

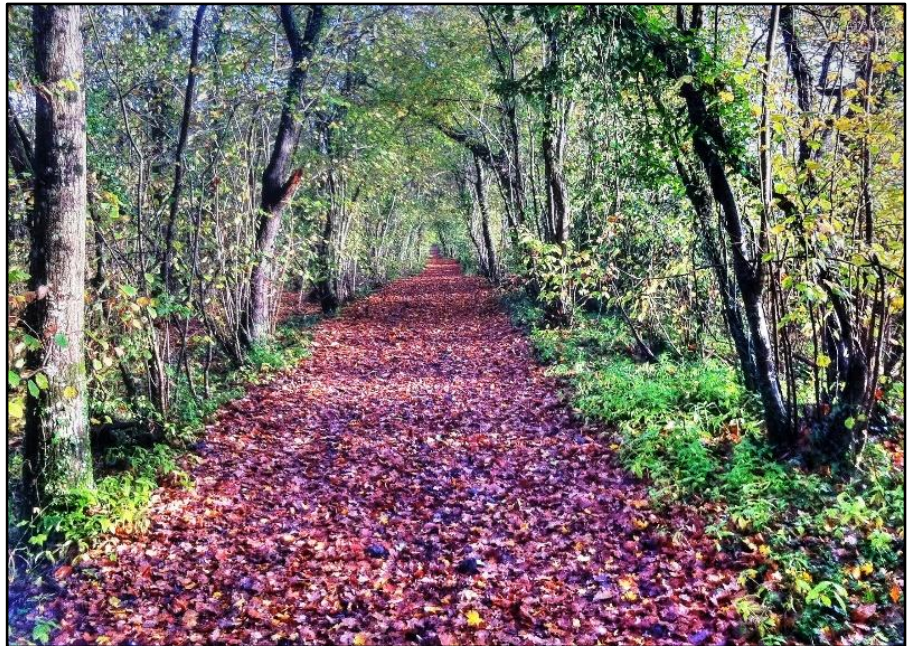
## Walk 9 – Merrylands and Common Lane – Description

**Start and finish:** Start at **(A)** on the Corscombe to Halstock road, where there is parking, taking care not to obstruct the gateway. Alternatively, park at the Fox Inn **(M)** and walk along the road to **(A)**. Please let the Inn know if using their car park during opening times and have some refreshments at the Inn on the return from the walk.

**Corscombe Mill to Clarkes Gorse:** Follow the road, past Corscombe Mill on the right, and turn left onto a marked track **(B)**. Follow the track to waymarked signpost **(C)**, turn left then quickly right over a stile into a field. Follow the footpath keeping the stream on the right, over another stile, through a gap in the hedge and across the large field, keeping left, to reach a gate and stile into Clarke's Gorse wood. **(D)**

**Clarkes Gorse to Halstock:** Proceed through Clarke's Gorse in a north-easterly direction and reach a stile into the next field. Cross this field diagonally to a gate west of Boundary Farm **(E)**. Ahead is a manege (horse school), the path hugs the outside of the fence on the left-hand side of the manege, then crosses a short open space, where a stile can be seen ahead **(F)** Cross two more stiles into a field then keep to the left, through a kissing gate, **(G)** across another field, keeping to the left and into Halstock Village **(H)** at New Inn Farm

**Common Lane to Finish:** Turn left and there is now a clear route along Common Lane. This is an ancient track that has been restored, bounded by ancient woodland and hedgerows. Look out for an information board on the right at the site of the Roman Villa **(I)**. Keep left at the top of Ocean Hill **(J)** where the lane divides. Pause here for a while and rest on a seat dedicated to the late Katharine Singleton-Smith (one of the contributors to this guide). Enjoy the view from



the field gate looking south, then carry on over Wood Fold Hill. At the bottom of the hill, watch out for the clearly signposted path **(K)** across a sleeper bridge and a stile. Follow the waymarked path to the start at **(A)**.

