

## Fatherford Bridge and East Hill

Distance: 1.6 mi./2.5 km. Time: 1 hour.



The walk starts at the car park by Fatherford Bridge. From the car park, pass through the gate towards the river, taking 'Charlotte's Bridge', then left through the gate towards the East Okement Valley. Pass under the bridges, taking either the left path walking directly next to the river, or the right-hand path through the woods. (Ignore the sign pointing up towards a steep hill beside the bridge, we will be coming back down this way.) The walk is mostly flat at this point as it follows the river, which will always be on your left. You will come across a very large fallen tree log; a great place to sit and rest while you watch the dogs swimming.

From here you now approach the stepping stones – be careful as they can sometimes be slippery. Continue along until you reach a bridge and at this point take the right-hand path up the hill and over the stile.

The path now becomes more uneven and steeper, which is not a problem if you have your Nordic poles with you! The woods here are full of amazing colours all year round and in the spring, there may be lots of bluebells on show. The path becomes narrow now; keep the river on your left, until you meet a stone wall on your left, which you will follow until it ends. You will now see a sign pointing up the hill to the right. Follow this up into the open, stopping as you reach the corner of the wall to admire the views all around you towards Okehampton and Belstone.

The path from here is out in the open to your right. Continue towards a gate where the path heads down the hill to your left (don't go through the gate) and reaches a second path (there will be another gate on your right; don't go through this one either). Turn left and after a short 20 feet, turn right down the hill – this bit is steep. At the bottom of this hill, go through the gate on your right and back down to where you started. Turn left under the bridges and back to the car park.