

**Route B**  
**Corfe to Hatch Beauchamp**  
continued...

**B** At the end of the bridge go left, walking a short distance away from the hedge to go through the squeeze stile and then continue to the gate near the cottage. This track leads to a lane near Heale House. Turn right and follow this lane for some distance to turn right into a lane just before Mill House. As you go through a gate, the surfacing ends and you are on a stone track, gradually climbing straight up to enter Lime Ridge Wood (joining the Herepath). Keep straight on along this track as it crosses another stream in a deep cutting until you join a wide forest track. Turn left, going up hill as far as the next sharp (hairpin) bend where you go straight on back into the wood along a waymarked path which you follow until you reach and go through a gate into fields. Continue with the hedge on your left to the next gate. Go through and turn right following the Herepath to turn left downhill with the hedge on your right and turn right at the bottom of the field. Continue on through a gate to near Staple Lawns Farm where you turn right at the next gate turn left onto a path next to some barns. Turn left at the end onto the farm access and then follow it round to the right to turn left at a fingerpost just before a large wooden barn/garage. Follow this forest track up through Staple Park Wood. It turns to the left part way up to emerge at Underhill Lane. Turn right going up hill (pause as you climb to turn round and admire the view), pass the cottage numbered 229 and then go over the stile on the left just before Shutes Farm. The Herepath goes straight on.

**C** Follow this path, after a short distance there is a two-strand barbed wire fence on your left. Continue going across a forest track and through three gates, then there is a three-strand barbed wire fence on your right which takes you to a right turn through a gap and across a stream to turn first left then right

going uphill. When you are about 50 metres from the wood in front of you, turn to the left and follow this path to go through a gate onto a farm track. Turn right and before you go through one of a pair of gates pause to look around you and again admire the views. On the other side of the gate immediately turn left (rejoining the Herepath) to follow a path to a stile and equestrian gate. Go through to a waymarked post continue through two gaps (or gates) to turn right at another waymarked post to turn right as you join a track that leads to a pair of gates. Go through and turn left on a path that soon widens to a grass track and continues as a stoned track turn left at T-junction and climb to the Staple Fitzpaine road near a Forestry Commission sign for Staple Common.

**D** Take care as you cross the road to enter the Neroche Forest. Follow a broad gravel track to turn right at the first junction. The way is signed by the red marker posts which you follow. There is a short steep descent and ascent and a fine viewpoint on your left. Continue to near the entrance gates where you go left into a cleared area with an information board and a seat to the memory of David Smith from which the views are outstanding. Leave the area through a gap to the left of the information board and again follow the red forest trail markers until, after a short steep descent you reach a gate. On the right there is another seat to rest on if you want to admire the views over South Somerset. Go through the gate and across the track (a sign for Castle Farm is to the right) and straight on following waymarks on a path that soon widens to a track. Go through a gate, then continue straight on when the track goes left. Follow this path or drove (marked on the map as Middleroom Lane) and at the end turn left. After about 150 metres turn right down another drove that will bring you to a road. Turn left and after about 200 metres turn right into Curry Mallet Drove.

**E** Follow this drove for about 700 metres. Then turn left down another drove (the Herepath goes straight on)

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continued...

and continue down this drove, ignoring the one on your left, to pass in front of Fordbridge from where the way is surfaced. Continue either through the ford or over the adjacent footbridge to turn left opposite the gateway to Seaforde Grange. Cross the field heading for a gap in the hedge opposite near a large tree. Go through and turn to the right to either cross or go round the field to reach a stile on the right of the group of trees opposite. Cross the road and go over the stile opposite. The former chapel on your left is now the Neroche Village Hall. Continue going slightly right to pass under the supply cables midway between the first and second poles to a stile in the hedge. Go over this into a newly planted woodland, then half-right through the woodland to the gap opposite that is virtually a tunnel through a wide hedge. Go over the stile as you exit, then straight on through a squeeze stile, over a footbridge and another stile walking parallel to but some distance from the hedge or fence on your left. There is a fenced pond to your right and you are heading for a metal gate and stile at the left-hand edge of the woodland opposite (rejoining the Herepath). Go through or over and then either cross or go round this field to a stile in the opposite hedge

Front Cover photo: View of the Vale of Taunton Deane from Neroche.



