

Circular walk from Hessenford to Bake

With the advent of the fantastic bus service laid on by Plymouth Citybus (Service 75), it is now easy to walk the lovely area around Hessenford - catching a drink and a meal at The Copley Arms in Hessenford, break your walk with fishing at Bake Lakes, or amble along the lovely Seaton Valley to eat at one of the many eateries in Seaton or Downterry. This is a perfect walk for dog owners, as Seaton is a dog friendly beach, and there is plenty of scope for letting off the lead in the woods. For families, we would highly recommend the second part of the walk from Hessenford to Seaton. It is a good length for smaller children and Seaton has a super children's play area and family friendly beach cafe. There's also a children's play area at The Copley Arms which has a good reputation for food and hospitality.

On alighting the bus at Hessenford, cross the road, and take the lane that leads behind The Copley Arms. Turn left and walk along a little back lane for about a third of a mile, until you come across a footpath on the right. Take this path into the woods. It is a little steep in places, and as we discovered rather too muddy for bicycles in the winter, but a lovely woodland track through well established woods which are carpeted with bluebells in the late spring. Follow this track to its end, coming out into a field. At the top of this field you will see Bake Lakes below to your left. Here there are a choice of two routes, a short route, and a longer one, both along country lanes.

Shorter Route

Turn right at the gate at the top of the field along a slightly busy lane. Walk for about a hundred metres, then take the little lane on the right. This pretty, quiet lane leads steeply down to Hessenford and your starting point.

Much Longer Route

At the top of the field turn left and join the track that leads to the lakes. Keep the hedge on your right until you reach the road. Turn left along this slightly busy lane. At the T junction turn left and walk for about a quarter of a mile. Take the footpath off to the left. After a short way you rejoin a small lane, and from now on you will see very little traffic, if any. Turn left at this lane, past Wilton Farm. Continue climbing upwards. The views from the top of this road are absolutely stunning. The road descends past Bonyalva, and becomes little more than a farm track. It descends very steeply once it gets into the woods. At the end of this lane turn left. About a mile and a half along this lovely valley lane, again with very little if any traffic, you are back again at your starting point - turn right down to the main road and the Copley arms. If you wish to at this point you could continue your walk by going on to the popular seaside villages of Seaton and Donderry.