

Coleridge Bridle Way

A horse riding route from the Quantock Hills to Exmoor 33 Miles from Nether Stowey to Exford

3. From the Brendon Hills to Exmoor

LUXBOROUGH TO EXFORD

General Description

No particularly difficult terrain but the first half is across farmland with lots of gates and stock. Beware of weather changes on Lype Hill and Dunkery – can be misty.

Luxborough to Wheddon Cross is nearly all across farm land, mainly grass, with many gates and stock. **Please show respect for landowners by shutting all gates, keeping to route and not galloping.**

From Wheddon Cross good, mainly stone tracks descending steadily to valley. Soft tracks in valley can be muddy with some fording of small streams. Steady ascent to Dunkery gate across mainly soft grassy fields with stock.

Firm stony tracks across Dunkery. Descent into Exford is by grassy field edges and tarmac lane.

Start point: – Luxborough

Toilets: in car park at Wheddon Cross.

Places to Eat & Drink: Pub and shop (just off route) at Luxborough; pub and shops at Wheddon Cross; pubs and shops at Exford.

Maps: You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Maps

- 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgwater
- OL9 Exmoor

27 SS 982 372 LUXBOROUGH

Turn L along quiet road. Go round R hand bend and turn L on the bridleway entrance to Newcombe Farm. Keep on main track (initially tarmac) for nearly 1 mile, passing to the R of Newcombe Farm (can be very muddy near farm buildings). **BE WARY OF CATTLE GRID HERE WHICH MAY BE HIDDEN BY MUD.** Continue uphill keeping to rough track (as you climb look back for superb views) until reaching gate at top of hill. Go through gate and turn L on enclosed track to reach waymarked wooden gate on R into a grass field. Go through gate and turn R, signed to Wheddon Cross.

28 SS 964 371

The next section crosses the highest point of the route at Lype Hill (423 metres) and should preferably be undertaken when visibility is good. **Follow waymarked route (not the route as shown on OS Map) to Wheddon Cross across Colly Hill, Lype Common and Lype Hill. Please shut all gates and do not gallop as this is farm land often with stock in the fields.**

In the first field keep to R hand bank and then aim for a waymarked gate about 75 yards from R hand fence (due west). Then follow waymarked L hand fence until reaching second gate on L. Pass through gate and go diagonally R (due west) across field to next gate with a fingerpost sign to Wheddon Cross. Pass through gate and continue in same direction to gate opposite. Continue along L hand fence to gate on R hand side of trig point. Head in same direction (bearing slightly left) to gate in fence opposite before striking diagonally L (due west) to gate in L hand corner of field to road north of Heath Poult Cross.

29 SS 943 371

Cross road with care and go through signposted gate opposite. **Again you will now be crossing fields that are frequently used by cattle and sheep. Please shut gates and do not gallop.**

Cross field diagonally L to go through gate in far L hand corner. Keep to L hand edge of next field, firstly along the top of the field, and then turn R, with fence still on your L. Half way down go through hunting gate on L and continue down, now with fence on R, to gate at bottom of field. Go through and continue down hill along R hand edge of field to gate in R hand corner. Go through gate and continue in same direction on L hand edge of field (this can be very wet and muddy) to reach another gate.

30 SS 932 376

Continue straight on enclosed track with house on R and past Pitleigh Kennels on your R and then pass through 3 green gates. Keep ahead on L hand edge of field to gate in far L hand corner. Go through gate and then immediately R. Keep to R hand edge of next 2 fields to reach sunken track that continues down hill. This track is initially soft but then becomes rocky. **Please exercise extreme caution when riding down this track as the rock surface is extremely slippery even in dry weather.** At the bottom of the hill you reach the road at Cutcombe Cross.

31 SS 930 388

Go straight ahead on road opposite towards Cutcombe and take next road on L and follow this to where the road bears L at the end of a row of houses. **At this point the Coleridge Bridle Way goes through the gate ahead signed to Dunkery Hill Gate (NB).**

(NB) Wheddon Cross village has a small Supermarket, car park and public toilet facilities and The Rest and Be Thankful Inn. If you wish to visit these or are staying in accommodation in the village do not go through gate but continue on the road pass the school on the R to reach the war memorial and main road. Most facilities are around the crossroads to the L.

32 SS 928 391 WHEDDON CROSS

Go through gate along R hand edge of fields to gate bordering the A 396. **This is a busy and bendy road and should be crossed quickly with extreme care to the tarmac drive directly opposite signed to Dunkery.** Go down this track, signed to Dunkery and, after ignoring first bridleway on R, take 2nd bridleway (tarmac drive) on R signposted to Dunkery.

33 SS 923 391

This initially follows tarmac drive and, after cattle grids, forks R, signed to Dunkery, down to a gate into woodland to the right of Raleigh Manor. Continue ahead on this track through woodland to reach road. Cross road and take bridleway opposite, signed to Blagdon Wood.

34 SS 919 398

This goes downhill. At the bottom turn L on main track. Follow this track through gate into woodland, keeping river on R. At a fingerpost keep ahead signed to Dunkery Gate. The track then fords a river and turns R uphill to reach another fingerpost. Keep ahead signed Dunkery Gate.

35 SS 909 404

The bridleway then leaves woodland to climb steeply uphill. As track levels out into an open field ignore first gate on R and keep ahead, with field boundary on R through gap in bracken. This rises to reach a small gate in top R hand corner of field. Go through gate and head uphill through gap in bracken. At a fingerpost on R turn **do not turn sharp left** but head diagonally left uphill to join a track on the L. Keep on this track (soft at first, then stony) which rises gently uphill to reach a gate. Go through and keep ahead to meet road and parking area at Dunkery Gate.

36 SS 896 406 DUNKERY GATE

Cross road and follow signed bridleway to Exford. This track skirts the southern edge of Dunkery for around 2.5 miles to reach the road at Porlock Post. Keep ahead along road signed to Exford to next road junction. Turn left on track signed to Exford.

37 SS 855 405

After a short distance turn R through gate on Bridleway signed to Exford. This crosses a field to reach a gate in far R hand corner. Go through this and then follow obvious track which descends to become a tarmac lane into Exford. At road junction turn L with village green on R. Ride down road to reach **the end of The Coleridge Bridle Way at the Triangle in the middle of Exford.**

38 SS 854 384 EXFORD