

Walk 16 – Hardington Marsh (Borderlands) – Description

Start and finish: The walk starts from (A). Parking is available at the triangle signposted Higher Halstock Leigh.

Start to Pear Tree House: Follow the road signed Higher Halstock Leigh, passing Sydney Farm, enjoy the view of the lake on the right, also note the Bridleway on the left where the route returns (O). Continue for 300m uphill.

Pear Tree Farm to Hardington Marsh Railway Bridge: The road becomes a track that proceeds uphill past Pear Tree House (B) and a restored thatched barn on the right. Follow the track until it narrows (C) to a bridleway through Hows Coppice. After crossing a stream, the boundary between Dorset and Somerset, turn right to leave the Coppice (D). Follow the left-hand edge of the field to join a track and follow this for 1km. Cross Hardington Marsh Railway bridge before turning sharp left onto the Monarch's way (E).

Hardington Marsh Railway Bridge to Whitevine Farm: Follow the footpath, part of the Monarch's Way, through a field then left to cross the railway line - beware of the obvious. Over the stile turn right, keeping the hedge and railway line on the right, to cross another stile (F). Stay right and enter a large field. Aim for the centre of the field, then bear right to a footbridge and kissing gate (G). Cross the next field through a gate (H) into another field and then a combined field/pedestrian gate onto the drive next to Whitevine Farm.

Whitevine Farm to Sydney Farm: Beyond the farm turn left onto a track then as it bears right up the hill, turn left across a grass area to a field gate (I). Keep to the right and ascend through a delightful coppice to a wooden gate. Immediately take the field gate on the left (J), re-entering Dorset. Here there are two alternatives:

- Take the bridleway gate on the left and aim for the pylon which leads to a gate into Pryme Plantation (K). Leave the plantation by another gate. Bear half left in a south-easterly direction, crossing two fields through a series of gates. Cross a stream (L) (no bridge so can be wet), into another field, keep the field edge on the left, through a gate (M), or
- Alternatively continue the Monarch's Way, then 100m past Wyke Farm turn left to follow a footpath (N), enjoying the lake views to rejoin the bridleway at (M).

Sydney Farm to finish: From (M) cross a very muddy section when wet, keeping the hedge on the left, through two gates to join the road at Sydney farm. Then turn right to return to the Finish.

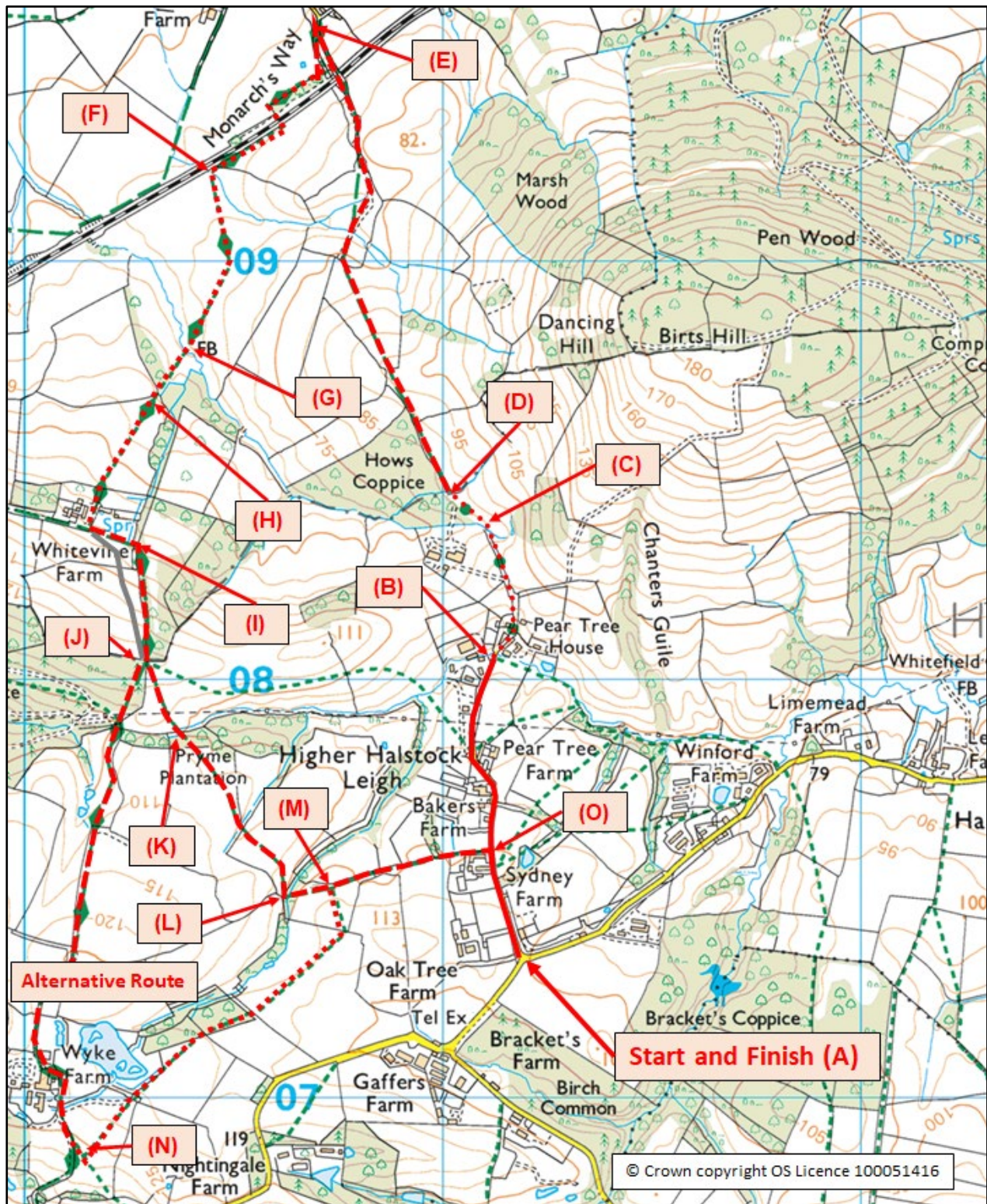


Walk 16 – Hardington Marsh (Borderlands) – Map

Distance – 7km. Total Ascent – 123m. Duration – 2hrs. Difficulty – Easy.

Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy. Especially around point (M).

Connecting Route – Monarch's Way



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11788805/Walk-16-Hardington-Marsh-Borderlands>