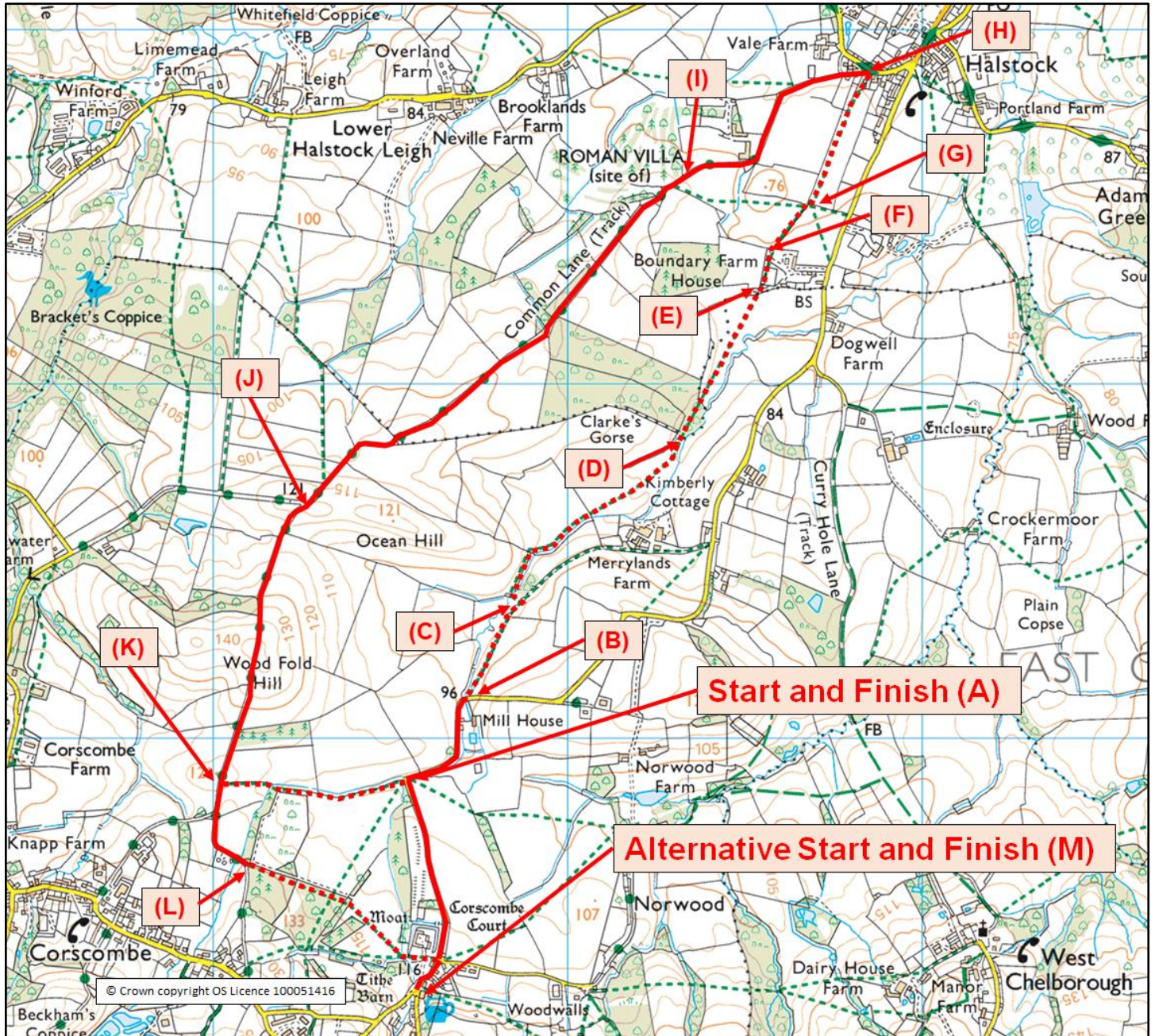
**Alternative route to Fox Inn:** To return to the Fox Inn, carry on along Common Lane, keeping left, pass the water treatment works, then take the next signposted path to the left **(L)**. Pass through a plantation and across a stile then diagonally across a field and past Corscombe Court back to the road near the Fox Inn, the alternative start **(M)**.

# Walk 9 – Merrylands and Common Lane – Map

**Distance – 6-7km. Total Ascent – 90m. Duration – 2hrs. Difficulty – Easy.**

**Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy.**

**Refreshments - <https://thefoxinnorscombe.co.uk/>**



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11726884/Walk-9-Merrylands-and-Common-Lane-Short-Route>

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11726978/Walk-9-Merrylands-and-Common-Lane-Long-Route>