Walk 17 – Halstock to Pendomer – Description

Start and Finish: At point (A) the Halstock Village Hall car park.

Village Hall to Halstock Mill: Exit the car park and turn sharp right, signed Pendomer/Hardington. Opposite Halstock Church, go through a gate to the left across a field to Mill Cross (**B**). Turn right and follow the road to Halstock Mill. Pass in front of the pretty 18c mill house, ignore a footpath bridge on the right and head for the bridleway ahead (**C**).

Halstock Mill to Parsonage Farm: The track, part of the Macmillan Way Link, rises out of Dorset, following several turns, to reach a pair of gates (**D**) into a field. Bear right, following the right-hand tree line, to reach another gate and through a little copse, then another field. Keeping right, enjoy the views towards Pen Wood. Continue down the field entering a sheltered lane. On leaving the lane, follow the right-hand field edge to a shed. Staying right, pass through a gate, then turn right through wooden gates to Parsonage Farm (**E**).

Parsonage Farm to Pendomer: Turn left along the road, pass under the railway bridge and continue uphill to the road junction at Pendomer (F). Turn left for a short detour to the small church, St Roch, (G), on the way observing the strange carving on the old schoolhouse wall. The church is full of information, with a seat outside for a rest.

Pendomer to Abbots Hill Farm: Return to the road and continue out of Pendomer. Just past Rose Cottage, take the gate on the right (H) into a rising field. Cross the field towards another gate to the left of the facing wood. Head on up through the next two fields, hugging the right hedge. Pause at the summit for a last look at Pendomer and Somerset before heading back into Dorset. At the road (I), turn right and follow downhill and across the railway bridge. Continue with a steady

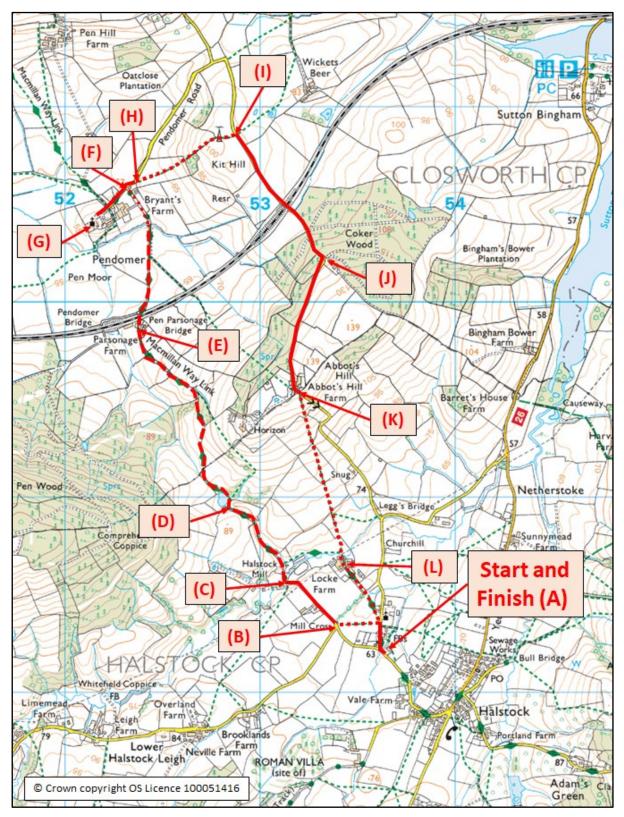


climb passing Coker Wood Cottage (J) to reach Abbots Hill Farm (K). At the field gate stop to admire the views, Halstock is to the south-east and Corscombe to the south-west.

Abbots Hill Farm to Finish: Either proceed down the steep lane to Halstock Church or continue across the fields, by crossing over the stile to left of the field gate. Head towards Locke Farm, below. Look for a stile in the hedge opposite; cross this then the next stile slightly right. Carry on downhill to the next stile, still tracking slightly right, crossing a small wooden ramp into the next field. A way-marked gap will then become visible in the hedge; go through and head for the farm track. Walk through the farmyard (L) and past a barn on the right. Take the footpath on the right beyond the barn, and head for Halstock church, back through the field at the beginning of the walk. Exit the field and turn right, then left, back to the village hall (A).

Walk 17 – Halstock to Pendomer – Map

Distance – 7km. Total Ascent – 140m. Duration - 2hrs 15 mins. Difficulty – Easy. Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy and overgrown. History – Halstock Mill and St. Roch Church. Pendomer. Connecting Routes – Macmillan Way Link.



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