

A Circular Walk inland from Beer

A 5 mile round trip north from Beer village passing along both sides of the valley through which flows Beer Brook. This stream reaches the sea at Seaton Hole, and can make the walk a little muddy near Gatcombe Farm. The walk can be extended into Holyford Woods Nature Reserve from the top point.



Leave Bosun's Rest and walk up Beer High Street, away from the sea.

Between St Michaels Church and the Mariners Hall, turn up the very steep Church Hill to reach Long Hill. Turn right here to keep going up to reach New Road. Now turn left to go down the hill a short way before taking the public footpath on the right beside Tanglewood and Eastcroft. Head up this where it will shortly become tarmac before reaching a road – Stovar Long Lane. Go left here for 100m and just before the left hand in the road, enter the public footpath gate on the right signposted ‘Water Tower’.

Keeping the road to your left, head into the next field via the gate in the upper far corner. Now follow multiple footpath marker posts, initially keeping near to the upper part of the fields, with the valley bottom 200 m or so below on your right. You will notice that the route travels in the direction of a white wind turbine in the distance.

After a few mins pass up through a chalky gateway, then bear right down through a field edge, still following the waymarkers. At the bottom of the next field you bear right to go over a grassy mound then down to the buildings of Couchill Farm farm. Keeping them on your right, continue along the path to pass near Beer Brook. Go through the next gate on the right side then keep to the left hand edge of this field to reach another gate. Head right through this gate along a narrow overgrown path under the buildings of Gatcombe Farm. Due to the presence of the brook this part can sometimes be a bit wet. Emerge onto the wide, chalky farm track and head up away from the farm. When the track curves right, keep going up the grassy path to reach a metal farm gate. Head through (or over!) this and head to the far right corner of the next field. You can now see the water tower behind the hedge on your left side.

There are two gates out of this field into the same lane for some reason. The first brings you opposite to the gate you must pass through to continue the walk back towards the sea, but before you do so, head down the short lane in the direction of the road. Pass the second gate from the field then look for another gap in the hedge on your left. Go through this to reach xx. This picnic spot has great views over Seaton, Axmouth village, the river Axe and it's trams. If you head to the far end near the water tower, you can cross to the Esso garage for a drink and maybe a well deserved pasty.

Back at the gate, head through keeping the field and views of Seaton to your left. After a couple hundred metres enter a gate into a wood. You are now heading back down the valley, but on the other side. After a few minutes you reach a crossroads of tracks. Turning left would take you to Seaton, so take either of the two straight ahead, they both join up soon after.

Continue to head downhill, quite steeply at the end passing a white house below you on the right, then enter the road at a water works building. Turn right, then around 50 metres later this joins the main beer to Seaton road just to the right of the junction with Old Beer Road. You now have 2 choices...

The least strenuous (blue dotted line on the map) is to head right, up the hill to return to Beer, turning down the footpath just before Long Hill which will bring you out at Jubilee Gardens above Beer Beach. Warning - there is however no pavement up this road and so you will need to take care of traffic for the 5 minutes which you will be walking on the verge.

Alternatively cross over and head down Old Beer Road to reach Seaton Hole. The cafe may be open and you could go down the slope to the beach and back. The walk however turns right and heads steeply up Beer Hill, crossing Beer Brook again. Halfway up the hill, look for the fenced footpath on the left which will return you to Jubilee gardens in Beer with some great views firstly over Seaton Beach, then Beer Beach.