.

4. Head North East across the field towards and through a gap in the hedge and then follow the hedgerow on the left hand edge of the field to a gate that can be seen at the far side.

5. Although the "historic" footpath route takes you up-hill towards Clifthorne Farm and then back down, the fingerpost signs now point across the field taking you slightly down hill to the bottom left corner of this field and back to Corry Brook where there is another stile with a Footpath direction sign. Follow the hedge along the bottom of the next two fields and carry straight on past a footbridge on your left over the brook (that path takes you towards Marsh Farm).



Loughwood House

6. The path now follows the hedgerow on your right as you start heading away from the brook and uphill. After a short distance head right over the gate in the hedge and across the next field, still heading uphill, to the bridge that you will see in the middle of the far hedge. (The OS map shows the path following a hedge to the right: this hedge has been removed). In the next field head north east to the top left hand corner where there is another gate.

7. In the next field, as the hill becomes steeper (take time to look back at the view as you climb higher), the path should again be to the top left hand corner but the gap or gate in the hedge has been closed, instead cross into the next field by climbing over the gate in the middle of the hedgerow. Although there is a rough track in this field the path does not follow it but heads right along the hedge before turning left across the middle of the field until you rejoin the track. This takes you to some rough steps on the left up through a planted area to a stile and onto Nower Road.

8. Turning left follow the lane uphill and as it starts to curve to the right take the track (Naish's Lane) down on the left passing a house on your left. The track curves to the right down a marked bridleway with high hedges on both sides. Pass through a gate leading to a field and then along a gully (sunken path) between two fields. (Beware this track is full of loose stones hidden in the undergrowth). Through a second and third gate keep to the hedge on the left of the next two fields (there are two bridleway signs showing the way) before reaching another gate which takes you to the buildings of Stonehayes Farm. Head straight down the concreted track, keeping the farm on your left and then turn left, heading south along Lower Lane. After a short distance the lane crosses Corry Brook but if the road is flooded take the footbridge leading into the field opposite before returning to the road.

9. At the offset crossroads take the road opposite and head uphill to the National Trust owned Loughwood Meeting House; the 17th century thatched Baptist meeting house nestled in the side of the hill (open all year from 11am to 4pm).

10. Return to the offset crossroads and head right, eastwards, along Studhayes Road passing Marsh Farm on your left and then Studhayes Farm on your right before rising to, and turning left along, the A35 back to the start of the walk.





*View looking North East over Kilmington*

## History of Kilmington

The northern part of Kilmington parish lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and most of the rest of the parish lies within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The earliest written record of Kilmington village is in the Domesday Book, as the Manor of Chinemetona, part of the Hundred of Axminster. The village dates from about A.D. 925.

Coryton Park was the site of the first Manor House, from where the Lord of the Manor dispensed justice.

Kate's Well in Shute Road was at some point in ancient history a holy well, dedicated to the patron saint St. Katherine. Its waters were supposed to have healing properties for eye ailments.

The parish church of St. Giles was first mentioned in 1266, when Sir Nicholas de Bonvill gave a house "to the paryshe of Kilmington to sell ale upon to the maytenance of the chapel". The present church dates from 1861/62, when it was rebuilt on the site of the previous one.

In the sixteenth century Kilmington consisted of a manor, 2 houses, 41 places, and 8 cottages.

In the turbulent seventeenth century, the Baptist congregation was founded, and because of persecution, removed to Loughwood on the boundary with Dalwood parish, where the old meeting house still stands. There is evidence that some of the Baptist congregation took part in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion in 1685.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a turnpike stood at the bottom of Gammons Hill to levy tolls in order to maintain the roads. The main road to Honiton, and thence through to Exeter, ran up Gammons Hill, along the Roman Road, and through Shute Woods. It was a long pull uphill, and horses were provided at the bottom of Shute Road to refresh the team. It was along this route that an officer travelled from Falmouth to London bearing news of the great naval victory at Trafalgar. The road now followed by the A35, around and avoiding Shute and Kilmington Hills, was established in the 1840s.

The walks cover both the northern and southern parts of the Parish and extend into the neighbouring parishes of Axminster, Shute and Dalwood and includes the historic sites of Loughwood House, Shute Barton (National Trust), Shute Armada Beacon House and St. Giles' Church.

Many of the walks include paths across grazing farm land. Please take care if cows are present especially if walking with a dog.

**Please remember** to leave all gates as you find them.

Most walks commence from the Village Hall but it is easy to pick up the walk wherever you begin or end.

Two walks include private woodland on permissive paths which the owner reserves the right to close. Normally there is no restriction but it is managed woodland subject to tree felling from time to time and the occasional heavy vehicles that can churn-up the tracks.



*Top – Looking west to Kilmington from Axe Valley*

*Middle – The Street*

*Bottom – Corry Brook*



# 6 CIRCULAR WALKS in and around Kilminster

Kilminster is situated on the western side of the River Axe valley some 2 miles from the market town of Axminster.

**Walk 1** Kilminster, the Beacon & Shute Barton (3.5 miles approx)

**Walk 2** Axe Valley & Stop Line (3.6)

**Walk 3** Haddon Corner & Fernwood (accessibility walk) (1.4)

**Walk 4** Shute Woods & Roman Road (2.5)

**Walk 5** Corry Brook, River Yarty & Beckford Bridge (6)

**Walk 6** Corry Brook, Naish's Lane & Loughwood House (4.1)

You can do these walks singly or, if energetic you can combine them by using the maps to navigate between them.

## Refreshments, parking and bus services.

**Refreshments** are available during opening hours at the New Inn, Old Inn, Millers Farm Shop, Kilminster Bistro and Axe Valley Wildlife Park. If you intend to patronise one of these establishments they will be happy for you to park on their premises. There is also a village store. **Parking** is also available at the Village Hall and possibly on the village roads as long as it would not cause an obstruction to vehicles and properties. (See map for walks 1, 2 & 3 for parking and refreshments)

There are **Bus Stops** on the A35 at both ends of the village (East-Axminster & West-Honiton). For bus times call Traveline 0871 200 22 33

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Production of this leaflet would not have been possible without the support of East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund, Kilminster Parish Council and the following Kilminster businesses: Axe Valley Wildlife Park, Cranberries, Kilminster Bistro, Kilminster Cross Service Station, Millers Farm Shop, Old Symes Cottages, The New Inn & The Old Inn.

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