Devised and written by: Members of the Taunton Deane Ramblers Group, The Heritage and Landscape Team at Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council Rights of Way.  
[www.tauntonramblers.org.uk](http://www.tauntonramblers.org.uk)

For comments regarding the condition of the paths, stiles, gates etc, contact Rights of Way, Somerset County Council 0845 345 9166. If you would like to make any comments about the walk, please contact Ian Clark at: [i.clark@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:i.clark@tauntondeane.gov.uk) or write to him at: Taunton Deane Borough Council, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1HE.



More information about various aspects of this walk and other circular walks in the Borough can be obtained from the Taunton Deane website  
[www.tauntondeane.gov.uk](http://www.tauntondeane.gov.uk) or Taunton Tourist Information Centre tel: 01823 336344 Email [tauntontic@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:tauntontic@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

some distance to the left of a house. Turn right (the Herepath goes straight on) to go over the stile into a short drive or track passing Creech Field (or Creechfield) and joining a road. Cross the road and go over the stile in the hedge in the field corner opposite.

**F** Continue with the hedge on your left over three stiles to a small orchard. Go straight on to the bottom corner of the orchard but do not exit over the stile, but turn right along the field boundary to go over three closely spaced stiles. Head for the left-hand end of the trees opposite, over a stile and continue with the trees now on your right. Continue straight on over one stile, then another that takes you into a ditch. Go up and out to turn left with the hedge on the left for a short distance and then head for the right of the trees opposite. Continue to a gate and go over a stile, across a track and over the stile opposite. Cross the field, heading for the right of the hedge opposite. Follow the hedge to enter a copse. When you exit, go across the field to pass the post with footpath waymarks and continue with the stream on the right to turn left into a green lane or drove. Just before you reach some barns, go through the gap on your left and then continue more or less in the same direction heading for the left of the cottage opposite. Go over the stile into the lane, turn right and follow this lane to the main road near Griffin House.

# The East Deane Way

Part  
**5**  
of a 6 part set

## Hatch Beauchamp to Corfe

Length - 16.4 km (10.3 miles)



The walk is written in two directions:

Route A : Hatch Beauchamp to Corfe

Route B : Corfe to Hatch Beauchamp

Alternatively, to shorten the walk, choose to start or finish at Castle Neroche car park to shorten walk

**Terrain** - undulating countryside, some steep slopes on the Blackdown Hills, where it can be very muddy in parts.

**Refreshments** - The Hatch Inn, Hatch Beauchamp; The White Hart, Corfe;

**Buses** - 30 for Hatch Beauchamp and the 624 for Corfe. Check timetables for details, or call Traveline on 0870 608 2608

