

CORONAVIRUS - EXERCISING AT PUDDLETOWN

If you are taking your daily exercise on foot and wish to go a little farther afield than the Village there is pleasant public footpath off the Blandford Road. It takes you through a grass field and then two large corn fields up to the road to Dewlish. If you return on the same route you will have done about 2 kilometres off road. This is a suitable option for capable adults who are confident walking at the side of a road. It is not recommended that children walk this route.

This path offers good views of surrounding countryside as well as peace and tranquillity. It has moderate gradients.

If you need a much longer walk there are options outlined below.

DIRECTIONS

First you need to negotiate the perils of the two roundabouts on the way to the A354 road to Blandford. There is a wide grass verge on the right-hand side of this road and after 100m you will see a metal gate opposite with a stile alongside. This is where you start.

The mown path follows the ancient hedgerow on your left through the grass field belonging to the distant large house.

You will arrive at a posh stile complete with a dog flap. (DOGS ON LEADS PLEASE)

On entering the first cornfield you will see the well-defined path climbing up to the corner of the field where there is a large gap and access to a field to the left. You go straight ahead keeping the hedge to your left to the corner of that field. From a distance it seems to be overgrown (sometimes it is !) but a stile takes you to the sharp bend on the way to Dewlish.

There is no extended circular walk from here without involving the roads. However, one of the benefits of LOCK-DOWN is the vast reduction of traffic. On the other hand, they tend to travel much faster. With this in mind there are three options.

1. On arrival at the Dewlish road there is a delightful bridleway, between two mature hedges, that climbs up to the blind summit at the top of Basan Hill on the Blandford road. Puddletown is to the right. There is a grass verge but even at quiet times this is not for the faint hearted.

- 2. Walk back to the Village along the lanes arriving at Northbrook.**
- 3. Walk towards Dewlish and at the right-hand bend there is a footpath that takes you to the road to Cheselbourne. However, once again there is no nearby right of way so you will have to take to the lanes or retrace your steps.**

REMEMBER Respect the Countryside; dogs on leads; keep to the paths; be watchful on the roads; be mindful of social distancing if you meet someone.

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P.D.