

## Devon Dumpling 9 mile route/ 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

R-right, L is right, X- cross, TL Turn Left, TR Turn Right, fp is footpath, sp- signpost, cp- car park, rd is road, SMG is Small metal gate. LHS Left hand side. RHS- Right hand side

Turn R out of village hall and R again to go down Station Road- past Council Chambers on R. At traffic light turn R. Use pedestrian crossing to X to far side, TR and after 10 yards TL up Victoria Place. Carry on to the top of the hill. Take the steps on the LHS of the road . With wooden fence visible in front of you- TL.

Perhaps get your breath back whilst looking at the sea view. Follow the path to R with railings. Ignore path on L, carry on down cliff footpath.

There are toilets on the L should you need them. Continue down hill. At small car park, follow the path around to the L and TR at the five steps which lead up to the main promenade. Keep on ahead, when path forks, ignore the hill on the L and stay on lower path. Go past (or in!) the Long Boat Café. Keep on past toilets (the last for a while), the shelter on L, and steps up to rd. Just after the Café ' 50 degrees north' pass inside gate , and X rd to car park opposite.

Walk diagonally L across the car park- you are heading for the light green bridge at the far end, next to the river. TR onto bridge following fp sign marked 'Coastpath Ladram Bay 3.5 miles/Sidmouth 5.5 miles'.

Should anybody be unfamiliar with this area Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club was on your left. This area was frequently flooded and now the estuary is part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

Follow path around to L where path becomes enclosed. Continue past River Otter viewing point with information on various birds of the estuary. Pass Big Marsh viewing point on L. You should see small islands on L where you have a good chance of seeing shelduck, oystercatchers and other waders. Continue to the White Bridge, when you reach the road TR immediately. 'Ladram Bay 3 miles' (GR SY 075 830)

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1.8 miles

Go over Bridge. At junction in rd with sign for Pines Farm Shop in hedge in front of you (I hope), TR. On the L bend TR off tarmacked farm lane, TR at South Farm Court brick sign with copse and river on R. Keep on fp, do not change direction for 500 yards now. Pass sign saying 'Please follow the line of the path'.

I took this to mean TL at Clinton Devon Estate sp and R after 50 yards to join path. TL to take coastal path.

Carry on up rises and descents. No change of directions now until you come to Brandy Head Observation Post. You can sit and stop here but please be aware that these days people pay to stay overnight in the property . 4 miles completed. (GR SY 090 836)

Carry on carefully down narrow path down hill. When dry slippery, when muddy worse. When path levels out follow around to the L. After 150 yards TL at a sp (**easy to miss**) – 'Permissive Path Otterton 1.5 miles/ River Otter 1.5 miles'. Carry on on gravel fp between trees, go through SMG with sign to left. After 15 yards TR into cp and pass Waste Water Treatment Station on your R. Carry on on pitted road. When there is a sign on L marked 'Unmetalled road,' TR.

No change of rd for some time. You will see that a number of farm gates display the same message. The sides of the fields are being left unmown to encourage more food for grasshoppers which, in turn, produce food for the rare Cirl Bunting which is making something of a comeback in South Devon and here in East Devon.. Carry on on minor road, uphill. Pass by a sign on L 'Unmetalled Road', continue pass barn and small green with public bench and signpost.

Continue on same section of road which will be marked 'Otterton 0.25 of a mile'. Pass Stantyway Farm with the home of Otterton United on R. Pass by drives to Glebelands and Bracken Lodge on R. Pass 30 mph sign and crossroads. At junction 50 yards ahead TL. Keeping small stream on L carry on downhill with cottages on both L and R.

At bottom of hill pass Lee Road and TL into Otterton main street. Cross road to find small cp area and take the path to the R of the stream away from cars. Pass by (or enter!) the Kings Arms, carry on on marked section of carriageway to reach the pavement at village green. Keep straight- at public fp sign, pointing

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to R, carry on past double yellow lines crossing small bridge. Otterton Mill is now on your L (which has conveniences if needed and sells refreshment).

**Remember you have a pasty with your name on it back at the hall!**

### **Otterton Mill- 6.1 miles**

Carry on over bridge. At end of bridge look for sign on L which will say 'Public footpath to Budleigh Salterton, 2.75 miles'. TL.

After a few yards you can see a dwelling on the R which used to be Otterton railway station. You can still make out the platform. Closed 6/3/67 when the Beeching Axe fell. Carry on with electric fence on right and River Otter (where beavers are now present!) on L.

Carry on. No need for further instruction for sometime.

BEWARE of holes near water's edge. Pass through SWG at the Clamour Bridge. Carry on straight. Do not cross bridge. Pass through, or around, superfluous gate. Ignore amber sign on R 'Pedestrians East Budleigh'. Go through next SWG on L. Marked with an EDW Link sign, pink/ purple in colour. Carry on by the side of the river Otter until you reach the White Bridge (again).

7.5 miles. White Bridge

Go through fence opposite. East Devon Way Link. Bear R following public footpath signs. Follow the 'yellow brick road' for some time now.

After 0.25 miles you will reach information boards. Carry on on yellow path towards large new, concrete bridge. Where path meets rd TL onto pavement. Cross new bridge. TL at green public fp sign. Avoid entering the cp. Carry on on new fp.

8 miles done!

At end of yellow path TR for 15 yards then TL on to road (without pavement). Follow the line of chain fencing on L and when you can see metal fence running uphill on your R, X road to take that path. At end of this walkway carefully cross rd and walk to top of hill, towards war memorial on grass verge. Pass memorial on the left and continue downhill (hopefully) enjoying sea views. At end of promenade keep to the R of a wall on the LHS of carriageway. At the end of the wall look R for octagonal shaped building with 'Fore Street' on its side. This was

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where the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir John Millais (1829- 1896) painted 'The Boyhood of Raleigh'.

Pick up pavement on L and stay with it into Mackerel Square. Continue straight on to pass by Tesco Express on L. Cross road to turn R by Interior Studio and barbers and after 25 yards TL by Staddon's Garage into Brook Road. Pay attention to traffic; there are no pavements here. Pass by a small cp and toilets on R. At T junction with church on R, cross rd to post box opposite and take path to the L of steep metal steps with brook on your L. Turn R at Public Library on R and X road when clear, bear R to reach Budleigh Salterton Village Hall (9.4 miles)

YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR CHALLENGE. WELL DONE! TEA/COFFEE/ PASTY/ CONVERSATION AND AN INTERESTING CERTIFICATE AWAIT YOU

Ken Grose

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