**OS map** - Explorer 128, Taunton and Blackdown Hills;

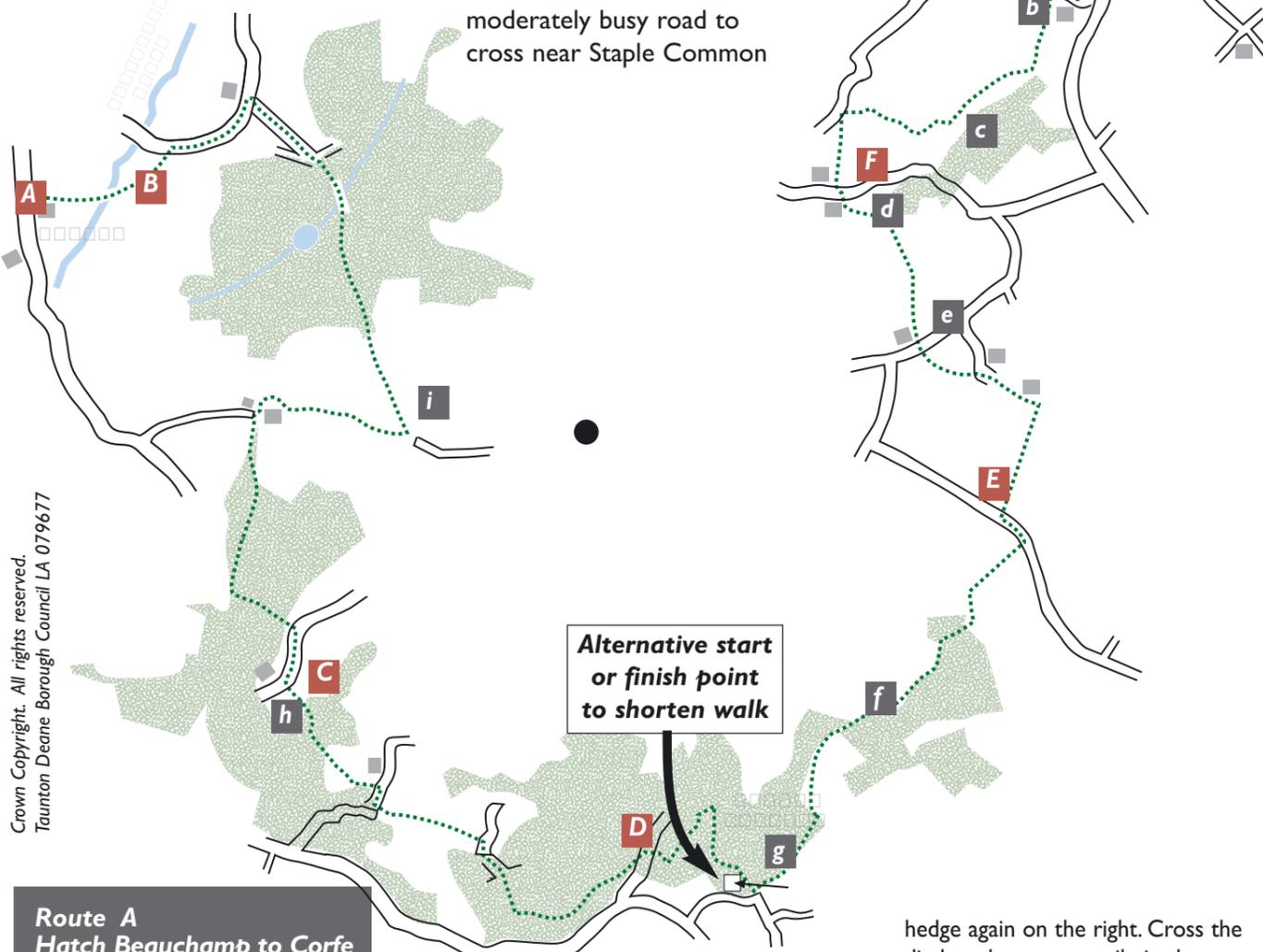


The East Deane Way is available as a series of 6 leaflets published by Taunton Deane Borough Council, Heritage & Landscape Section

## EAST DEANE WAY WALK 5

You are advised to use the OS map Landranger 1:50,000 Series 193 or Explorer 1:25,000 Series 128 in conjunction with this map and the written directions.

**Caution:** There is one moderately busy road to cross near Staple Common



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**Route A**  
**Hatch Beauchamp to Corfe**  
**Start point:**  
The eastern end of Griffon Lane, Hatch Beauchamp.  
Grid Reference ST298 211  
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**To shorten the walk use alternative start point:**  
The Castle Neroche Car Park.  
Grid Ref: ST273 156

- a** Cross the road and go down the lane next to Griffon House. Pass Home Farm on your right, go under the A358, past the Park Farmhouse entrance/drive and then Park Farm on the left. Just beyond Greenings turn left over a stile into a field.
- b** Cross the field heading for the right-hand side of the barns and then continue through an un-gated gap into a green lane and follow this to

the edge of Bickenhall Wood where you turn right. Continue with the wood on your left to a clear waymark that directs you straight across the field when the hedge goes off to your left. Go over the stile into the wood to emerge after a short while over another stile into a field. The green lane, the path alongside Bickenhall Wood and the short path through the wood can all be quite wet and muddy.

- c** Continue with the hedge on your right. Ignore both the path over the footbridge and the permissive path on the right, but when the hedge ends (turns right) go half-right to a stile next to a track. Go over the track and another stile and continue with a hedge on the right for a short distance. When the hedge ends, cross the field to re-join a

hedge again on the right. Cross the ditch and go over a stile in the corner of the field.

Go straight across this field to another stile and continue with the hedge on the left. Go over another stile and continue in the same direction heading for the left of the farm buildings as you continue over three closely-spaced stiles, into an orchard and then to a stile in the hedge that would take you onto the lane. However, do not go over this stile but turn left and continue with the hedge on the right over three stiles and through three fields. In the corner of the last field, go over the stile and onto the lane.

