

Walk 7 – Crook Hill to Ryewater Round – Description

Start and finish: The recommended start point is at the foot of Crook Hill (National Trust). Cars can be parked off the road opposite Crook Hill adjacent to a modern barn (A).

Crook Hill to Home Farm: Take the gate from the road to a bridleway (B), which descends through a field with a fence on the left. The panorama of hills on the right marks the watershed of the river Yeo. After passing through two gates (C), a high hedge on the left guides the descent on a former cart track to a gate (D) which leads to a bridge over a stream. Once over the bridge, follow the track which rises to a farm gate (E).



Home Farm to Ryewater Lane: From the gate pass to the left of the farm buildings. Turn right and 10m before the Weston Road turn left through a gate onto a waymarked footpath. Head to the top of the field (F) and follow the hedge to a gate (G). Go through this gate then immediately right into a sloping field. Keep to the high side of the field with the hedge now on the left. Pass through the gate (H) at the far side of the field. Ignore the ford towards the road on the right but turn left through a gate to follow the tree lined track, with farm buildings on the right. The track which is sometimes muddy passes Ryewater Farm Nature Reserve on the left. Pass through a field gate and then a pedestrian gate (I) to enter a wood. Continue down a steep slope to a stream. Cross the stream and climb the bank to a track (J). Turn left along the track to cross a stile in the hedge into a field. Head up the field following the hedge on the right to the next stile, then across another stile, across a rubble area used for car parking, to a stile which joins Ryewater Lane (K). Turn left along the lane which leads to the T junction of the Halstock to Winyard's Gap Road. At (L) turn right up the hill to the sign for Higher Halstock Leigh. [Alternative Route: In wet weather, to avoid deep mud between (N) and (O) turn left and return along the road.]

Ryewater Lane to Finish:

At the triangle turn left (M), then take the bridleway on the left immediately past Sydney Farm (N). Follow the hedge line on the right, through two fields, then through a gateway into a field which slopes up to the south (O). Turn left and aim for the top left corner, cross a double stile, then roughly south-west through three further fields separated by waymarked gates. In the fourth field aim up the slope to Wyke Farm drive (P), turn left to follow the drive to the road, then right to return to the start at (A).

Short Excursions: Continue along the road past the National Trust's Crook Hill, and if feeling energetic, take a path to the top of the hill. Follow the road around another hill on the left. Ignore a small right-hand turning and continue to the A356 opposite the Winyard's Gap pub where refreshment is available.

