

# Bishop's Tawton to Landkey Circular Walk

5.1 miles • Moderate, one reasonable climb and one steep descent at the end of the walk

## Description

This walk gives a good taste of Devon's rolling countryside, starting with easy walking following a small river valley passing through mixed woodland and large quarry working to Landkey. From here the walk passes along quiet country lanes and fields to follow a track uphill onto Codden Hill. On a clear day you get wonderful all-round views, out to sea, over Exmoor and across mid Devon. You also get an overview of this walk. The walk then loses height, steeply at the end back to the village.

## Route

Starting from the village centre outside the Chichester Arms, turn up the road beside the Chichester Arms signed to Codden  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and Bableigh 1.5 miles. Now ignore the turnings right and left, continuing ahead signed Tarka Trail, uphill passing all the houses until the road levels out and starts to bear right.

Pass through the kissing gate on the left by a gate signed Tarka Trail, crossing the field diagonally downhill to a gap in the hedge across you. Pass through the gap and again go diagonally left down towards a telegraph pole to a kissing gate and bridge hidden in the hedge.

Now follow this fields left-hand boundary by the stream and woodland and soon follow the path as it goes ahead into the woods to a kissing gate and boardwalk. Continue along by the stream to pass through two kissing gates on the Tarka Trail, ignoring the path to the road. Continue through the woods as the path rises away from the stream.

Pass through the next kissing gate into the edge of a field and turn immediately left on a footpath through scrubland, alongside the boundary fence of the quarry. Cross over the footbridge over the quarry road and soon through the next kissing gate and down to a small road. Continue ahead to cross the bridge over the stream and immediately turn right through a kissing gate along the Tarka Trail footpath with the stream now down on your right. Shortly you leave the stream to reach a bridle gate with Landkey church ahead. Follow the path, now out of the woods to the next bridle gate and on to the village.

At the village turn right downhill to pass the church up to your left. Opposite the church turn right down Bableigh Road to cross the next bridge over the stream. As the road bears right, go ahead over a stile by a gate and house, signed Tarka Trail and follow the left-hand field boundary round to the next gate with a small gate in it. Now follow this fields left-hand boundary hedge to a stile in the far corner. Again follow the left-hand hedge to a stile to a road.

Turn right along the country road and follow through two bends to a T-junction. Cross over to the gate with a small gate in it. Now go ahead, diagonally right uphill to reach the gate ahead, ignoring one over to the right. From here go straight ahead uphill to the stile in a wire fence on your right. Keep the same line to a gap in the hedge ahead with a kissing gate. Now go straight ahead to a kissing gate in the far corner. Turn left along the road, through a farm and on to a junction. Ignore the road on the left and at Bableigh Cross go straight across to pass Pitt Farm, continuing along a narrow track, following it as it swings right and uphill along the edge of woodland. At the top turn right into a small car park.

Now go through a metal gate by a larger gate, ignoring the bridle gate to their right. Follow this track uphill. On the way up ignore the wide track off to the right and continue to the top and the Monument Stone.

From the top continue straight ahead with Venn Quarries down to your right, keeping the wire fence on your left as you lose height. Half way down ignore the path going round to the right and continue ahead downhill. Soon the descent becomes steep, bringing you down to a kissing gate, down steps to the road. Turn right and right again along the pavement by the main road to reach Village Street into the village and the start of the walk.



Walk description courtesy of Bryan Cath, West Country Walks [www.westcountrywalks.co.uk](http://www.westcountrywalks.co.uk)  
North Devon and Exmoor Walking Festival [www.exmoorwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.exmoorwalkingfestival.co.uk)

For local news and events visit [www.bishopstawton.net](http://www.bishopstawton.net)