- d** Cross this lane onto the track near Creechfield, go through the gate at the end of the short track (to join Herepath) and turn left, either across or around the field heading for the

gate/gap at the right-hand edge of the wood on your left (ignore Herepath going to the left). Although the Neroche Millennium Walk is signed to go left, you go straight on crossing the field some distance from but parallel to the fence on the right. Go over the stile and cross the footbridge to continue still parallel to the fence/hedge on the right and passing a fenced pond on the left. Go over the stile and through the tunnel-like gap through the hedge into a newly planted woodland. As you enter the woodland go partly to the right to a stile on the opposite side into a field where you head for the left of the buildings at the far side of the field. These used to be a chapel but are now the Neroche Village Hall. Go over a stile to cross the lane and over another stile immediately opposite.

- e** Continue either across or around this field heading for a gap next to a large tree in the hedge on the left. Go through this gap and continue straight across the next field heading for a gate opposite. You emerge onto a lane opposite the gates to Seaforde Grange. Turn right down the lane to cross a stream by either the ford or the footbridge, and continue past the cottage that is appropriately named Fordbridge.

Continue up the green lane or drove, ignore the drove on your right and go on to a T-junction where you turn right (joining the Herepath) along another drove (Curry Mallet Drove) until you reach a road. Turn left and after about 150 metres turn right down another drove. Turn left at the T-junction, then after 200 metres turn right still following the drove that is called Middleroom Lane. Continue on this path for some distance, gradually climbing. Sections of this drove/path can be wet and muddy.

- f** After passing another drove on the right continue straight on, joining a track. Follow this track as it bears round to the right, go past a gate and climb up to cross a track to enter the Castle Neroche plantation. If you

are in need of a rest there is a bench on the left from which you can enjoy extensive views over South Somerset. From the track, follow the red arrows and posts for the forest trail climbing to an open area on your right with a viewpoint and bench presented as a memorial to David Smith. Nearby there is a car park for the forest trails.

- g** Pause when you are passing to read the Information Board and then turn right when you are near the entrance gate. The path you follow is a forest trail marked in red on wooden posts. After passing a viewpoint and a sharp descent and ascent, turn left along a track leaving the forest trail. This takes you to the Staple Fitzpaine road where you must take care as you cross to join a signed track into the Forestry Commission's Staple Common.

Follow this track until you reach a T-junction where you turn right. At the end of the wide forest track continue along smaller path ahead. Pass through a gate and after a short distance turn left at a waymarked post across a field. Go through two gaps (or gates) pass another waymarked post to an equestrian gate and stile. Go over the small stream and then straight on along an obvious path across Britty Common. After a short rise turn right through one of a pair of gates towards the farm buildings (leaving the Herepath). After only about 20 metres turn left going through a gate to a waymarked post a short distance further on. Take the right-hand option, not the TDBC trail and turn right going downhill, cross a stream and turn left then follow this waymarked path, going through three gates and across a forest track, to go over a stile onto a lane almost opposite Shutes Farm.

- h** Turn right (rejoining the Herepath), going down Underhill Lane, enjoying distant views as you continue on your way. Shortly after passing the cottage numbered 229, turn left onto the Forestry Commission track through Staple Park Wood. Follow this track to leave the wood at the driveway to Staple Lawns Farm. Turn right towards the farm, and then round to the left

and right through a gate at the end of the farm buildings. Continue first round the back of the farm and then with the hedge and ditch on your right. Continue to the next gate and turn left to follow the Herepath uphill with the hedge on the left. Turn right at the top of the field and then left until you reach a gate.

- i** Go through this gate and the next one to join a pathway through part of Lime Ridge Wood. At the end of this pathway turn left down a wide forest track to the next sharp bend where you turn right through an opening onto a stoned path that widens and crosses a small gorge. As you emerge from the wood go straight on (the Herepath goes to the right) along the track as far as the lane where you turn left. Follow this lane to turn left down a 'No Through Road' just beyond Heale House. At the end of this road go through the gate just beyond a cottage and go slightly left so that the hedge is on your right. As you cross the bridge, pause to admire the flora in this remarkably deep stream valley. Turn left as you leave the crossing and continue with the hedge on your left as far as a kissing gate where the hedge changes to your right hand at the end of the field you join a lane that takes you to the church at Corfe.

**Route B**  
**Corfe to Hatch Beauchamp**  
**Start point:**  
The Church in Corfe  
Grid Reference ST233 197  
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**To shorten the walk use alternative end point:**  
The Castle Neroche Car Park.  
Grid Ref: ST273 156

- A** Go down Mill Lane next to the church and where the track goes to the left continue straight on through a gate into a field. Keep the hedge on your left until you go through a kissing gate when you continue round the field boundary with the hedge now on your right. Go over a footbridge over a deep cleft with a stream below.