

Walk 14 – Liberty Farm – Description

Start and finish: Park in Halstock village and head for Quiet Woman House (A), a former Inn named after St Juthware, who was martyred in the village in Saxon times.

Halstock to Longacre Workshop:

On the corner signposted Closworth, turn sharp left, down a narrow “no through road”, and across Bull Bridge (B). Turn into the field, crossing to the far-right hand corner, through the gap in the hedge and immediately turn right. Ahead is a stile (C) into the field crossed by Harry Fry Racing’s gallop. Cross the stile and turn left, then follow the line of the hedge round the top left-hand corner and over the stile near the gallop. Proceed along the



right-hand side of the next field, under the trees and over two stiles in succession. Cross three more fields and over the stile to the Closworth Road.

Longacre Workshop to Liberty Farm: Cross the road to the workshop (D) (Gerald Hallett Land Rover), through the yard and right of the workshop building, then over a stile into a field. Keep to the right-hand hedge and through the gate into a long sloping field. Two thirds of the way down, cross to the left-hand side, beyond the second electricity pole, and find a stile, next to large oak tree. Enter the Goyle (E) (local dialect for a steep wooded gully) and descend the slope, steep but not slippery, to a sleeper bridge. Cross with care, up the other side and negotiate the electric fence, unhooking the wire and replacing it. Head slightly east of north up the field, (the cattle will probably ignore you) and on reaching the brow of the hill look out for the farm buildings through trees at the far edge of the field. Negotiate further unhooking of electric wires, and possibly deep mud, pass along a short track with the farmhouse to the right, coming out opposite the milking parlour (F).

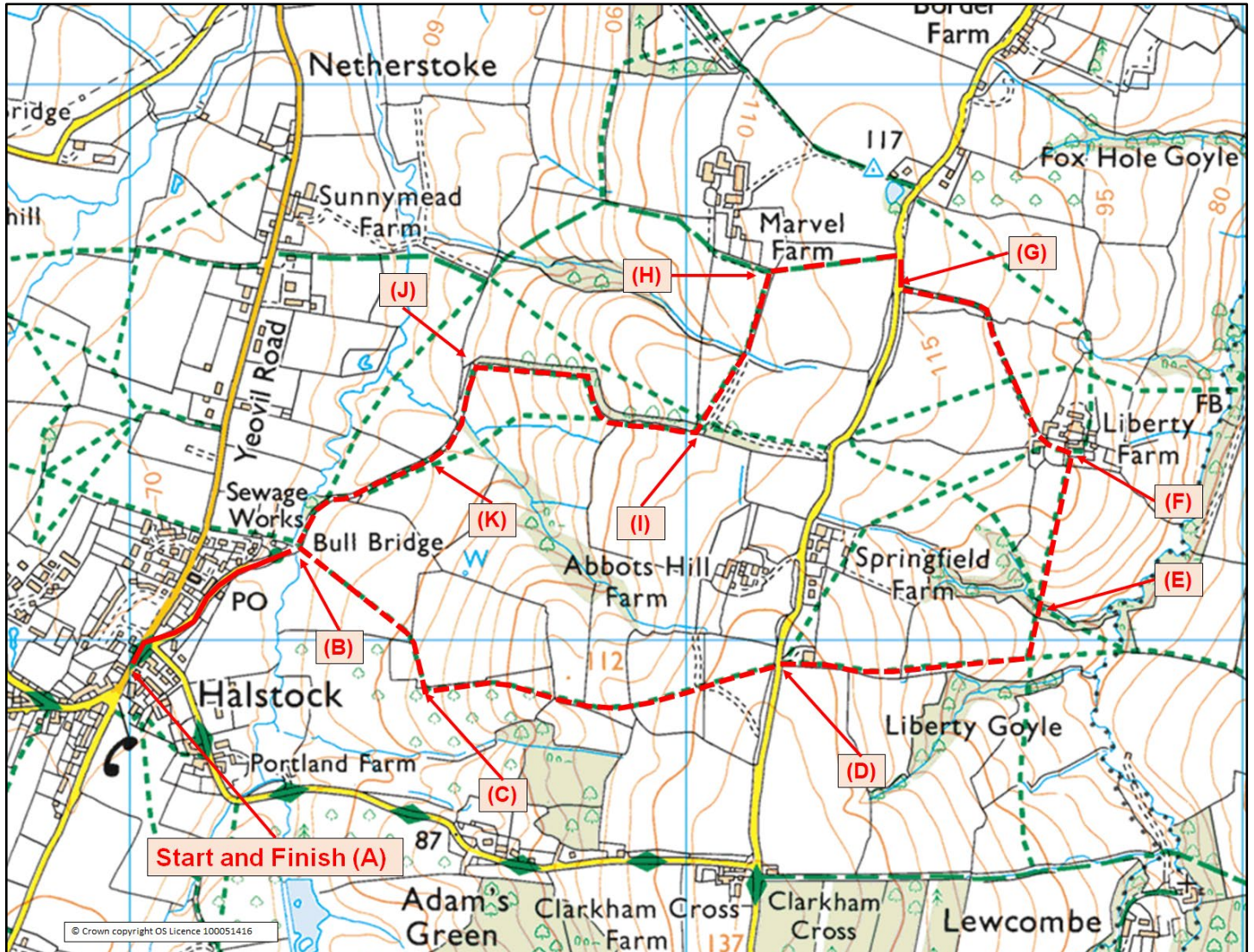
Liberty Farm to Halstock Village: Turn left onto the farm entrance track. Follow the track to the road, (G) turn right then very shortly left through a brideway gate. Cross the field to a gate in the far hedge (H) and turn left, following the track along the hedge to a gateway, straight across the next field to a gap in the trees and a blue metal gate. (I) Turn right, follow the hedge to the next gateway, then, keeping the old course of Watery Lane on the right, descend to a gate in the bottom right-hand corner (J). Go through the gate into Watery Lane, an ancient trackway, dodging fallen trees and undergrowth, and follow the wide track back to the river north of Bull Bridge. It is necessary to wade through a section of the river except in very dry weather, but to keep feet dry, turn left out of Watery Lane halfway down, (K) into the field, turn right, then back to Bull Bridge and return to the start at Quiet Woman House (A).

Walk 14 – Liberty Farm – Map

Distance – 4.5km. Total Ascent – 100m. Duration – 1.5hrs. Difficulty – Easy.

Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy. Watery Lane requires paddling.

History – St Juthware



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11732632/Walk-14-Liberty-Farm>