

The Ashton Round

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.5 Km) over country lanes, footpaths and fields.

Time: 1.5 to 2 hours

The walk: Leave the Cridford Inn, turn right and keep straight on where the main road bears left uphill, past a white cottage, 'Franciscott', and then a garage, to a footpath, 'A'. Turn right, up the cobbled path between several cottages. Ascend the 46 log steps. At the top, carry on uphill with the fence on you right, to a stile. Bear left after the stile and follow the left edge of the field to another stile and a green lane. Go left, past a gate on your right to a stile on the right. Follow the left edge of the field up to a farm lane.

Go left down the lane and continue straight, past buildings on both sides, down a grassy slope to a farm gate. 'B'. Go through this gate following the field's right edge steeply down, passing through a gap into the next field. Continue down, past a marker post, to the small gate in the corner of the field just over a simple footbridge. Once through the gate, bear left, then right along the track with the disused railway line and then the River Teign to your left. Follow this until it joins a farm track at a shallow ford and continue past a farm until you reach the main road in Lower Ashton at 'C'.

Turn right and follow the road uphill past (or not) The Manor Inn and stay on this lane as it climbs up towards Higher Ashton. Just before this you will pass on your left, 'The Great Barn Devon', a popular wedding venue. Continue, ignoring the left turn into the village at 'D'. Carry on up the road and look out for a very sharp right-hander, after which the lane steepens around the following left bend. Keep ears sharp for traffic. Carry on along the lane, past Coombe Farm on you right; after Glebe Cottage on you right, there is another sharp right turn uphill, followed shortly by a footpath on the next bend; turn right, cross the stile and go up the path. 'E'. The path rises steeply through trees; cross the stile into a field and bear right, across to another stile. Cross this and head towards the corner of the field and through the gate into a lane (muddy field by gate). Cross the stile opposite and head across the field, as per the finger post, to a gate into the next which has an electric fence keeping you to the edge of the field. The path drops down to the left and soon crosses the outflow from the large pond on your left and then becomes a track. The right of way leaves the track shortly, up 3 steps (on your right), the path rises through trees to a field and a low electric fence. A post indicates the direction to take and once over the crest of the field, cross the electric fence into the trees, down to a stile and a fenced path. Follow this to a gate which opens into an often-muddy field. Turn right, follow the right edge of the field to the gate within a gate. The track from here on is usually muddy, down to the road. 'F'. Turn right and then left at Trusham Cross, proceed down the lane to Trusham and the Cridford Inn.

