

# Sidford to Sidmouth and return

Contrary to my preference of circular walks, this is a return and back route but still well worth it. It starts off by parking in the Blue Ball pub car park on the main road as you enter Sidford from the Beer direction. (You can always pop in for a pint at the end to repay them for the use!). This walk is great when other areas are muddy as the surface is all gravel. It is only 2 miles each way, but you will probably add another mile or two wandering around Sidmouth.

Leave the car park and head into Sidford on the pavement, crossing the 12<sup>th</sup> century bridge. Carry on past the Salty Monk and turn left into Byes Lane, beside the Farmhouse Cottage BnB. Pass some older than modern houses, then go left on Warrens Mead to reach the playing fields. The path skirts the edge of the playing field and then passes rugby, football and hockey pitches as it heads south towards Sidmouth. You will soon pass or enter Margaret's Meadow (either route is fine) before reaching the west bank of the river Sid. You can't really go too far wrong, just make sure at some point you cross one of the three footbridges to get onto the east side of the river.

At the end of the path you reach Salcombe Road beside the Byes Toll House and Gate. Cross here to enter Milford Road and head for the footbridge, stopping to enjoy cars driving through the long ford. At the end of Mill Street, Turn left into Riverside Road which brings you down to a park called The Ham. Following this you will reach the eastern end of Sidmouth sea front. Turning right along the esplanade will bring you lots of options of beach and the shops of the town centre.

Return by a similar route. Instead of heading back to the sea front of course, you could rejoin the path from partway up the town by cutting along a side road to the right until you hit the path.



