

Walk 11 – Hooke and Toller Whelme – Description

Start and finish: Start and finish at **(A)**, parking can be found 200m southwest of the Toller Down crossroads towards Beaminster. There is room for parking, avoiding the field gate, and from here walk southwest 200m along the road to a field gate **(B)** on the left.

Fair Field to Burnt Bottom: Enter the field (Fair Field), follow the bridleway along the field, turning right immediately before gate **(C)** then to field corner **(D)**. Turn left through a metal field gate, then turn immediately right, following the bridleway (Park Dale) descending to the field corner **(E)**. Turn left with Westcombe Coppice on the right to reach a gate **(F)** that enters the coppice. The path through the delightful oak wood is a treat, especially at bluebell time. Leaving the coppice at **(G)**, cross a track via two small gates and continue down a green valley (Burnt Bottom). At the bottom of the second field cross a track through a gate **(H)**.

Hooke to Toller Whelme: From here curve around the field, which may be difficult with crops, so use the field edge with trees to the right and upland to left. At the far corner of the field go through a field gate into a delightful meadow **(I)** with a mown path. Ahead on the left is a building with a tennis court. Pass a new set of three standing stones and descend the path, through a small gate, to a stony section which can be wet, to cross a small bridge and join the Hooke Road **(J)**. Turn right along the road for 200m to the footpath sign to Toller Whelme **(K)** on the right.



The route now follows part of the Wessex Ridgeway. Keep the wood and then a hedge on the right until approaching the Hooke Road. Turn right through a field gate **(L)** and along the hedge on the left to a gate onto the road **(M)**. Rejoin the road, follow it for 150m then take the lane to the right **(N)**. Follow the road signposted Toller Whelme, continuing the Wessex Ridgeway and enjoying the lake views at East Farm. Look out for a finger post on the left at **(O)** opposite a sign for West Farm Cottages.

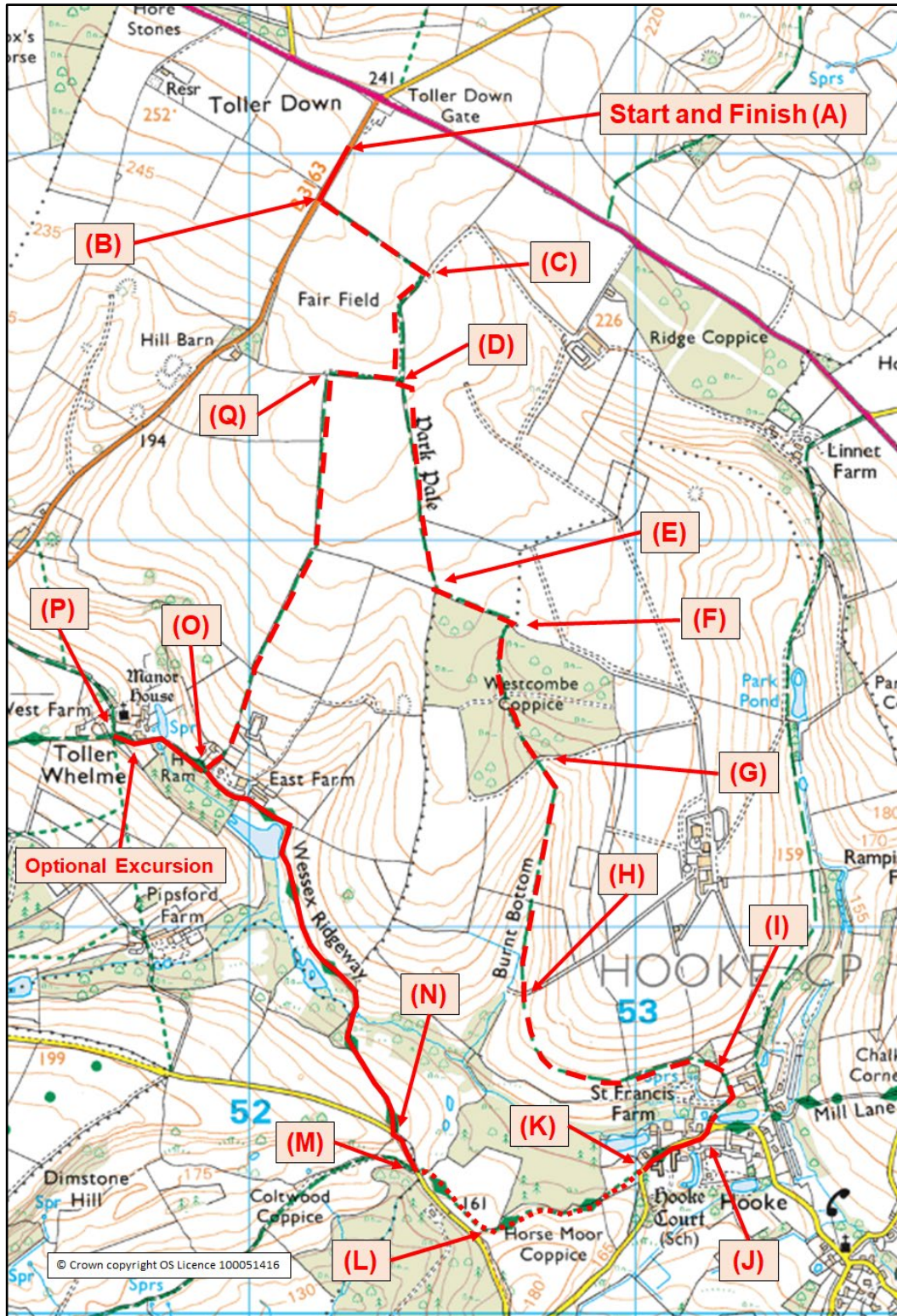


Optional Excursion From here it is worth diverting to Toller Whelme church and hamlet **(P)**. The church, built in Victorian times, belongs to the Manor House. Toller Whelme takes its name from the river Toller (the former name of the present River Hooke). Whelme means river source or spring in Anglo-Saxon. Take some time to explore the Church yard at St. John's. Return to **(O)**.

Toller Whelme to finish: From **(O)** it is quite a climb to continue uphill through several gates, keeping first to the right, then to the left-hand field edges to the last gate **(Q)** where the hill eventually flattens out. Turn right and follow the field edges to the corner **(D)**, then **(C)**, and **(B)** to rejoin the road turning right to the finish **(A)**.

Walk 11 – Hooke and Toller Whelme – Map

Distance – 7km. Total Ascent – 130m. Duration – 2hrs. Difficulty – Easy.
Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy and overgrown (Westcombe Coppice).
Connecting routes - Wessex Ridgeway



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11729063/Walk-11-Hooke-and-Toller-Whelme>